



# Frank Lloyd Wright Trust

## Headquarters:

209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 118 Chicago, IL 60604  
312.994.4000 [FLWright.org](http://FLWright.org) [ShopWright.org](http://ShopWright.org)

## Sites:



**Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio**  
951 Chicago Ave., Oak Park 60302



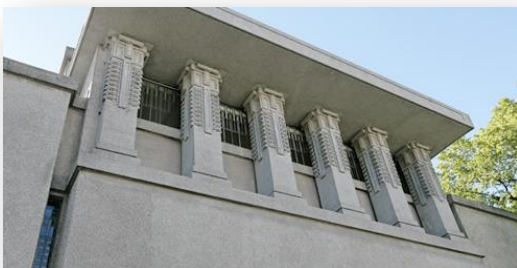
**Frederick C. Robie House**  
5757 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago 60637



**The Rookery**  
209 South LaSalle St., Chicago 60604



**Emil Bach House**  
7415 N Sheridan Rd., Chicago



**Unity Temple**  
875 Lake St. Oak Park, 60301

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### **Importance of the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio**

The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio is one of the most significant buildings in the history of American architecture. It is important because Wright lived and worked there between 1889 and 1909, using it as a laboratory to develop a truly American design expression known as the Prairie style. It was “the first act setting for a drama of the inventive imagination that changed the course of architecture,” wrote the late Arthur Drexler, director of architecture and design at the Museum of Modern Art. From this workshop Wright designed and built approximately one quarter of his life’s work. The property was his office, his laboratory, his advertisement, his school, and home for his growing family.

When the U.S. Department of the Interior evaluates a building for designation as a National Historic Landmark, it uses three primary criteria. The site must have national, not just state or local, significance due to one of the following: association with an event that was significant to our history; association with the life of a person significant to our past; or distinctive architectural characteristics. In 1972, the Home and Studio became a United States Registered National Historic Landmark based on all three criteria.

### **Importance of Robie House**

The Frederick C. Robie Residence, on the campus of the University of Chicago in Hyde Park, was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1908. Wright described it as “the cornerstone of modern architecture.” The Robie House, completed in 1910, was the culmination of the first phase of Wright’s career, during which Wright lived in the Home and Studio in Oak Park. It is considered the definitive example of Prairie-style architecture and also a masterpiece of modern architecture. In 1964, the building became the first structure to be designated a Registered National Historic Landmark based solely on architectural merit. It was the first such National Historic Landmark in the city of Chicago.

### **Importance of The Rookery**

The Rookery is an icon of architecture set in the heart of the Midwest’s central financial district. The structure is both quintessentially Chicago and contains one of Frank Lloyd Wright’s most dramatic and significant interior compositions. In 1905 Wright was commissioned to remodel The Rookery—creating a stunning balance between Burnham and Root’s ironwork and ornamentation and his own Prairie style concepts. The Rookery is Wright’s only surviving solo project in the Loop, after leaving Adler & Sullivan in 1893.

### **Acquisition of the Home and Studio**

The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation was established in 1974 as a non-profit corporation to acquire and preserve the birthplace of American residential architecture. The foundation was restructured as the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust in 2000. In December of 2013, the name was shortened to Frank Lloyd Wright Trust. In this manual, “Trust” references the organization when it was previously known as the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation and/or the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust. The building was purchased by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1975 under a co-stewardship agreement with the Trust, who retained the sole responsibility for its funding, operation, and restoration. The National Trust was helpful in providing technical and financial assistance to support preservation efforts, and graciously supported the modernization of the Trust’s volunteer training program through grants, advice and other assistance. The Trust gratefully acknowledges this support.

The co-stewardship arrangement with the National Trust ensured that the building would remain in the public domain, yet be administered by a local organization. One of the provisions of the agreement allowed the Preservation Trust to purchase the property from the National Trust when it was ready and able to assume total financial responsibility. This purchase was completed in the spring of 2012.

The property was originally purchased for \$196,800 and needed immediate emergency repairs costing approximately \$25,000. The Preservation Trust raised \$110,800 and the National Trust funded the balance. The campaign to purchase the building began at a grass roots level and involved the combined efforts of the Oak Park Development Corporation, local banks, and concerned citizens. This endeavor helped Oak Park win the All-American City Award for community participation in 1976 from the National Municipal League.

The restoration of the Home and Studio to its 1909 appearance was completed in 1987.

### **Acquisition of the Robie House**

The University of Chicago, owner of the Robie House, approached the Trust as a potential partner in restoration of the building. In February 1997 an agreement was signed whereby the Trust retains sole responsibility for maintenance, operation, and restoration of the landmark as a publicly accessible historic architecture museum and for providing regular tours and related educational programs. The house is owned by the University of Chicago.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Frank Lloyd Wright Trust engages the public in educational and aesthetic experiences to foster an appreciation of architecture, design and the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

Inspired by the innovative thinking and design of Frank Lloyd Wright, the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust is a dynamic educational resource providing a model program of public access, and serving as an exemplary steward of its collections and Wright-designed structures.

## **VALUES**

- Commitment to excellence
- Integrity in stewardship and public engagement
- Inclusiveness and diversity
- Responsible stewardship of resources
- Accountability to the public

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE TRUST**

The Trust is managed by a professional staff of full-time and part-time employees. A board of directors establishes policy, provides direction, support and professional expertise, and is responsible for the financial integrity of the organization. The Trust's operating income is derived from the tour program, merchandise sales, memberships, and contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations.



## **VOLUNTEERS**

The Trust volunteer corps is a vital group that enables the organization to achieve its mission to engage the public in educational and aesthetic experiences to foster an appreciation of architecture, design and the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright. Volunteer knowledge, enthusiasm, and interest provide exceptional educational experiences and knowledgeable customer service to an audience interested in Frank Lloyd Wright and the field of architecture.

In March 1995 the Trust was granted accreditation by the American Association of Museums, the highest recognition available to museums. Adoption of a second site in February 1997, the Robie House, resulted in the creation of additional staff positions, and added volunteer and program opportunities within the Preservation Trust. The organizational headquarters were established at The Rookery in December 2010 in order to broaden the reach of the organization and support the concept of "Wright's Chicago."

### **Interpretive Museum Tours**

Our museums are one-of-a-kind works of art that capture Wright's early style and inspired generations of artists and architects. Tours are led by over 500 dedicated volunteer interpreters, many of whom have been volunteering with us for decades. We also have a small corps of middle-school and high-school aged Junior Interpreters who deliver family-oriented tours.

The impact of physically moving through these meticulously designed spaces has profound effects on museum guests—who are so inspired by the experience they often become more observant of architectural features in other places they visit and in their own hometowns. Under the stewardship of the Preservation Trust, our sites have become tools to educate the public about art and design, inspire pride and investment in Chicago's cultural leadership, and provide opportunities to have engaging discussions on topics ranging from residential design to urban planning to Chicago history.



## Educational Programs



The Frank Lloyd Wright Trust provides a range of educational activities designed for audiences ranging from pre-schoolers and elementary school students to corporate executives. Our educational programs are designed to familiarize participants with architectural vocabulary, introduce them to Wright and his work, and to foster new-found confidence and problem-solving skills. Last year, more than 3,000 people participated in our educational programs. Examples of our educational programs include:

- **In-School Architecture Workshops:** Staff and volunteers with specific classroom experience deliver Wright to the classroom and give children experiences such as Froebel Blocks, which had a tremendous influence on Frank Lloyd Wright's approach to design.
- **Architecture Workshops in Wright's Own Drafting Room:** Specialized camps, for both adults (Architecture Fantasy Camps) and youth (Youth Architecture Workshops), where participants work on an architectural design under the direction of professional architects.
- **Wright Around Chicago Community Lecture Series:** An ongoing series of presentations that engage our community with the life and work of Frank Lloyd Wright and the rich and varied histories of the neighborhoods in which he defined his visionary Prairie style.
- **Wright Seminar Series: Exclusively for volunteer enrichment.** An in-depth background on Wright's career in three-parts, Wright's Early Career, Wright's Middle Career, and Wright's Later Career. Lectures by Tim Wittman of the School of the Art Institute.

## Research Center



Our research center contains the world's foremost archive of original documents, objects, and materials related to Wright and his Chicago years (1889-1912). We process approximately 600 requests annually for reference and visual materials from research scholars, authors, architects, students, and the general public.

Volunteers are encouraged to fact-check their tours before adding content by emailing our curatorial staff at [research@flwright.org](mailto:research@flwright.org)

**To explore the Research Center's holdings, lending library, archives, videos and more, please visit the Trust's website: <http://www.flwright.org/researchexplore>.**

**The Research Center is open by appointment. To schedule an appointment, call the David Bagnall, Director of Interpretation at 312.994.4035.**

The collection contains more than 1,100 reference collection items and 400 circulating collection items. Materials cover the social history of the turn of the 20th century, early modernism, Japanese decorative art, Chicago architecture, architectural elements, and furniture. Our collections demonstrate the influences on Wright during the early period of his career and shed light on the development of his extraordinary architectural talent. Preserving and expanding our collection of original designs, photographs, personal effects and Wright-designed objects is imperative to maintain the legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright. We continue to acquire new items as they are discovered or made available.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Like the architecture represented here, this Volunteer Manual is constructed of solid, honest, and enduring materials. From the first paper edition in 1974, contributors have strived for, and demanded of themselves, authenticity and accuracy in reporting the significance of Frank Lloyd Wright and his work.

We are grateful to many previous contributors. These include writers, illustrators, and editors who laid a firm foundation for the continued usefulness of the Frank Lloyd Preservation Trust's Volunteer Manual: Ann Abernathy, David Anderson, Gay Anderson, Barbara Metzger Apple, Cheryl Bachand, Catherine Barker, Mary Pat Bone, Linda Bostrom, Nancy Bourque, John Bruun, Howard Campbell, Renee Campbell, Caitlin Kolb, Jessica

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The steady growth and development of the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust, combined with the expanding pool of research, new accessions, and restoration activities, mandate regular updates and revisions. This online edition reflects changes which have occurred since the final print edition in 2005. There will be no more editions, because the manual will now be an easily-changed and living document. Thanks to everyone who assisted in this process.

Contributors to the online version include Joanna Arnold, Kent Bartram, Linda Bonifas-Guzman, Sue Blaine, Tiffany Charles, Ian Dawson, Laura Dodd, Stephanie Harte, Jan Kieckhefer, Caitlin Kolb, Elisabeth Logman, Sheryl Papier, and Erik Vecchione.

Celeste Adams, President and CEO

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