



2021 JOHN SCHOENKNECHT SPIRIT OF PRESERVATION AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Recipients of the Schoenknecht "Spirit of Preservation" award must have demonstrated exceptional achievement in the preservation of more than one historically significant building, structure, or site, or have contributed in a tangible and exemplary manner to further historic preservation in Waukesha.

Nominations should be submitted to Charlie Griffith in the City of Waukesha Planning Department, 201 Delafield Street, Waukesha, WI 53188. Nominations may also be submitted by e-mail to cgriffith@waukesha-wi.gov.

All nominations are due no later than Monday, April 5th, 2021. The Landmarks Commission will review nominations at the April 7th, 2021 meeting.

Nominee Bonnie Byrd

Address Museum - 101 W. Main St. Waukesha

Submitter Lisa Salb

Submitter Contact Info (mail or phone): 262-951-1625

Please provide a brief explanation of the merits of the project:

I would like to nominate Bonnie Byrd for the John Schoenknecht Spirit of Preservation award. Her long list of accomplishments begins when she was hired as an archivist for the Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum. She worked behind the scenes with the project of the Historic Courthouse renovation. When final plans were reached, Bonnie supervised the organization and movement of thousands of precious objects and documents. She organized volunteers who inventoried, packed and moved collections, all this while staying "calm and organized through the entire task," they noted.

When Dennis Ceretta retired after the project was finished, Bonnie took on the job of Executive Director. Under her leadership, the Society has overcome hurdles and achieved new direction and prestige in the Waukesha and Wisconsin community. She works tirelessly to further the spirit of preservation. Bonnie is more than just the Executive Director - she is an educator, archivist, advocate and spokesperson for Waukesha County history. She led efforts to convert the Society's programs to a digital platform and taught how to bring the collections online during the pandemic, as well as the Speakers Series. Bonnie helped bring programs to classrooms through the internet. She has volunteered to work with the City of Waukesha, the school districts in Waukesha County and other groups like the Waukesha Preservation Alliance. Thank you for all your hard work, Bonnie!