



HISTORIC CHICAGO
BUNGALOW ASSOCIATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Wick Swanton – MK Communications
(312) 822-0505; wswanton@mkcpr.com

**“INDEPENDENCE PARK BUNGALOW” CHOSEN TO COMPETE
FOR \$1 MILLION IN PRESERVATION FUNDING FROM
AMERICAN EXPRESS**

Five-Week Public Online Voting Initiative Starts Today

CHICAGO (September 6, 2007) – The Historic Chicago Bungalow Association, American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation announced today that “The Women’s Building at Independence Park” – a Historic Chicago Bungalow and community gathering place – has been chosen to participate in the 2007 Partners in Preservation (PIP) program. As one of 25 sites selected, The Women’s Building at Independence Park will now compete in a five-week online contest that invites the Chicago community to cast votes for the landmarks they would most like to see receive the funding.

To cast a vote in support of The Women’s Building at Independence Park visit www.partnersinpreservation.com. The location that receives the highest number of popular votes is guaranteed to receive funding. Voting for the funding began today and runs through October 10th. At the end of the voting period, American Express, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and a special Advisory Committee comprised of Chicago area dignitaries will review the public’s votes along with each site’s monetary needs to determine how the \$1 million in preservation grants will be awarded. Participants may vote once daily.

The Historic Chicago Bungalow Association is requesting \$90,000 in grant funding through the PIP Program, which will be used to restore the bungalow’s original wood windows. As part of the restoration project, each window will be removed, repaired, stripped, refinished, and paired with a new wooden storm window. Once this work is completed, these 100-year-old windows will be fully operable, energy efficient, and ready to serve the building for another century.

“Original windows are an important element in any historic building, and particularly of Arts and Crafts architecture, which emphasized the connection between buildings and their natural surroundings,” said Annette Conti, Executive Director of the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association.

The Women’s Building at Independence Park, completed in 1920 at a cost of \$20,000 for John Coppersmith, a Wisconsin-born commission merchant, is a Spanish Mission-style bungalow which now serves as a meeting place for community groups in Chicago’s Irving Park neighborhood. The Irving Park District purchased the bungalow in 1929 as part of the expansion of Independence Park and converted the building for use as a center for women’s activities. With its spacious, open floor plan that features a dramatic double stair, its generous windows, brick

exterior and tiled roof, the bungalow complements the park's existing Arts and Crafts-style field house.

“We are fortunate to have a special bungalow in the heart of Independence Park,” said 38th Ward Alderman Margaret Laurino. “Over the years, the bungalow at Independence Park has become much more than a bricks and mortar building. It is the heart and soul of Independence Park and the surrounding neighborhood.”

To celebrate and highlight the location, the Irving Park community is holding an open house on **Saturday, September 15 from 1-3pm**, which will showcase some of the activities in the building and encourage local residents to vote. Alderman Margaret Laurino, representatives from the HCBA, the Chicago Park District, the National Trust and local community groups will be on hand at the bungalow at 3900 N. Hamlin Avenue, the southeast corner of Independence Park, near the intersection of Irving Park Road and Pulaski Road. The group will discuss the history of the building and plans for its restoration.

For more information on the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association and the Independence Park Bungalow Preservation project, please visit www.chicagobungalow.org or call 312-642-9900.

###

About the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association

The non-profit Historic Chicago Bungalow Association and the City of Chicago Department of Housing produce the Historic Chicago Bungalow and Green Home Expo. Mayor Richard M. Daley launched the Bungalow Initiative in 2000 to celebrate and ensure the longevity of Chicago's historic bungalow neighborhoods. By offering owners and potential buyers financial and technical resources to aid in the preservation and acquisition of Chicago bungalows, this program has helped more than 10,000 homeowners through the City to purchase, restore and modernize bungalows for today's lifestyles and energy needs.

About the National Trust for Historic Preservation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation (www.nationaltrust.org) is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. Recipient of the National Humanities Medal, the National Trust for Historic Preservation was founded in 1949 and provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to protect the irreplaceable places that tell America's story. Staff at the Washington, D.C. headquarters, six regional offices and 28 historic sites work with more than 270,000 members and thousands of preservation groups in all 50 states.