

# Vision for A Center for Climate Action & Innovation

At Lighthouse Park

Shirley Dugdale, AIA, Dugdale Strategy LLC  
November 2023

# Do these challenges sound familiar?

- Underutilized, publicly-owned landmark quality buildings in a beautiful waterfront park
- A city and academic institutions struggling to meet their climate action commitments
- The complexity of climate related problems that requires collaboration between institutions, experts, governments and their communities
- Major research funders seeking community engagement in design of research studies
- Urgent need to develop new workforce skills and career paths for a clean energy economy
- The public's need for learning experiences to inform about actions to take for a more resilient future



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**New York City  
found a solution  
to address  
these  
challenges**



# The New York Climate Exchange on Governors Island

Model  
Consortium Nexus

- **A new campus on a public island and park** that will convene climate experts and leaders
- **A unique cross-sector consortium** for developing and deploying dynamic solutions to the climate crisis
- **A hub for New Yorkers** to learn about and benefit from the green economy
- **Training and skills-building programs** for careers that will improve the regional environment
- **Cross-disciplinary themes:** Climate Interdependence; Sustainable Urban Environments; Environmental Justice and Inclusion

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/the-exchange/>



<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/the-exchange/collaboration.php> (Credit: SOM|Mysis)

<https://www.govisland.com/about/the-new-york-climate-exchange>

# A Vision for a Center for Climate Action

*To transform the Harley Clarke complex into a Center for Climate Action & Innovation where Evanston and partners come together to seek solutions*

**It can put this historic building to use to fight the biggest challenge of our collective future, as:**

- **A meeting hub for a consortium** of private and public partnerships focusing on climate action
- **An enabler of expanded opportunities for funding**, from government, foundations, philanthropists and investors in partnership with the City of Evanston
- **A public hub and retreat for learning and advocacy**, welcoming all in a lakefront park



Image: S. Dugdale (CC-BY-SA 4.0)

- **A unique canvas for environmental issues at the edge of Lake Michigan**, for convening climate experts, agencies and activists concerned with stewardship
- **A demonstration site**, for adaptive reuse strategies, training for career pathways for the green economy
- **Another step in Evanston's continuing leadership in planning for a sustainable and just future**

# Major funding now available for climate action

## The Opportunities

- **The IRA, CEJA and other government programs** are making available millions in grants that support communities with resiliency planning, enhanced workforce training and clean energy applications.
- **Research funding** is increasingly focused on climate change and requires teams to address complex problems, solutions and impacts on communities.
- **Many organizations and investors** seek vehicles for investment that accelerate climate action and environmental justice.
- **Major donors** are now attracted by climate-related building projects as a legacy gift.
- **Foundations** are supporting projects that explore deeper understanding of place through diverse voices.

*Some examples:*

### **IRA Grants for Climate Work in Communities:**

- Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (EPA) –  
– **\$5 billion**
- Environmental & Climate Justice Block Grants (EPA)  
– **\$3 billion**
- Investing in Coastal Communities & Climate Resilience (NOAA) - **\$2.6 billion**

### **IRA Funding for Workforce Development**

- State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grants - **\$200 million**

### **EPA Innovative Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Program – over \$20 million**

### **American Climate Corps – new White House Initiative**

# Funders seek research teams that involve communities

## The Opportunities



### **CROCUS: Community Research on Climate & Urban Science**

- A multi-institution collaboration received \$25 million from DOE to study urban climate change, resilience and environmental justice at a street, neighborhood and regional scale.
- CROCUS will help climate-vulnerable Chicago communities become more resilient to effects of climate change.

<https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2022/09/northwestern-joins-collaboration-to-study-climate-and-urban-science-in-chicago/>



### **CNAIR: Center for Native American & Indigenous Research**

- Buffett Institute for Global Affairs convened a network of 40 experts from all across NU to address research with indigenous peoples
- A NU-led research team won \$5 million NSF grant to develop methods to mitigate the effects of climate change on Great Lakes ecosystems and study manoomin, a critical crop and sacred food to Native communities

<https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2022/08/northwestern-partners-with-indigenous-scientists-to-serve-great-lakes-wetlands/>



### **CORNERS: Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science at the NU Institute for Policy Research**

- Develops transformative research projects with community and civic partners aimed at improving health and safety for more equitable neighborhoods

<https://www.cornersresearch.org>



# Evanston as an innovative partner with a track record

## The Opportunities

**The City of Evanston has been a leader in sustainability initiatives,** aided by community advocacy groups such as Climate Action Evanston (formerly Citizens' Greener Evanston):

- Developed an early climate plan in 2008
- First Illinois city to commit to 100% clean renewable energy by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050 with its 2018 [Climate Action & Resilience Plan \(CARP\)](#).
- Promoted aggregated purchasing of clean energy for all city residents
- First Illinois city certified as a NWF Community Wildlife Habitat
- Worked with city staff on Environmental Justice, Climate Emergency resolutions
- Developed many past initiatives, such as transit-oriented walkable community planning strategies, Zip Car & others



<https://www.cityofevanston.org/about-evanston/sustainability/climate-change>  
<https://www.climateactionevanston.org>  
<https://ecohub.greenevanston.org>



*EcoHub is an interactive map for visualizing environmental activity in Evanston as of 2020, documenting descriptions of sites in eight interactive layers.*



# Ways this Center can be innovative

## The Opportunities

- **As a model collaborative hub for climate action that engages a community with their local academic institutions to seek resiliency strategies** – for which there are few if any similar facilities today – to address critical urban and environmental challenges
- **As a “sandbox” for generating innovative climate actions** that grow out of the collaborative activities and relationships it hosts
- **As a demonstration project for how sustainable design can be applied to adaptive reuse projects**, incorporating the latest technologies and sustainable products, and as a site for clean energy economy workforce training for local contractors, interns and businesses
- **As an innovative hub for young climate activists**, enabling high school students to work together with undergraduates, graduate students and others as mentors to make a difference for their shared future
- **As a repositioned artifact of Evanston’s past to represent a new future**, reframing this symbol of wealth from early 20<sup>th</sup> Century electric utilities development into an inclusive facility for those seeking a sustainable future – and into a venue to learn about and reconcile with past environmental injustices, from displacement of indigenous peoples from the land they occupied here for over 10,000 years to environmental injustices of the past two centuries.

# The Concept

Public & private partner organizations

## Consortium

### A CONSORTIUM NEXUS

- Hub for consortium members
- Programs to test & measure results
- Core staff to manage coordination
- Summer programs, internships

### A LAB & INCUBATOR

- Workshop spaces
- Makerspace for environmental research
- Showcase for sustainable adaptive reuse
- Demos & workforce training venues

## Research & Testing

### A MEETING GROUND

- Collaborative co-working facilities
- Conference rooms, equipped with tech to include remote participants
- Symposium/Reception spaces
- Café for informal work

## Learning & Teaching

### A YOUTH HUB & RETREAT

- Hub for Youth Climate Activists
- Exhibit/gallery spaces
- Conservatory for events, poster shows
- Talking circles & reflection spaces

## Center for Climate Action & Innovation

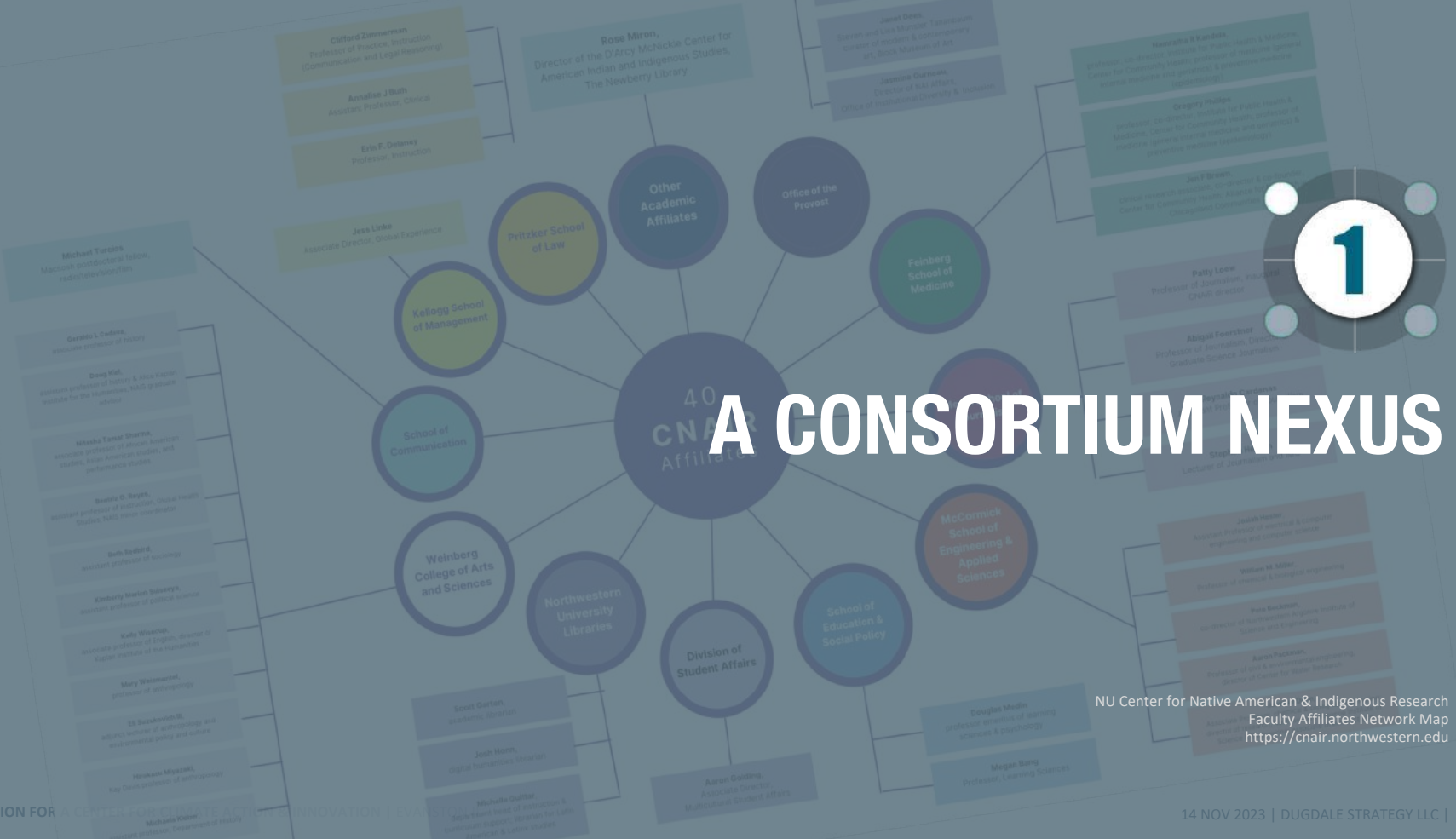
## Community

Residents, community organizations

1

# A CONSORTIUM NEXUS

40  
CNAR  
Affiliates

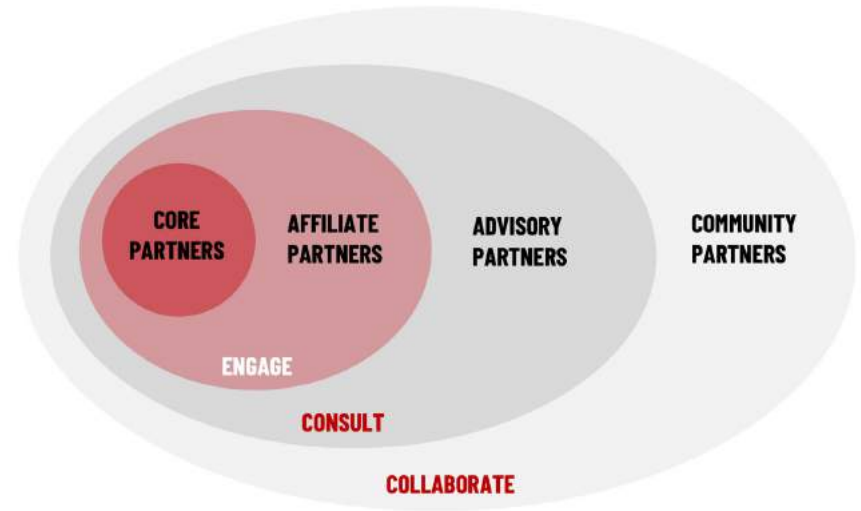


# A Consortium Nexus



*A vibrant hub for a consortium of public and private entities, academic institutions and the City of Evanston to accelerate climate action*

- A consortium of public and private partners could leverage coordination to seek funding, donors and investors.
- The Center could become the heart of the consortium and feature its initiatives and events. With a small staff at Harley Clarke, it could have organizational presence to coordinate activities, provide support and manage the operation of the facilities in partnership with the City.
- An entity formed by the consortium could become the basis for an agreement with the City for use of the land.





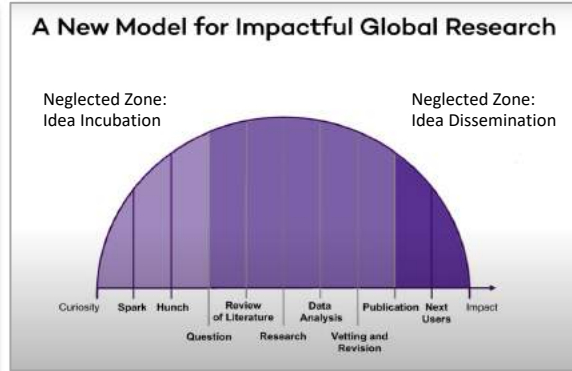
# Academic partners bring breadth of expertise on climate challenges

The Opportunities



## McCormick School of Engineering & Applied Science

- Trienens Institute for Sustainability & Energy
- Center for Engineering Sustainability & Resiliency
- Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Chemical & Biological Engineering
- Segal Design Institute; Farley Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation



## Buffett Institute for Global Affairs Institute for Policy Research

- Center for Civic Engagement
- Center for Native American & Indigenous Research
- Kellogg Sustainability & Social Impact Program; Climate Symposium
- Medill Journalism & Communications
- Office of Neighborhood & Community Relations



## Weinberg School of Arts & Sciences

- Center for Water Resources
- Climate Change Research Group
- Environmental Sciences/Urban Ecology
- Cultural Anthropology Program
- Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science
- Environmental Advocacy Center

<https://buffett.northwestern.edu/research/global-working-groups/defusing-disasters.html>

# Potential partners support Great Lakes stewardship

## The Opportunities

Many agencies and organizations offer research grants, internships, skills training in water resources management. In addition to funding, these can lead to new career paths for Evanston residents.

- **Alliance for the Great Lakes**
- **Great Lakes Protection Fund**
- **Great Lakes Commission**
- **Great Lakes Observing System**
- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative**
- **Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources**
- **Midwest Climate Adaption Science Center Partnership/ USGS**
- **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation**
- **Smart Great Lakes Initiative**



**We launch and accelerate big ideas that protect the Great Lakes.**

The Great Lakes Protection Fund is an impact investor. We work with passionate people to create innovative solutions for the Great Lakes ecosystem.




**NFWF's National Coastal Resilience Fund Announces \$44.7 Million to Support Projects Across the Nation**



Bezos Earth Fund awards \$110 million for conservation, climate science

December 19, 2022

"These grants are part of the Bezos Earth Fund's \$2 billion commitment to conserve and restore nature."



Rockefeller Foundation commits \$1 billion for global climate solutions

September 18, 2023

# The Vision | A Consortium for Climate Action in Evanston

Potential Partnership Tiers

## CORE PARTNERS

- Evanston Center for Climate Action & Innovation
- Northwestern University
- City of Evanston

## AFFILIATE PARTNERS

(vested interest, programmatic support)

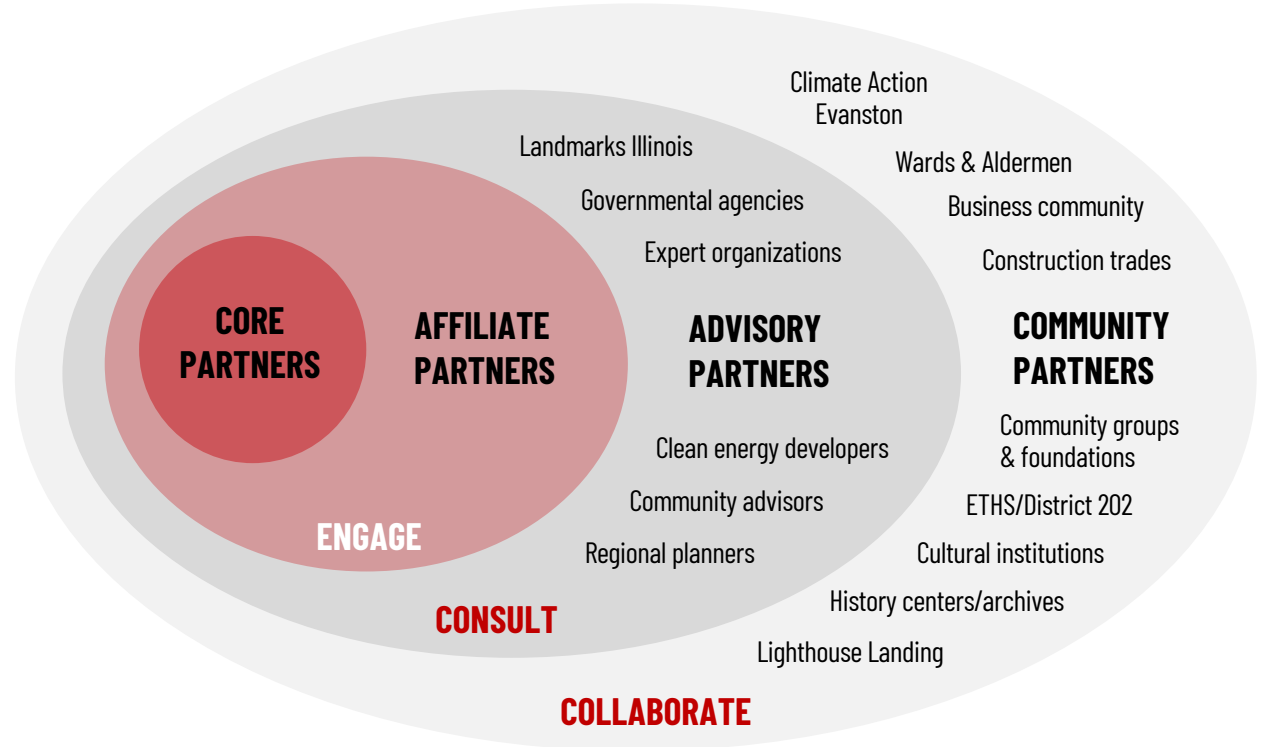
- Other academic institutions
- Great Lakes/eco organizations
- Foundations & funding groups
- Rebuilding Exchange

## ADVISORY PARTNERS

Advisory Partners Council

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community Partners Council



# Climate Action

2

## A MEETING GROUND

"We're the first generation to feel the impact of climate change, and the last generation that can do something about it." — Jay Inslee, Governor of Washington

It's Time to Take Action to Our Generation.  
It's Time to Take Action to Our Future.



# A Meeting Ground for Collaboration



*A collaborative co-working hub that brings together consortium members, community groups, residents and city staff to explore challenges and co-develop solutions*

The Center can provide:

- Workshop spaces for convening groups
- Bookable conference rooms with lakefront views
- A drop-in co-working suite with lounge seating, small group tables, BYOD
- A café on the eastern lawn overlooking the lake
- Rooms for catered receptions, luncheons and small colloquiums
- Venues for exhibits, forums and research poster shows
- Revenue by booked use or membership; opportunity for a local partner to manage it



Climate Action Museum



Climate Action Museum

*Exhibits at the Chicago Climate Action Museum*

[www.climateactionmuseum.org](http://www.climateactionmuseum.org)



Hana Dallas

*A co-working space with settings for conversations*

<https://officesnapshots.com/2020/05/27/hana-coworking-offices-dallas/>



Northwestern U



Pour Evanston

*A café with lake views, gathering spaces*

[www.evanstonpour.com](http://www.evanstonpour.com)

# Settings with features for co-creating

## Equipped for inclusivity and effective collaboration for the future

- Workshop spaces with writable walls, flexible furniture
- Interactive display capability for team work
- Technology for hybrid meetings with remote participants, capture distributed voices talking across a room without mics (e.g. Nueva audio mesh technology)
- Capability to project virtual canvases for distributed teams, making visible work being done simultaneously on virtual platforms (e.g. Miro)
- Outreach to product manufacturers as partners to contribute demo equipment



**OpenGrounds was a converted storefront where the campus edge met the town, designed as a meeting ground to bring diverse groups together to generate ideas and inspire action.**

- An initiative of the Provost's Office, the workshop space promoted a culture of open sharing and creativity across departments and organizations
- It proved to be an unexpected inspiration for those entering, a space belonging to no one group.
- Open table conversations and workshops were assisted by interns to help support the interactions. A small staff managed the operation.



*The design and furnishings invited engagement from writing on the walls to rearranging furniture, pinning up or projecting visual materials.*



*A promotional poster series captured the intent to focus on "Inspire, Innovate, Impact and Inform".*



# The Mansion as a meeting venue

There are many spaces in the building suitable for conversion for collaborative meetings.

- They range from small conference rooms to larger workshops or reception spaces, plus a possible terrace with tables on the east lawn to work outside.
- A café in the northeast corner could provide walk-up service for beach patrons as well as table service inside and out.
- Some spaces could become donor naming opportunities.



^^ 3<sup>rd</sup> floor space with exposed timbers as a dramatic setting for workshops, luncheons with lake views

^ 1<sup>st</sup> floor former dining room as a comfortable café for drop-in work, adjacent to the catering kitchen and outdoor terrace area



^^ The former Conservatory renovated as a forum space to host poster shows, symposiums, fairs and receptions

^ Harley Clarke's original office as a conference room with a round wood table and a shared community library, just off the main entry hall



^^ Found opportunities: 1<sup>st</sup> floor northwest corner space with screened-in porch as an outdoor conference room

^ Lower level original billiard room (photo ca. 1930) converted as a hub for youth climate activists, with windows opened up again for east light



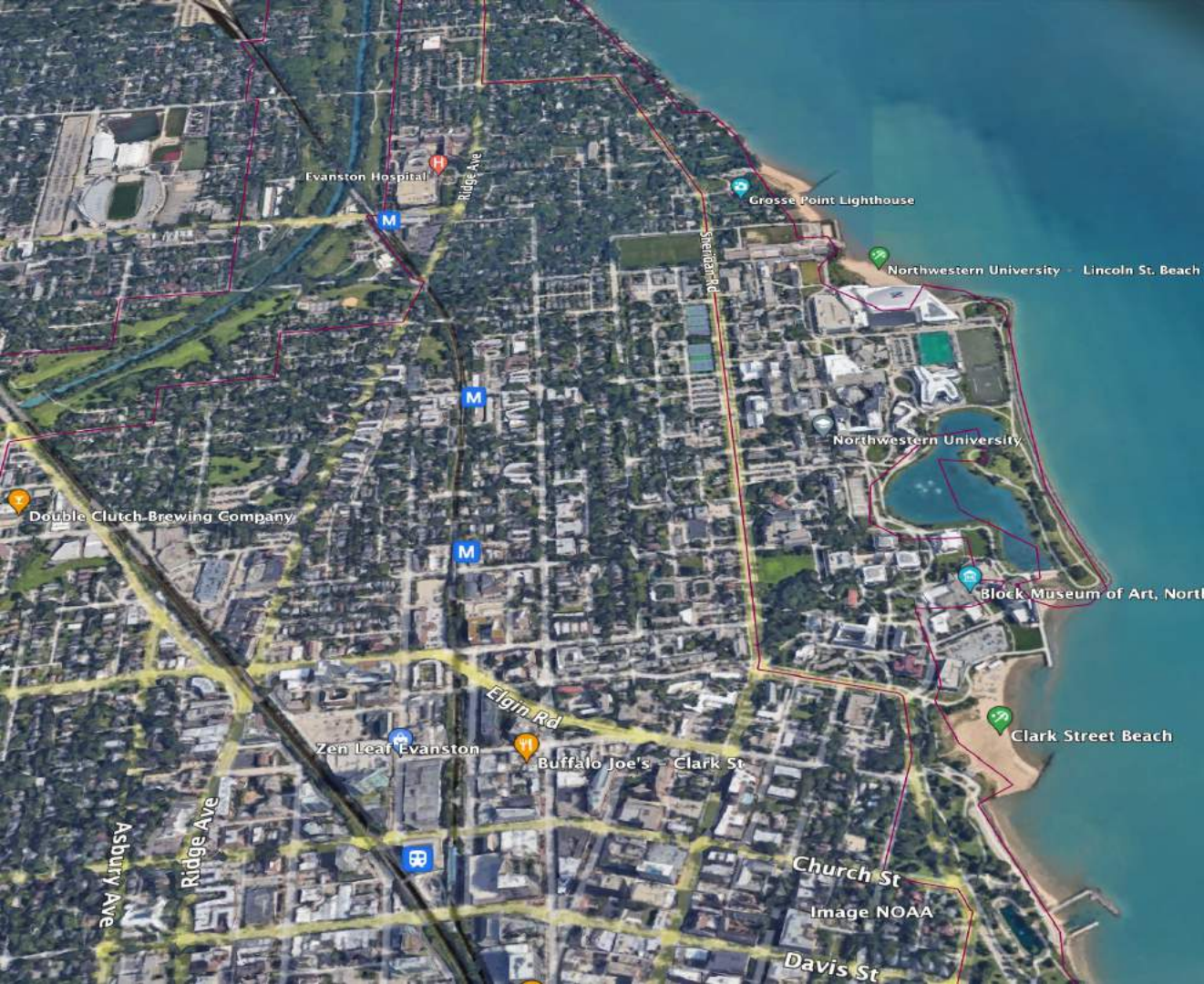
# The Coach House as a neighborhood hub

The Coach House can become an informal “watering hole” for community groups concerned with sustainable landscape practices.

- **A meeting and coordination workspace** for groups such as Jens Jensen Gardens, Evanston Garden Club and volunteers that care for the Lighthouse Landing grounds and Shakespeare Garden
- **A bike depot and seasonal repair bar** in the garage (shower facilities are available in the beach pavilion and Sheridan Road has dedicated bike lanes)
- **A demonstration hub for explaining best practices for landscape design for climate resiliency and cultivation of native perennials**, using a refurbished greenhouse and adjacent dunes, with seed share & sales events in spring
- **A small seasonal coffee stand** could serve seating overlooking lawn events and avoid drawing traffic through the mansion lobby, perhaps provide opportunity for intern experience
- **2<sup>nd</sup> floor apartment** could be renovated and made available for visiting speakers or a center manager



^ North facade with adjacent 1980's greenhouse and the Gross Point Lighthouse in background to the south  
< West and south façades along property line at entry off Sheridan Road to the Lighthouse Landing District building



# A LAB + INCUBATOR



# A Lab and Incubator



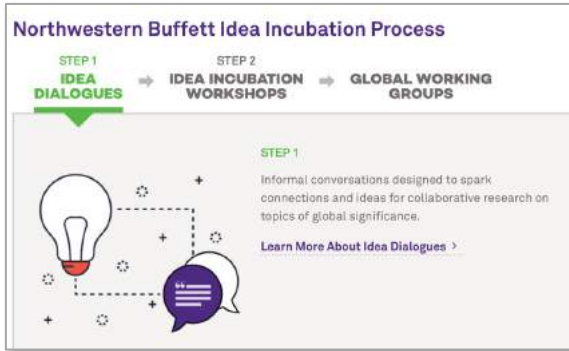
*The Center can become a place to facilitate using the city as a lab in partnership with Evanston's communities to research, gather data and test solutions.*

The Center as an organization can:

- **foster nascent project ideas or research**, identify opportunities for interns or fellowships, and focus teams to put ideas into action
  - **incubate entrepreneurial opportunities**, for business students, local businesses and residents to gain experience with investment in clean energy systems or leadership for social and environmental impact
  - **assist in applications for innovative research grants or funding**, which involve citizen-engaged science
- The building itself can be become a “teaching tool”:
- **a demonstration showcase** of sustainable approaches for adapting old buildings, applying emerging clean energy technologies (e.g. geothermal system) and sustainable choices for interior finishes
  - **a venue for workshops about clean energy systems and/or workforce training**, for example, on responsible deconstruction and reduction of construction waste guided by the Recycle Exchange
  - **a dynamic display vehicle to make data visible to visitors** – not only of the building systems’ energy use and performance, but also data from projects it incubates, for example: lake water conditions, wildlife migration, pollution or tracking of climate change impacts that projects may be gathering.

# A lab for convening to address complex problems

## The Opportunities



The Harley Clarke center can tap diverse experts in process design for user research, innovative problem-solving and engineering -- such as Buffett Institute's Idea Incubation Process, Segal Institute and local innovation planners to facilitate identifying directions to investigate, methods to test, and strategies to implement.

<https://buffett.northwestern.edu/research/idea-incubation-process/>



The ETHS Design Thinking and Innovation course, developed by the ETHS/ Northwestern Partnership Program, teaches team-based approaches to solve complex problems. Harley Clarke could host workshops and summer programs for high school students on climate challenges as they transition to college or careers.

<https://evanstonroundtable.com/2021/09/30/stem-steam-class-eths/>

Math teacher Liesa Klyn works with students in STEAM Design Thinking and Innovation. (Photo by Steve Drey)



There is growing interest in data collection with citizens' support for research studies or student projects. EPA awarded NU Center for Water Research \$3 million to test easy-to-read biosensors with 350 Chicago-area households. A cultural anthropology student did a thesis on residents' attitudes about front lawns and sustainable landscapes. The lakeshore ecosystem is a rich source for observational studies and data analysis as climate changes.

<https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2023/08/hand-held-at-home-water-quality-test-receives-3-million-grant/>



# A lab for skills and ventures for the green economy

## The Opportunities



### The Rebuilding Exchange could be a partner in the Harley Clarke project to offer:

- Deconstruction services, diverting materials from landfill and reducing particulate pollution from demolition
- Reduction of construction waste through promoting reuse of building materials
- Workforce training for deconstruction and reuse, paid pre-apprenticeship program
- Promotion of greater racial and gender diversity in the building trades



The lower level mechanical room spaces could be designed to be used as venues for training about installation and operation of the building systems, such as the geothermal system decisions, considerations for electrification, ventilation and upgrading HVAC systems in historic structures. Meeting tables for group discussion and display monitors could be included, to view systems controls and performance.



Activities at the Harley Clarke Center could help foster experimentation and entrepreneurial ideas. Engineering students could test out design ideas or mockups with residents, or aspiring business students find community collaborators. Workshops could encourage creative reuse or clever salvage applications for the circular economy. Adjacency to the Youth Climate Activists' Hub could help promote cross-fertilization.

# Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design

Georgia Tech

Model  
Lab + Incubator

**First building in Georgia and 28th in the world to earn Living Building Challenge (LBC) certification, demonstrates a working model of sustainable principles**

- Net-positive for energy and water, incorporated salvaged and local building materials, and prioritized occupant health and well-being in the design
- Ventilation strategies with ceiling fans in rooms and central atrium to extend comfort and reduce cooling (in Atlanta climate).
- Houses a Living-Learning Lab for student research and a bio-inspired makerspace
- Supports instruction and research and serves as a public forum for related campus engagement and community outreach activities



Miller Hull Architects  
<https://millerhull.com/project/the-kendeda-building/>

# A demonstration site for sustainable adaptive reuse

The Opportunities

## Renovating Harley Clarke with sustainable building systems strategies could demonstrate their application to adaptive reuse of historic buildings and alignment with Evanston's Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP).

An exemplary design process that tests sustainable strategies could:

1. **provide a valuable teaching tool**
2. **strengthen applications for funding** from federal, state and other programs that offer incentive grants,
3. **motivate manufacturers and installers to donate** equipment and services for publicity
4. **host workforce training sessions** and certificate programs in subjects like clean energy systems, historic masonry craftsmanship, deconstruction, rain-ready strategies, and sustainable landscape design.

*Examples of recommended strategies and best practices:*

- **Consider a ground source heat pump (geo-exchange or “geothermal”) system** that can use the open lawn area
- **All electric systems and appliances**
- **Building envelope upgrades:** thermal imaging survey; high R-value insulation; seasonal interior vision panels to increase thermal efficiency in cold months; sealants against air infiltration
- **Low energy usage:** space occupancy sensors; separately controlled zones; public display of building operations data
- **Maximize natural ventilation to reduce energy requirements:** retain operable windows; historical ‘whole house’ passive cooling strategy drawing in breezes from garden level with warm air relief at top; ceiling fans where appropriate to extend comfort in swing seasons to reduce cooling load
- **Evaluate use of high velocity, small flexible round ductwork** that can be less obtrusively threaded through historic structures, combined with an upgraded radiant heat system
- **Exterior lighting** to minimize glare, prevent light trespass into adjacent areas, and limit light pollution into the night sky

A group of five young people are gathered in a computer lab or office. One person is sitting on the floor in the foreground, while others are seated at desks with computers. The room is decorated with a string of colorful triangular flags and various papers pinned to the walls. A large, semi-transparent blue overlay covers the right side of the image, containing a white circle with the number 4 and the main title text.

4

# A HUB FOR YOUTH CLIMATE ACTIVISTS

*A meeting of E-Town Sunrise  
Credit: E-Town Sunrise Instagram*



# A Hub for Youth Climate Activists



*A place for high school teens and above to collaborate on projects and initiatives*

- **Work on climate- or sustainability-based research or design projects**, resource sharing, networking – a space where students have agency
- **Access to mentors** depending on the project – grad students, fellows, instructors or community experts
- **Eco-makerspace** – for tinkering with environmental sensors to gather data, share observation techniques
- **Sewing/mending workshops** to combat fast fashion
- **Equipment to develop podcasts or media**
- **Pitch practice podium**
- **Organizing invited speakers** to address climate-related issues – scientists, engineers, product designers, activists, politicians, etc.



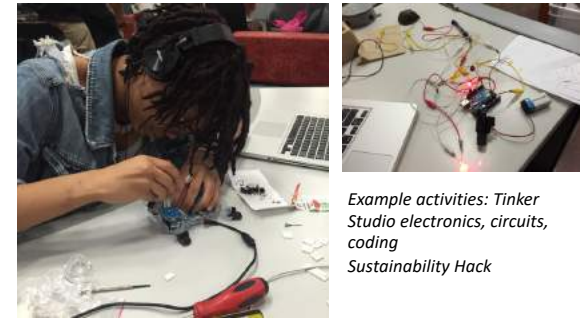
*With thanks to E-Town Sunrise for their ideas and contributions.*

**YOUmedia is a Chicago-based digital learning initiative originally funded by the MacArthur Foundation, designed to motivate teens to create, innovate, and become active learners.** It has been so successful as a welcoming hub that the model has been replicated in many locations throughout Chicago.

- Provides opportunities to socialize, to explore, or to master increasingly complex skills
- Relationships with peers and mentors built community
- Physical space in the Harold Washington Library plus a digital website -- both designed for progressive levels of participation in digital and traditional media



- Organized and unorganized activities
- Youth-driven agenda
- Drop-in, BYOD as well as equipment provided for recording, creating with media, STEM-related and other activities



<https://youmediachicagostem.tumblr.com>

# Activism with Hope

The Opportunities



The power of youth to organize in support of climate action and global sustainability is growing. Their voices are being heard at COP28 and other protests and their influence on campuses' and in school systems is encouraging.

<https://evanstonroundtable.com/2023/10/26/climate-watch-climate-anxiety-is-real/>



It's Our Future (IOF) empowers Chicago area high school students of all backgrounds to work together towards climate justice in their schools and communities.



<https://sevengenerationsahead.org/our-work/its-our-future/>



Shedd Aquarium championed the Great Lakes as a Mission Blue Hope Spot.

The Great Lakes join 151 other Hope Spots recognized across the globe and is the first and only freshwater Hope Spot.

*"The Great Lakes represent both the figurative and the literal heart of the North American water system... a source of water for over 40 million people and more than 3,500 plant and animal species, many of which are unique to the Great Lakes. The inclusion of this critically important natural area as a Hope Spot will highlight the connection and significance of protecting inland habitats, as we really understand that the whole aquatic world; inland waters and the ocean beyond are one interconnected system."*

-- Dr. Sylvia Earle, Founder of Mission Blue

# New career paths for youth to explore

The Opportunities



**A new White House initiative to train young people for high-demand jobs for climate action (9/20/23).** In its first year, the American Climate Corps will put more than 20,000 young people on career pathways in the growing fields of clean energy, conservation and climate resilience

*"The American Climate Corps will put a new generation of Americans to work conserving our lands and waters, bolstering community resilience, advancing environmental justice, deploying clean energy, implementing energy efficient technologies, and tackling climate change."*

**Climate Corp is one of many organizations that provides fellowships for work all over the world involving many kinds of initiatives.**

**Chicago is the heart of a Midwest area with many colleges, universities and organizations that offer short or long term opportunities.** This center at Harkey Clarke could help aid students from all over Evanston find internships, fellowships, or summer research in their areas of climate-related interest, supplementing ETHS' and NU's services, and offer access for lakeside projects for students based further away.





# A RETREAT FOR PLACE, MEMORY & CULTURE

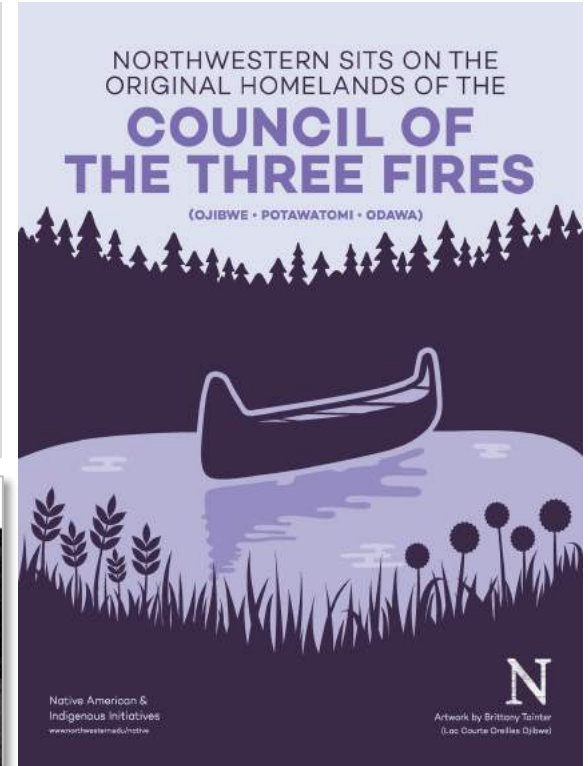
# A Retreat to Learn about Place, Memory & Culture



*In a park setting on the lakeshore, this building offers a peaceful retreat to explore and reflect on communal memory and shared heritage.*

- Foundations are supporting programs for deeper understanding of collective roots and forgotten history. Evanston has many resources to engage with and inform these dialogues.
- A setting to learn about indigenous peoples' Seven Generations perspective for stewardship of their lands – both remembering past knowledge and being responsible to manage the environment for future generations

*The Mellon Foundation's newest program area, **Humanities in Place**, has deployed **\$136.6 million since 2020** to expand the capacity of communities to keep and shape their places and built environments through grants for design projects and the social and cultural infrastructure they provide. For the nation's largest supporter of the arts and humanities, a commitment to social justice grantmaking guides efforts to address the historical inequities embedded across disciplines, institutions, and places.*





# A Seven Generations view of earth stewardship

*“The Ojibwe view time differently... Climate change is an issue of generations, with generations in the future threatened by generations of injustices in the past.*

*Ojibwe worldviews have a **seven-generation focus** on a responsibility to the Four Orders\* that extends seven generations into the future and a **responsibility to understand the relationships between three generations of the past, three generations of the future, and the generation of now.**”*

*\* Four Orders of Mother Earth: 1) soil/covering, 2) plants, 3) animals, and 4) people.*

*Loew Patricia. 2013. Indian Nations of Wisconsin: Histories of Endurance and Renewal. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Historical Society.*

“... The Northwestern campus sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the **Council of Three Fires, the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa** as well as the **Menominee, Miami and Ho-Chunk nations**. It was also a site of trade, travel, gathering and healing for more than a dozen other Native tribes and is still home to over 100,000 tribal members in the state of Illinois. It is within Northwestern's responsibility as an academic institution to disseminate knowledge about Native peoples and the institution's history with them...”

Marion Suiseeya, K. R., O'connell, M. G., Leoso, E., Defoe, M. S. B. N., Anderson, A., Bang, M., Beckman, P., Boyer, A.-M., Dunn, J., Gilbert, J., Hester, J., Horton, D. E., Jennings, D. B., Kebec, P., Loeb, N. C., Loew, P., Miller, W. M., Moffitt, K., Packman, A. I., ... Zerega, N. (2022). Waking from Paralysis: Revitalizing Conceptions of Climate Knowledge and Justice for More Effective Climate Action. The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 700(1), 166–182. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00027162221095495c>

**A new five-year program led by NU and supported with \$5 million from NSF will model inclusion of strategies based on Indigenous traditional knowledge:**

“Strengthening Resilience of Manoomin, the Sentinel Species of the Great Lakes, with Data-Science-Supported, Seventh Generation Stewardship”.

*“Traditional knowledge draws on generations of ongoing, empirical observations of the complex interdependencies of our world, revealing insights into how climate change impacts not only parts of the system, but the system as a whole—phenomena that the scientific method rarely, if ever, captures. Science is fairly narrow, time bound, and often not situated in place—it lacks the depth of observation and the ability to see connections that experiential knowledge can reveal.”*

— Kimberly Marion Suiseeya, Assoc. Prof., NU Environmental Policy & Culture Program; Faculty Affiliate at the Center for Native American & Indigenous Research

This model of a funded center could provide inspiration for a program at Harley Clarke.

A three-year, **\$1.5 million grant** from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support a new multidisciplinary Place, Memory, and Culture Incubator has been awarded to The City College of New York (CCNY) in the Spitzer School of Architecture (8/25/23). It will:

- focus on community-based partnerships and projects in Harlem that engage built-environment design and the humanities through a social justice lens
- enable design studios to focus on recording, visualizing, and preserving heritage and projecting innovative, resilient cultural and spatial futures
- create a new model for university and community partnerships based on reciprocal collaboration.

Knowledge about place, memory, and culture will be co-produced with community partners and shared with the community via exhibitions, a symposium, a digital archive, and community-based public arts programs and installations.

*“The incubator will provide a space and a methodology for members of the community – academic and neighborhood – to engage with one another in the production of more representative and authentic histories... It recognizes the historic positioning in the community and the commitment to ‘acknowledging, preserving and democratizing access to the important physical and cultural legacies of this place.’”*

— Jerome Haferd, co-director

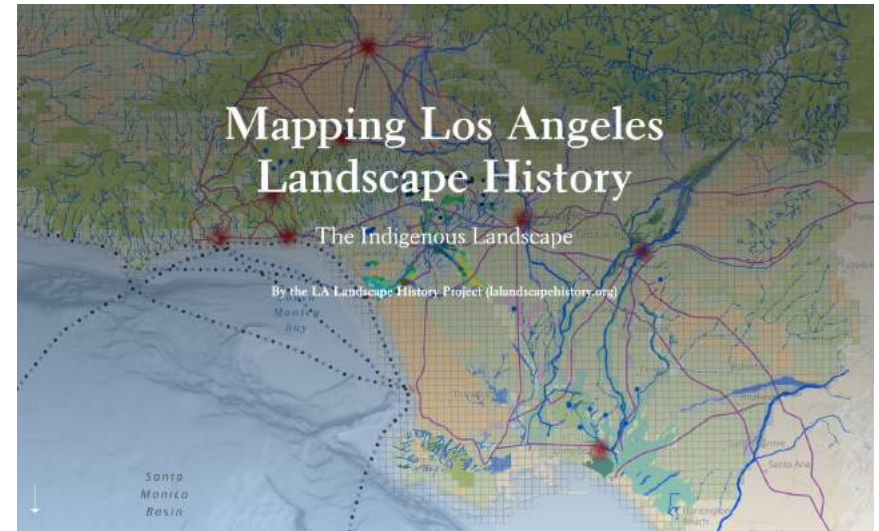
<https://philanthropynewsdigest.org/news/mellon-foundation-commits-1.5-million-to-city-college-of-new-york>



This is an example of mapping that teams might collaborate on in the new center, compiling data visualizations that reveal insights about the history of human relationships in the local Illinois lakeshore environment.

The “Mapping Los Angeles” project presents a comprehensive view of the region’s native ecology and the ways Indigenous people interacted with it and one another. It was built in collaboration with four other local universities as well as three tribes, funded with **\$270,800** in 2020 from a local foundation.

- The Los Angeles environment over centuries is revealed in multiple layers, including pre-European trade routes, hidden waterways, and a reconstruction of historic topography.
- Video interviews with representatives of the Chumash, Tataviam, and Gabrieleño tribes share memories and teachings about how their communities used the land and continue to do so today. It includes maps of the historical tree, plant and bird distributions. Project leaders hope the information can be used to support ecological restoration and sustainability efforts..

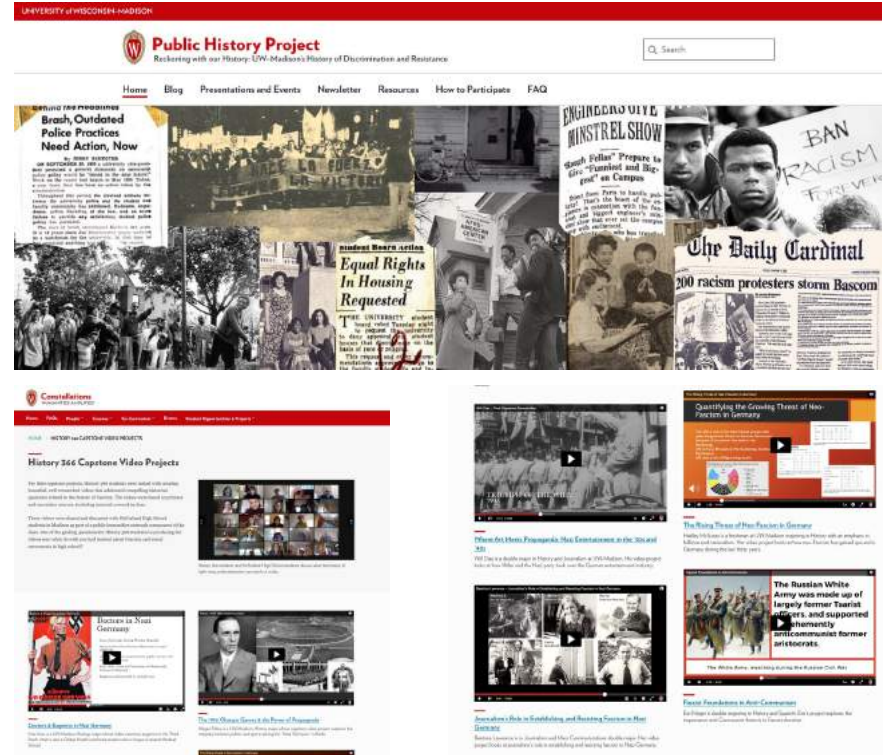


A section of a “Story Map” summarizing the natural and cultural features of LA’s Indigenous landscape. Layers include ancient roads, seafaring routes, blue line water features from USGS topographic maps, and an extended potential natural vegetation map. [Credit: Los Angeles Landscape History]

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b76cab116cbe4432a629d4791249a958>

The Harley Clarke center could coordinate with archival institutions to foster community history research then exhibit the findings to share with others. Some examples:

- **Constellations courses** at U. Wisconsin-Madison are interdisciplinary humanities courses in which students investigate compelling historical questions. For their capstone projects, some **classes create videos based on research with primary and secondary sources**. Videos were publicly posted and also discussed with high school students as part of a public humanities outreach component of the program.
- **The UW-M Public History Project** is a multi-year effort to uncover and give voice to those who experienced, challenged and overcame prejudice on campus. The broad intent of the project is to ensure that all students and alumni are aware of the full history of the university, including the accomplishments of campus community members from marginalized populations whose stories previously may have been hidden or not widely known.



# Artifacts, memories and lessons of place

Perhaps it is fitting that this building becomes a place for debating our energy future.

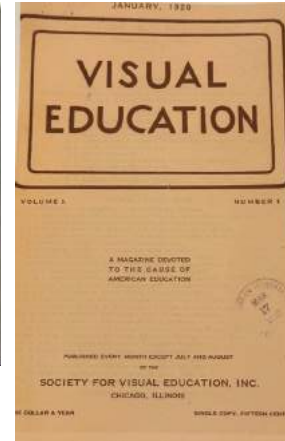
- One hundred years ago Harley Clarke made his fortune in the early development of electric utilities – then lost it during the depression.
- He helped promote film for Visual Education in the Evanston school system around 1920 and later became head of Fox Films for a year in 1930. So he would have supported fitting out spaces in the house with media technology to collaborate, exhibit and learn!
- Building details can remind about useful traditional practices: the design of the two remaining decorative cisterns celebrates the capture of rainwater.



*A stock certificate from Utilities Power & Light with Harley L. Clarke's signature as president. The company went bankrupt in 1939.*



*An early electric stove or food warming cabinet still in the kitchen*



*A 1920 report on the progress in developing a film program in Evanston schools to supplement classwork*



*Decorative cistern at the base of an ornamental leader*



# Jens Jensen gardens stewardship

These grounds are one of the few remaining examples of Jens Jensen work as a prominent landscape architect in the Chicago area in the early 20<sup>th</sup> c. He was known for naturalistic designs inspired by Midwest prairie environments and native species of plant materials.

- The “Council Ring” extends the concept of a meeting ground out into the landscape. He frequently included a circle of stone seating around a firepit, in reference to eons of Native American practice for governance, resolving conflicts and sharing wisdom. The one at the dunes here is a popular spot to book for summer gatherings near the water.
- Significant work has been done by volunteers recently to clean out invasives and restore the grotto fountain and plantings, lead by Jens Jensen Gardens and the Evanston Garden Club, but a more sustainable arrangement is needed with the adaptive reuse plans for the property.



Images: S. Dugdale (CC-BY-SA 4.0)



^ The Council Ring at the edge of the dunes just northeast of the east lawn

< The sound of the stone 'grotto' fountain would have been audible through the open windows of the adjacent conservatory



# Learning while enjoying the grounds

## The Opportunities

- **The Great Lawn can host events** visible from Sheridan Road, such as fairs about environmental issues, festivals for themed sculpture shows.
- **Gardening events** can focus on native perennials and best practice in sustainable landscaping, coordinated with the edible gardens to the north of the park and the Lighthouse Landing grounds to the south.
- **Son et lumière shows** (“sound and light”) are a form of nighttime entertainment that is usually presented in an outdoor venue of historic significance. Special lighting effects are projected onto the façade of a building and synchronized with recorded or live narration and music to dramatize the history of the place. (This can also be done using headsets.)
- **Walks along the dunes and park edges can inform** about the lakeshore ecosystem and role of the dune environments with physical signage and digital information guides.



Image: S. Dugdale (CC-BY-SA 4.0)

# Planning for a Learning Precinct

## The Opportunities

**The Lakefront Master Plan for this zone could be updated as an integrated learning precinct, with a publicly accessible Harley Clarke building at its core and the Northwestern campus at its south end.**

- Each area can be tailored to different age groups or visitor purpose/audience, and convey stories about this place over time.
- Access to a digital guide keyed to various locations can provide descriptive information. Later this could be an opportunity for an augmented reality project.
- The Lighthouse Park District museum could get updated exhibits and digital material. The two Fog Houses can continue to be used by the Ecology Center for teaching younger children.
- Proximity to the Evanston Water Treatment Plant for tours offers an opportunity to learn about stewardship of water resources.



^^ Entry to the Lighthouse District buildings from Sheridan Road  
 ^ Example of a digital guide to the North Shore Channel Habitat Walk  
[www.evanstonhabitat.org/walk/](http://www.evanstonhabitat.org/walk/)



- Community vegetable garden
- Noah's Playground
- Lawson Park lake edge walk
- Open picnic pavilion & lawn
- Beach access & showers for Lighthouse Beach
- Harley Clarke mansion
- Coach House
- Fog houses
- Grosse Point Lighthouse & buildings complex
- Water Treatment Plant
- Northwestern U. Campus

# Alignment with the Preserve 2040 Report

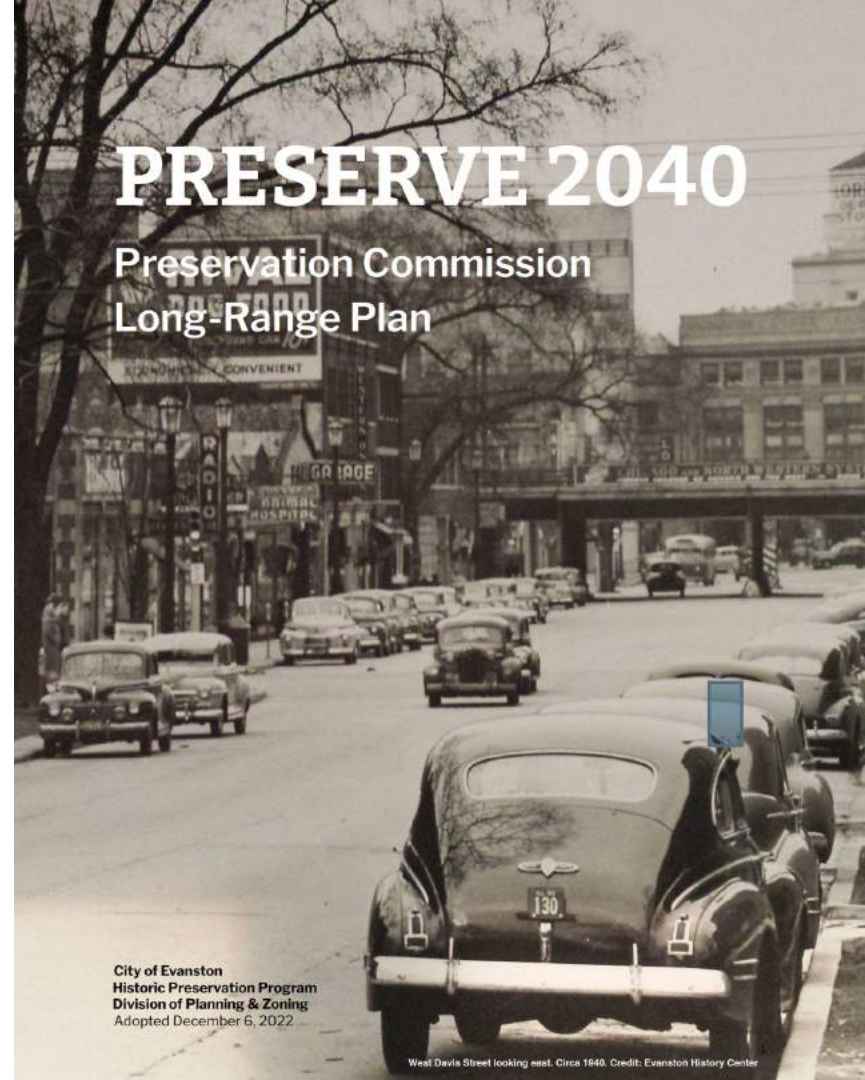
This concept would align with many of Evanston's long range preservation goals and recommendations, for example:

## **Integrate and expand preservation priorities which align with Evanston's Climate Action and Resilience goals.**

- Partner with local rebuilding exchanges for deconstruction rather than demolition, which supports job growth as well as reduction in carbon footprint
- Support the retention of significant landscape features which offer citywide environmental and cultural benefits
- Retain heritage trees for their cultural, social, environmental and health benefits

## **Create new educational tools that inform about adapting historic structures.**

- Offer exhibits and training sessions
- Create self-guided online tours
- Help attract youth into the local preservation community through commitment to sustainability
- Support oral history projects



# PRESERVE 2040

## Preservation Commission Long-Range Plan

City of Evanston  
Historic Preservation Program  
Division of Planning & Zoning  
Adopted December 6, 2022



# The Lighthouse Metaphor



**The Lighthouse, a symbol of Evanston, is a great metaphor for this center: a beacon leading the way, warning about risks ahead, and offering safe navigation into the future.**

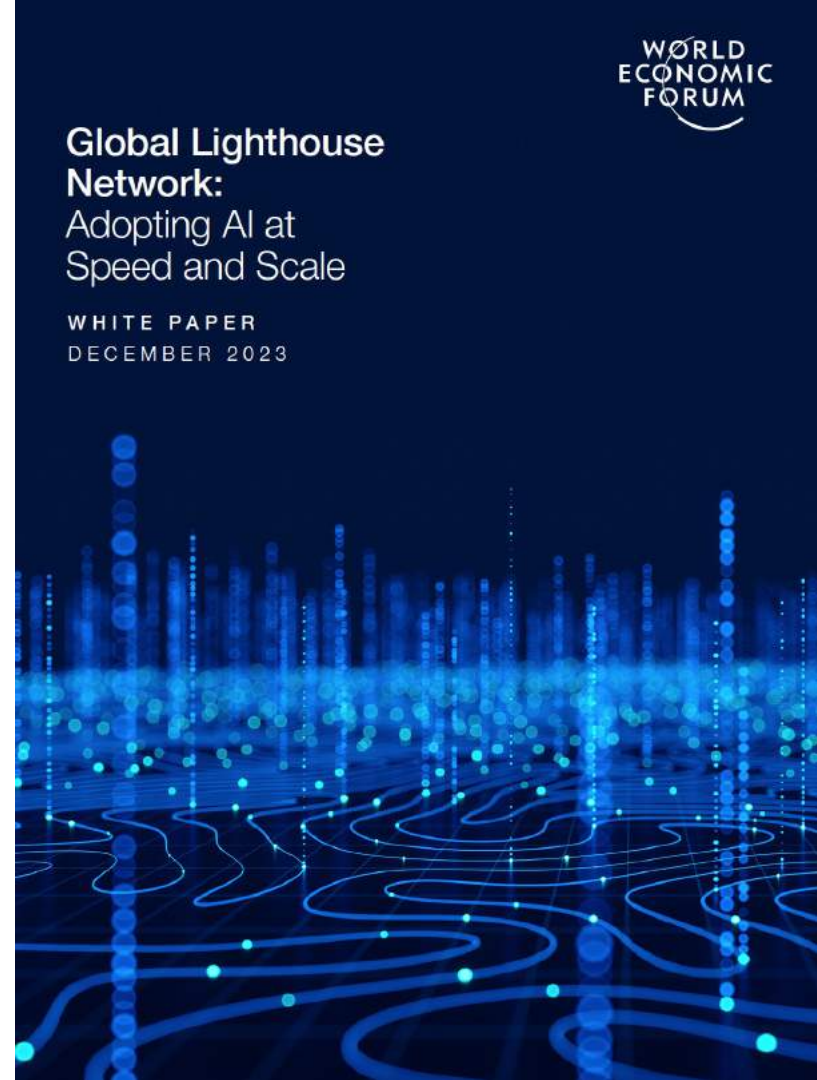
The Grosse Point Lighthouse has been here for 200 years since it was built in 1823. As the Great Lakes region faces unknown climate challenges ahead, this new Center for Climate Action could become a model in the Midwest for the next 100 years guiding climate action and resilience. Later it might stimulate development of a network of centers across this region to share data and scale efforts.

*The Global Lighthouse Network initiative of the World Economic Forum, developed with McKinsey, is now in its fifth year of showcasing new centers of innovation in manufacturing.*  
[White paper, Dec. 2023](#)



## Global Lighthouse Network: Adopting AI at Speed and Scale

WHITE PAPER  
DECEMBER 2023





# Summary | This concept offers opportunities for ...

## The City of Evanston to:

- Capitalize on an underleveraged asset with a sustainable model that can achieve public and private objectives
- Access new potential sources of funding
- Investigate and co-create resiliency strategies with research partners to meet CARP goals
- Demonstrate Evanston's continuing leadership in innovative planning on environmental and social issues.

## Northwestern Univ. to:

- Lead teams of researchers, social scientists and community members to address complex challenges
- Demonstrate commitment to a strong partnership with its city
- Increase co-curricular project and internship opportunities for students and fellows
- Contribute to the future of all of Evanston's youth
- Supplement meeting venues available for faculty & students use

## Consortium Partners to:

- Develop an exemplary community-based hub for coordinated climate action that could become a significant national model
- Contribute to and support integrated research and climate action through partnering in this consortium
- Work with local groups to design and test strategies that will advance organizational agendas
- Support shared access to environmental sensor data and its analysis

## Evanston's Residents to:

- Preserve a valued landmark with a unique setting and irreplaceable physical characteristics for publicly accessible uses
- Have a destination hub to learn about climate action
- Provide its next generation of environmental activists with more pathways to learn about careers in a greener economy
- Support a catalyst for long-term and community-wide economic, social, and cultural benefits

**Shirley Dugdale**, AIA, Principal of Dugdale Strategy LLC, is a planning consultant who works with teams to envision space strategies that enhance collaboration, learning and innovation. Her diverse experience includes many adaptive reuse and planning projects for academic research institutions across the US and overseas. As a resident of Evanston long committed to environmental sustainability, she is excited by the potential to transform this landmark to support climate action and invites ideas and collaborators who can help make this a reality.

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