



The Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation Preservation Awards Program Criteria

Each year many individuals, businesses, organizations and local governments make significant contributions to the preservation of Kentucky's heritage. Whether through the rehabilitation of an important building or structure, advocacy, investment of time or resources, or a lifetime commitment to encouraging and promoting historic preservation in the Commonwealth, all demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for the value of preserving and reusing Kentucky's historic resources and protecting archaeological sites.

In 1979, the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Foundation was chartered in honor of **Ida Lee Willis**, the first state historic preservation officer and director of the Kentucky Heritage Commission (today the Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office). The purpose of the foundation was to recognize and honor worthy historic preservation efforts of all sizes and scope all across the Commonwealth. Since its inception, the foundation has done this by sponsoring Kentucky's signature preservation awards event each year to highlight outstanding projects, service, and commitment.

Nominations for the awards are invited from the public and are reviewed by a panel of judges representing the foundation, state agencies, and affiliated nonprofits. The awards are presented at an annual ceremony each May – recognized as National Historic Preservation Month.

The **Ida Lee Willis Memorial Award for Excellence** in the Preservation of Cultural Resources in Kentucky

In recognition of Mrs. Willis' lifetime commitment to historic preservation, the Ida Lee Willis Memorial Award for Excellence is presented to the individual who has demonstrated great dedication to the cause of historic preservation. Criteria for evaluating nominees include:

- Significance of the project(s) with which the nominee has been involved,
- Length of service, and
- Overall contribution to the understanding and development of historic preservation efforts and programs through superlative leadership.

Preservation Project Awards

Given to recognize outstanding examples of the restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings, or to other types of projects that have made a significant impact on Kentucky's built environment. Nominations must include **before and after photographs** of the project. Criteria for evaluating nominations include:

- Historic significance of the building(s)
- Use of innovative rehabilitation techniques
- Impact on the community
- Ability of the project to serve as an example for other historic preservation efforts.

Service to Preservation Awards

Created to recognize individuals, nonprofits and other organizations, public officials, financial institutions, news media, volunteers, or others whose contributions have had a positive effect on the preservation of Kentucky's historic or prehistoric resources. Criteria for evaluating nominations include:

- Impact on the community or state
- Development of innovative and model preservation programs
- A strong commitment to historic preservation in Kentucky.

Grassroots Preservation Awards

Given at the selection committee's discretion, these awards honor those who have committed their personal time, resources, and passion to take on a challenge that addresses historic preservation at the most grassroots or fundamental level, and whose efforts have resulted in a successful project.