

GCI Awards Application Document 2021

Award # 43. a. Award Name: Historic Preservation-

Holiday Decoration in a Historic Building

Award Submitted by: Springfield Civic Garden Club Number of Members-257

Springfield Civic Garden Club

Date: 12/26/2021

1. **New Project:** Yes__ No_X_ Beginning Date: 07/01/21 Completion date: 12/31/21

This is the eighth year that the Springfield Civic Garden Club has had the privilege to decorate this Illinois State Historic Site, the Dana Thomas House for Christmas.

2. Brief Summary and Objectives of the project:

The Dana Thomas House (DTH) in Springfield, Illinois, one of the largest (12,800 sq. ft.) and most elaborate residences designed by Frank Lloyd Wright built in 1902-1904 for the wealthy Susan Dana. Because of Covid Restrictions the House was not decorated in 2020 and this year's 2021 preparation was delayed until July because of State of Illinois restrictions. Our storage area was moved to the Old State Capitol (OSC) basement, 1 mile away by the State Fire Marshall.

Workshops were held to create ornaments for the J.M.Barrie (An Author during Dana's time) inspired Peter Pan Tree in the Library and to paint natural materials.



1. Dana Thomas House



2. Living Room



3. Reception Fireplace

We decorated in the style of Frank Lloyd Wright using **60 different natural materials**, highlighting contorted filbert and hydrangea this year, by bring the outside inside, some natural materials embellished with gold paint to add sparkle and depth to our designs. **40 SCGC members** worked at home prepping their designs, supplies and organizing the various components of the project and in DTH in late October and early November for a total of **720 volunteer hours**. They created **90 pieces** including **11 trees, 10 wreaths, 2 swags, 58 inside design pieces and 9 outside pieces**.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (INDR) Historic Sites Division funded \$82.00 for 12 cans for copper and gold paint for contorted filbert, branches and allium.

Springfield Civic Garden Club funded a **\$250 Community Continuing Project-Christmas at the Dana Thomas House 2021**, from proceeds from various SCGC fundraisers to purchase material for tree skirts, floral supplies, ribbon & floral tape, 3 sweet gumball trees,

5. Follow Up:

Tours before Christmas are **four times daily, Wednesday and Saturday evenings** showcasing SCGC Christmas Designs with a framed announcement in the Reception area acknowledging, "Christmas Decorations are by Springfield Civic Garden Club."

SCGC Design Team Members are noted in a framed list in the Gallery.

The site is visited throughout the year by thousands of local as well as international visitors. SCGC made a difference in our community by supporting our local state historic site for without our efforts the site does not have the funding and manpower necessary to decorate for Christmas and allowed us to follow the SCGC objectives listed above.



1. Conservatory



2. Susan's Mom's Bedroom



3. Library Tree

Publicity was in State Journal Register, Illinois Times, Senior News, Dana Thomas House Foundation Newsletter, SCGC Announcements and Websites-Dana Thomas House, DTH Foundation and SCGC.

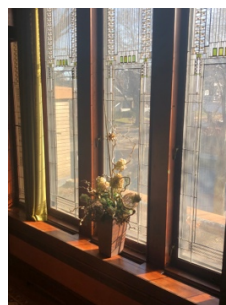
A framed Acknowledgement is on display in Reception area of the House and in Gallery.

Appreciation-The IDNR/DTH hosted two Open Houses for 170 SCGC Members and their Guests to tour the House at their leisure on Dec. 13 & 14 from 4-6pm to enjoy the Christmas display, beautiful art glass and no refreshments were served this year because of Covid restrictions.

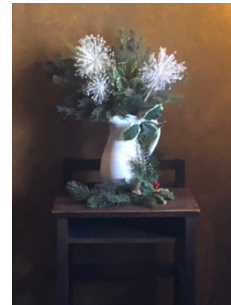
6. Additional photos are inserted throughout the award.



1. Touring Members & Guests



2. Music Balcony



3. Nursery