



# STEEPLE SQUARE NEWS

WINTER 2018

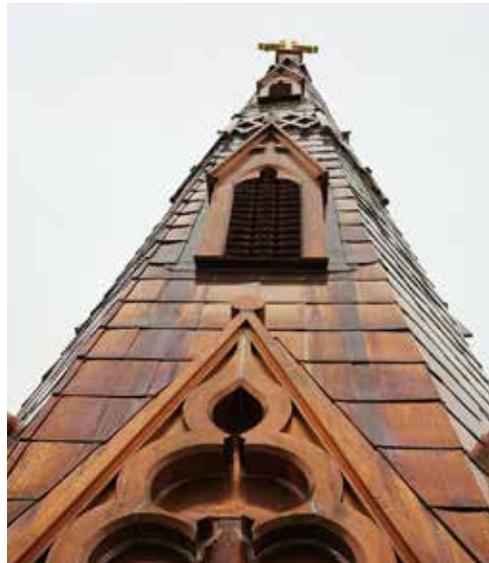


Photo Credit: Gronen Restoration

## Board President Update: Steeple Restoration Nearing Completion



Jack McCullough,  
Steeple Square Board  
President and President,  
McCullough Creative

The Steeple Square team is happy to announce we are entering the final weeks of the steeple restoration. As I write this, the construction crews, suppliers and vendors are tending to the final work and taking down the scaffolding layer by layer to reveal the magnificent craftsmanship and labor of the restored steeple. Community feedback has been tremendously positive as our community sees the glistening, glorious steeple 22 stories high in the heart of Dubuque.

With the feedback has come some good questions that we wish to share with our friends.

### ***Was copper the original material? Why copper?***

*Copper was not the original material. The original material was galvanized zinc that was painted entirely gray for most*

*of its history. In 1967, the steeple was first painted the black and white color scheme that we know today. We chose copper because it is the most durable material, will not need to be painted, and it will last over 100 years. Once it patinas to light gray/green, it will have the monochrome color that its had for most of its history. Our choice of copper has been approved by the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service. See photos from 1867 (when the church was new), 1918 (after the 1912 renovations) and 1945 on Page 6. All photos show a monochromatic gray steeple.*

### ***Was the cross restored or a replica?***

*This cross is a replica. In order for the steeple to last for another 100 years with as little maintenance as possible, the existing cross was not resilient enough to be restored. Another concern was that the gold leafing does not stick well to surfaces that were previously gold leafed. If for some reason the cross needed maintenance, it would be difficult and expensive to access. The new cross with the gold leaf coating should last at least 40 to 50 years before needing to be addressed. It is important to note that the new cross is an exact*

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## Steeple Restoration Nearing Completion

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replica of the old cross. The original cross will be kept and used somewhere on the Steeple Square campus.

*If Steeple Square is no longer a church, why put the cross back on the steeple? The building's history is as a Catholic church. The cross is a character-defining feature of the steeple, so in order to receive state and federal tax credits for the restoration of the building, we were required to restore the cross. Steeple Square believes restoring the cross honors the history of the building and the community. In the same way, the stained-glass windows, stations of the cross*

*paintings, Assumption mural, and more, will be preserved.*

Ultimately, the restoration of the steeple is a visible signal of investment in our downtown neighborhoods. We thank the Dubuque community for their great interest in our project.

See Page 6 for photos of how the iconic steeple has changed over the years.

Help us celebrate the steeple restoration by joining us at our annual event and donor reception on Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 6 - 8 p.m. at the Steeple Square Community Event Center. RSVP by January 9th to campus manager, Melanie Bressler, at [events@steeple-square.com](mailto:events@steeple-square.com), call/text 563.235.3584 or visit [steeple-square.com/rsvp-event](http://steeple-square.com/rsvp-event).

## Campaign Update: Focus Turns to Marita Theisen Childcare Center

As we near the completion of the steeple restoration, fundraising efforts now to turn our next project, restoring the former St. Mary's rectory into the Marita Theisen Childcare Center.

The Dubuque community has set its sights on addressing the dire need to increase affordable child care in our region. Affordable, licensed child care, especially in downtown Dubuque, is a win for everyone - for families, employers and the community as a whole. We all thrive when our next generation receives early childhood care and parents are able to take on meaningful work knowing their children are safe and healthy. We know that lack of access to childcare presents even more of a barrier to low-income community members and single parent households. In fact, 60% of women served by our partner Opening Doors turn down jobs due to lack of access to affordable childcare.

When Steeple Square began hosting community engagement sessions, childcare onsite was an overwhelmingly agreed upon suggestion. We are



proud to help answer a call in our community with the establishment of the Marita Theisen Childcare Center. The generosity of the Theisen family and their supporters, as well as Dubuque County have provided key leadership and financial support in this project.

We are still interested in donors who are interested in being part of the solution of affordable downtown daycare to help reach our total fundraising goal. To inquire about contributing to the Marita Theisen Childcare Center, contact Steeple Square treasurer, Judy Wolf, at 563.599.1479 or [jewolf@mchsi.com](mailto:jewolf@mchsi.com).



For Steeple Square development updates, visit our website: [steeple-square.com/news](http://steeple-square.com/news) or follow us on Facebook: [@steeple-square](https://www.facebook.com/steeple-square)

## Steeple Square's New Faces

We are excited to welcome Melanie Bressler, CNP, as campus manager. Formerly with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, Melanie has a B.A. from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa, is a Certified Nonprofit Professional (CNP), and a recipient of the 2018 Governor's Volunteer Award in Iowa. Melanie will oversee the delivery of the mission of Steeple Square, including the management of the Steeple Square Community Event Center, which has hosted weddings, receptions, business meetings, community events, parties, end of life celebrations, and more for thousands of visitors in the past two years.

Also welcome to new board member, Doug Binsfeld, who is the associate vice president of learning and student success at Northeast Iowa Community College.



## Steeple Square Achieves Jeffris Challenge Grant Match

In just over two years after receiving a Jeffris Family Foundation Challenge Grant, Steeple Square achieved the grant fundraising match requirements.

The \$600,000 capital campaign challenge grant from the Jeffris Family Foundation required Steeple Square to raise a 2:1 match for the steeple project in the amount of \$1.2 million. Thanks to innovative vision and strong local support, Steeple Square was able to achieve the match well ahead of schedule in August of 2018.

Thomas Jeffris, president of the Jeffris Family Foundation, said they have been following the Steeple Square project with great positivity. "Our foundation is enthusiastic to give this challenge grant to restore the former St. Mary's tower and steeple. Its German heritage was an important part of Dubuque's history. The restoration will make an incredible impact in the revitalizing efforts of the Washington/North end neighborhoods. Dubuque is fortunate to have such an able group as Steeple Square board and volunteers."

Steeple Square board president, Jack McCullough, noted that building a relationship with the Jeffris Family Foundation was an early catalyst for project and fundraising planning. The team forged a relationship with the foundation in 2013, and McCullough reported that Jeffris' strong interest in the project spurred the group on to do necessary planning and feasibility work for both operations and historic rehabilitation.

"Early on when we were planning the steeple restoration, the Jeffris grant was pivotal to launching a successful campaign," McCullough said. "Their passion for historic preservation will pay dividends for generations to come."

As steeple restoration is nearing completion, McCullough said the restored icon, in copper, will signify investment in the people and places in Dubuque's urban core, and as a gateway to Dubuque's North End neighborhood revitalization. "The steeple signifies a community that cares about its people," said McCullough.



### YOU'RE INVITED

#### STEEPLE SQUARE'S ANNUAL MEETING & DONOR RECEPTION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019 • 6 - 8 P.M.  
STEEPLE SQUARE COMMUNITY CENTER • 105 E. 15TH STREET

#### JOIN US IN OUR SPECTACULAR COMMUNITY EVENT CENTER TO:

- Hear an update on the campus and mission
- Tour the campus including recent renovations
- View artifacts from the former church, school and rectory
- Celebrate the completion of the steeple restoration
- Complimentary small entrees & beverages will be served.  
Parking available at DB&T.

RSVP by January 9th to campus manager, Melanie Bressler, at [events@steeple-square.com](mailto:events@steeple-square.com), call/text 563.235.3584 or visit [steeple-square.com/rsvp-event](http://steeple-square.com/rsvp-event).

# FEATURED CAMPUS EVENTS



## YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 2ND ANNUAL STEEPLE SQUARE BRIDAL SHOW

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019 — NOON - 2 PM  
FASHION SHOW STARTING AT 1:30 PM

Connect with a diverse selection of vendors for your special day in Dubuque's most unique wedding venue. Including photographers, caterers, decorators, transportation, florists, salons, fashion boutiques, honeymoon & event coordinators, and more! Brides, be sure to pre-register to qualify for prize giveaways during the event!

## CONTACT US

To inquire about renting Steeple Square for your next event – including weddings, receptions, celebrations, business meetings, end-of-life services, concerts, art shows, and more – contact:

Melanie Bressler,  
Campus Manager

call: 563.235.3584  
email: [events@steeple-square.com](mailto:events@steeple-square.com)  
or visit us online:  
[steeple-square.com/rent](http://steeple-square.com/rent)



STEEPLE SQUARE COMMUNITY FEST



IOWA GREAT PLACES KICK-OFF

## RECENT EVENTS HELD AT STEEPLE SQUARE

- 3rd Annual Community Fest
- Bluff Strokes Plein Air Paint Out
- Progressive Dinners
- Iowa Great Places Kick-Off
- Hospice Patient Tour
- Weddings
- Kemems (1st Birthday celebrations in the Marshallese community)
- DACU Round Table Discussion
- GRIPS Investigation (Great River Investigative Paranormal Society)



BLUFF STROKES PLEIN AIR PAINT OUT



PROGRESSIVE DINNER



Don't miss out on all of the great news and events at Steeple Square! Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and bookmark our website at [steeple-square.com](http://steeple-square.com).

# PRESERVATION NEWS

## 'Preservation at Its Best' Award

As the Francis Apartments at Steeple Square approached its first anniversary, they were honored by Preservation Iowa at the organization's annual "Preservation at Its Best Awards." Preservation Iowa gave 11 awards in 9 categories. Each year, Preservation Iowa seeks to honor historic preservation successes, and selected the Francis Apartments as the awardee in the Residential (Multi-Family) category.

The Francis Apartments, the first piece of the Steeple Square campus revitalization, opened in August of 2017. Eight of the 12 restored apartment units serve graduates of Opening Doors' programs for homeless women and their families, and the remaining four are market-rate.

Through these awards, Preservation Iowa hopes to inspire others to take action to preserve, protect and promote Iowa's historic resources, while highlighting the work being done around the state to preserve historic infrastructures by repurposing them to allow reintegration into their local communities.



## 'Preservation Magazine' Feature

Along with many other amazing historic restoration projects in the tri-state area, Steeple Square was featured by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in their Fall 2018 issue of Preservation Magazine. Read the article online, at:

[bit.ly/2FM0mqr](http://bit.ly/2FM0mqr)

## Steeple Restoration Captured in Video

Go online to view our story about the historic, one-of-a-kind restoration of our steeple through this touching and breathtaking video. You can watch it here:



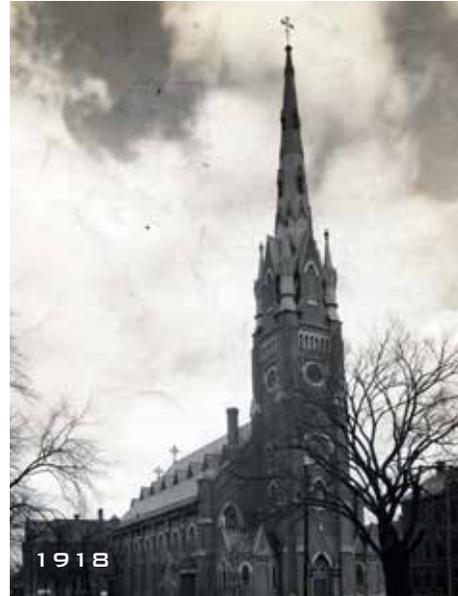
[youtu.be/FqOeP\\_GCqWA](https://youtu.be/FqOeP_GCqWA)



The dedication of many community members make our efforts possible. For a full list of team and committee members, visit [steeplesquare.com/about](http://steeplesquare.com/about).

# STEEPLE SQUARE STEEPLE RENOVATIONS

## HISTORIC PHOTOS



## 2018

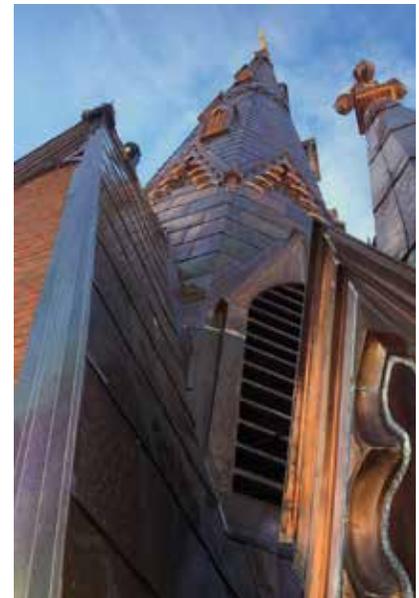
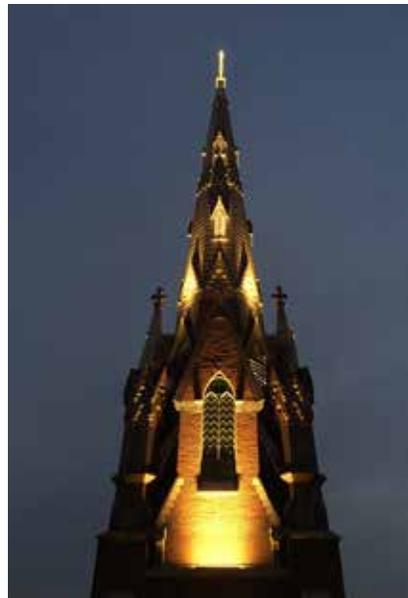
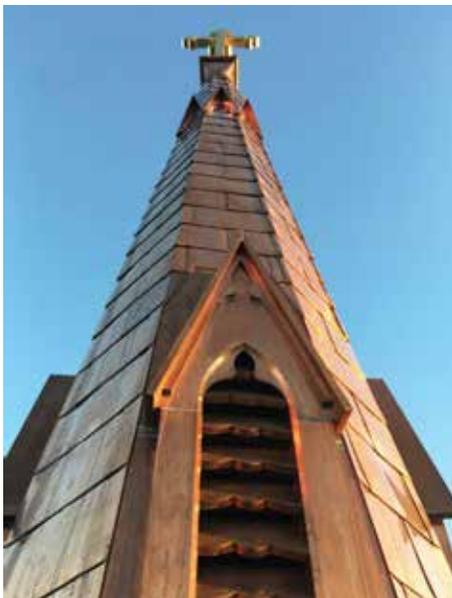


Photo Credit: Gronen Restoration & The Durable Restoration Company