



# Wright on the River

News of the Historic B. Harley Bradley House  
*Frank Lloyd Wright's First Prairie Design - 1900*

September 2023

## Tours

**Saturdays: 10 a.m.**  
Standard, 1-hour

**Sundays: 1:30 p.m.**  
Standard, 1-hour

**Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. &  
12:30 p.m.**  
In-Depth, up to 2 hours

**TOURS ARE BEST MADE BY  
ADVANCE RESERVATION**

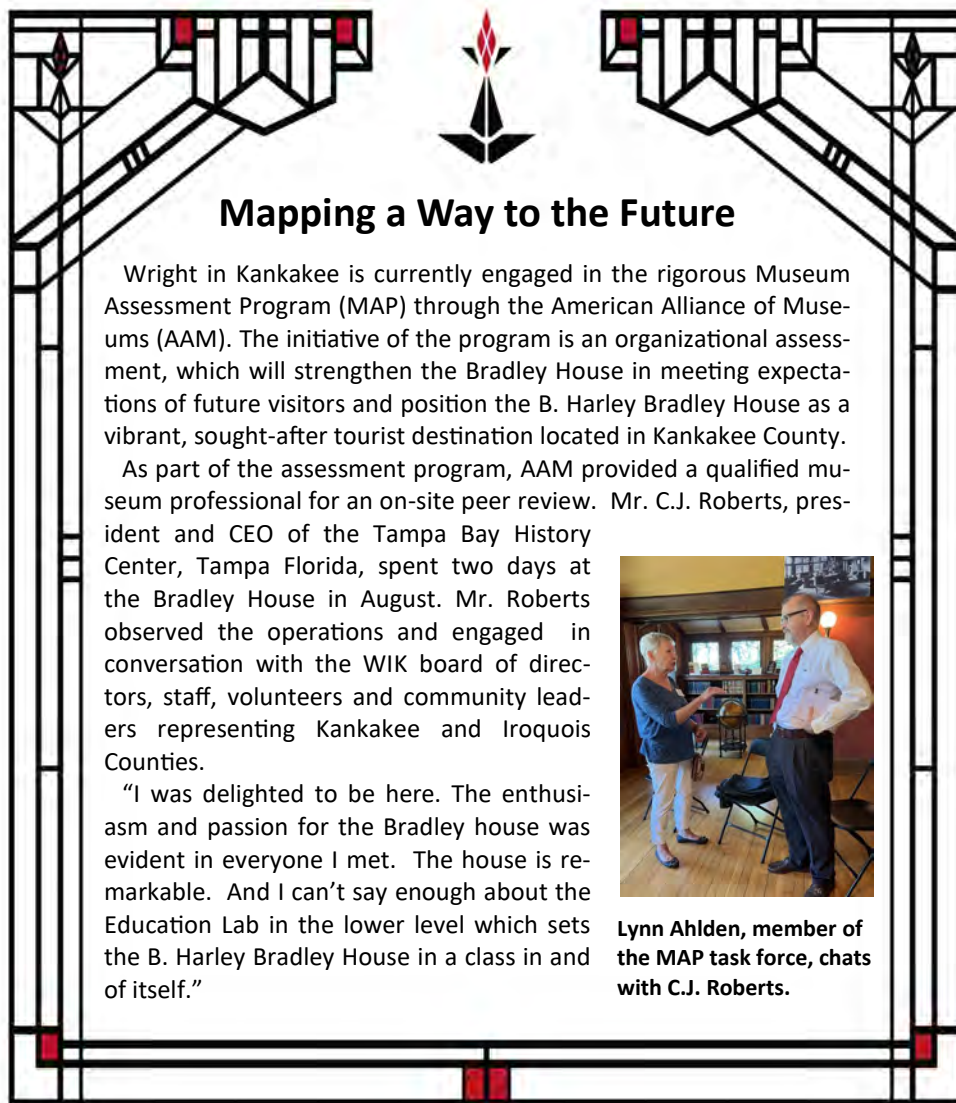
**For pricing or to book your  
Standard or In-Depth tour  
online, go to:**

[www.wright1900.org](http://www.wright1900.org)

**Each tour slot is limited to 12  
individuals.**

**Off-Schedule Tours:**  
Arrange in advance by calling  
815-936-9630. Tours can be  
9 am—4 p.m. on most days/  
times, other than regularly  
scheduled tour times.

For more information call  
815-936-9630



## Mapping a Way to the Future

Wright in Kankakee is currently engaged in the rigorous Museum Assessment Program (MAP) through the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). The initiative of the program is an organizational assessment, which will strengthen the Bradley House in meeting expectations of future visitors and position the B. Harley Bradley House as a vibrant, sought-after tourist destination located in Kankakee County.

As part of the assessment program, AAM provided a qualified museum professional for an on-site peer review. Mr. C.J. Roberts, president and CEO of the Tampa Bay History Center, Tampa Florida, spent two days at the Bradley House in August. Mr. Roberts observed the operations and engaged in conversation with the WIK board of directors, staff, volunteers and community leaders representing Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

“I was delighted to be here. The enthusiasm and passion for the Bradley house was evident in everyone I met. The house is remarkable. And I can’t say enough about the Education Lab in the lower level which sets the B. Harley Bradley House in a class in and of itself.”



**Lynn Ahlden, member of  
the MAP task force, chats  
with C.J. Roberts.**

## From the Executive Director

Wright in Kankakee made significant strides in the past twelve months and those were highlighted at the 2023 Annual Meeting held in July. We added two new staff members: Jesse Mulligan as rental property manager (something always needs fixing!) and Sandra Costanza as rental event coordinator. Completed projects included the veranda deck and trim, placement of concrete pavers, as well as maintenance of roof shingles, wood floor, window washing and plumbing/mechanical and electrical. The Bradley House brochure was also updated and reprinted. Many thanks to the Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau for their assistance on the brochure. Our special events included Tea with the Ladies of the Bradley House, Summer Solstice Sip, Shop & Stroll, Wright at Twilight (coming up this Thursday!), Yoga at Franks, and the performances featuring Gaines Hall Jr. and cellist Mike Block. These events were not only fun, but provided additional income for our operations.

Tours are still happening on Sundays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Fall is the perfect time to make a reservation to see the Bradley House surrounded in the warm colors of autumn.

*Bob Bohlmann*

## Meet Our Volunteers!

Volunteers are essential to our operations. Each newsletter includes a profile so you may get to know them better. This quarter's volunteer profile features one of our most recent volunteers, docent Stephen Bertrand.

Steve proudly shares the fact that he is a 5th generation Kankakeean. He recently completed a 25-year career with the Kankakee Public Library where he started as the Reference Librarian, moved to Assistant Director and then Director in 2008. He retired in December, 2022 but retirement didn't last long. Steve



**Stephen Bertrand**

says, "At my retirement party, one of the guests, Norm Strasma, asked me if I might consider getting involved at the Bradley House. I told him he was the first person to suggest an idea that sounded like fun!" Steve's "fun" as a docent began the following month.

Steve says that he enjoys meeting the tour visitors. "As their docent, I particularly enjoy telling the stories of the eleven owners of the house and how the Bradley House fits into the history of the City of Kankakee."

Stephen has another volunteer project. He is working on the digitization of the Daily Journal newspaper at the Kankakee Public Library. When completed, the newspaper archive will be available online to the public for free.

Thank you, Steve, for your dedication to this community and for including the Bradley House as part of the "fun" of your retirement!

## Back by Popular Demand!

### Wright At Twilight

Thursday, September 7, 2023 5-8 p.m.

Music Entertainment: by  
Jerry Downs, Shelby Ryan & Lupe Carroll  
Indoor Quilt Show

Food Trucks: Mi Casa & Oberweis Ice Cream

Complimentary Wine or Bottled Water

Online Tickets \$10/person at [wright1900.org](http://wright1900.org)

Rain Date—September 14

### WIK Board Welcomes Veronica Featherston

Veronica Featherston was recently appointed a member of Wright in Kankakee's Board of Directors. Veronica currently serves as Executive Director of the Kankakee Historical Society. "I have a general love for history, so naturally I enjoy being involved with like-minded people and organizations. I also think it is important that local historical and preservation societies work together and share expertise as their goals tend to intertwine."



**Veronica Featherston**

*Welcome Veronica!*



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**Our newsletters are now available online.**

To receive a copy directly to your email,  
send request to: [info@wright1900.org](mailto:info@wright1900.org)

### Board of Directors 2022-2024

*President: Susan LaMore*

*Secretary: Lynn Ahlden*

*Treasurer: Keith Schweitzer*

*Past President: Norm Strasma*

*Veronica Featherston Robert de Oliveira*

*Rick Manuel*

*JoAnne Schwade Mark Steffen*

*Executive Director: Bob Bohlmann*

*Office Assistants: Debi Barrone & Wendy Goeckner*

Please consider including Wright in Kankakee in your estate planning.  
For more information call the Bradley House office 815-936-9630