

# LAKESWOOD HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD



## 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

The year 2007 represented the eleventh full year of operation of the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board (LHAB). The Board successfully continued its efforts in the areas of public education, legislative assistance, and technical assistance to the Lakewood community.

### PUBLIC EDUCATION

#### ► **Sixth Annual Preservation Awards program.**

In a public ceremony on May 21, 2007, Mayor Thomas George, Lakewood City Council, and LHAB presented four Preservation Awards to Lakewood property owners in recognition of their significant contribution to improving the quality of life in our community through the preservation of Lakewood's historic architecture.

#### *Commercial Revitalization*

16100 Detroit Avenue – Sweet Designs – Ines Rehner

#### *Historic Rehabilitation*

1261 Manor Park – Keith Galestock and Fred Kemp

#### *New Garage Construction*

1065 Maple Cliff – Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Napolitan

#### *Sympathetic Addition*

1215 Overlook – Mr. and Mrs. Russell Rybicki

The presentation can be viewed on the LHAB websites.

Nominations from the public are always welcome. The Seventh Annual Preservation Awards ceremony will be held in May, 2008.

► **West Suburban Home Show.** LHAB shared a booth with the Lakewood Historical Society at this

weekend event. The booth featured photos and information on Lakewood's rich early 20<sup>th</sup> century housing stock. LHAB provided information on window restoration, maintenance of original siding, the Department of the Interior's Historic Preservation Briefs, and LHAB's front porch publication.

### LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANCE

► **Historic Preservation Ordinance.** The proposed ordinance, which would be a new chapter in the City's zoning code, continued to move through the municipal review and approval process during 2007. City Council referred the ordinance to the Planning Commission, and during the summer several LHAB members participated in Planning Commission work sessions to discuss and refine the ordinance. The Planning Commission held a public hearing in October that was well attended, with many community members expressing their support for the legislation. At the end of 2007, the ordinance was being reviewed by the Law Department to verify code citations and references, with a final vote by the Planning Commission expected shortly thereafter.

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

► **Main Street Lakewood.** Several current and former LHAB members continue to serve as volunteers on several committees of the Main Street program.

#### ► **Birdtown National Register Nomination.**

The Birdtown neighborhood was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 27, 2007. This historic district of hundreds of properties in the southeastern corner of Lakewood was recognized as an ethnic community with a distinct history reflecting the trends in turn of the 20<sup>th</sup>

century America – the spread of industry from central cities and the simultaneous development of workers’ communities.

► **Lakewood School District.** As part of the second phase of school construction, LHAB members continued to serve on both the Design Committee and Heritage Committee established by the school district.

## INTERNET SITE and PUBLICATIONS

► **Internet sites with the City of Lakewood and the Lakewood Public Library.** The LHAB site features a bibliography of materials in the categories of general restoration and maintenance, architectural styles, and architectural history. The purpose of the guide is to serve as an easy reference source for Lakewood residents, providing information about old houses and how to maintain, repair, and improve them inside and out, while being respectful of the architecture and design of the house. The listings include magazines and books held in the collection of the Lakewood Public Library, as well as a link to National Park Service publications. The Board is currently reviewing the material, with the intent to expand the offerings, and revise it to include current works of interest to the community.

Another highlight of the site is the complete text of the LHAB’s popular *Front Porches of Lakewood* publication.

The Lakewood Public Library informed the Board that due to a software change, they are no longer able to track the number of visits to the home page. LHAB website address at the City of Lakewood: [http://www.ci.lakewood.oh.us/boards\\_rev\\_heritage.html](http://www.ci.lakewood.oh.us/boards_rev_heritage.html)

LHAB website address at the Lakewood Public Library: <http://www.lkwdpl.org/homepres>

► **Speakers Bureau and Publication Distribution.** LHAB members are available to offer programs at no charge to community groups on a variety of topics, including *Front Porches of Lakewood*, *Preserving Sacred Spaces: Lakewood’s Houses of Worship*, and *Architects of Lakewood*.

The successful *Front Porches of Lakewood* publication continues to be popular, with 1,050 copies distributed since its publication.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

► **Requests concerning maintenance and repair issues.** Through direct inquiries to LHAB members and referral from City departments, LHAB members responded by telephone, with written materials, and/or site visits to six Lakewood property owners to develop solutions for door, window, and porch repair, sources for tongue-and-groove porch flooring and leaded glass window repair, as well as historic photo research for a commercial property for a historic rehabilitation project.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

At the beginning of 2007, Lakewood City Council reappointed two members, James Dolce and Richard Sicha.

## 2007 Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board Members

James Dolce, Vice-Chairman and Secretary  
Sandy Koozer  
Michael Loje  
Heather Rudge  
Richard Sicha, Chairman  
Gerald Weber  
Jeffrey Weber

The seven members of the Board are appointed by the Mayor’s Office (2), Lakewood City Council (2), Lakewood Historical Society (2), and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce (1).

*This annual report is prepared in accordance with Ordinance 50-95, Section 6.*