

# LAKEWOOD HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD

## 1998 ANNUAL REPORT

The year 1998 represented the second 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

◆ **Hosted workshop on the front porches of Lakewood.** Approximately 45 persons attended this May 14, 1998 workshop, held in conjunction with the annual national Historic Preservation Week. The workshop included a slide show on the architectural styles and romance of Lakewood front porches, as well as suggestions for repairing and maintaining a porch while preserving its architectural character. A companion publication created by LHAB, *Front Porches of Lakewood*, was available free to attendees. The workshop was videotaped by the Lakewood Community Video Center.

A follow-up article by the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* highlighted the work of LHAB and called Lakewood the “porch capital of Northeast Ohio.”

Based on the time and materials contributed by LHAB members, LHAB estimates that the slide show has a value of approximately \$4,000, while the companion publication has a value of about \$1,500.

◆ **Created speakers bureau.** LHAB members presented the *Front Porches of Lakewood* program three times during the year: at the LHAB-sponsored workshop, a meeting of Lakewood Neighbors, and a meeting of the Lakewood Historical Society. Total attendance was over 120 persons, and more than 250 copies of the *Front Porches of Lakewood* publication have been distributed. The publication was also provided to persons attending the Ohio Historic Preservation Office’s Building Doctor Clinic in August, 1998, which was co-sponsored by the Lakewood Historical Society and the City of Lakewood.

LHAB members are available to offer programs to community groups on a variety of topics.

◆ **Established internet site in cooperation with 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.

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

The number of visitors to the site was not tracked during 1998, however it will be beginning in 1999. To provide an idea of the amount of activity, during the 30-day period of December 21, 1998 through January 20, 1999 there were 51 visitors to the LHAB homepage and 59 visitors to the *Front Porches of Lakewood* publication.

The address of the LHAB site is <http://www.lkwdpl.org/homepres>.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANCE

◆ **Step railings.** LHAB provided assistance to Lakewood City Council for an ordinance which will preserve the architectural character of the front steps of an estimated 2,500-3,500 Lakewood homes. Ordinance 35-98 amended Section 1306.29(e) of the Lakewood Property Maintenance and Safety Code concerning the installation of railings on the steps of porches. The new code allows homeowners to have the option whether or not to install a step railing if the steps are masonry and were built with side wing walls or other permanent safeguards delineating the stairs. LHAB conducted fieldwork to estimate the number of Lakewood homes that would be benefitted and provided preliminary definitions for the ordinance.

◆ **Demolition delay.** In the autumn of 1998, Lakewood City Council began deliberations on an ordinance that would change the current procedure of the Building Department issuing a demolition permit immediately upon request. The proposal would create specific

steps that an applicant would need to complete to obtain a demolition permit for a building located in areas zoned Office, Retail, General Business, or Industrial. The proposed ordinance also provides guidance to the Lakewood Architectural Board of Review concerning the design of a replacement building, and requires the applicant to participate in good faith discussions with the City and other interested parties concerning preservation of the existing building. LHAB provided background information on demolition delay ordinances throughout the country, provided written information on possible provisions of the ordinance, and participated in Council committee meetings.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

◆ **Residential Design Guidelines.** The ad hoc committee composed of members of LHAB and the Lakewood Architectural Board of Review continued to work with the staffs of the Department of Planning and Development and the Building Department on revisions to the *Lakewood Home Improvement Guide*. While City staff has worked on revising building code related material, LHAB and Architectural Board of Review members have focused on writing specific narratives within the broader topics of: maintenance considerations for older houses; aesthetic considerations in maintaining, repairing, and building additions on older houses; and an illustrated guide of common architectural styles in Lakewood. Publication of the revised and expanded *Lakewood Home Improvement Guide* is anticipated during 1999.

◆ **Offered technical assistance to thirteen requests on maintenance and rehabilitation**

**issues.** Through direct inquiries to LHAB members and referrals from City departments, LHAB members responded by telephone, with written materials, and/or site visits to Lakewood homeowners on topics that included exterior paint color schemes, iron fencing, and a number of instances of front porch repair. In addition, LHAB was contacted by one Lakewood church congregation concerning prioritizing repair needs of their building.

**◆ Provided opinions on the following agenda item of the Lakewood Architectural Board of Review:**

- Walgreen's (southwest corner of Detroit Avenue and West 117<sup>th</sup> Street. The LHAB provided testimony advocating the preservation of the existing Brown Building, Lakewood Bakery Building, and Gold's Market. When a determination was made that a new building would be constructed, LHAB again offered testimony on the proposed design to ensure that a new building would blend architecturally with the character of Lakewood.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

In January, 1998, LHAB welcomed three new members who were appointed to four-year terms: Mary Lou Call, appointed by the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, and Marcia Moll and Paula Reed, both appointed by the Lakewood Historical Society.

In December, 1998, LHAB received the resignation of Marcia Moll, who is also a member of the Architectural Board of Review, due to a determination by the City of Lakewood Law Director that "dual service on

any of the boards within the City should be avoided whenever possible."

The Board also expresses its appreciation to Paul Gaydos, a member of the Lakewood Landmarks Commission and its successor the Lakewood Heritage Advisory Board, whose term ended at the beginning of 1998.

## **1998 LAKEWOOD HERITAGE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

Mary Lou Call  
James Dolce, Vice-Chairman and Secretary  
Sandy Koozer  
Marcia Moll  
Paula Reed  
Heather Rudge  
Richard Sicha, Chairman

The seven members of the Board are appointed by the Mayor's Office, Lakewood City Council, Lakewood Historical Society, and the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce.

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