

2016 Award Winners

Dr. Chen and Associates

Dr Joyce Chen is a professor with the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Northern Iowa. Dr Chen along with many colleagues from the Waterloo area have gathered historical data from the African American great migration dating back to the early 1900's. The data primarily focuses on the Black Triangle or Smoky Row area of Waterloo along the Illinois Central Railroad. Dr Chen and her associates have been involved with many community activities in efforts to promote the African American identity and culture within the community, including creating an interactive webpage to show the history of many homes and businesses in Waterloo during the great migration.

JSA–Walden Block Redevelopment

JSA Development has been extremely active within downtown Waterloo for many years. This year they completed their Walden Block redevelopment located within the West Side Downtown Historical District. This project was made up of lower level commercial properties along with the Walden Block Lofts above. Currently you can find the new Basal Pizza and also a clothing store within the redevelopment.



John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum

As many of you may know John Deere has been a staple to the community of Waterloo for some time now. Recently the John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum was created in order to commemorate the impact that John Deere has had on not only Waterloo but the entire Cedar Valley. The John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum allows for an interactive tour to the revolution of tractor and engine design.



Robert Sauls– Residence

Robert Sauls recently purchased the property located at 326 Highland Boulevard and has been busy restoring the home since. The home is located within the City of Waterloo's historic Highland District and is listed as a contributing structure to the district. The home was constructed in 1922 and was designed by the architect Mortimer B Cleveland. It is a two story Colonial Revival style home with a symmetrical main façade within once story extensions on each end.



Donna Nelson

Donna Nelson and her husband Vern have been staples of the downtown Waterloo community for over 40 years. The Blacks Building in downtown is perhaps the most known structure the couple has been associated with but they have many other endeavors throughout the years that have kept them busy including their first major project of the Black Hawk Fruit Company Warehouse in 1977. From there they moved on to many other significant projects downtown like the Chicago Great Western Depot, River Plaza Building and the Winterbottom building.

