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Subject: **resources for Dr. Smith**
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Hi Revin and Creola,

It was a pleasure meeting you at the conference in Sheboygan, and having the opportunity to discuss your concerns about Dr. Smith's site. Please excuse my delay in getting back to you...I have been ridiculously busy since my return to California!

We didn't have a chance to discuss all of the routes you have already taken to help preserve and support Dr. Smith's site, so perhaps some of the below will be redundant or old news. Nevertheless, here are some thoughts:

My immediate thought was that you need to speak with the people at the Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency. Robert J. Coomen is the Director; their offices are at:

Preservation Services
#1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701-1507.

There's also a current list of their staff members and contact info at: <http://www.illinoishistory.gov/PS/staffbyprogram.htm>

Sometimes people have better luck going directly to the State instead of to their municipal or county agency; since you don't seem to have had good luck with the city of Aurora or with the Kane County people, try going "up the ladder" instead.

I'd also suggest that you touch base with the Illinois Arts Council. Here's a list of their staff members: <http://www.state.il.us/agency/iac/stfcnc/staff.htm> and I'd suggest contacting the people in charge of Community Arts Development and/or Visual Arts. (You might also try the "Ethnic and Folk Arts" section, but I'd start with the straight Visual Arts department first. They can suggest you try the others if they feel you'd be a better fit there.)

I'm guessing that you might do better in the long run with the historic preservation people than the arts people (just because they typically have more money and less structured programs), but I'd definitely try both.

Good luck to you both and to Dr. Smith! Keep me in the loop as things progress...

All the best,
jo

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