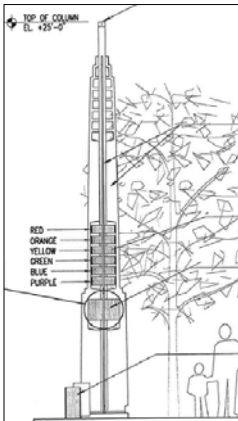


LANDMARK DESIGNATION REPORT



RAINBOW PYLONS AND THE LEGACY WALK 3247 THROUGH 3708 NORTH HALSTED STREET



CITY OF CHICAGO
Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Department of Planning and Development
David Reifman, Commissioner

The Commission on Chicago Landmarks, whose ten members are appointed by the Mayor and City Council, was established in 1968 by city ordinance. The Commission is responsible for recommending to the City Council which individual buildings, sites, objects, or districts should be designated as Chicago Landmarks, which protects them by law.

The landmark designation process begins with a staff study and a preliminary summary of information related to the potential designation criteria. The next step is a preliminary vote by the landmarks commission as to whether the proposed landmark is worthy of consideration. This vote not only initiates the formal designation process, but it places the review of city permits for the property under the jurisdiction of the Commission until a final landmark recommendation is acted on by the City Council.

This Landmark Designation Report is subject to possible revision and amendment during the designation process. Only language contained within the designation ordinance adopted by the City Council should be regarded as final.

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Rainbow Pylons and The Legacy Walk

3246 through 3708 North Halsted Street

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1997 (Rainbow Pylons)

2012-present (The Legacy Walk)

ARCHITECT: DeStefano+Partners (1997)

INTRODUCTION

Since 1997, a series of 20 Rainbow Pylons along Halsted Street between Melrose Street and Bradley Place have officially commemorated Chicago's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community. This half-mile section of North Halsted Street in the Lake View Community Area is unique in its development as the perceived or visual cultural, economic, entainment, and political center of the LGBTQ community. Although Chicago's LGBTQ community was historically dispersed throughout the city, the Halsted Street area became the county's first LGBTQ commercial, entertainment, and cultural center to be officially recognized by a city government. The design of the markers and the designation of Halsted Street as a unique community district at first received criticism. However, over time the streetscape and its lines of markers became a significant cultural monument representing a major shift in the visibility and perception of Chicago's LGBTQ community.

In 2012, the pylons were selected by the nonprofit organization the Legacy Project as the location for the first outdoor museum recognizing the significant world achievements and contributions of LGBTQ people. As of 2018, the pylons have been enhanced with 40 illuminated bronze plaques dedicated to historically important world-wide figures in the LGBTQ community. Together, the 20 Rainbow Pylons and the Legacy Walk's 40 plaques complement each other to form a bold, visible streetscape that serves to educate the public and deliver an overall sense of place that is both safe and inclusive.

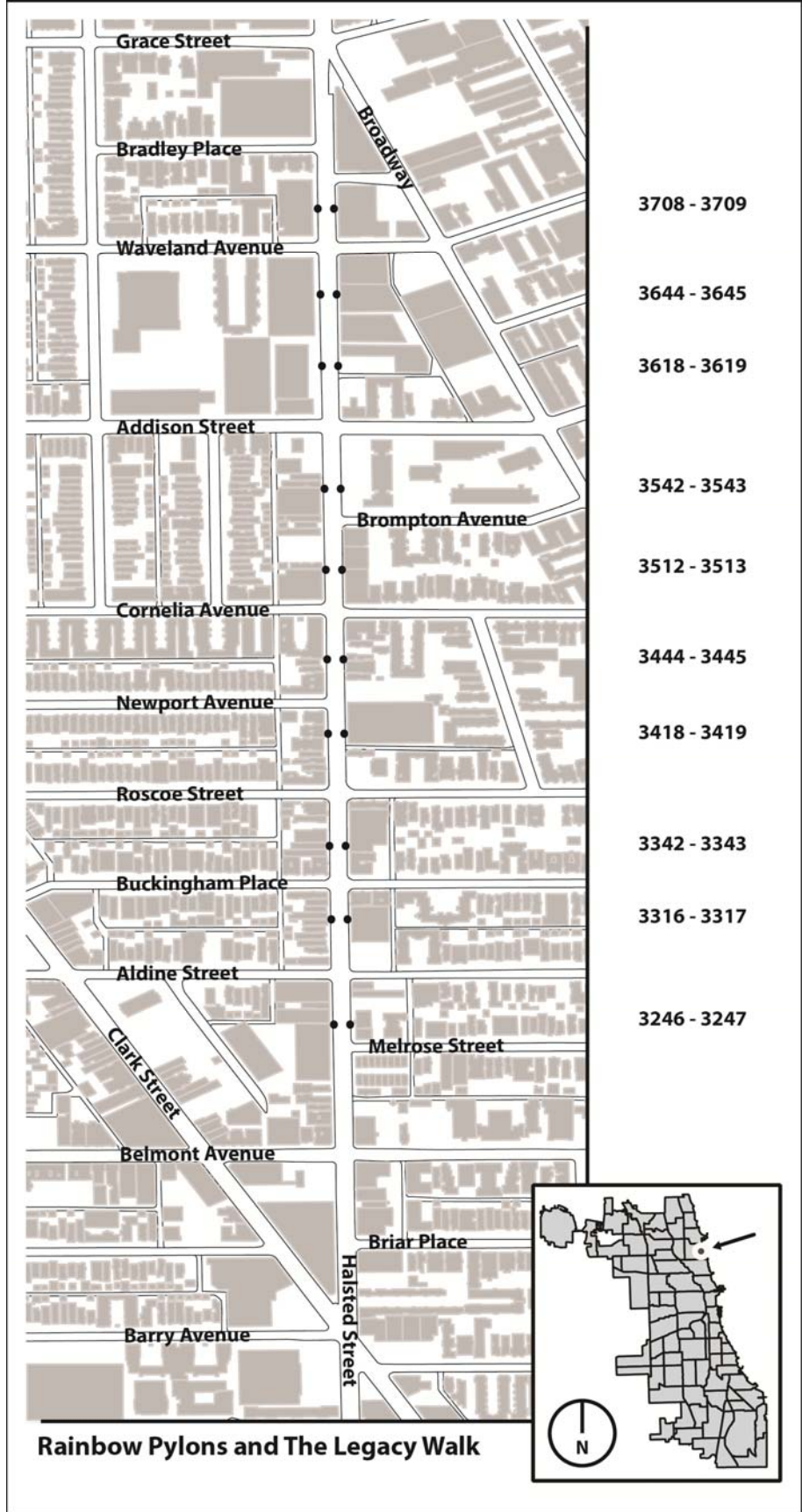
The Rainbow Pylons and the Legacy Walk plaques are identified in the *Community Streetscape Markers Context Statement* adopted by the Commission on March 7, 2019. This community marker project identifies and celebrates Chicago's LGBTQ community and meets designation criteria 1, 4, and 6 and has sufficient integrity to convey those values. The Rainbow Pylons and the Legacy Walk meet Criterion 1 for their significance as representations of the City of Chicago's recognition of the LGBTQ community. The pylons and walk also meet Criterion 4 as unique examples of streetscape sculpture. Furthermore, the Rainbow Pylons and Legacy Walk meet Criterion 6 as distinctive sculptural works of art, which represent the LGBTQ movement's historic struggle for equal rights.



Above: A Rainbow Pylon showing The Legacy Walk plaques.

The Rainbow Pylons are located in Chicago's Lakeview Community Area along a section of North Halsted Street between Melrose Street and Bradley Place. The 20 pylons are arranged in 10 pairs along the street as indicated by the dark dots on the map.

The Legacy Walk plaques are mounted in pairs on each of the pylons.



Description of the North Halsted Rainbow Pylons

The Rainbow Pylons are located along seven blocks of North Halsted Street in the Lake View community area on Chicago's North Side. A total of 20 pylons are arranged in pairs on opposite sides of the street. Each pair is located approximately mid-block, with shade trees and street lights in between. Each pylon is 25 feet tall with a cross-shaped cross section that rises from the sidewalk to a height of about 8 feet, before tapering gradually to a stepped pinnacle topped by a lighted beacon. Below the tapered section is a circular band that is inscribed "Northalsted" in repetition. A series of six internally illuminated metal rings stands stacked at the base of the tapered section. Each band is painted one of the six colors of the rainbow pride flag (when it debuted in 1978, the original pride flag featured eight colors, including pink and turquoise). The overall structure is comprised of 3/4 inch-thick steel plates and painted in a metallic bronze color. Most of the pylons are positioned on rounded curb extensions that reach into the parking lane and are protected by black painted bollards.

The Legacy Walk consists of 40 bronze plaques that were dedicated between 2012 and 2018. The plaques are mounted with stainless steel frames on the sidewalk-facing sides of each pylon. Each features a rounded and backlit metal top panel that reads: THE LEGACY WALK. A light inside the top panel also illuminates the plaque and an accompanying sponsorship inscription below. The plaques are designed to be removable so that future plaques can be dedicated and presented along the Legacy Walk.



Above: Example of a Legacy Walk plaque.
Right: The Rainbow Pylons stand in pairs along Halsted Street.



Architects of the Pylons: DeStefano+Partners

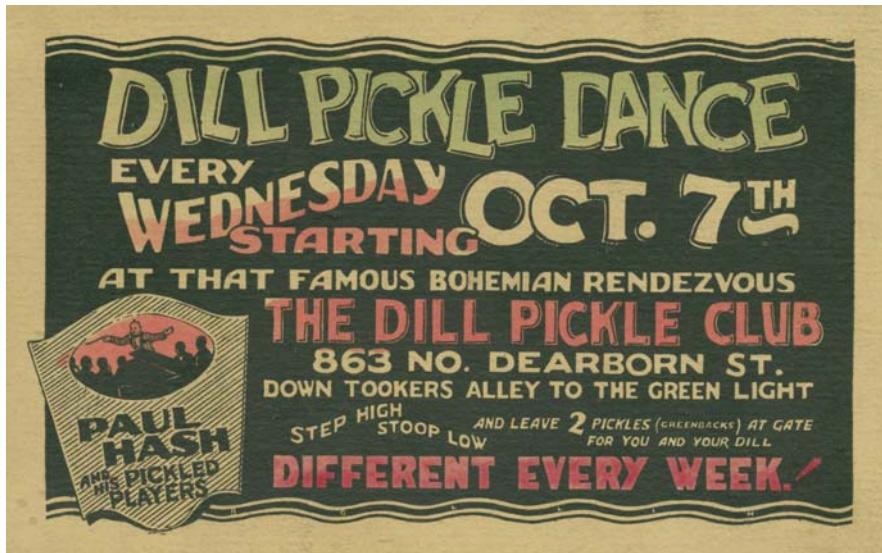
the firm of DeStefano+Partners designed the Rainbow Pylons on North Halsted Street. James R. DeStefano founded the firm in 1988 after working for Skidmore Owings & Merrill. DeStefano's firm specialized in office and residential buildings, designing dozens of towers and other buildings in Chicago and beyond. In addition, the firm completed several urban design projects, including streetscapes. In 1995, the firm designed twin gateway markers representing the Puerto Rican flag on Division Street as part of a greater City-initiated streetscaping design. The firm designed the Rainbow Pylons in 1997, with staff architect John Edward Windhorst as the project's lead. Windhorst also contributed to the 1995 flag gateways and designed more than 15 public fountains that were installed throughout Chicago during the 1990s. Other architects involved in the pylon project included John Gorski and John Adam Dix, both of DeStefano+Partners, with additional contributions from architect Richard Gibbons.

Chicago's LGBTQ History

Chicago's LGBTQ community has long been a part of the city, yet until recently it remained largely invisible. Early LGBTQ entertainment locations existed in various areas during the nineteenth century, but by the early twentieth century small clusters of establishments had formed in the Near South Side's Bronzeville community and on the Near North Side in a largely Bohemian area around Michigan and Chicago avenues, by the old Water Tower, then-known as Towertown. Towertown featured over 30 clubs and venues by 1930, which provided places where lesbians and gays could meet socially outside the confines of the City's narrow vice laws. Establishments such as the Dill Pickle Club also operated in the area and promoted arts, science, and literature by early supporters such as Magnus Hirschfeld, a German physician who advocated for gay and transgender rights. Other institutions included the Society for Human Rights, founded by Henry Gerber in 1924, which was the first chartered LGBTQ civil rights organization in the United States. Although the organization lasted only one year, Gerber's legacy continues, and his home at 1704 North Crilly Court is both a designated Chicago Landmark and a National Historic Landmark (2015). The Towertown enclave did not last, as Progressive Era social reformers encouraged police raids of known gay and lesbian clubs and organizations.

In the post-World War II era, Chicago's gay and lesbian population grew as increasing numbers of people living lives of anonymity in small towns, rural areas, and suburbs left to find inclusion and strength in a larger urban community. In the 1950s, lesbian and gay organizations and establishments organized in other neighborhoods such as Hyde Park, while the Near North community moved northward to an area around Dearborn and Division streets; this area remained the dominant center of gay nightlife through the 1960s. However, frequent and organized police raids significantly impacted the community even after Illinois became the first state to repeal its anti-sodomy laws on July 28, 1961. In growing numbers during the 1960s and 1970s, gays and lesbians demanded equal treatment from both local government and police. The rising LGBTQ rights movement modeled itself on the African-American civil rights movement as it demanded equality and freedom from harassment and persecution.

During the 1970s, gay and lesbian bars and clubs grew in number following the infamous police raid of the Stonewall Inn in New York's Greenwich Village on October 11, 1969. The ensuing support for LGBTQ people and the condemnation of police oppression is widely recognized as



Establishments such as the Dill Pickle Club (left) operated on Chicago's Near North Side in an area called Towertown, which was home to the city's Bohemian community and featured several Gay and lesbian clubs during the 1920s and 1930s. The Dill Pickle Club was notable as a gathering place for poets, activists, artists, and others.

Newberry Library

Left: View looking south along Halsted Street from Roscoe Street in 1969. During the 1970s, Gay and lesbian bars began locating along the street. However, continued police raids and oppression forced many businesses to close street-facing windows.

Flickr



The first Pride Parade was held in 1970 and marched to the Loop. Subsequent parades have followed a path along Diversey Avenue and Broadway through the Lakeview community.

Right: View of the 1977 Pride Parade on Broadway looking north from Surf Street.

Calumet 412

a pivotal moment in the modern LGBTQ rights movement. However, police surveillance and raids of known lesbian and gay clubs continued through the 1970s and 1980s.

In 1970, Chicago's first gay pride parade took place downtown on the anniversary of the Stonewall raid, as in many other cities. The following year, the parade was held on the city's North Side in the Lincoln Park and Lake View neighborhoods where many lesbian and gay clubs and bars had begun to migrate. Despite continued police raids, prejudice, harassment, and persecution, the annual pride parade helped build the community by encouraging others to come out and celebrate their identity. The widening visibility of the community aided in the development of what would become the identity-based Halsted Street and Lakeview LGBTQ community. Establishments opened along Broadway, Halsted, and Clark streets but they continued to maintain a low profile as they had elsewhere in the city; they mostly remained anonymous places without street-facing windows or prominent signage.

One important aspect of the Halsted Street community was that new LGBTQ residents and business owners bought property and permanently settled in the surrounding residential area. In 1980, several business owners organized the Northalsted Merchants Association (now known as the Northalsted Business Alliance). The organization grew from several shops and establishments to over 100 businesses. In addition, new LGBTQ cultural and social organizations opened in the neighborhood, including musical groups, choral groups, theaters, festivals, and writer groups.

The 1980s were met with the destruction caused by an unexpected and at the time still little-known disease: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS. The AIDS epidemic crisis led to new organization and leadership to lobby local government to both recognize and help address the AIDS epidemic. In 1987, the Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights held on October 11 raised national awareness of both the LGBTQ community and the epidemic. The influential AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) was organized during the march and formed a Chicago chapter, which worked with local organizations to demand improved AIDS services, research, education, and access to medical care.

In 1988, after a decade of organizing in the LGBTQ community, the City of Chicago under Mayor Eugene Sawyer passed an ordinance that outlawed discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, public accommodations, and employment. Richard M. Daley was elected as mayor in 1989, and although he had supported the ordinance and rode in that year's annual pride parade, his first few years as mayor were marked by criticism of his administration's response to and funding for the AIDS crisis. During the 1990s, the Daley administration improved funding for those with AIDS and established a series of ordinances, including ones aimed at combating hate crime in 1990 and providing employee benefits for same-sex partners of City-employees in 1997.

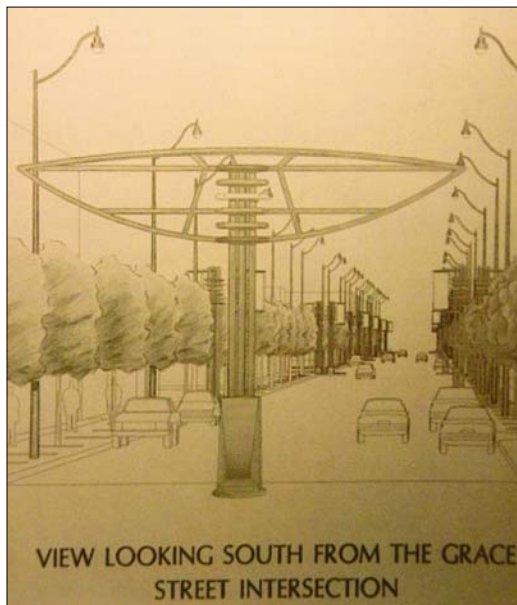
The Halsted Street beautification project was proposed by Mayor Richard M. Daley as a gesture of recognition to Chicago's North Side LGBTQ community. The City of Chicago hired the architectural firm of DeStefano+Partners, which worked with the Northalsted Merchants Association to create a design. The \$3.2 million project was the first streetscape in the United States to represent the LGBTQ community, and it marked the first time that a city government officially recognized and thereby legitimized a LGBTQ community. The proposal made international news, with coverage by the BBC as well as the *Economist* and other publications.

Rainbow Pylons: The Halsted Streetscape Project

The Halsted Street beautification project developed from a need to improve the street's sidewalks and overall infrastructure. As discussed in the *Community Streetscape Markers Context Statement* adopted by the Commission on March 7, 2019, Mayor Richard M. Daley's "Neighborhood's Alive!" program had transformed many commercial streetscapes in an effort to attract investment and draw people to the city's many unique neighborhoods. The design for Halsted Street was one of a series of special streetscape projects that also featured the addition of sculptural objects and unique social or ethno-cultural identifiers. Mayor Daley announced the project to Northalsted Area Merchants Association members in May 1997 and involved the association with the design for the streetscape with the City's selected architecture firm of Destafano+Partners.

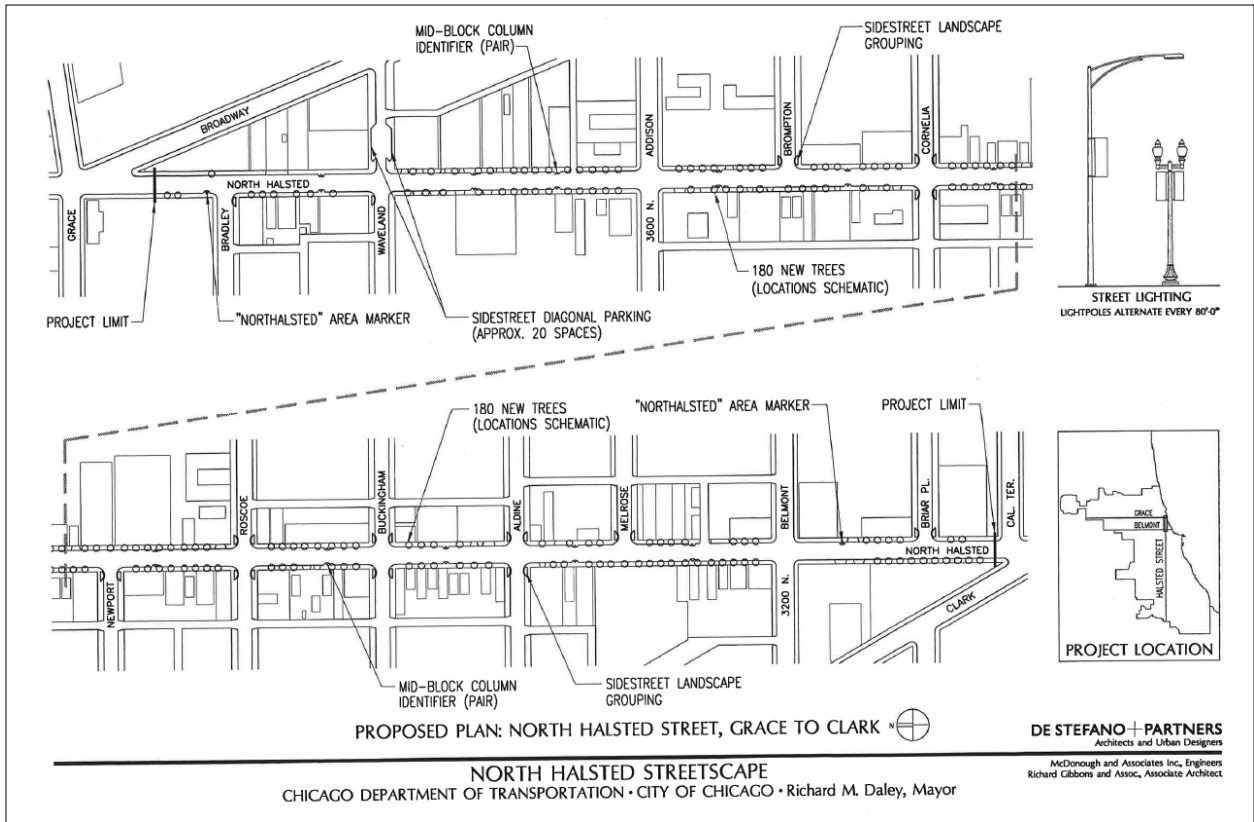
A preliminary design, complete with scale model, was unveiled in August 1997 at the annual Northalsted Market Days street festival. Mary Morten, Daley's newly elected gay and lesbian community liaison, was quoted in the *Los Angeles Times*, "we just wanted to make sure we preserve the character of the neighborhood. ... We meant it as a thank you, an acknowledgment to the businesses that helped turn this area around." John Edward Windhorst, the lead architect on the project, explained the intent and design in an interview with the *Washington Post* in 1997, "there didn't seem to be any question about it. If you walk down the street, you see pink triangles and rainbow flags everywhere. And when we met with the merchants group on the street, they very much wanted some recognition of the role the gay community has played in revitalizing the neighborhood."

The initial bold design called for twin 25-foot wide gateway structures in the middle of the street at the southern end of the district at Briar Street and at the northern end at Grace Street. Each would have featured neon-lit colored bands representing the gay pride rainbow flag. The rainbow pride flag, designed by Bay-area artist Gilbert Baker, debuted in San Francisco in 1978 and flew in the city's "Gay Freedom Day Parade." In addition to the gateway structures, the plan called for nearly 200 steel pylons topped with neon-lit rainbow rings and as many shade

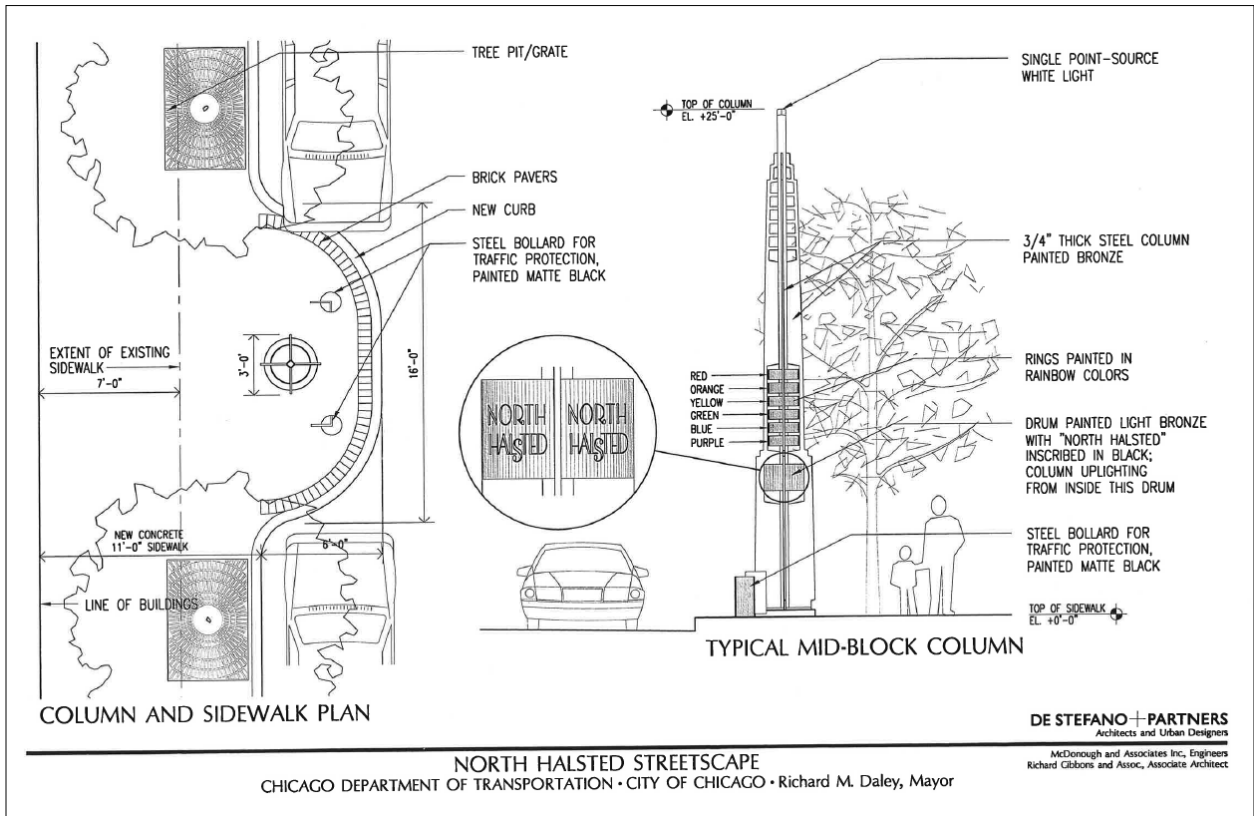


Right: The original streetscape proposal called for 25-foot wide gateways and pylons lit with rainbow neon rings. *Out & Proud Chicago*

Above: The final version as proposed in this brochure rendering called for pair of pylons on each block. *North Halsted Streetscape*



These images are from the final proposed plan and design for the North Halsted Street cape improvement project, which was dedicated in 1998. *Collection of Victor Salvo*



trees. However, both the design and LGBTQ theme of the proposed streetscape were met with some opposition. The mayor's office received more than 7,000 letters of petition and signatures from people both supporting and denouncing the project.

Some area residents outside the LGBTQ community raised concerns about property values and inclusivity, while some in the LGBTQ community expressed discomfort with the designation and feared that the streetscape symbolism could attract negative attention and violence. Others simply objected to the design of the pylons.

By November 1997, after two public hearings, the City announced a new plan that replaced the large gateways with smaller "community identifiers" and reduced the number of pylons to 20. In addition, the pylons were redesigned with painted rainbow rings with internal lighting in place of neon. Each pylon was designed in the style of a stepped Art Deco style skyscraper with a lighted beacon at the pinnacle. The rainbow rings reference pride "freedom rings" introduced in San Francisco in 1991, and the lighted tip appears to symbolize a beacon of hope. Other street improvements included extended curbs at cross streets, where wishing well-shaped planters were placed. Overall, the pylons stood to recognize a community while also illuminating Halsted Street and shining a literal light into the darkness of ignorance and hate.

The Halsted Street renovation was officially dedicated in November 1998, when more than 300 people attended a ceremony in which Mayor Richard M. Daley thanked the community for its effort and support. Within a few years, criticism of the Halsted streetscape lessened, and the pylons have become as familiar as any part of the city.

The Legacy Walk

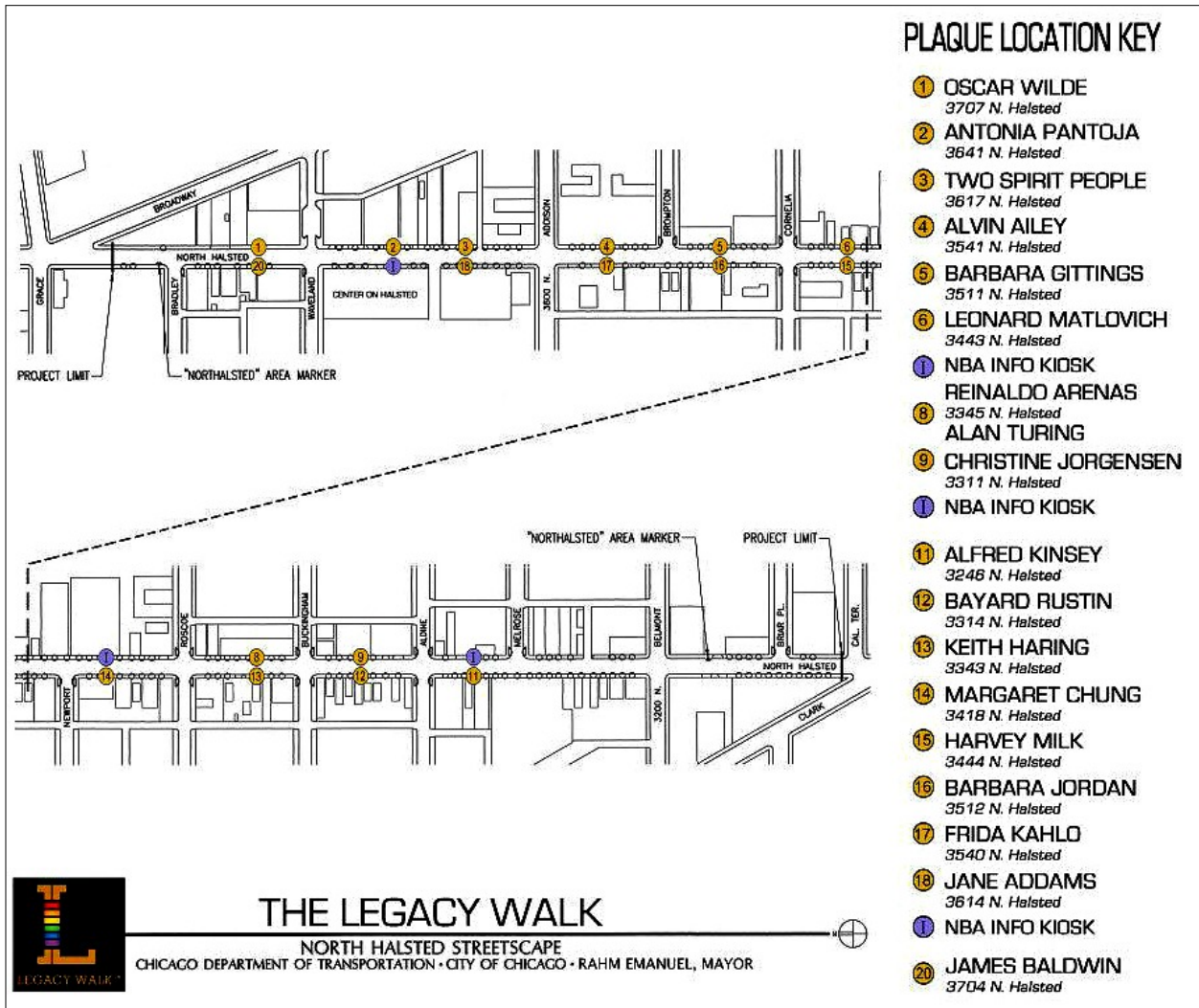
The pylons represented a major shift in politics and the treatment of LGBTQ persons in Chicago. They developed additional significance in 2012 as the first outdoor memorial space dedicated to educating the public about the significant world contributions and achievements of LGBTQ people. The nonprofit Legacy Walk Organization was organized by community and LGBTQ activists Victor Salvo, Lori Cannon, and Owen Keehnen to create an outdoor museum to LGBTQ history. The idea for the walk was conceived through the experience of historic events that took place around the time of Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, on October 11, 1987. Salvo and Cannon attended the march, and Salvo co-chaired a committee that drew many Chicagoans to the march. Both Salvo and Cannon were moved by the strong sense of community they witnessed as well as inspired by the advocacy group AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP), which formed at the march to advocate for legislation and medical research to treat AIDS. A central and especially moving piece of the march was the first display of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, which draped the National Mall with 1,920 quilted panels devoted to the memory of people who had died of AIDS-related complications; Cannon sewed and contributed 12 panels. By witnessing living history as well as the extent of the destruction caused by the AIDS epidemic, Salvo realized that an entire world-wide community was at risk of being lost without anyone knowing what they had achieved.

The desire to celebrate the legacy and heritage of LGBTQ people drove Salvo to create an accessible outdoor memorial that could reach future generations with tangible "cast in bronze" biographies about people and role models that have been hidden in history and could easily be lost. The Legacy Project explains on its website that:



The Legacy Walk founders Victor Salvo and Lori Cannon both attended the 1987 Second National March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights, at which was premiered the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Witnessing a strong sense of community at the march, and realizing that the significant history of LGBTQ people was at risk of being lost compelled Salvo to find a way to memorialize the contributions of LGBTQ people for future generations.

Right: OutHistory.org; Left: The Names Project



2013 map showing the locations for the first 20 dedication plaques.

“Though numerous works of scholarship have uncovered the amazing contributions of the LGBT people who came before us, there is no easily accessible way for people outside our community, in general, and LGBT youth, in particular, to know and fully appreciate the degree to which we have helped shape the world we share. LGBT people have created and inspired magnificent art and sculpture; served with distinction in the military; discovered technological breakthroughs; penned renowned literature and music; started charitable foundations, won Olympic Gold Medals and helped shape world-diplomacy... yet most continue to languish in obscurity.”

The installation of the pylons in 1998 provided an location for memorial plaques. Salvo worked with the Northalsted Business Alliance; drawing on a background in architecture, in 1999 he began to design a system for mounting plaques on the pylons. Lacking original blueprints, he created his own design for a stainless-steel bracket after climbing a ladder and carefully drawing the interior and exterior dimensions and engineering details of the pylons.

Following the opening of the LGBTQ Center on Halsted in 2007, the Legacy Walk Organization garnered both local and City support to establish the Legacy Walk. The organization encouraged individuals and organizations to nominate historical LGBTQ individuals, not only those from Chicago or Illinois but from around the world. Donations were accepted toward the cost of each plaque. Of the many nominees, the organization selected an “advisory council of LGBT historians to weigh in on the relative significance of their contributions to the overall history.” In addition, fact checkers were hired to ensure the accuracy of each biography. The Legacy Walk was supported by Mayor Rahm Emanuel who attended the opening dedication ceremony on October 11, 2012, which was the 25th Anniversary of the Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. At the ceremony, the first 18 plaques in the walk were dedicated.

Each year between 2012 and 2018, several new plaques were sponsored and installed on the Halsted Street pylons. The final 2 of 40 plaques were dedicated in 2018. The plaques are cast in bronze and feature the image of a historical figure with a biography detailing the individual’s contributions and struggles. Some of the plaques are dedicated to important events in LGBTQ history such as the raid on the Stonewall Inn.

The Legacy Walk Organization also supports a wide range of educational programing based on the historical figures presented on the walk. Because there are only 40 available spaces, the organization plans to begin a process of “retiring” plaques and rotating in new ones. Current plaques, it is proposed, will be displayed in a future indoor museum space, while the pylons continue to display newly nominated figures.

The Legacy Walk builds on the significance of the Halsted streetscaping and presents a monumental memorial space that is dedicated to teaching the history of LGBTQ people in the world. It recognizes the wealth of diversity within the LGBTQ community and offers the public accessible history to better know and fully appreciate the degree to which LGBTQ people have shaped the world.



Images showing the construction, installation, and unveiling of The Legacy Walk plaques.
Victor Salvo

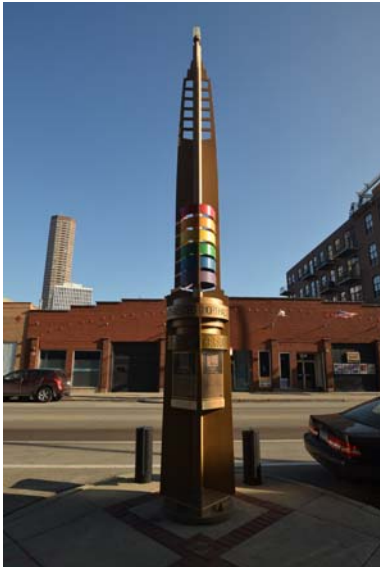


Between 2012 and 2018, 40 plaques were installed, with two on each of the sidewalk-facing sides of each of the Rainbow Pylons. The Legacy Project plans to move older plaques to an indoor spaces and install new plaques dedicated to additional individuals.

Pylon Locations



3708 and 3709 N. Halsted St.



3644 and 3645 N. Halsted St.



3618 and 3619 N. Halsted St.

Pylon Locations



3542 and 3543 N. Halsted St.



3512 and 3513 N. Halsted St.



3444 and 3445 N. Halsted St.

Pylon Locations



3418 and 3419 N. Halsted St.



3342 and 3343 N. Halsted St.



3316 and 3317 N. Halsted St.



Pylon Locations

3246 and 3247 N. Halsted St.



View looking north along the 3800 block of North Halsted Street toward Bradley Place. This pair of Rainbow Pylons is the northernmost set of the streetscape.



View looking east at the pylons at 3618 and 3619 N. Halsted St. at night.

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION

According to the Municipal Code of Chicago (Sections 2-120-690), the Commission on Chicago Landmarks has the authority to make a recommendation of landmark designation for an area, district, place, building, structure, work of art or other object with the City of Chicago if the Commission determines it meets two or more of the stated “criteria for designation,” as well as possesses a significant degree of historic integrity to convey its significance.

The following should be considered by the Commission on Chicago Landmarks in determining whether to recommend that The Rainbow Pylons and the Legacy Walk plaques be designated as a Chicago Landmark.

Criterion 1: Critical Part of City’s Heritage

Its value as an example of the architectural, cultural, economic, historical, social, or other aspect of the heritage of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois, or the United States.

- The Rainbow Pylons were the first streetscape elements designed to recognize and celebrate Chicago’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community. The pylons physically represent a significant historic cultural shift in Chicago and the United States in the 1990s to honor the rights, existence, and importance of the LGBTQ community.
- The Rainbow Pylons and the Legacy Walk serve a critical role in raising the public visibility of LGBTQ lives.
- The Legacy Walk was the first memorial to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of LGBTQ people in world history. This memorial walk is uniquely accessible to the public as an educational initiative aimed at all people.
- The Legacy Walk is a unique and important milestone in acknowledging the contributions of the LGBTQ community to world history. The diverse range of contributions represented are both educational and inspirational to all, especially those that have been denied LGBTQ role models.

Criterion 4: Important Architecture

Its exemplification of an architectural type or style distinguished by innovation, rarity, uniqueness, or overall quality of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship.

- The Rainbow Pylons are exemplary of the types of cultural streetscape markers that were designed by local Chicago architectural firms as part of a series of street beautification projects undertaken between 1990 and 2002.
- The overall design, although controversial at the time of its installation, was developed with the community as well as local business leaders and executed in a form that complements the variety of architectural styles found along Halsted Street between Bradley Place and Melrose Street.
- The pylons and The Legacy Walk are well-crafted and unique installations of streetscape sculptural objects with no comparable examples in Chicago.

Criterion 6: Distinctive Theme as a District

Its representation of an architectural, cultural, economic, historic, social, or other theme expressed through distinctive areas, districts, places, buildings, structures, works of art, or other objects that may or may not be contiguous.

- The Chicago firm of DeStefano+Partners designed the row of 10 pairs of Rainbow Pylons that line North Halsted Street. The Legacy Walk was conceived and designed by community member Victor Salvo. The two components complement each other to form a streetscape that serves to educate the public and provide a sense of place that is both safe and inclusive.
- The pylons and the walk are representative of the success of the LGBTQ rights movement and the significant cultural shift in Chicago and the United States that allowed for the installation of these identifying streetscape markers.

The Rainbow Pylons and The Legacy walk also meet the additional requirements for designation outlined in the *Community Streetscape Markers Context Statement* adopted by the Commission on March 7, 2019, which state the following:

- The design of the marker(s) must employ the use of symbolism or imagery that is significant and/or reflects a certain social, ethnic, or cultural group. The work does not only recognize a geographic place within the city (street, neighborhood, or community area).
- The community marker(s) must be visible from the public-right-of-way.
- The marker(s) is a work of original art and/or architectural designed by an artist or architect. It is not a stock piece, or an element comprised of prefabricated components.

Integrity

It must have “a significant historic, community, architectural or aesthetic interest or value, the integrity of which is preserved in light of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and ability to express such historic, community, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value.”

The Rainbow Pylons possess a high degree of integrity, with all 20 in their original locations. They remain in their original location and the setting of commercial buildings on Halsted Street catering to the LGBTQ community remains unchanged. Alterations have been limited to occasional paint touch-up of the steel pylons, and, during the 2000s, the installation of three Northalsted Business Association touchscreen information kiosks. The kiosks were later removed and replaced by the Legacy Walk plaques.

The Legacy Walk possesses a high degree of integrity, with all 40 plaque positions in their original locations. The plaques are sensitive additions to the pylons that enhance the pylons ability to educate the public. Each plaque may be moved to an exhibition space and replaced by new plaques honoring different individuals.

SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

Whenever a building, structure, object, or district is under consideration for landmark designation, the Commission on Chicago Landmarks is required to identify the “significant historical and architectural features” of the property. This is done to enable the owners and the

public to understand which elements are considered the most important to preserve the historical and architectural character of the proposed landmark.

Based upon its evaluation of The Rainbow Pylons and the Legacy Walk plaques, the Commission staff recommends that the significant features be identified as:

- All 20 sidewalk-mounted pylons, which are visible from all sides in the public right-of-way
- The Legacy Walk plaques attached to the pylons. The individual plaques may be changed, though the size, proportion, and character of the plaque design should be maintained.

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View looking south along the 3500 block of North Halsted Street toward Cornelia Street.

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