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Riverview Terrace Cafe Receives $50,000 in National Grant Funding

SPRING GREEN, WI (JULY 30, 2024) – Today, Riverview Terrace Cafe received $50,000 from the Backing Historic Small Restaurants Grant Program, a program presented by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and American Express. Riverview Terrace Cafe is one of 50 historic small restaurants across the country to receive a grant and the funding will support repairs, repainting of the exterior woodwork, and restoration of the stucco surface.

Riverview Terrace was designed by famed American architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1953 as one of the final projects of his seven-decade career. Wright began construction of the restaurant in 1958, which overlooks the Wisconsin River and is just down the road from his Taliesin estate, making this building central to his personal story and place in Wisconsin history. Construction stalled after his death in 1959 and was finally completed in 1967. The building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in February 2024 and stands as the only remaining Wright-designed restaurant in the world.

In 1993, the non-profit Taliesin Preservation, Inc. purchased the building and adapted it to serve as the Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center where tours of Taliesin gather and depart from, adding a gift shop and administrative offices. The restaurant was reconceived as a casual cafe serving visitors to the Taliesin estate.

According to Carrie Rodamaker, Executive Director at Taliesin Preservation, "We are beyond thrilled to be a recipient of the 2024 Backing Historic Small Restaurants grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, together with American Express. To be recognized among 50 other historic restaurants around the country is truly an honor. This grant money will allow us to invest in some long-needed maintenance projects at Riverview Terrace, Wright's 'Gateway to Taliesin,' which serves our local community and over 25,000 visitors each summer."

The grant program expanded its reach this year, doubling the number of grantees, including in 13 new states, and increasing the total grant funding to $2.5 million, up from $1 million in prior years. In its fourth year, the program now has reached nearly 125 historic small restaurants in every state and Puerto Rico.

American Express launched the grant program in 2021 in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to support historic and culturally significant restaurants during the pandemic. "Small restaurants are vital to our communities, and their impact perseveres, as they continue to innovate and make their neighborhoods more vibrant and connected," said Madge Thomas, Head of Corporate Sustainability at American Express. "This year's grantees represent the rich traditions and iconic stories of communities across the U.S. I'm so proud that we're able to help them grow and continue to build their legacy." To see the full list and learn more about this year's grantees, please visit: SavingPlaces.org/historicrestaurants

Frank Lloyd Wright wanted Riverview Terrace to serve as a gateway to Taliesin and by creating a restaurant at this location, he was also making a gift to his beloved Wyoming Valley and Spring Green neighbors. Riverview Terrace Cafe is open seasonally and is located at 5607 County Road C, Spring Green, Wisconsin. Please visit our website for hours and information at: TaliesinPreservation.org

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About Taliesin Preservation:
Taliesin Preservation is a Wisconsin-based 501(c)(3) founded in 1993. Its mission is to preserve Taliesin's natural, built, and cultural environments through educational and cultural programming and provide a greater understanding of Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture and ideas. In 2019, Taliesin was designated as part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site for 'The 20th Century Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright.'