

OUTCOME #1 Research

- Research in Chicago took place in July and October of 2022. The archives of the Chicago History Museum regarding the Little Room and the papers and scrapbooks of Anna Morgan were viewed and explored. The Newberry Library holds the papers of both the membership of the Little Room as well as the personal archives of Henry Blake Fuller. Additional research in the Chicago and Midwestern Writers Collection, Theatre Collection, and the World's Columbian Exposition Collection, books on Irving K. Pond, Harriet Monroe, and a selection of correspondence of Jane Addams.
- The Art Institute of Chicago's collection of paintings by Ralph Clarkson and sculpture of Lorado Taft were viewed along with research into the founding of the Institute and its link to the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893.
- Research into the correspondence, creative writing, biography, autobiography, and ancestry was conducted on the following individuals: Jane Addams, George Ade, H.C. Chatfield-Taylor, Ralph Clarkson, Eugene Field, Henry Blake Fuller, Hamlin Garland, Alice Gerstenberg, John T. McCutcheon, Harriet Monroe, Anna B. Morgan, Kate O'Leary, Allen B. Pond, Irving K. Pond, Ralph Fletcher Seymour, Lorado Taft, Nellie V. Walker, Edith Franklin Wyatt, Madeline Yale Wynne
- The Fine Arts Building, which housed the meetings of the Little Room from 1898 until its demise in 1931, was toured and documented. The building remains much as it was when the Little Room met, including the studios of both Ralph Clarkson and Anna Morgan (although with new tenants). The original footprint of the building on South Michigan Avenue is intact as well as most of the surrounding structures. (Chicago Orchestra Hall, the Auditorium Theatre, etc.)
- Anna Morgan's last apartment at 230 East Delaware Place still stands, although the surrounding structures have been replaced by high rise buildings (the John Hancock Center, Water Tower Place, etc.)
- Tours of other buildings that existed during the lifetimes of the Little Room members were visited: the Marquette Building, exterior of the Rookery Building (interior was being renovated), Monadnock Building, Old Colony Building, and the Fisher Building.
- Background information surrounding the history of the Chicago Fire of 1871, World's Columbian Exposition, the founding of Hull House, Iroquois Theatre Fire of 1903, the Spanish Flu of 1918, the Race Riots of 1919 was utilized to understand the world of the play.

OUTCOME #2 Writing

- Character sketches of the people who were involved in the Little Room were created in order to choose which would become characters in the play. A careful culling of people to populate a fictional meeting was essential to uncovering what the story of the theatre piece would become. The need to keep the number of characters manageable resulted in choosing four main characters from history combined with one character from the present day.
- Writing of the first draft began in late October of 2022 and was completed in late April of 2023.

- The four characters chosen for the play, Anna Morgan, Henry Blake Fuller, Irving K. Pond, and Jane Addams were chosen because of the amount of original sources uncovered that gave insight into their lives. Each also represented a distinct journey that coincided with the history of Chicago in unique ways.
 - Anna Morgan: early theatre director and teacher of elocution
 - Henry Blake Fuller: writer credited with creating first works of theatre and novels with queer characters
 - Irving K. Pond: architect who viewed buildings as constructs of democracy
 - Jane Addams: social reformer whose ideas about rights for women, immigrants, and unions influenced the framework of community activism.
- A story structure was created that allowed the characters from history to represent themselves as people rather than walking encyclopedias. The desire for the piece to not be a replication of history, but instead be an exploration of how history happened based on the actions and beliefs of those behind the scenes.
- In order to avoid the trap of writing a history play, a contemporary character was created that entered the world much as the little room appeared and disappeared from the short story “The Little Room”, from which the group took its name. This contemporary character allowed the theatre piece to comment on both the past, present, and future in unique and enlightening ways.
- A first draft of a theatre piece was completed. This draft is written as a 90-minute piece without intermission. It includes music (in public domain and from the period) that serves to set the mood of a Little Room meeting circa 1898 and 1929.

OUTCOME #3 Play Development and Readings

- A table reading of the play is scheduled for May of 2023. This will be the first time the play will be read by actors and will be solely for the benefit of the playwright. Further development will occur after rewrites from the initial table reading are included in a new draft. (On average it takes about two years to write a play of this type. Numerous readings in the play development process take place.)
- A staged reading will be tentatively planned for the spring of 2024. If all goes as planned this reading will be public.

OUTCOME #4 Article

- Research on the Little Room will continue. The connection with Jane Addams and theatre would be the most valuable topic for an article or book. Most articles and books focusing on Addams detail her social activism and the winning of the Nobel Prize. Her belief in theatre as an outlet for sharing different cultures and building community will be the focus of this research.
- Jane Addams papers are located in several different locations outside of Chicago. With the demise of the Hull House Association in 2011, reflections on Addams and her founding mission are in focus. The Jane Addams Paper Project has moved from the University of Illinois at Chicago to Duke University. Digitizing of material is in progress.

THE LITTLE ROOM

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In progress

Cast of Characters

<u>ANNA MORGAN:</u>	Elocution teacher and reader. Born in 1851. Owned her own school of expression in Chicago.
<u>HENRY BLAKE FULLER:</u>	Novelist, essayist, and travel writer. Born in Chicago in 1857.
<u>JANE ADDAMS:</u>	Founder of Hull House. Nobel Prize winner. Outspoken supporter of immigrants and women. Born in 1860
<u>IRVING K. POND:</u>	Architect and supporter of social reform and public art. Born in Michigan in 1857.
<u>SAINT LOUIS FIELD:</u>	History professor in a shifting America. Born in the south in 1966. Seeking new aspirations.

Place

Chicago artist's studio in a historic building that still stands.
Musty yet fresh. Faded yet pristine.
Past yet present.

Time

A fluid time drifting from 1898 to 2023
and back again.

Additional pages excluded from this example report