

# CHICAGO LANDMARKS



## 2013 PRESERVATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS

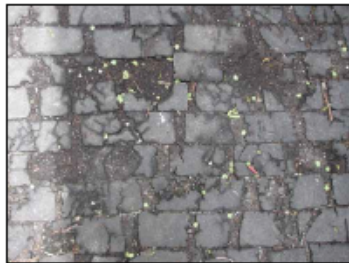
### Wood-Block Alley Astor Street District Renovation/Restoration of Streetscape

*Recipients: Gold Coast Neighbors Association and Chicago Department of Transportation*

Located within the Astor Street District, this existing one-block wood alley was constructed in 1909 and extends between State Parkway and Astor Street. As one of only two remaining wood-block pavements in the City of Chicago, the Wood-Block Alley is also individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The alley's original wood blocks had severely deteriorated over time, and a majority of these existing pavers were not salvageable for reuse. The project involved extensive research into wood block street construction of the late 1800s and early 1900s. The solution was to cut new wood blocks that matched the dimensions of the historic pavers from black locust wood, naturally resistant to rot without chemical treatment. The scope of work included the excavation of the alley and installation of new and salvaged wood units. Reused wood blocks were concentrated in one portion of the alley to maximize their visual impact. The Astor Street District was designated as a Chicago Landmark on December 19, 1975.

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



City of Chicago  
Rahm Emanuel, Mayor

Housing and Economic Development  
Andrew J. Mooney, Commissioner