



April 6, 2020

## A Message from our President

In response to the growing uncertainty around the Coronavirus pandemic, the Indiana Limestone Symposium has made the difficult decision to suspend all programming through June 2020.

We need to do everything we can to ensure your health and wellbeing, while recognizing the potential adverse effect of bringing people together during this unprecedented public health crisis.

Though it is necessary to cancel the symposium for June, we have committed to two things:

- 1) We are monitoring progress and current recommendations closely and by May 5<sup>th</sup> will make a determinative decision to host/not host the 2020 symposium later in the summer.
- 2) We are challenging one another to craft ways to stay connected as a community of carvers and to engage with those who wish to learn about limestone and carving. These will, of course, be built virtually, but will also form a foundation for future endeavors that will help to bring sustainability to both ILS and your artistic practices. We will use the ILS website and social media to communicate with you about these initiatives.

Details about the refunds of registration fees will be emailed individually to each registrant. Because we hope to hold the Symposium later this summer, we hope you will consider participating and delay requesting a refund until after May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Our mission is to share through education the experience of carving limestone and our values are to sustain the community of carvers that have been enriched with artistic expression and inspiration, mutual support, shared knowledge and friendship.

As for many of you, COVID-19 has been a significant blow to our finances. We are a nonprofit, run by volunteers, and have had to dramatically alter or eliminate scheduled programs, thus reducing not only our outreach but our anticipated revenue and donations. If you are in a position to make a donation to ILS, it will be greatly appreciated.

How can I help? you might ask:

- Participate in the imaginative process to create connections in our community.
- Contact us with your thoughts and ideas at [ILSmakesomedust@gmail.com](mailto:ILSmakesomedust@gmail.com)
- Share your carvings and artistic expressions on the ILS Facebook page.
- Purchase a CARVE! 2020 T-shirt at <https://limestonesymposium.org/>
- Watch for our membership campaign in an upcoming newsletter and join!
- Get on our volunteer list to help with our outreach initiatives to serve both broad and underserved communities. Contact Patty at [rpamrober@hotmail.com](mailto:rpamrober@hotmail.com).

Watch for your CARVE! newsletter to get future announcements. We thank each of you for your patience as we navigate this very complex and multilayered issue together.

Sincerely,  
Michal Ann Carley  
President, Board of Directors  
Indiana Limestone Symposium