



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Illinois State University

Resolution Number 2026.07/32

Authorization for Design and Construction Services for the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Plaza

Resolution

Whereas, Illinois State University (ISU) seeks to construct the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Plaza to honor the legacy, contributions, and impact of historically Black fraternities and sororities, collectively known as the Divine Nine, which have maintained a presence on campus for more than 50 years, and

Whereas, the NPHC Plaza will include nine pillars representing each organization, along with a donor wall recognizing leadership-level philanthropic support, and will create a permanent campus space for reflection, recognition, and celebration of the enduring contributions of NPHC organizations ISU, and

Whereas, the kick-off of construction is planned for Homecoming Week 2026, reflecting the University's commitment to advancing this commemorative initiative in a timely manner, and

Whereas, the total project budget for the NPHC Plaza shall not exceed \$1,000,000, and

Whereas, the project will provide a lasting and visible enhancement to the campus environment while recognizing an important part of the University's history and campus community, and

Whereas, the project reflects sustained engagement and philanthropic support from the ISU community, demonstrating a broad-based commitment to the recognition of NPHC organizations, and

Whereas, the project advances the University's broader commitment to inclusion, recognition, and the honoring of institutional history.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the actions necessary to plan, develop, and construct the National Pan-Hellenic Council Plaza, including authorization for the University to execute contracts and expend funds required to complete the project within the approved total budget not to exceed \$1,000,000 in accordance with University policies and applicable procurement and fiscal guidelines.

For Office of the President use only:

Board Action on _____
Motion by _____
Second by _____
Vote _____ Yeas, _____ Nays

ATTEST: Board Action, July 24, 2026

Secretary / Chairperson

**Board of Trustees
Illinois State University
Authorization for Design and Construction Services for the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) Plaza**

Background

ISU is proposing the NPHC Plaza as a permanent tribute to the nine historically Black fraternities and sororities known collectively as the Divine Nine. These organizations have maintained a presence on campus for more than 50 years and have made sustained contributions to student life, leadership, service, and community-building.

The plaza will establish a distinct campus space that recognizes this legacy and ensures it is meaningfully reflected in the University environment for current and future generations. Construction is planned to begin during Homecoming Week 2026, marking an important milestone in formally honoring the presence and contributions of NPHC organizations at ISU.

The development of the NPHC Plaza reflects a collaborative, multi-year effort supported by students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the University. Over the past three years, each of the nine NPHC organizations has played an active role in advancing the project through fundraising and engagement efforts, complemented by leadership-level philanthropic gifts that have collectively strengthened the financial foundation of the project. This commitment has been instrumental in bringing the project to its current stage.

Justification

The NPHC Plaza represents a meaningful and lasting investment in honoring individuals and organizations that have shaped the Illinois State University community. Establishing a dedicated campus tribute to the Divine Nine affirms institutional values of inclusion, belonging, and recognition within the campus community.

Advancing the project at this time maintains momentum toward the start of construction during Homecoming Week 2026 and supports ongoing engagement with students, alumni, donors, and campus partners. Establishing a defined project budget ensures appropriate fiscal oversight while enabling the University to deliver a meaningful and lasting campus improvement.

The project will also enhance the student experience by creating a visible and meaningful space for connection, education, and engagement for current and future students.

Project Plan

Scope and Scale

The project consists of constructing the NPHC Plaza as a commemorative outdoor campus feature. Major elements include nine iconic pillars representing each NPHC organization, a cast stone of the University Seal, along with a donor recognition wall, and supporting site improvements.

Current Project Status-Schedule

- The total project budget is established at an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.
- Construction is scheduled to begin during Homecoming Week 2026.
- Substantial completion is scheduled for late Spring/early Summer 2027.

Table 1: NPHC Plaza Project Plan

ITEM	ESTIMATED AMOUNT
Architectural / Engineering Fees Total	\$180,000
Construction Total	\$748,712
Contingency Total	\$62,917
TOTAL NPHC PLAZA PROJECT	\$991,629

Source of Funding

Bond Revenue and Foundation dollars