



## Preston Bradley Hall Mosaics

CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER, CHICAGO, IL

The Chicago Cultural Center opened in 1897 as Chicago's first public library and as a memorial hall and meeting space for Civil War veterans. The building was constructed in the neoclassical style with some Italian Renaissance elements mainly under the direction of Charles Allerton Coolidge of the Boston architecture firm Shepley, Rutan, & Coolidge. A significant portion of the interior decoration was constructed from mosaic due to its ease of cleaning; the building's location in the heart of downtown and across the street from a major railyard necessitated a surface that could withstand soot and grime. The Evans Marble Company was awarded the contract for interior finish decoration. While they remained in charge of the marble floor mosaics, they subsequently subcontracted the color design, painting, and glass mosaics to the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company. Elaborate glass mosaic panels adorn the upper wall friezes, arches, stairways, and in the dome on the south side of the building. The mosaics were inlaid into plaster panels at the Tiffany Studio in New York, transported to site, and installed using traditional decorative plaster hanging techniques. One of the most elaborately decorated spaces being the delivery room, known today as Preston Bradley Hall.

In 2023, EverGreene performed a visual and tactile conditions assessment of select mosaic elements in the building; this included the several of the major areas of marble flooring, as well as the Tiffany frieze and inlay mosaics on the third floor landing, corridors, and in Preston Bradley Hall. Areas were visually assessed and sounded using a mallet to assess the integrity and check for subsurface conditions. Findings were meticulously recorded on 3-D scans of the spaces procured by our conservators prior to beginning work on site...

MORE INFORMATION:

<https://evergreene.com/projects/preston-bradley-hall-mosaics/>

### SERVICES PERFORMED

- Conservation Treatments
- Investigation, Testing & Analysis
- Plaster Conservation
- Plaster Survey
- Surveys & Condition Assessments

### PROJECT DETAILS

#### Client

Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events

