



March 2022 Newsletter

Museum News

Congratulations, Tiff!

Congratulations to Tiff Beatty, NPHM's Program Director of Arts, Culture, & Public Policy, who is being honored as a Heroine of Housing by the [Oak Park Regional Housing Center](#) at the organization's 50th anniversary fundraiser. In keeping with Women's History Month, and with a nod to its anniversary, the center is recognizing 50 women in housing at a luncheon that will "celebrate the Illinois Affordable Housing Omnibus Bill and the women bringing positive housing change to fruition!"



1919. Photo by Jun Fujita, courtesy of Chicago History Museum.

The multiplatform documentary series *FIRSTHAND: Segregation*, developed by Chicago-based public television station WTTW, premiered on February 22. This year-long exploration of segregation in Chicago includes an interactive series of talks by Chicago residents including the Museum's Executive Director [Lisa Yun Lee](#). In "Have your Mooncake, and Eat it Too," Lisa recalls how a visit to Chinatown to gather decorations and supplies for her annual Lunar New Year celebration made her think about the Chinese experience in America, shared the NPHM mission, and discussed why celebrating multiculturalism is not the same as fighting racism.



A **Legally Stolen** landmark from Tonika Lewis Johnson's *Inequity for Sale*.

Installation of two of the **Legally Stolen** landmarks began on February 18 as part of the Museum's Artist-as-Instigator Tonika Lewis Johnson's project *Inequity for Sale*. The artist/activist told the [Chicago Reader](#): "In my lifetime, I witnessed disparity get worse and worse in Englewood," Johnson told me. "I wanted to visualize that by putting land markers in front of homes impacted by land sale contracts . . . over 200 houses sold under land

to the [Chicago Block Club](#): “It was highlighting a piece of history about that specific property before [the current owner]. There is a moral and ethical dilemma here that we have to learn how to talk through and process.”

Events and Programs

SOCIAL HOUSING



The history and future of housing outside of the traditional market - in Chicago and beyond

March 10th, 6pm

Hosted on Zoom

Available in English and Spanish with closed captioning

Register at tinyurl.com/USSocialHousing

Featuring Panelists:

Byron Sigcho Lopez

Chicago Alderman, 25th Ward

Dean Preston

San Francisco Supervisor, District 5

Tiff Beatty

National Public Housing Museum

Saoirse Gowan

Author, *Social Housing in the United States*



Social Housing

Thursday, March 10

6-7 PM CST

Zoom

United States. Panelists include NPHM Program Director of Arts, Culture, and Public Policy Tiff Beatty, San Francisco Supervisor Dean Preston, and Alderman of Chicago's 25th Ward Byron Sigcho-Lopez. This conversation is moderated by Saoirse Gowan.

[Register Here](#)



Episode Three
February 28

**LEGALLY
STOLEN**

podcast

LEGALLY STOLEN PODCAST | INEQUITY FOR SALE | NATIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING MUSEUM

Legally Stolen: Episode 3

Available Now On Your Favorite Podcast Platforms

The third and final episode of the podcast series *Legally Stolen*, hosted by NPHM Artist as Instigator Tonika Lewis Johnson and NPHM's Program Director of Arts, Culture, and Public Policy Tiff Beatty, is available now.

Legally Stolen takes a deep dive into Tonika's project, *Inequity for Sale* – a virtual and physical exploration of homes sold on Land Sale Contracts in the 50s and 60s – and examines the impact on Black communities. This final episode focuses on Chicago's fight for fair housing and racial justice, including redress for legalized theft from Black people and communities impacted by predatory real estate practices. Featured guests include researcher Amber Hendley of the *Plunder of Black Wealth* in Chicago report, housing activist Athena Williams, author of *Family Properties* Beryl Satter, and Richard Rothstein, the author of *The Color of Law*.

and [RadioPublic](#).

[Read the transcript here.](#)

Listen Now!

National News

Why is there an affordable housing crisis? Here is one contributing factor: [The Washington Post](#) reports that “last year, investors bought nearly one in seven homes sold in America’s top metropolitan areas, the most in at least two decades, according to the realty company Redfin. Those purchases come at a time when would-be buyers across the country are seeing wildly escalating prices, raising the question of what impact investors are having on prices for everyone else. Investors were even more aggressive in the final three months of the year, buying 15 percent of all homes that sold in the 40 markets.”

Congresswoman Maxine Waters will propose legislation to address the problem of Black-owned homes being appraised at lower values than white-owned homes. [Bloomberg CityLab](#) reports that Waters, chair of the House Financial Services Committee, will hold the appraisal industry accountable for systemic racial disparities, citing studies from researchers [Junia Howel](#), [Elizabeth Korver-Glenn](#) and [Andre Perry](#).



The Reverend Dr. Liz Theoharis and the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, co-chairs of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, march with protestors in Washington, D.C., in June 2022.

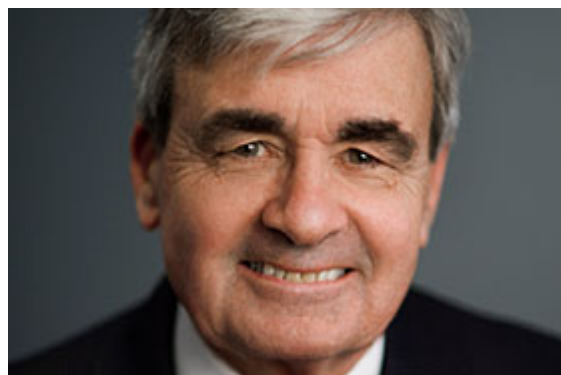
Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, housing advocate and founder of the Poverty Initiative, examines Joe Manchin's obstruction of the Build Back Better Bill and his attack on the Child Tax Credit and living wage proposals in [The Nation](#). Theoharis reports on how the Democrat senator from West Virginia has joined a Florida Republican senator in introducing the PIPES act which cuts funding from the Department of Health and Human Services. The campaign launched with conservative media outlets pushing fake claims that government funds are being used to buy "[crack pipes](#)," all part of a campaign "to scapegoat vulnerable populations rather than address the root causes of the unconscionable conditions under which they live," writes Theoharis. "All of this represents a painful return to the "culture of poverty" debates of the 1960s. Indeed, despite being discredited by scholars and poverty experts over and over since its invention, such anti-poor propaganda seems to rear its head whenever popular opinion and public action might actually lead to [improvements](#) in the lives of poor and low-income people."

Donor Profile



Architect Bill Worn (above) learned about the idea for NPHM years ago when he was teaching at the University of Illinois, Chicago in 2000. “There were a number of activist architects on the faculty,” said Bill. When his colleague and the Museum’s Power of Place Capital Campaign Committee member Dirk Denison reached out, Bill said he decided to make a donation because “the concept of public housing is disappearing – at least the way we thought about it long ago – and I think it is important for us to remember. Public housing still exists, but not like before,” he said, referring to the [Plan for Transformation](#) “and all the havoc that it wreaked on Chicago.”

Bill, who was born in Chicago Heights and raised in Homewood, started out in college as a psychology major and was working with children with developmental disabilities when he was tasked with designing a play area that worked for the kids. That’s when he realized he could make a bigger impact designing for people with special needs. He founded his architectural firm in 1991 and, among other academic posts, was the Director of the Master of Science in Health Design program at UIC for nearly a decade. Among his many accolades is the American Institute of Architecture Citation of Honor for his work on behalf of people with disabilities.



Boston area real estate investment firm. Jerry got to know about the Museum through his friends Penny Brown and Jeff Rappin (Penny is on the Power of Place Capital Campaign committee) and decided to make a multi-year pledge. For Jerry, it was about giving back to the affordable housing industry where he has been in business for more than 50 years. He chose his career path after taking a great course in real estate when he was in business school in the 1970s. From 1967 to 1969, he served as an officer in the United States Navy. He is a graduate of Yale University and holds an MBA from the Harvard Business School. From there, he built a number of impressive financial firms including Franklin Capital Group and Winthrop Financial. The Museum is so thankful for these contributions to the Power of Place Campaign.

People of Public Housing: Quentin McKay



The grounds of the Museum's future home (on the corner of S. Ada and W. Taylor Streets) always looks tidy thanks to Mr. McKay. Born and raised in Chicago, Quentin McKay (above) has had a long association with the Jane Addams Homes. While he mostly lived on the west side of town, his older brother Jacob lived at the Jane Addams Homes and Quentin spent a lot of time in the 1970s and early 1980s visiting with his brother on Taylor Street, and intermittently staying there. "It was a challenge for me growing up around there. I was new. I didn't know a lot of guys who were there," he said. During the year that he lived with his big brother and he credits the Boys & Girls Club for keeping him out of trouble. "It was a totally different area than it is now," he said. Quentin's brother met his future wife at the Jane Addams Homes and stayed and raised his family for years before moving to the west side.

he has taken care of the Museum's property. "I think it is wonderful," he said, referring not only to his job but also NPHM.

"There will be days when I am over there working and people come by asking me about it," Quentin said. "I was there a week ago doing some material work and a couple of guys who live in Vegas, they lived there in the 60s, and they were looking at the signs on the fence," said Quentin, adding how one of the guys had come to show his wife where he grew up. "And he was proud. I see the expression on his face and he was just so amazed about how things have changed. You got the museum coming, you got the library right next door, there is a bakery across the street. There was nothing like this in our day. There are a lot of blessings going on in that area; it is just amazing."

What We Are Watching



*Still image from the documentary **Lead Me Home**.*

In the documentary [Lead Me Home](#), co-directors Jon Shenk and Pedro Kos follow the day-to-day lives of 24 unsheltered people, showing the scale and diversity among the 500,000 Americans who experience homelessness every night.

Currently streaming on Netflix (and showing in theaters as part of the Oscar-nominated shorts), the directors have used the film's website to provide resources for advocates and educators as well as updates on the subjects in the film (like dancer/choreographer Ronnie "Futuristic," pictured above, who now has a place to live as well as a spot in a musical.)

The directors write: "It would be irresponsible to discuss housing policy in the United States without acknowledging our nation's history of land theft and the

deeply intertwined with the history of structural and institutional racism in America and the inadequacy of the current social safety net.”

**PRESERVE. PROMOTE. PROPEL.
PERSEVERE.**



As a museum we adapt and change in these challenging times. We persevere —and we thrive because of you, and with you.

NPHM draws on the power of place and memory to preserve, promote and propel the right of all people to have a place to call home.

**POWER OF
PLACE**

**Campaign for the
National Public Housing Museum**

Our story starts with a simple truth: That all people have the right to a place in which they can live an prosper - a place to call home.

The Power of Place Capital Campaign will redevelop the last remaining building of the former Jane Addams Homes on Chicago’s Near West Side into a world-class civic and cultural institution. Visitors will encounter exhibits and historically significant objects, and engage with the provocative ideas of internationally renowned contemporary artists. The Museum will also be an African American Historic Site, and will be committed to telling an inclusive and diverse history. Join us and be a catalyst for change. You can invest in the future of NPHM by [making your contribution today!](#)

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NPHM receives program and general operating support from key donors including The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events City Arts Grant, The Field Foundation, Illinois Arts Council Agency, Illinois Humanities, Landau Family Foundation, Leonard C. Goodman, The Kresge Foundation, The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince, National Endowment for the Arts, Polk Bros. Foundation.

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