



Rooted in History

In the 1930's, Franklin D. Roosevelt created the New Deal, a series of aid policies implemented to help the U.S. crawl its way out of the Great Depression through providing housing and other public goods and services, and creating employment opportunities. The WPA (Works Progress Administration), a branch of the New Deal, commissioned artists to create large animal sculptures for the courtyards of some of the nation's first public housing projects in Chicago, Washington DC, and San Francisco.

Larger than life, the sculptures were the backdrop of 65 years of resident life, doubling as climbing structures for children and uplifting residents of all ages.

The animal sculptures featured on this coloring page are among those designed by **Edgar Miller** for one of the country's first public housing developments, the Jane Addams Homes in Chicago, Illinois (see photo right), which opened in 1938. Five of the original sculptures are currently being restored by the National Public Housing Museum which opens in the last remaining building of the Jane Addams Homes in 2024.



To hear a sound collage of how the animal sculptures animated former residents, dial

312-348-7834 and press 3!



About

The National Public Housing Museum (NPHM) is the only cultural institution devoted to telling the story of public housing in the United States. Its mission is to preserve, promote, and propel the right of all people to a place where they can live and prosper — a place to call home.

NPHM's Artist as Instigator Residency leverages arts and culture to make creative public policy interventions around housing and related issues.

NPHM's 2022 Artist as Instigator is **Marisa Morán Jahn** whose creative practice with working families and immigrants is inspired by New Deal Era artists who, together with policy makers, were proudly committed to broad social transformation and the public good. The coloring book page she illustrated here is part of a broader project celebrating joy and play as a critical aspect of public housing.

The photos of children from public housing homes across the U.S. span multiple decades, suggestive of the delight that the animal sculptures brought over time and the enduring memories of play.

Learn more: http://nphm.org

