

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 home. The National Public Housing Museum preserves a key chapter in our nation's history — the role of public housing in advancing this great, unfulfilled aspiration.

Previous page:
Archer Courts,
June 1953.
Courtesy of the
Chicago Housing
Authority.

The National Public Housing Museum is the first cultural institution in the United States dedicated to interpreting the American experience in public housing. Public housing has had an enormous and often controversial impact on our nation's history. It has shaped our definition of the public good.

Housing insecurity is one of the preeminent issues of our time, cutting across boundaries of class, race, and region. The Museum draws on the **power of place and memory to preserve, promote, and propel the right of all people to have a place where they can live and prosper — a place to call home.**

The Museum will be a place to share public housing stories of hope and personal achievement, as well as stories of struggle, resistance, and resilience. Using art, oral histories, and material culture, the Museum will archive and share these stories.

The Power of Place 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 enthralling 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.

St. Louis's Pruitt-Igoe: April 1972. The second, widely televised demolition of a Pruitt-Igoe building. Courtesy of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research.



Over the past century, more than 10 million people across the United States have called public housing home. Since the 1990s, thousands of public housing units across the U.S. have been demolished.



St. Louis's Pruitt-Igoue: April 1972. The second, widely televised demolition of a Pruitt-Igoue building. Courtesy of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research.



Over the past century, more than 10 million people across the United States have called public housing home. Since the 1960s, thousands of public housing projects have been demolished across the U.S.

LeClaire Courts, near 47th and Cicero on Chicago's Southwest Side, July 1952. Photo courtesy of the Chicago Housing Authority.

St. Louis's Pruitt-Igoue: April 1972. The second, widely televised demolition of a Pruitt-Igoue building. Courtesy of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research.



: LeClaire Courts, near 47th and Cicero on Chicago's Southwest Side, July 1952. Photo courtesy of the Chicago Housing Authority.

The Museum will create opportunities for visitors to understand and engage in innovative public policy reform in order to reimagine the future of our communities, our society, and the places we call home.

Why a Museum?

In the late 1990s, public housing residents began to dream about creating a museum to preserve their collective voices, memories, and the histories of public housing across the nation. They wanted their children and grandchildren, and the public at large, to know more about their place in the American experience and to understand the public policies that helped to shape their families. They believed that the stories of public housing residents would resonate strongly with audiences throughout the world.

In 2007, civic leaders, preservationists, historians, cultural experts, and many others joined with residents to help incorporate the Museum. Since then, the National Public Housing Museum has offered transformative programs that connect the past with contemporary issues of social justice and human rights.

Former housing residents include public officials such as Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and President Jimmy Carter, and corporate leaders such as Starbucks founder Howard Schultz and former Xerox CEO Ursula Burns. Performers like Barbra Streisand, Diana Ross, Elvis Presley, Thelonius Monk, Ramsey Lewis, Mary J. Blige, Queen Latifah, Jay-Z, and Chaka Khan and sports stars like NBA's Tony Allen and baseball star Kirby Puckett are among the alumni whose experiences growing up in public housing shaped their lives.

Learn more at nphm.org/capitalcampaign

In the 1990s, a group of public housing residents began to preserve the stories of communities they saw being threatened. Among them was Founding Board Chair Deverra Beverly. Her vision gave birth to the National Public Housing Museum, and her dedication to realizing the Museum never wavered.

Image: Founding Chair **Deverra Beverly**. Courtesy of the National Public Housing Museum.





Board Chair and one of the Museum's founding board members, **Sunny Fischer**, (right), with her brother and sister at Eastchester Projects in the Bronx, NY, 1954. Courtesy of Sunny Fischer.

Who can call us to the meaning of ourselves as a nation in caring for the least advantaged? The National Public Housing Museum.

Ruth Abram, Founder, Lower East Side Tenement Museum, New York, NY

The Museum will foreground issues of race and poverty to connect this history to movements for social change.

Sunny Fischer, NPHM Board Chair



(left, above) **Young Park Public Housing**, Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, 1951

(left, below) **Oakleaf Park Public Housing**, Norfolk, VA, 1944

(right) **Cong. Lyndon B. Johnson** visits family at Santa Rita Housing Project, Austin, Texas. **E.H. Perry**, Chairman of Austin Housing Authority, is standing behind LBJ.





Chicago's Cabrini-Green: The last high-rise building was demolished in 2011. Courtesy of *In These Times*.

More than any other city,
Chicago is at the heart
of an international dialogue
about public housing's
founding aspirations, its
tumultuous history, and its
continued promise.



Chicago's Cabrini-Green: The last high-rise building was demolished in 2011. Courtesy of *In These Times*.

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Chicago's Cabrini-Green. The last high-rise building was demolished in 2011. Courtesy of *In These Times*.



Civil rights march for fair housing, circa 1969.

Public housing has been an important part of the urban story of the US and has touched the lives of countless residents and future leaders. The epicenter of the public housing story has been Chicago; therefore it is appropriate that the National Public Housing Museum be located in Chicago.

Henry Cisneros, Former National League of Cities President, Former US Secretary of Housing, and NPHM Advisory Council Member



Chicago's Cabrini-Green: The last high-rise building was demolished in 2011. Courtesy of *In These Times*.

Civil rights march for fair housing, circa 1969.

Why Chicago?

The Power of Place

The Jane Addams Homes were named after the Nobel Prize-winning peace activist and social reformer who founded the Hull-House Settlement in 1889. Designed by John Holabird, one of the nation’s most respected architects at the time, the complex showcased a new vision for housing poor and working class people in need of homes. The Addams complex was home to tens of thousands of diverse, working-class families for more than six decades. The

complex sat vacant since 2002, and at the urgent requests of residents, the Chicago Housing Authority leadership agreed to save one building from demolition for the new museum.

Exhibitions and programs will be designed to encourage the public to discover, learn, and build a more just nation through a robust civic life.

Chicago is also an international hub for innovation, cutting-edge museums, creative placemaking, civic dialogue, and the ongoing struggle for social justice.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King pictured on the first day in their Chicago Lawndale apartment on 1550 S. Hamlin Avenue. Photograph by John Tweedle, courtesy of Dianne Tweedle.





Raymond "Shaq"
McDonald leading an
NPHM walking tour.

As a longtime Cabrini Green resident and activist, I use my new skills — gained as a student in the NPHM Oral History Summer School — to speak truth to power, and to document the history of public housing to inform our future.

Raymond "Shaq" McDonald

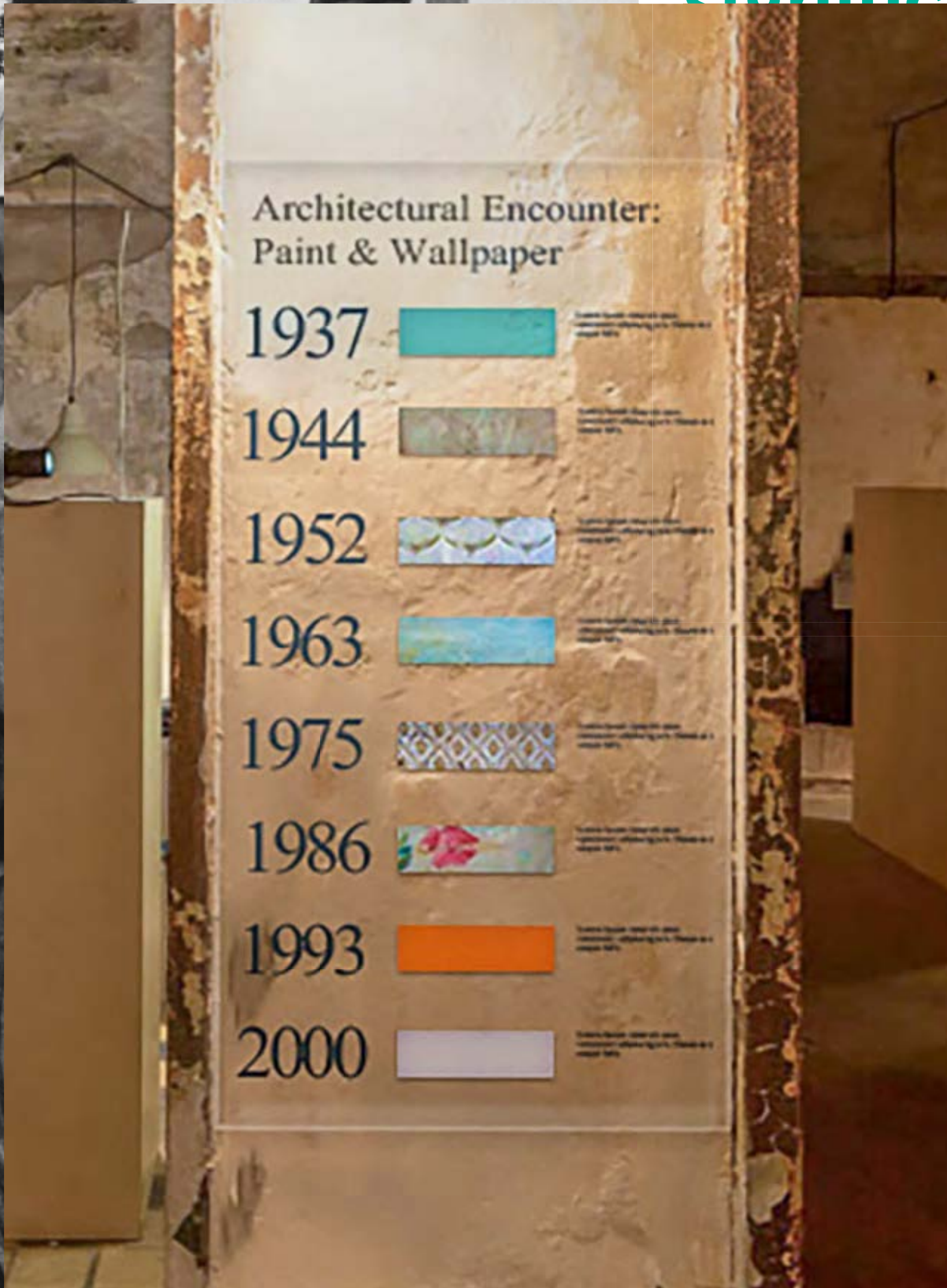
Children playing among the Edgar Miller animal sculptures: 1940. Jane Addams Housing Project, Hull House, Chicago, A Nation Provides. Jane Addams House, Chicago. Photo by Peter Sekaer. MoMA, 704.1941.



As a Site of Conscience, the Museum is a historically significant site that links the past with today's most urgent social issues in order to ensure a more just and humane future.



Children playing among the Edgar Miller animal sculptures: 1940. Jane Addams Housing Project, Hull House, Chicago, A Nation Provides. Jane Addams House, Chicago. Photo by Peter Sekaer. MoMA, 704.1941.



As a Site of Conscience, the Museum is a historically significant site that links it with today's most social issues in order to create a more just and equitable future.



Children playing among the Edgar Miller animal sculptures: 1940. Jane Addams Housing Project, Hull House, Chicago, A Nation Provides. Jane Addams House, Chicago. Photo by Peter Sekaer. MoMA, 704.1941.



Architectural Encounters
throughout the Museum
feature beautifully preserved
and thoughtfully interpreted
elements that tell the story
of public housing.



What’s in the Museum?

Immerse yourself in thought-provoking art, history, and personal stories that expand your imagination and push you to new horizons of understanding of urgent housing issues. The Museum offers the opportunity to engage in developing innovative public policy reform that will reimagine the future of communities and society.

Visitors will learn about the intense political struggles over land-mark legislation; the role of urban renewal, redlining, and racism that have shaped public housing demographics since its inception; and the demolition of distressed high-rises and the displacement of tens of thousands of families.

A contemporary art gallery will bridge the divide between the arts, culture, and innovative public policy. The Museum will feature a permanent public work by Amanda Williams and Olalekan Jeyifous and changing exhibits of contemporary art premiering with works by Nathaniel Mary Quinn.

Tours of the Museum begin and end in a storytelling space where museum educators, many of whom will be former and current public housing residents, will prompt visitors to consider how aspects of daily domestic life connect to issues such as the politics of land use, the geography of race and class, and the way public and private sectors interact in our democracy.

Invitation, Jen DeLos Reyes,
November 2020.
Photo: REVIVE





(above) The first exhibit in the National Public Housing Museum art gallery will be a show of renowned paintings by **Nathaniel Mary Quinn**. Shown here: *Erica with the Pearl Earring*, 2015.



(below) **Manual Cinema** will combine handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic techniques, and innovative sound and music to tell an immersive story of Moving Day in public housing.



Amanda Williams, *Color(ed) Theory*, 2015.

Restored apartments

Three restored apartments with historic artifacts interpret the nation's public housing experience from the time of the New Deal to the present through vividly told stories:

The Birth of Public Housing,
1930s–40s

The History of Redlining,
1950s–60s

Housing as a Human Right,
1960s–80s

Inez Turovitz Medor's kosher kitchen tells important stories about the Jewish community around historic Maxwell Street; the Rizzi family Christmas tree provides a glimpse into life in Little Italy, celebrating holidays, and adapting to a changing neighborhood; and the Hatch family bookshelf, filled with the classics that all eight children read and studied while learning about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s housing activism on the West Side of Chicago, illuminates the cultural and political context of residents.

Learn more at nphm.org/capitalcampaign



(above) **Harold Medor** (right) was raised in the Jane Addams Homes. Years later, he met his wife Inez Turovitz, one of the first residents of the Jane Addams Homes when they opened in 1938. Courtesy of the Medor family.

(below) Kitchen in the Jane Addams Homes, circa 1940s. Courtesy of the Chicago Housing Authority.





Reverend Marshall Hatch (left) and his eight siblings are natives of Chicago's West Side. Courtesy of the Hatch family.

The entire Hatch family is excited that the Museum is becoming a reality. We want others to understand how living in public housing shaped our lives, created family unity, and established a strong, vibrant community for everyone.

Rhoda Hatch

Exhibits and
programs

The National Public Housing Museum is the first cultural institution in the United States dedicated to interpreting the American experience in public housing. The Museum will be a place to share public housing stories of hope and personal achievement, as well as stories of struggle, resistance and resilience. Using art, architecture and design, oral histories, and material culture, the Museum will create opportunities for visitors to understand and engage in innovative public policy reform in order to reimagine the future of our communities, our society, and the places we call home.

Joseph and Bessie Feinberg Foundation Storytelling and Everyday Objects Gallery
Presenting objects from public housing residents across the nation

Doris Conant Demand the Impossible Advocacy and Engagement Gallery
Generating responsive public policy

Architectural Encounters
Broadening the practice of preservation

Historic Apartments
Engaging visitors in three different eras of public housing history

Alphawood Foundation Edgar Miller Animal Sculpture Courtyard
Celebrating the importance of public art and public space in creating communities

Baum Family Foundation Museum Store
With a co-op working to create economic equity

Timuel Black Oral History Archives
Collecting and sharing the stories of national public housing residents

Public Art Entrance
Designed by internationally acclaimed artists Amanda Williams and Olalekan Jeyifous



We invite those who believe
in the human right to housing
to join us in preserving
history, fostering dialogue,
and creating change.



Power of place

Power of Place: Campaign for the National Public Housing Museum is a campaign to realize this important museum and community space.

Link to full donor list at nphm.org/capitalcampaign

\$2 million pending



\$7.2 million received and pledged



Committee in formation

Please join us at nphm.org/capitalcampaign



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NPHM Board Chair;
Cultural Activist;
Retired
Philanthropic
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KERRY JAMES MARSHALL, *Manny Mansions*, 1994
© Kerry James Marshall. Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.

To join us in creating this
unique cultural institution,
please call 773 245 1621
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