



April 2022 Newsletter

Museum News



Tonika Lewis Johnson, NPHM Artist as Instigator, poses with the Inequity for Sale installation.

Inequity For Sale featured on *Pivot Arts Podcast*

The Museum's Artist as Instigator Tonika Lewis Johnson and Program Director of Arts, Culture and Public Policy Tiff Beatty were featured on a recent [Pivot Arts Podcast](#). In the "Geography of Home" episode, Tonika talks about [Inequity](#).

discusses why the museum, while presenting the history of public housing, also has a contemporary art program: “Artists can change our ideas about what is possible.”

Events and Programs



Through the People

Online and ongoing

www.throughthepeople.org

[Through the People](#), an online interactive exhibition by the National Public Housing Museum (NPHM) and [My Projects Runway](#) (MPR), shares the authentic stories of public housing residents through photos, videos, and stories. As the face of public housing continues to transform, there is an urgent need to preserve the history and stories of the lives of the residents who live and have lived there. For Jayah Arnett, a resident of the George Washington Carver Homes and creator of MPR, this project “gives a platform to unspoken heroes to share their truths and an opportunity to collect the histories of residents to share with generations to come.”

Last year, the NPHM and Jayah collaborated on the photo exhibition, *[Matriarchs of NYCHA](#)*. The images celebrate the women residents of the Lower East Side public housing community who contributed to transformative change in the neighborhood. Drawing on the Museum's Oral History Project, Jayah reached out for assistance in gathering oral histories for the project.

Check out Through the People!

WBZCHICAGO | PRESENTS

Thur. April 28 | 7pm

KENNEDY KING COLLEGE, 740 W. 63RD



HOSTED BY

**Tiff Beatty****Tonika
Lewis Johnson**

LEGALLY STOLEN LIVE

In partnership with

National
Public Housing
Museum

Legally Stolen Live

Thursday, April 28

7:00-8:30 PM

Kennedy King College, 740 W 63rd

Tickets: \$20

Use code "Discount" for \$15 tickets!***Masks required for all attendees.***

Legally Stolen Live is a podcast event hosted by Tiff Beatty of the National Public Housing Museum and Social Justice Artist Tonika Lewis Johnson as part of her project, Inequity for Sale, a virtual and physical exploration of Englewood homes sold on Land Sale Contracts in the 50s and 60s. Featured guests discuss reparations and redress for legalized theft from Black people and communities impacted by predatory real estate practices and art as a catalyst for change. In addition to previously announced guests, this live podcast event

Legally Stolen Episodes 1-3 are available now at nphm.org and on your favorite streaming platforms, including [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Pocket Casts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Anchor](#), [Breaker](#), and [RadioPublic](#).

[Register Here](#)

APRIL 14, 2022

CELEBRATE NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH

"IT'S CERTAIN THINGS THAT I THINK ARE HUMAN RIGHTS."

OUT OF THE ARCHIVES

NOW STREAMING

Spotify Apple Music Google Podcasts Anchor Breaker RADIO PUBLIC National Fair Housing Alliance

Photo courtesy of Nakia Herron

Out of the Archives

Celebrate National Fair Housing Month with our new episode of Out of the Archives, "It's Certain Things That I Think Are Human Rights." Narrators

Schwartz, and Juanita Stevenson. Starting on April 14, you can listen to the latest episode at nphm.org and on all of your favorite podcasting platforms, including [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), and more!

National News

An article by the New York Times, “Entrepreneurship Is Alive in N.Y. Public Housing. Will the City Step Up?” draws on the nonprofit [Center for an Urban Future’s report](#), which encourages public and private support of small businesses based in public housing as a jumping-off point to examine the creativity and resourcefulness of NYCHA residents. (A fact NPHM celebrates with the [E-Hub program](#).) “Buildings managed by the New York City Housing Authority, which operates the country’s largest public housing system, are home to more than 266,000 adults, many of whom are increasingly making money from homegrown businesses. These informal and unregistered businesses are often either a main source of income for them or a supplement to a full-time job. In the lobby of the Mitchel Houses in the South Bronx, fliers posted by residents advertise side hustles like eyelash extensions and hair braiding.”

The privatization of military housing is under scrutiny in [this report on military.com](#) website. “Rachel Christian, co-founder of Armed Forces Housing Advocates, also told the committee housing issues are 'absolutely systemic still.' One of the problems is that government housing employees and advocates provided by military housing offices aren’t properly trained in detecting issues, such as mold and gas leaks, and in the state and local laws they are tasked with making sure are enforced, Christian said.”

In March, the Seattle-based [House Our Neighbors! coalition](#) filed a petition for a ballot initiative for the creation of a public developer to plan social housing in Seattle. The Urbanist, an advocacy journalism nonprofit based in Seattle, looks into the initiative in this [report](#): “Unlike most other forms of nonprofit affordable housing in the city, social housing created by the public developer would be available to both middle-income and low-income households, in this case

measure will appear on the ballot in November. If approved, a public developer could significantly alter the housing landscape in Seattle down the road.”

Donor Profile



Marcie Love.

As one of the founding members of The Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW), Marcie Love got to know Sunny Fischer – then a fellow CFW founder and currently the Museum’s board president. Marcie is a philanthropist and longtime reproductive rights advocate. In 1985, Marcie founded Personal PAC, a bipartisan political action committee in Illinois that works to elect pro-choice legislators in Illinois.

Last year, a group of Sunny’s friends and admirers established a fund in Sunny’s name to support the NPHM’s Power of Place Campaign. Marcie contributed to the fund in honor of her friend. “I admire her so tremendously and in so many ways,” said Marcie. “I wasn’t that clever to choose the family I was born into, and my parents believed that we owed the world because we were so fortunate,” said Marcie, who comes from a long line of activists that Marcie traces back to her great grandmother who was also an advocate for women’s rights. Marcie grew up in hilly New England, but when she met her future

passion and generosity over the years, and the Museum is very thankful for her gift.

People of Public Housing: Ramona Ferreyra



Ramona Ferreyra, co-founder of Save Section 9.

Ramona Ferreyra, a co-founder of the public housing activist group [Save Section 9](#), was born in New York City and spent portions of her childhood in the Dominican Republic. After completing her undergraduate studies at John Jay College, Ferreyra moved to Hawaii and lived there for 10 years. She completed her graduate studies there and worked with the FBI and Department of Defense before returning to New York.

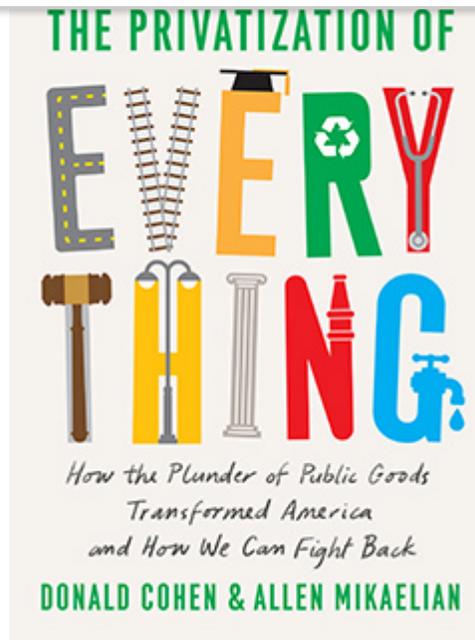
peoples of the Caribbean. It wasn't such a big leap for Ramona – who had managed a Baby Gap store – to become a social entrepreneur. One of the reasons that Ramona, who is disabled, returned to the mainland was to spend more time with her grandmother. Ramona moved into her grandmother's home in public housing and remained after her grandmother passed away from Covid.

Helping to start Save Section 9 was inevitable for this go-getter. “Watching how things were deteriorating [in the buildings due to lack of funding] inspired me to take an active role,” said Ramona about her fight to save public housing. “Once I got involved, it kept sucking me in.” Besides running her small company, Ramona works with Save Section 9 to educate tenants about policy and how to reach out to politicians to urge them to keep public housing public. Through training sessions, movie nights, and vigils, Ramona says the group works to inspire everyone to honor public housing for what it has contributed across the country. Ramona is adamant that saving public housing should not be linked with creating affordable housing.

“The first thing is that public housing is always going to provide a home that is dignified and that caps your rent at 30 percent of your income,” she said. “Affordable housing on the other hand includes many different programs including section 8 and housing lotteries,” Ramona said, adding how many affordable housing building plans are about incentivizing developers with below market rate loans but “there is nothing that actually insures that poor Americans will ever be able to afford to live there.”

Save Section 9 is planning to lobby lawmakers in Washington later in the spring.

What We Are Reading



The history of public housing is as much a history of housing as it is a history of the public sphere and public goods. An overview on the perils of the shift from public to private is outlined in *The Privatization of Everything* by Donald Cohen and Allen Mikaelian (New Press, 2021). The authors make the case of why public goods – education, public health, parks, clean water, libraries, etc., – must be kept out of the market.

**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!](#)

Join our Campaign

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