



February 2022 Newsletter

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## Museum News



### True Colors

The color palette for *Threshold*, the public art commission encompassing the Museum entrance by artists-architects Amanda Williams and Olalekan Jeyifous, was informed by paint and wallpaper fragments found in the Jane Addams Homes units. See the Donor Profile below for more about this story.

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## Meet NPHM Intern Victoria Limón

Victoria Limón joined NPHM as an intern in the summer of 2020 as part of a dynamic cohort from Roosevelt University. A native of Brownsville, Texas, Victoria came to Chicago in 2019 as a doctoral student in the clinical psychology program at Roosevelt. “I became interested in working with the museum primarily because, in addition to being passionate about mental health, I am also very passionate about social justice movements and advocacy for marginalized populations,” said Victoria.

The Museum's focus on oral histories, and providing a platform for former and current public housing residents to share their lived experiences with the public, also attracted Victoria. “Ever since I became an intern, I have been excited to learn about and be a part of different museum projects, especially any that are focused on bringing light to the issue of mass incarceration since working with currently and formerly incarcerated individuals is my primary area of interest as a psychologist in training,” she said. “I hope to be able to help make an impact during my time with the museum and learn more about ways I can advocate for and support these populations.”

Interning at the Museum has also given Victoria the opportunity to become part of the mission. “I believe it is important to support the NPHM because they are doing amazing work that stretches across various projects that are all aimed at bringing to light the injustices that were done in the past and continue to exist for marginalized and minority populations, especially public housing residents. Through their work, they are advancing social justice efforts and helping to lift the voices of those who have been silenced for far too long. I am always

## Events and Programs

LEGALLY STOLEN PODCAST

| INEQUITY FOR SALE

| NATIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING MUSEUM



**LEGALLY  
STOLEN**

podcast

Episode Two  
January 31

hosted by  
**TIFF BEATTY  
TONIKA LEWIS JOHNSON**

### Legally Stolen: Episode 2

#### Available Now On Your Favorite Podcast Platforms

The Museum recently launched a [three-part podcast miniseries](#) with Artist-as-Instigator Tonika Johnson to unpack her righteously multi-layered project, [Inequity for Sale](#), that highlights houses sold on Land Sale Contracts in the 1950s and 60s. In the second episode, NPHM Program Director Tiff Beatty talks with Tonika in depth about how her project puts a spotlight on how wealth was legally stolen from Black communities through predatory land sale contracts and in turn, how disinvestment in Black communities has impacted the lives of generations. The episode also includes interviews with residents and leaders living in the Greater Englewood community on the south side of Chicago where the project is based.

Take some time to listen, get angry, then get inspired! **Legally Stolen** is available on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Anchor](#), [Breaker](#), [Pocket Casts](#) and [RadioPublic](#).

Listen Now!



## Out of the Archives

On February 17, tune in to our most recent episode of the [Out of the Archives](#) podcast, “Pressure & Time Makes Diamonds.” The episode celebrates Black History Month with a selection of narrators sharing a range of their complex experiences living in public housing in New York City. The narrators in this episode include Jayah Arnett, Bonnette Bryant, Domingo Morales, and Pamela Phillips.

OOTA is available on a multitude of streaming services, including [Spotify](#), [RadioPublic](#), [Google Podcasts](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Soundcloud](#), [Breaker](#), [Pocket Casts](#) and [Anchor](#). Subscribe on your favorite podcast platform and help build NPHM’s visibility.

Listen Now!

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## National News

As tens of thousands of NYCHA residents are behind in their rent, the public

population of 350,000) by interviewing residents and housing officials. "There is enormous demand for a NYCHA home: More than 250,000 applicants are on a wait list, according to the agency...And the pandemic's economic pain has fallen far more harshly on people of lesser means...The mountain of unpaid rent is also exacerbating the public housing agency's already dire financial condition."

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Home Forward, Portland's housing authority, [named Ivory Mathews as its new executive director](#). For the past 20 years, Ivory has worked at various housing agencies in South Carolina and Ohio. Her most recent position was as the chief executive officer at Columbia Housing in South Carolina. Home Forward, the largest provider of affordable housing in Oregon, manages 6,000 apartments and administers more than 9,000 federal housing vouchers. Ivory is the first Black woman to head the organization in its 80 year history.

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U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez criticized Senator Joe Manchin for not supporting the [Build Back Better](#) (BBB) plan ([her tweet](#) has received more press than the actual plan): "Seniors, kids, & people with disabilities in my community have been sleeping with bubble jackets on in 18 degree nights, despite paying rent, bc the NYCHA funding to fix their heating and capital needs is in BBB. Where should I direct them to wait out the cold? Manchin's yacht?"

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homeless advocate to collect data from 20 American cities and discovered that the number of deaths among people living without housing shot up by 77% in the five years ending in 2020. “People who die while experiencing homelessness are some of the most neglected in society,” said Matt Fowle, University of Washington researcher and co-creator of the organization [Homeless Deaths Count](#). “These are folks who most need our help and are least likely to receive it.”

## Donor Profile



*Rendering of Threshold by artists-architects Amanda Williams and Olalekan Jeyifous.*

We are overjoyed to report that the Museum received capital funding from the Joyce Foundation and Terra Foundation for American Art that will help us realize the commissioned public art entrance designed by artists-architects Amanda Williams and Olalekan Jeyifous. The noted art duo also won the commission for the monument to Shirley Chisholm, the trailblazing New York congresswoman who was the first woman to run for the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination. It will be installed in Brooklyn’s Prospect Park.

“With its new permanent home, the National Public Housing Museum is harnessing the power of arts and culture to illuminate an important chapter in the history of American public housing and the resilience of the people and families that lived there,” said Ellen Alberding, president of the Joyce

support artists Amanda Williams and Olalekan Jeyifous' new commission for the Museum, *Threshold*, which brings this important story to life."

The initial seed money for Threshold came in 2019 when Paul Gray, the director of Richard Gray Gallery, and his wife De, hosted an intimate cocktail party in their home in support of the commission. They raised \$65,000 that evening by matching the spontaneous gifts of their guests.

By supporting this facet of the Museum's redevelopment, these powerful arts funders and supporters have allowed NPHM to provide a welcoming space that engages and informs the public.

"Through stories and art, the National Public Housing Museum is dedicated to preserving and presenting American experiences in public housing for audiences in Chicago and beyond. The Terra Foundation is committed to supporting community organizations like NPHM that expand narratives of American art and share the cultural heritage of our city. We are honored to partner with the Joyce Foundation to support the public art installation *Threshold* by artists Amanda Williams and Olalekan Jeyifous, who engage American histories, past and present, to generate public discourse," said Sharon Corwin, president and CEO of the Terra Foundation for American Art.

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## People of Public Housing: Anthony Tiffith



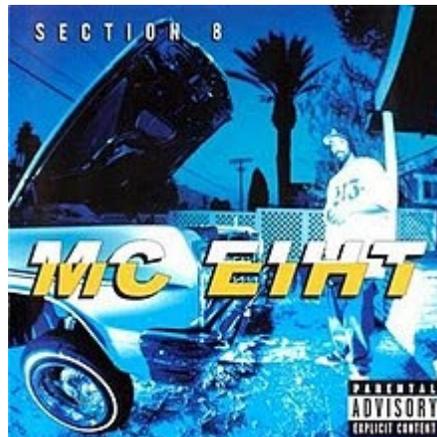
Anthony Tiffith, who grew up in Nickerson Gardens in Los Angeles, founded Top Dawg Entertainment (TDE) in 2004, a record label that features progressive rap and hip-hop musicians.

Tops, as he is often referred to by his artists, has been lauded for giving back to his community. He is known for having paid the funeral expenses and college bills for neighbors. In 2014, he started an annual toy drive and Christmas concert in Watts to raise money for families in need. In April 2020, he paid one month's rent for 311 families in public housing in L.A.

A detailed feature story on the origins of TDE, [the online music magazine The Dowers](#), described Anthony as a seasoned hustler who came up with a plan to leave gang life when he was nearing his 30th birthday by building a studio in the back of his apartment in 1997 and then figuring out how to work the equipment he had purchased. First artist he represented was fellow Nickerson Gardens resident Jay Rock, followed by a 15 year-old high school student from Compton named Kendrick Lamar.

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## What We Are Reading



Cover of rapper MC Eiht's "Section 8" album.

An article by [RapTV](#), a Miami-based media company that covers the hip hop industry, takes a look at Section 8 as a term that is frequently referenced in rap lyrics, and discusses what it means, how it works, and why it is used so often. "Many rappers, whether they're famous or just starting out, have songs or albums with "Section 8" in the title..." First mention is [Kendrick Lamar's](#) album

the Pulitzer Prize in Music for his album “DAMN.”.)

The article concludes that Section 8 is a loaded term that has often perpetuated a cycle of segregation and lack of opportunities, despite its intentions: “When rappers use the term Section 8, they’re referring to more than a government housing program. They’re talking about growing up in poverty, raised by parents who wanted them to rise up and break the cycle—some who were assisted by the government, some who were denied assistance or had it taken away. They’re talking about injustice: the refusal of landlords to help people in need and the rejection of poor people by the upper classes.

But they’re also talking about resilience: countless rappers came up in Section 8 housing, were forced to stay in neighborhoods with few resources and opportunities, and rose up to claim their place in the world—despite the cards they’d been dealt long before they were born.”

**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**

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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**Our mailing address is:**

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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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