



National  
Public Housing  
Museum

May 2021 Newsletter

## Programs and Events

### Notice: Inequity for Sale

Wednesday, June 2, 6-7:30 PM CDT



A public hearing to launch, *Inequity for Sale*, an artistic, critical exploration of how historic legalized theft contributed to present-day inequity with Tonika Johnson and special guests

[NPHM.ORG/NOTICEINEQUITY](https://nphm.org/noticeinequity)

[Register Now!](#)

Artist-as-Instigator Tonika Lewis Johnson presents [Inequity for Sale](#) – her public art project that connects historic legalized theft with present-day conditions in Greater Englewood. During her residency at NPHM, Tonika and a group of committed and talented interns (see museum news for more), will research and map locations for

## In the Kitchen with Timuel Black, Eve Ewing and Lisa Lee

Wednesday, June 16, 6-7 PM CDT



Jazz great [Louis Armstrong loved red beans and rice](#) so much that he often signed letters with “Red Beans and Ricely Yours.” Join the Museum in the kitchen on June 16 (details below) for this succulent fundraising event and listen in on a conversation about the power of oral history between writers Timuel Black and Eve Ewing and NPHM Director Lisa Yun Lee as they make “Pops Favorite Dish” (as noted on the family recipe).

**Register Now!**

**Beverley Kim & Johnny Clark****Tara Lane & Sam Kass**

Make your \$50 donation to register for this event and to enter into a drawing for one of two extraordinary private virtual cooking classes with James Beard Award-winning chef and restaurateur, **Beverly Kim**, Top Chef contestant and co-owner of Michelin-starred Parachute with husband and chef/activist **Johnny Clark**, or with **Tara Lane**, COO of FOND Bone Broth and noted pastry chef at James Beard Award-winning restaurant Blackbird, with **Sam Kass**, James Beard Award-winning cookbook author, former White House food policy advisor, and Obama family chef.

Special thank you to the hosts of this event!

**Visionaries:** Deborah E. Bennett and Polk Bros. Foundation, Janice L. Feinberg, The Joseph & Bessie Feinberg Foundation

**Champions:** Ben and Sheila Applegate, Boston Library Consortium

**Advocates:** Jean Butzen, Sunny and Paul Fischer, GMA Construction Group, site design group, Ltd; Lisa Skolnik; Kinnell & Nettie Snowden; Mark J. McCann

**Activists:** Lisa Lee and Adam Bush, Laurel Appell Lipkin

*Event Host list is in formation. Contact Sue Enright at [senright@nphm.org](mailto:senright@nphm.org) if you are interested in becoming a host.*

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## ***Out of the Archives!***

Anytime, Anywhere

Hungry to hear something meaningful? NPHM always has stories to share. *Out of the Archives!* is streaming on our [SoundCloud page](#) and [website](#). NPHM's oral history team Shakira Johnson and Mark Jaeschke will return next month with new

*Are you a resident who wants to share their story?  
Please [fill out this form](#) to sign up and record with our  
oral history team!*



## Lincoln Park: Fire Fire Gentrifier!

Free and Ongoing

In the fall, the Museum collaborated with the Blu Rhythm Collective on a people's history of Lincoln Park in the form of a mobile/multimedia walking tour that includes music by Pinqy Ring, photos by Carlos Flores, and stories and history by activist/scholars Jose Cha Cha Jimenez, Billy Che Brooks, and Professor Jacqueline Lazu. Now that spring has sprung and summer is almost here, it's a good time to remind everyone that this self-guided experience is available as a free phone app on [VAMONDE](#).



This tour excavates some of the hidden and repressed history of urban renewal, and explores struggles of the Young Lords to organize, raise political awareness, and resist gentrification. Stroll and ponder: What can we learn from the past? How can we build a better collective future for all of us? [Visit the NPHM website for more information.](#)

## Museum News

**Adrienne Todman Nominated for HUD Deputy Secretary**



Adrienne Toldman, who was nominated by President Joe Biden in March to serve as Deputy Secretary for Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A confirmation hearing was held on May 11, with the confirmation vote in the Senate expected soon.

Adrienne is the head of the [National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials](#) (NAHRO).

Before joining NAHRO in 2017, Adrienne served as the executive director of the District of Columbia

Housing Authority, where she prioritized youth empowerment programs and workforce development. A longtime affordable housing advocate, Adrienne's extensive background in housing also includes several policy and department management positions at HUD. Adrienne was born and raised in the U.S. Virgin Islands and is a graduate of Smith College.

In her testimony, Adrienne said: "My career in government and the nonprofit sector has been dedicated to improving people's lives and strengthening communities through housing. I have spoken with people across the country – in urban, suburban, and rural communities alike – and they all want the same thing: a fair shot. A fair shot to provide for their families, to secure a safe and stable home, and to get ahead. Read her [full remarks here](#).

## NPHM Interns Fill Us In



On May 27, the Museum's talented and committed group of interns presented the



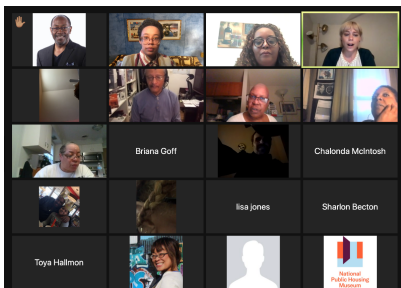
Juanairis Castaneda (history/international studies), Sophia Gallo (sociology), Troy Gaston (political science), and Victoria Limón (clinical psychology doctoral student), shared the abstract that will inform their future white paper: “The exploration around ‘Inequality for Sale’ presents a virtual and physical examination of real estate sold on faulty land sale contracts targeting Blacks in greater Englewood, which spotlights direct links to legalized theft, displacement and ongoing poverty in concentrated communities.”

So far, the collaborative has identified and photographed addresses provided by Tonika, collected policy topics, and outlined next steps for the summer phase of the internship.

## Summer Fellow Diana Nastas

The Museum welcomes fellow Diana Nastas of Moldova, who will be joining us virtually for the summer as part of the Professional Fellows Program, funded by the US Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Diana’s post-doctoral area of study is focused on economic and community development in her Eastern European country. During the PFP fellowship, Diana will have the opportunity to connect with NPHM Executive Director Lisa Lee and explore best practices for creating mixed income housing as part of the museum complex, as well as how to develop an educational campaign that puts forth housing as a human right.

## More Love Always



NPHM partnered with [Housing Choice Partners](#) (HCP) on May 18 to present the beloved [36 Questions for Civic Love](#) program – a virtual event created to facilitate one-on-one conversations, foster new connections, empathy, and ultimately, healing among Public Housing Residents and Housing Choice Voucher Holders. Because the history of systemic

racism and housing segregation has fostered misconceptions and distrust, it is often more difficult for these communities to build trust, share power, organize, and advocate for fair housing together.

Participants asked each other questions like: “Can you keep a plant alive?” and

healing and community-building activities.

At NPHM, we believe in the idea that we're all better off, when we are all better off. So, we'll continue to spread the love with *36 Questions*.

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## Donor Profile: Nettie Snowden



As a finance manager with Iris Krieg & Associates, Inc. (a philanthropic advisory firm), Nettie Snowden learned about the efforts to establish the Museum years ago because Iris and NPHM co-founder and board chair Sunny Fischer once shared an office.

For Nettie, the concept of NPHM was a revelation. "I told my mother, 'You should hear what they say about public housing, like it was a wonderful thing.' And my mother said, 'Well it was!'" It wasn't the experience of public housing that Nettie grew up with; while her immediate family didn't live there, her cousins and other family members did. Nettie's mother told her about the pride that public housing residents took in maintaining their yards and gardens. She reminded her about some of the early apartments that were like showhouses, and Nettie remembered one home in

museum.”

When it came time for Nettie to decide what to study in college, she chose accounting. “I figured I could do that without hurting anybody,” she said, jokingly alluding to one career idea of being a doctor.

“I was a child of the 70s and 80s and I had my children early,” she said. “All of a sudden I looked around, and wondered ‘how am I going to take care of everyone?’” Nettie admired numbers. “So much of the world is grays – it’s ‘this except for that’ and with numbers it either is or it isn’t. I like the clarity.” She enrolled at DeVry Institute, where she received her undergraduate degree.

The Museum is fortunate to have Nettie on board as an accountant, and as the manager of human resources. She is also an NPHM donor. Nettie believes it is important to support the Museum because she said that housing should be a public right. “It just makes so much of what I want to call common sense,” she said. Added to housing should be medical care, clean water, and education. “We all have to live on this earth and if we just had the basic necessities met, we could all live better lives,” she said.

“I discovered a long time ago that I wasn’t the person to discover the cancer cure, but I can be in a Black women’s health study so that they have the research, and I see supporting the public housing museum the same way ... this is my way of giving back,” said Nettie. “We need to have public housing on the planet.”

**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.



You can help sustain our work by making a [donation](#) today to support our programs and exhibits that educate, inspire, and spur people to action to create a more just future.

Thank you!

[Donate](#)

## National News



Hazel M. Johnson (1935 – 2011) is a beloved figure in the world of public housing and beyond. A resident at Altgeld Gardens on the far South Side of Chicago, Hazel began documenting the chronic health problems plaguing her community, drawing the connection to the location of the public housing amid toxic sites. In the late 1970s, she founded the People for Community Recovery, an organization that still exists, to fight environmental racism.

For several years, U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush has proposed legislation to honor the

[Hazel M. Johnson Environmental Justice Month](#). In a recent interview in [Grist](#), Hazel's daughter Cheryl said: "My mother taught us that environmental justice is like an umbrella, and the spokes within the umbrella are made up of things like housing and economic justice, health, and education. If the spokes are broken, then the umbrella is inoperable. Young people today see that and are making the connections of environmental justice to civil rights and the Black Lives Matter movement."

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Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms will not run for reelection. With her 2017 win attributed, in part, to her monumental promise to put [\\$1 billion into affordable housing initiatives](#) before 2026, what might this mean for Atlanta?

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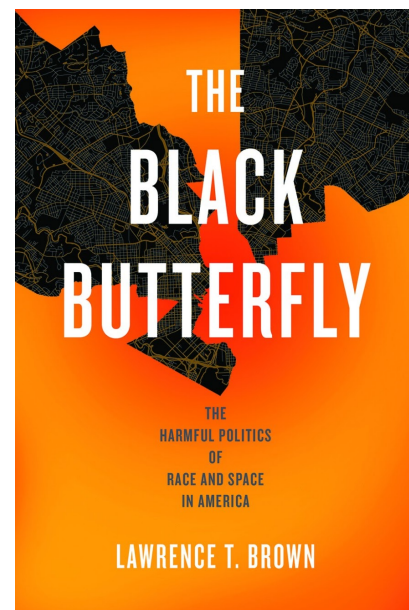
In [Seattle, a new Permanent Supportive Housing Project \(PSH\)](#), has broken ground. "Access to affordable housing continues to be a challenge for so many of our neighbors," Jennifer Muzia, Ballard Food Bank Executive Director said about the development. "The addition of 79 apartments of permanent and supportive housing is critical to addressing the homelessness crisis." Over the next few years, the city plans to add 599 new supportive housing units.

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## What We Are Reading

The Black Butterfly: The Harmful Politics of Race and Space in America by Lawrence Brown (John Hopkins University Press).

In a recent interview by [Andrew Zaleski of Bloomberg Businessweek](#), public health researcher Brown explains how observing a racial dot map of Baltimore, showing the Black population stretching out from both sides of the coveted strip of real estate running down the center of the city, inspired the title: "That was on my mind just in terms of how something as beautiful as a butterfly could be exploited. I knew that it served as something of a counter-narrative. Most people



Butterfly” and started using it on social media. I was just really conscious of the fact that it would serve as a counter-narrative to the dominant narrative — that’s not just in Baltimore, but redlined Black communities all over the country.”

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### Campaign for the National Public Housing Museum

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Our story starts with a simple truth: That all people have the right to a place in which they can live and 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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**Our mailing address is:**

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