



"Evicted" Exhibition at National Public Housing Museum Sheds Light on Urgent Eviction and Housing Crisis

Exhibition at National Public Housing Museum Explores the Struggles of Low-Income Renters, Prompts Reflection, and Ignites a Call to Address the Critical Issue of Eviction

CHICAGO, January 18, 2024 -- Recognizing the fundamental human right to a sense of home and place, the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights emphasizes the physical and emotional need for belonging and safety, encompassing aspects from the right to shelter to free movement and residence. Despite these principles, millions in the United States and globally still lack access to a safe, reliable, and permanent home due to conflict, discrimination, economic instability, and systemic neglect. In the United States alone, between 2007 and 2016, 7.6 million people, including 2.9 million children, faced the threat of eviction according to US Census Bureau data, and [researchers have found enormous racial disparities](#) in filing and eviction rates that persist across levels of income.

Amidst this backdrop, the National Public Housing Museum takes a bold step in addressing these challenges by hosting "Evicted," a groundbreaking exhibition set to take place at its offices from January 18 to March 10. This immersive experience, inspired by Matthew Desmond's Pulitzer Prize-winning book "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City," aims to shed light on the harsh reality of low-income renter eviction. By bringing this critical issue to the forefront, the "Evicted" exhibition urges visitors to confront one of the most pressing problems facing 21st-century America. With special support for the National Public Housing Museum's partner Red Line Service, the exhibition will be staffed by museum educators who bring their cultural expertise and lived experience of houselessness and housing insecurity.

"Since August 2022, more than 35,000 individuals seeking asylum and a place to call home have arrived in Chicago, with the influx continuing even amid winter conditions that jeopardize people's lives, and last year alone over 6,000 Chicagoans experienced houselessness. 'Evicted' illuminates the realities of millions without the sanctuary of a secure home and pushes us to confront the brutal experience of eviction and take action," says National Public Housing Museum Executive Director Lisa Yun Lee. "At the National Public Housing Museum, we believe that housing is a human right, and hosting this exhibit aligns with our mission to preserve, promote, and propel the right of all people to a place where they can live and prosper—a place to call home. Amplifying the urgency of housing insecurity that faces all people and fostering dialogue around these critical issues is particularly important for our city now."

Using specially commissioned infographics and forward-thinking design, the exhibit introduces visitors to statistics that help explain the causes and ramifications of chronic eviction. The



exhibition not only serves as a mirror reflecting the vivid portrayal of the crisis but also provides essential context to deepen visitor understanding. The exhibit offers a journey into the lives of those affected by low-income renter eviction, offering a glimpse into the challenges faced by individuals and families struggling to maintain a stable living environment. Through thought-provoking exhibits and interactive displays, "Evicted" aims to foster empathy and awareness, creating a space for meaningful dialogue surrounding the complexities of housing insecurity.

Details for opening night event:

- Reception on January 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the National Public Housing Museum offices at 625 N. Kingsbury St, Chicago, IL 60654. No registration is required.

Details for exhibition visiting hours:

- January 18-March 10, Thursdays-Friday from 12-6 p.m. and Saturdays & Sundays from 12-5 p.m. at the National Public Housing Museum offices at 625 N. Kingsbury St, Chicago, IL 60654. No tickets are required.

This exhibition is a partnership between the National Public Housing Museum, ART WORKS Projects, we all live here, Red Line Service, and the Chicago Housing Justice League. Evicted is supported by a generous grant from the Avangrid Foundation. The exhibition is organized by the National Building Museum, where it was made possible by gifts from Amy Falls, Ford Foundation, and the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation. The Illinois tour is made possible by the Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness and the Supportive Housing Providers Association. Special thanks to btcRE LLC for additional support.

About the National Public Housing Museum:

The National Public Housing Museum is the only cultural institution devoted to telling the story of public housing in the country. The museum's permanent home is under construction at the historic Jane Addams Homes in Chicago's Near West Side and will open to the public later this year. Through exhibitions, free programming, an Oral History Archive, community engagement, and more, the museum works to preserve, promote, and propel the right of all people to a place where they can live and prosper—a place to call home. Learn more at nphm.org.

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