



National  
Public Housing  
Museum

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**NEW MURAL AT THE NATIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING MUSEUM  
INVITES PUBLIC REFLECTION ON NATIVE LAND  
AND DISPLACEMENT**

*Mural and other works of public art will greet visitors when museum  
opens in early 2025*

**Chicago, Illinois (November 1, 2024)** – The National Public Housing Museum recently installed the large outdoor mural ***Still Here: Zhegagoynak*** as part of the final preparations to open its new permanent home at 919 South Ada Street in Chicago. Created by artist **Andrea Carlson** (Ojibwe), the temporary mural invites the public to reflect on the legacies of displacement on the land where the museum is located.

“While the removal and displacement of Indigenous people set a precedence for state violence through private property,” said Carlson, “my work for the **National Public Housing Museum** is a simple act of affirmation. Written in Potawatomi and English, ‘Potawatomi Land’ serves as a gesture to the possibility of restoring a sense of belonging to people who have been historically harmed by removal or have been deprived of housing due to enshrined, institutional racism. This image, which features two black ash baskets Indigenous people used to gather food, medicine, and other belongings, resembles a welcoming postcard for those communities returning to Chicago after suffering forced relocation.”

The banner—which declares “**Bodéwadmikik / Potawatomi Land**” in large arched lettering over a watery landscape—is a prominent component of the National Public Housing Museum’s forthcoming exhibition ***Still Here: Linking Histories of Displacement*** (January–April 2025),

and is presented as part of **Art Design Chicago**, a citywide collaboration initiated by the Terra Foundation for American Art. *Still Here* and five other concurrent Art Design Chicago exhibitions highlight the breadth and depth of work by Native artists with ties to the region, celebrating Indigenous perspectives through the lens of art and storytelling.



Installation of Invitation Wall mural *Still Here: Zhegagoynak* by Andrea Carlson.  
Photo courtesy of The National Public Housing Museum.

The mural is displayed on the museum's facade, facing Taylor Street, on what is known as the **Invitation Wall**. The National Public Housing Museum and its collaborators have used this space in recent years to showcase large-scale murals by artists such as Njideka Akunyili Crosby and Jen Delos Reyes. Carlson's mural will be one of **several works of public art** that will dot



the museum grounds when it opens to the public in early 2025, including the installation *Resilient Hues* by **Amanda Williams** and **Olalekan Jeyifous**, which will greet visitors at the main entrance; **Edgar Miller**'s seven-piece sculpture *Animal Court* will be brought back to the Jane Addams Homes and installed in the courtyard; and a mobile basketball hoop and interactive ground mural in the parking lot, designed by **Marisa Morán Jahn** and **Rafi Segal**.

Carlson is currently exhibiting her solo project *Shimmer on Horizons* at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, through February 2, 2025, also as part of the Art Design Chicago. Carlson's artwork in *Shimmer on Horizons* imagines landscapes as sites shaped by history, relationships, and power. Her prismatic works confront histories of erasure and colonial expansion while celebrating Indigenous resistance and presence.

When the National Public Housing Museum opens in 2025, the exhibition *Still Here* will use art, archives, and public dialogue to explore and connect histories of displacement on the land where the museum is located. The exhibition is co-curated by Dr. **Lisa Yun Lee**, Executive Director of the National Public Housing Museum, and Dr. **Lucy Mensah**, Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois – Chicago.

A central feature of *Still Here* is an engagement wall that shares new research, invites feedback and questions from visitors, and serves as a process for developing the museum's land acknowledgment statement, designed by Indigenous exhibition design team Seven Generations A+E (7GAE). *Still Here* will also include an exhibition in the museum's 800-square-foot gallery, robust public programming, and the development of a resource guide.

Lead support for *Still Here* is provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art through the Art Design Chicago initiative and the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events.

For more information about *Still Here: Linking Histories of Displacement* and other upcoming exhibitions and installations, visit [nphm.org/exhibition/](https://nphm.org/exhibition/).

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Images Available at National Public Housing Museum [Media Center](#)

### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING MUSEUM**

Over the past century, more than 10 million people across the United States have called public housing home. In the late 1990s, as thousands of public housing units across the country were being demolished, 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. In 2007, civic leaders, preservationists, historians, cultural experts, and many others joined with residents to help incorporate the National Public Housing Museum, which has

since then offered transformative programs that connect the past with contemporary issues of social justice and human rights. The Museum's permanent home is under construction at the historic Jane Addams Homes at 919 South Ada Street in Chicago's Near West Side, and is set to open to the public in January 2025. For more information: <https://www.nphm.org/>

### **ABOUT ART DESIGN CHICAGO**

Art Design Chicago is a special series of events and exhibitions that highlight the city's unique artistic heritage and creative communities. An initiative of the Terra Foundation for American Art in partnership with artists and arts organizations across the city, Art Design Chicago seeks to expand narratives of American art with an emphasis on the city's diverse and vibrant creative cultures and the stories they tell. Learn more at [artdesignchicago.org](http://artdesignchicago.org).

### **ABOUT THE TERRA FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN ART**

The Terra Foundation for American Art, established in 1978 and having offices in Chicago and Paris, supports organizations and individuals locally and globally with the aim of fostering intercultural dialogues and encouraging transformative practices that expand narratives of American art through the foundation's grant program, collection, and initiatives. Learn more at [terraamericanart.org](http://terraamericanart.org).