



**National
Public Housing
Museum**

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**NATIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING MUSEUM PRESENTS WORLD
PREMIERE OF “A HOME WORTH FIGHTING FOR”**

*Documentary Film Screening and Conversation with 2024-25 Artist as
Instigator, Natasha Florentino*

Chicago, Illinois (October 14, 2025)—The **National Public Housing Museum**, the first museum in the United States dedicated to telling the stories and sharing the history of public housing in the country, today announced it will host the World Premiere of **A HOME WORTH FIGHTING FOR: THE PUSH TO STOP THE DEMOLITION OF PUBLIC HOUSING IN CHELSEA**, a new documentary by filmmaker and 2024-25 Artist as Instigator **Natasha Florentino**, on **Thursday, October 23, 2025 from 6 to 8 p.m.** at the Museum’s new home at **919 S. Ada Street** in Chicago’s Little Italy neighborhood.

The event will feature a screening followed by a conversation with Florentino and housing justice leaders in Chicago and New York.



Produced in part during Florentino’s Artist as Instigator residency at the National Public Housing Museum, **A HOME WORTH FIGHTING FOR** follows New York Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents organizing to resist the demolition of the Fulton and Elliott-Chelsea Houses in Manhattan. The documentary exposes a flawed political process that prioritizes private developers over the preservation of public housing while dismissing residents’ calls for transparency and accountability.

“This film tells a story that is urgent not only for the residents of the Fulton and Elliott-Chelsea Houses, but for communities across the country where public housing residents are fighting to defend their homes,” said **Florentino**. “Through their voices, we see the resilience and determination of communities standing up to gentrification and displacement.”

Parallels in Chicago

Florentino’s project is particularly timely as housing authorities across the country turn to private-sector involvement in the modernization and management of public housing, through programs like Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD). In New York City, this shift toward privatization could radically transform the largest remaining public housing stock in the United States. The proposed demolitions of the Fulton and Elliott-Chelsea homes, pitched as a model for replication, captures a pivotal moment with implications nationwide.

“Natasha’s work brings the voices of public housing residents to the forefront, people whose lived experiences are too often left out of conversations about policy and development,” said **Tiff Beatty**, Associate Director and Director of Arts, Culture, and Public Policy at the National Public Housing Museum. “By centering their stories, **A HOME WORTH FIGHTING FOR** opens space

for honest dialogue about how public housing is being maintained, financed, and transformed today, and what that means for the future of our communities."

These struggles echo Chicago's own history. According to the Impact for Equity's [Building the Future report](#), released 25 years after the Chicago Housing Authority's Plan for Transformation, the CHA today has 19,000 fewer public housing apartments than it did in the late 1990s and still holds more than 100 acres of vacant land on the South and West sides. Promises of redevelopment have too often stalled, leaving communities without the homes, schools, and local businesses that public housing once sustained.

One chapter of the film highlights the mass displacement of public housing residents in Chicago. Visiting hundreds of acres of vacant land together with local housing activists, the documentary shares important historical context around the large-scale demolition of public housing, past commitments to rebuild or refurbish housing, and the experiences of residents who were promised the right to return.

Speakers and Conversation Participants

Following the screening, Florentino will be joined by a panel of housing activists and organizers, including:

- **Renee Keitt**, NYCHA resident leader, graduate of the National Public Housing Museum's Beauty Turner Academy of Oral History, and featured voice in the Museum's *Out of the Archives* podcast.
- **Don Washington**, Executive Director of the Chicago Housing Initiative
- **Etta Davis**, activist with the Lugenia Burns Hope Center in Chicago

Together, they will discuss the ongoing movement for housing justice in New York and Chicago, as well as how residents and housing justice advocates can connect and build solidarity across cities.

Event Details

A HOME WORTH FIGHTING FOR: THE PUSH TO STOP THE DEMOLITION OF PUBLIC HOUSING IN CHELSEA

Thursday, October 23, 2025, 6–8 p.m.

National Public Housing Museum, 919 S. Ada Street, Chicago, IL 60607

Through the eyes of longtime residents fighting to save their homes, **A HOME WORTH FIGHTING FOR**—by **Natasha Florentino** (director, producer, and co-director of photography), **Oliver Metzler** (co-director of photography), and, **Jason Alarcòn** (editor)—exposes a flawed political process that prioritizes private developers over the preservation of public housing while dismissing calls for transparency. Determined to defend their community from demolitions, residents organize to resist a profit-driven plan aimed at privatizing public housing. *Run Time: 40 min.*

The event is free and open to the public. Light bites and refreshments will be served. Space is limited; advance registration is required at www.nphm.org

Artist as Instigator

Since 2019, the National Public Housing Museum's **Artist as Instigator** residency program has leveraged arts and culture to make creative public policy interventions around housing and related issues. Each of these distinguished artists—Natasha Florentino (2024), Dr. ShaDawn “Boobie” Battle (2023), Marisa Morán Jahn (2022), Tonika Lewis Johnson (2021), Jen Delos Reyes (2020), and William Estrada (2019)—has used their residency to foster social change and bring visibility to issues impacting public housing communities.

With funding from Mellon Foundation and the Illinois Arts Council, the program annually supports an artist with a \$10,000 honorarium, a \$10,000 project budget, exhibition space, and additional support to help develop their work. Examples of work from the Artist as Instigators can also be found integrated into current exhibits throughout the National Public Housing Museum.

The National Public Housing Museum will announce the next Artist as Instigator later this year.

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[Images and film stills are available here.](#)

ABOUT NATASHA FLORENTINO

A documentary filmmaker raised in New York and based in San Francisco, Natasha Florentino has dedicated her career to amplifying the stories of housing justice and displacement. Her prior work includes two independently produced documentary films, *Rezoning Harlem* and *Abundant Land: Soil, Seeds, and Sovereignty*, which are being distributed by Third World Newsreel, Alexander Street, Cinepolitica, and Kanopy. In 2019, she was commissioned by Larkin Street Youth Services to produce a 25-minute documentary about the lives of three formerly unhoused young adults. As the National Public Housing Museum's sixth Artist as Instigator, Florentino leveraged her residency to produce *A Home Worth Fighting For*, the culminating project of her 2024-25 fellowship.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING MUSEUM

Our story starts with a simple truth: that all people have the right to a home. Founded by public housing residents, the National Public Housing Museum is the first cultural institution dedicated to interpreting the American experience in public housing. Filled with history, memories, music, and art, the Museum is a welcoming community gathering place that honors the stories and experiences of public housing residents. Through partnerships and programs, the Museum also serves as a civic incubator that inspires visitors to take informed action to advance housing justice.

National Public Housing Museum

919 S. Ada Street

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nphm.org