PUBLIC NOTICE
Regarding the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Section 106 Review of
Power of Place: Campaign for the National Public Housing Museum

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has offered National Public Housing Museum, a grant to construct the National Public Housing Museum within the last building remaining from the historic Jane Addams Homes. NEH is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. This public notice is issued as part of NEH’s responsibilities under 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the regulations which implement Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, 16 U.S.C. § 470. NEH, a funding agency, is required by regulation to identify and assess the effects of any proposed actions on historic properties. If any proposed action will have an adverse effect on historic resources, NEH works with the appropriate parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Additionally, the Section 106 regulations require NEH to consider the views of the public on preservation issues when making final decisions that affect historic properties.

The proposed undertaking involves renovation of the building located at 1322 West Taylor Street, Chicago, IL 60607, a 0.8-acre site at the corner of Taylor and Ada Streets in Chicago’s University Village neighborhood. The original three and a half story building with exterior masonry bearing walls and interior concrete columns beam and slabs, built in 1936 and vacant since 2002, will house recreated exhibition apartments, galleries, public programming areas and offices for the museum and related programs. The museum will occupy the southern and western wings of the building (approximately 22,000 sf) while the northern wing of the building (approximately 18,000 sf) will remain unoccupied and set aside for future office space. The project scope includes the restoration of the existing masonry walls and concrete structure as well as the installation of a new roof, windows, MEP and Life Safety systems to meet the demands of the museum program. A new entry canopy, vestibule
and lobby will be built facing Ada Street and new elevator and stair towers will be built in the courtyard to provide access and emergency egress from all levels. The west side of the first floor will be lowered to provide accessible at-grade entry, and a larger entry lobby and event space with access to a courtyard that will house seven restored historic animal sculptures by Edgar Miller that were the original focal point of the Jane Addams Homes.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under 36 CFR Part 800, was executed in 1998 between the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Chicago, and the Advisory County on Historic Preservation. The MOA expired December 31, 2003. Based on the MOA the Jane Addams Homes complex was determined 1994 to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP). However, demolition of all but one of the complex structures constituted an adverse effect. The MOA also indicated that there was no potential for archeological sites within the area of potential effect.

On June 10, 2020, Robert F. Appleman, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, advised that the no historic properties are affected, as defined by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

As required by Section 106, NEH is providing the public with information about this project, as well as an opportunity to comment on any knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the proposed project area, and issues relating to the project’s potential effects on historic properties. Comments may be submitted to the NEH by e-mail to FPO@neh.gov. The deadline for submitting comments is July 10, 2020.