Pauli Murray Center for History & Social Justice Receives Competitive Grant from Institute of Museum and Library Services

Durham, North Carolina — June 14, 2024

The Pauli Murray Center for History & Social Justice is proud to announce its selection as one of the recipients of the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The Institute of Museum and Library Services, which is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums, will grant $330,800 in federal funding to activate the creation of exhibits inside Pauli’s childhood home at 906 Carroll Street in the West End of Durham.

The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray was a 20th century African American human rights activist, legal scholar, feminist, poet, Episcopal priest and LGBTQ community member whose pioneering work continues to inspire transformative change. “This investment reinforces how valuable the work of the Pauli Murray Center is,” shared Angela Thorpe Mason, the Center’s Executive Director. “I’m thrilled that we’ve been empowered to share Pauli Murray’s story more expansively—a story that is Black and queer; a story that is wrenching and triumphant. As we navigate an era where amplifying marginalized histories is being composed, this work is invaluable.”

As we celebrate this significant achievement, it's essential to recognize the profound resonance it holds with both the celebration of Juneteenth and Pride month. The selection of the Pauli Murray Center as the recipient of this prestigious grant underscores a commitment to preserving the legacy of an extraordinary black, queer person from the south. Murray's identity as an African American, a feminist, and a member of the LGBTQ community serves as a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of our quest for justice and equality in the world today. In a 1979 lecture, Pauli declared that “true community is based upon equality, mutuality, and reciprocity. It affirms the richness of individual diversity as well as the common human ties that bind us together.” By activating the creation of exhibits within Murray's childhood home, this grant not only honors her legacy but also provides a space for education, reflection, and dialogue on the ongoing struggles for liberation that are central to both Juneteenth and Pride celebrations.

For more information about the Pauli Murray Center for History & Social Justice, please visit www.paulimurraycenter.org.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums. They advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. IMLS envisions a nation where individuals and communities have access to museums and libraries to learn from and be inspired by the trusted information, ideas, and stories they contain about our diverse natural and cultural heritage. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov and follow them on Facebook @USIMLS and X @us_imls.

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