



July 19, 2007

Spertus Institute
of Jewish Studies

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Dear Ms. Beverly and Ms. Fischer:

The Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies is pleased to support your efforts to develop a museum of public housing on the west side of Chicago. We are particularly pleased to write this as we are an institution that includes a long-term museum—Spertus Museum, and we believe that we are sensitive and knowledgeable of the needs and interests of the Chicago community.

We know of no cultural institution in the country devoted to telling the important and complex story of public housing. This far-reaching policy, emanating from the Great Depression, has had a profound impact on hundreds of thousands of Americans throughout the 20th century.

Few cities have had a more dramatic connection to public housing than Chicago. Chicago was home to some of the first urban public efforts in the nation, including some of the largest and most significant developments in terms of the experience of immigrants, migrants and thousands of families who have at one time been in need of subsidized housing.

This new institution will be a wonderful cultural asset not just to Chicago, but also to the nation. The tens-of-thousands of people who visit Chicago each year should find this new museum to be a great learning resource. We look forward to welcoming you to the rich family of Chicago's cultural institutions.

Sincerely,

Howard A. Sulkin, Ph.D.
President

Donna E. Barrows
Chairman of the Board-Elect