

October 13, 2007

Mrs. Deverra Beverly
Ms. Sunny Fischer
Steering Committee Co-chairs
Public Housing Museum
c/o The Richard H Driehaus Foundation
203 North Wabash, Suite 1800
Chicago, Il 60601

Dear Ms. Beverly and Ms. Fischer:

As a CHA Ida B. Wells Alumni Member, current resident and Honorary Mayor of the Bronzeville Community, I am pleased to support your efforts to create a Public Housing Museum at the historically significant Jane Addams Homes located at 1322-24 West Taylor Street.

The Jane Addams Homes was one of three demonstration projects in Chicago built under the Public Works Administration Act, which was created to provide jobs and help revive the Depression-era economy. Vacant since 2002, the three-story building was home to hundreds of CHA families between 1938 and 2002.

To date, no cultural institution in the country is devoted to telling the important and complex story of public housing. This far-reaching policy, grown out of 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 has been home to some of the first urban public housing 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 welcome addition not just to Chicago, but also to the nation. I am particularly delighted that this wonderful cultural asset will be a part of Chicago. I look forward to working with you on this important and historic initiative.

Sincerely,



Herbert Rogers Kent