

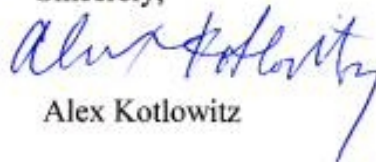
May 16, 2008

Ms. Deverra Beverly
Founding Chair
Mr. Fred Bonner
The National Public Housing Museum
203 N. Wabash, Suite 1800
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Ms. Beverly and Mr. Bonner,

I'm so excited about the prospect of a museum to memorialize public housing in Chicago. For four decades, these high rises and walk-ups stood as cinderblock metaphors for our disregard – some might say outright hostility toward – the poor. Moreover, they were communities often misunderstood. They were places of hope and of despair, of fortitude and of frailty. In other words, there was nothing monolithic about those who inhabited these communities. They struggled against forces that bore down on them; some persevered, others didn't. Chicago's public housing is the story of how we came to view and treat the poor in the last half of the twentieth century, during a time of unprecedented prosperity, during a time when many, far too many, were left behind. What could be more powerful, more original and more important? I wholeheartedly support your efforts, and please if there's anything more I can do, let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alex Kotlowitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Alex Kotlowitz