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An Afternoon of Good Times: with Bern Nadette Stanis aka “Thelma” from Good Times and Tony Allen of the Boston Celtics

Thursday, March 25, 2010— Join the National Public Housing Museum and public housing luminaries as they host *Good Times* actress Bern Nadette Stanis and Boston Celtics guard Tony Allen for “*An Afternoon of Good Times*” from 3 to 6 p.m. April 11, 2010, in the Merchandise Mart North Lobby.

“I want to show that although you come from poverty you can still have wealth within you, you can still be the person you want to be and you can still dream the dreams you want to dream,” said Stanis, the National Spokesperson for the Museum’s “Make Your Mark Campaign” to raise \$1 Million from current and former public housing residents.

The event features an awards ceremony and “Our Stories,” a program featuring the stories of several local and national public housing luminaries. The Museum’s exhibit, “History Coming Home,” will be open a few feet away in the South Lobby.

The Museum will honor awardees, including Founding Chair CHA Commissioner Deverra Beverly, State Senator Mattie Hunter, Chicago Housing Authority CEO Lewis Jordan, Newsweek Contributing Editor Ellis Cose and restaurateur Dick Portillo.

“We are the sum of our stories,” said NPHM Executive Director Keith Magee. “Living up to the dream of NPHM Founding Chair Deverra Beverly, ‘Our Stories’ will share the stories of the countless Americans who have called public housing home. We will make the walls talk as we reveal, share and preserve this important dynamic of America and her history.”

Sunny Fischer, Executive Director of The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, will receive the Keeper of the Vision Award.

“The National Public Housing Museum is really the ‘keeper of the vision’ because it holds the stories of hundreds of thousands of people whose lives would otherwise be ignored,” Fischer said. “The stories of public housing are the stories of home and taken together are a part of American history and social culture that should be told. I’m honored to be a part of making it happen.”

Our Stories Sponsors:



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The National Public Housing Museum is the first cultural institution dedicated to interpreting the American experience in public housing and illuminating the resilience of poor and working class families of every race and ethnicity. The Museum is slated to open in 2012 and will be located in the last remaining building of the Jane Addams Homes, a 1937 WPA building that was home to hundreds of public housing families until 2002.