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National Public Housing Museum honors public housing luminaries at *An Afternoon of Good Times* with actress Bern Nadette Stanis and Boston Celtics guard Tony Allen

Monday, April 12, 2010-- The North Lobby of the Merchandise Mart was packed Sunday afternoon as public housing luminaries, friends and family gathered to celebrate the successes of former and current public housing residents and the success of the Museum itself.

Among the honorees, presenters and guests in attendance were Good Times actress Bern Nadette Stanis, Boston Celtics guard Tony Allen, restaurateur Dick Portillo, Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun, Senator Mattie Hunter, CHA Commissioner Deverra Beverly, Alderman Bob Fioretti, Sunny Fischer, Executive Director of the Richard Driehaus Foundation and Laurenette Dugas, the daughter of Robert Taylor.

“An Afternoon of Good Times” was a moving and inspiring afternoon of stories,” Fischer said. “Each one just added to the evidence that public housing, as hard as it was sometimes to live there, produced strong, successful people. Each awardee made it even more obvious that we need a Museum to be the home for their stories.”

National Public Housing Museum Executive Director Keith Magee was overwhelmed with the turn out, noting that “An Afternoon of Good Times” will become an annual event.

“An Afternoon of Good Times spoke to the diversity and the need to share the compelling stories of public housing, Magee said. “From the emotional response, to Tony Allen’s accolades, to his mother’s success who raised him in public housing, to the remarkable journey of Ellis Cose from Henry Horner to Newsweek, to the memories of Tony Basile in the Old Town Boys and Girls Club originally housed in the basement of Jane Addams, we were able to learn and experience our stories.”

Dick Portillo, founder and owner of the Portillo Group, told the audience how honored he was to be a part of the event.

“I was humbled by being in the same circle as these wonderful honorees,” Portillo said later.

“The diverse group of honorees and presenters brought to the forefront the understanding that public housing is not bound by class, race or ethnicity,” Magee said. “Public housing is an American experience; an experience that must be shared and remembered.”

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Honorees and Presenters:

Hallie Amey	Dr. Mildred Harris
Anthony Basile	Ald. Fioretti
Ellis Cose	Sylvester Monroe
John Hannah	Alderman Pat Dowell
Marshall Hatch	Darlena Williams-Burnett
Mattie Hunter	Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun
Lewis Jordan	Mark Segal
Dick Portillo	Alderman Walter Burnett
Deverra Beverly	Tony Allen
Sunny Fischer	Bern Nadette Stanis

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.

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