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The Ford Foundation 75th Anniversary “The Just City” welcomes History Coming Home to NYC.

July 15, 2011 - Marking its 75th anniversary, the Ford Foundation held “The Just City: Creating A New Geography of Opportunity.” The Forum brought together some of the most creative minds in metropolitan development including civic leaders and policymakers, urban designers and entrepreneurs to explore how fairness, opportunity and equity can serve as the defining features of this new era of urbanization. Along with the Forum is an exhibit exploring “The Just City” that includes the National Public Housing Museum’s “History Coming Home,” an exhibit about home and shelter, triumph and resilience, inclusion and isolation, security and opportunity. The Ford installation includes the history, public policy, and photographs from the Museum’s collection.

“As part of the Ford Foundation’s celebration of its 75th anniversary, the Just City affirmed the Foundation’s view that attending to social justice and regional equity are compulsory elements if we hope to establish prosperous and sustainable cities and metropolitan regions. In the event, we hoped to confront old assumptions, challenge long-held myths, and suggest important new ways to work together to promote new geographies of opportunity,” said Metropolitan Opportunity Director George McCarthy. “We asked the National Public Housing Museum to join us in this endeavor in order to interrogate misapprehensions about public housing; to suggest that public housing is not only part of the narrative of the history of cities, but an important component of the Just City of the future. We wanted to remind people that public housing has been and will remain a window to opportunity for residents, and that public housing will represent a critical component of the housing stock of every world-class city in the future.”

"All of us at the National Public Housing Museum are deeply honored to have been invited to be a part of the Ford Foundation's "The Just City" program, and to participate in the Foundation's 75th anniversary celebration," said NPHM Chairman of the Board Mark J. Schulte. "We are deeply grateful for the support and assistance the Ford Foundation provides to us, and more importantly, we appreciate their recognition of the Museum's mission, purpose and message for past, present and future public housing residents and their stories."

Others included in Ford’s 75th Anniversary The Just City exhibit are “Small Scale, Big Change: New Architectures of Social Engagement,” The Museum of Modern Art; Painting Urbanism: Learning From Rio,” Haas & Hahn, Storefront for Art and Architecture and Map Paintings by Paula Scher.

“The inclusion of “History Coming Home” in the conversation is essential in considering a “The Just City,” said NPHM President & CEO Keith L. Magee. “The ideal city is a true American city which is one that is all inclusive and ensures all voices are heard—the poor, working, middle and wealthy classes.”

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The National Public Housing Museum is a living cultural experience where social justice and human rights embrace. It is the first 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 for a phased opening beginning in 2012.