

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Charnley-Persky House Awarded Pandemic Recovery Grant from the American Historical Association

CHICAGO, March 29, 2022 — The Charnley-Persky House Museum Foundation has been awarded funding from the American Historical Association's Grants to Sustain and Advance the Work of Historical Organizations Program for the project *The City Beyond the White City: Race, Two Chicago Homes, and their Neighborhoods*. The AHA grant provides relief to institutions adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This opportunity was made possible with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Pauline Saliga, executive director of both the Society of Architectural Historians and the Charnley-Persky House, commented, "We are very grateful to AHA for providing funding to complete an exhibit featuring historic photographs, maps, music, and 19<sup>th</sup>-century objects that were unearthed in two archaeological digs at Charnley-Persky House and Mecca Flats in the 2010s. Co-curated by Dr. Rebecca Graff, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Lake Forest College, and myself, this exhibit is a springboard for discussing how structural racism has shaped Chicago's built environment. We also intentionally planned accompanying online programs and educational resources so teachers, students and public audiences everywhere can easily access this interpretation of Chicago's history."

The project is a physical and online exhibit, with virtual programming, that explores the history of race and the built environment in Chicago through the 1893 Worlds' Columbian Exposition and two 1892 home sites. The first homesite is the Charnley-Persky House (Adler and Sullivan, with Frank Lloyd Wright), an elite white residence in Chicago's Gold Coast long studied for its architectural significance as an example of Louis Sullivan's and Frank Lloyd Wright's residential designs. The second homesite, located in Chicago's Near South Side, is Mecca Flats (Edbrooke and Burnham), which was built to house attendees of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. Later, it became a center of the Black Metropolis during the Great Migration (1915–1970) and was demolished in 1952 via urban renewal and its concomitant structures of racism. Scheduled to open in September 2022, the exhibition will bring together documents, oral histories, and 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century artifacts unearthed in archaeological digs at the Charnley-Persky House and Mecca Flats to interpret a nuanced public history of race and place in Chicago for student and public audiences.

The Charnley-Persky House is one of fifty grant recipients, which include site-based organizations, membership associations, and history departments at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. To learn more about the Charnley-Persky House's grant project and for the full list of recipients, please [visit the AHA website](#).

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## ABOUT THE CHARNLEY-PERSKY HOUSE MUSEUM FOUNDATION

The National Historic Landmark [Charnley-Persky House](#), designed by Adler and Sullivan with Frank Lloyd Wright (1891–1892), is recognized as a pivotal work of modern American residential architecture. Located in Chicago's Gold Coast neighborhood, the building welcomes local, national, and international visitors throughout the year through guided tours and public programs. The house serves as the international headquarters of the Society of Architectural Historians.

## ABOUT THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1884 and incorporated by Congress in 1889 for the promotion of historical studies, the [American Historical Association](#) provides leadership for the discipline and promotes the critical role of historical thinking in public life. The Association defends academic freedom, develops professional standards, supports innovative scholarship and teaching, and helps to sustain and enhance the work of historians. As the largest membership association of professional historians in the world (nearly 12,000 members), the AHA serves historians in a wide variety of professions and represents every historical era and geographical area.

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).

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