

# **WHEN PUBLIC HOUSING WAS PARADISE**



**Building Community  
In Chicago**

**J. S. FUERST**

with the assistance of D. Bradford Hunt

# When Public Housing Was Paradise When Public Housing Was Paradise

**United States. Congress. House.  
Select Committee on Lobbying  
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## **When Public Housing Was Paradise When Public Housing Was Paradise:**

**When Public Housing was Paradise** J. S. Fuerst, 2005 Collecting seventy nine oral histories from former public housing residents and staff J S Fuerst's *When Public Housing Was Paradise* is a powerful testament to the fact that well designed well managed low rent housing has worked as well as a demonstration of how it could be made to work again J S Fuerst has been involved with public housing in Chicago for more than half a century He retired from Loyola University where he was a professor of social welfare policy He was the editor of *Public Housing in Europe and America* D Bradford Hunt is an assistant professor of social science at Roosevelt University John Hope Franklin is James B Duke Professor Emeritus of History at Duke University He has served as president of the Organization of American Historians the American Historical Association and many more

**When Public Housing was Paradise** J. S. Fuerst, 2003-08-30 This collection of 79 oral histories offers a remarkable window into public housing's past in Chicago through the voices of its former residents and staff Public housing was once a paradise of good housing positive community and careful management a past that offers a blueprint for public housing's future As John Hope Franklin suggested Fuerst has given us something about which to ponder quite seriously Fuerst offers a collection of 79 oral histories of former public housing residents and staff in Chicago The voices remember a time between 1938 and 1960 when public housing offered low income families desirable and attractive housing a strong sense of community and a supportive environment for children and families Public housing also served as an engine of upward mobility into the middle class and beyond particularly for African Americans Repeatedly and emphatically former residents describe positive experiences communal feeling and real gain from project life They attribute much of this success to careful management by the program's early administrators several of whom are interviewed The remarkable and surprising stories told about project life about family and work about race and community offer a window into a time that has largely been forgotten as the more recent decline of public housing has overshadowed the history of success documented here Yet this past must be remembered because the policies in place when public housing was paradise offer a path for revitalizing a much needed program As John Hope Franklin points out Fuerst has given us something about which to ponder quite seriously Or as Studs Terkel notes Fuerst who was there from the moment of creation has put together a marvelous book It is a collage of memories from those who recall the beauty that was there and the something bleak that has been manufactured This work is full of heroes the tenants of public housing today It should be must reading especially for young journalists who would seek the truth of what we patronizingly call the inner city An important resource for scholars students professionals and interested readers concerned with urban life in America

**Public Housing That Worked** Nicholas Dagen Bloom, 2014-08-04 When it comes to large scale public housing in the United States the consensus for the past decades has been to let the wrecking balls fly The demolition of infamous projects such as Pruitt Igoe in St Louis and the towers of Cabrini Green in Chicago represents to most Americans the fate of all public housing Yet one notable exception to

this national tragedy remains The New York City Housing Authority America's largest public housing manager still maintains over 400 000 tenants in its vast and well run high rise projects While by no means utopian New York City's public housing remains an acceptable and affordable option The story of New York's success where so many other housing authorities faltered has been ignored for too long Public Housing That Worked shows how New York's administrators beginning in the 1930s developed a rigorous system of public housing management that weathered a variety of social and political challenges A key element in the long term viability of New York's public housing has been the constant search for better methods in fields such as tenant selection policing renovation community affairs and landscape design Nicholas Dagen Bloom presents the achievements that contradict the common wisdom that public housing projects are inherently unmanageable By focusing on what worked rather than on the conventional history of failure and blame Bloom provides useful models for addressing the current crisis in affordable urban housing Public Housing That Worked is essential reading for practitioners and scholars in the areas of public policy urban history planning criminal justice affordable housing management social work and urban affairs

*The Mutual Housing Experiment* Kristin M Szylvian, 2015-06-12 In the series Urban Life Landscape and Policy edited by Zane L Miller David Stradling and Larry Bennett

After the Shock City Tom Hulme, 2019 A comparative and trans national study of urban culture in Britain and the United States from the late nineteenth to the twentieth century Using the industrial cities of Manchester and Chicago as case studies this book traces the idea of citizenship across different areas of local life in the first half of the twentieth century from philosophy and festivals to historical re enactment and public housing Coalitions of voluntary associations municipal government and local elites lambasted modern urban culture as the cause of social disintegration But rather than simply decanting the population to new and smaller settlements they tried to re imagine a reformed city as a place that could foster loyal and healthy communities Celebrating civic progress in the period since the shock city of the nineteenth century they sought to create a sense of local pride that could bracket growing class and racial tensions The diverse individuals groups and communities of the city reacted in different ways to this message Some were happy to gather under the identity of one civic banner Others held back by discriminatory structures of society chose to shape their own idea of citizenship one that looked far beyond the city for a sense of belonging and rights Historians have tended to emphasise the rise of national identity state centralisation and popular patriotism at the expense of distinctive local identities municipal autonomy and expressions of civic pride This book aims to redress the imbalance demonstrating how local ideas of belonging could still exert a powerful hold on the making of modern citizenship

TOM HULME is a lecturer in the School of History Anthropology Philosophy and Politics Queen's University Belfast

Mayor Harold Washington Roger Biles, 2018-05-10 Raised in a political family on Chicago's South Side Harold Washington made history as the city's first African American mayor His 1983 electoral triumph fueled by overwhelming black support represented victory over the Chicago Machine and business as usual Yet the racially charged campaign heralded an era of bitter political divisiveness that

obstructed his efforts to change city government Roger Biles s sweeping biography provides a definitive account of Washington and his journey from the state legislature to the mayoralty Once in City Hall Washington confronted the back room deals aldermanic thuggery open corruption and palm greasing that fueled the city s autocratic political regime His alternative a vision of fairness transparency neighborhood empowerment and balanced economic growth at one with his emergence as a dynamic champion for African American uplift and a crusader for progressive causes Biles charts the countless infamies of the Council Wars era and Washington s own growth through his winning of a second term a promise of lasting reform left unfulfilled when the mayor died in 1987 Original and authoritative Mayor Harold Washington redefines a pivotal era in Chicago s modern history The Third Coast Thomas L. Dyja,2013-04-18 Winner of the Chicago Tribune s 2013 Heartland Prize A critically acclaimed history of Chicago at mid century featuring many of the incredible personalities that shaped American culture Before air travel overtook trains nearly every coast to coast journey included a stop in Chicago and this flow of people and commodities made it the crucible for American culture and innovation In luminous prose Chicago native Thomas Dyja re creates the story of the city in its postwar prime and explains its profound impact on modern America from Chess Records to Playboy McDonald s to the University of Chicago Populated with an incredible cast of characters including Mahalia Jackson Muddy Waters Howlin Wolf Chuck Berry Sun Ra Simone de Beauvoir Nelson Algren Gwendolyn Brooks Studs Turkel and Mayor Richard J Daley The Third Coast recalls the prominence of the Windy City in all its grandeur

**Hearings Before the House Select Committee on Lobbying Activities, House of Representatives, Eighty-first Congress, Second Session, Created Pursuant to H. Res. 298, March 27, 28, and 30, 1950** United States. Congress. House. Select Committee on Lobbying Activities,1950 **Hearings Before the House Select Committee on Lobbying Activities, House of Representatives, Eighty-first Congress, Second Session, Created Pursuant to H. Res. 298** United States. Congress. House. Select Committee on Lobbying Activities,1950 *Hearings Before the House Select Committee on Lobbying Activities* United States. Congress. House. Select Committee on Lobbying Activities,1950

Uncover the mysteries within is enigmatic creation, Discover the Intrigue in **When Public Housing Was Paradise When Public Housing Was Paradise** . This downloadable ebook, shrouded in suspense, is available in a PDF format ( \*). Dive into a world of uncertainty and anticipation. Download now to unravel the secrets hidden within the pages.

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