

Media Advisory

Media Contacts

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Meeting History: A Garfield Park Citizen Archive By Samantha Cabrera Friend, CatchLight Local Fellow

Public exhibition at the Chicago Public Library | Sept. 2, 2021 – Nov. 15, 2021
Virtual panel | Sept. 17, 2021

“Meeting History: A Garfield Park Citizen Archive” is a community-based visual storytelling and archival project that seeks to explore and bring awareness to existing legacies of Black residents from Chicago’s West Side. This collaborative project offers a visual history of Garfield Park that centers historical Black joy, ownership, legacy and preservation through the use of citizen archives.

This project is a collaboration between the **CatchLight Local Chicago Visual Desk**, led by CatchLight Local Chicago Fellow **Samantha Cabrera Friend**, **ProPublica** and the **Institute for Nonprofit News**. The Chicago visual desk is supported by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

A selection of Cabrera Friend’s photographs will be **published by ProPublica in September** as accompaniment to a 2020 ProPublica story on systemic disinvestment on the West Side, reported by Tony Briscoe, Haru Coryne and Mick Dumke [here](#).

Elements of the project will be on view at the **Chicago Public Library’s Legler Regional Library**, located in the West Garfield Park neighborhood, from **Sept. 2, 2021 – Nov. 15, 2021**. The exhibition will include contemporary portraiture of project participants photographed by Cabrera Friend on a large format camera, vernacular imagery and oral histories.

On **September 17 at 6 p.m.** (CDT), join CatchLight and ProPublica for a **virtual panel discussion** about “Meeting History”. The panel will be moderated by Tony Briscoe of ProPublica and will include project participant Annette Britton, artist [Samantha Cabrera Friend](#), Stacie Williams, Division Chief, Archives and Special Collections, at the Chicago Public Library, and a member of The [Blackivists](#), a Chicago-based collective of professional Black archivists. The discussion will be live streamed via [Crowdcast](#) and interactive. A recording will be made available at a later date.

CatchLight Local Visual Desk in Chicago

Samantha Cabrera Friend is one of the five visual storytellers awarded a fellowship as part of [CatchLight Local Chicago](#). In 2020, CatchLight Local launched a [visual desk in Chicago](#), building on the learnings from the Bay Area pilot. Looking to build a new model for sustainable visual journalism that deeply engages audiences and communities at the local level, CatchLight Local pairs local newsrooms with its program fellows, visual journalists and assignment editors. The model begins and returns to the community bringing the visual storytelling process directly to community members through public art activations.

“Meeting History: A Garfield Park Citizen Archive” Project information

- **Public Exhibition Sept. 2, 2021 – Nov. 15, 2021**

Legler Regional Library, Chicago Public Library
115 S Pulaski Rd, Chicago, IL 60624

- **Virtual Panel – 6pm (CDT), Friday, Sept. 17, 2021**

The virtual panel will be held via Crowdcast. Register [HERE](#) for the virtual event.

About CatchLight

[CatchLight](#), is a nonprofit media organization leveraging the power of visuals to inform, connect and transform communities. Borrowing from the practices of art, journalism, and social justice, it believes in the power of visual storytelling to foster a more nuanced and empathetic understanding of the world. It serves as a transformational force, urgently bringing resources and organizations together to better inform and connect communities. Its goal is to discover, develop, and amplify visual storytellers at all levels.

About ProPublica

[ProPublica](#) is an independent, nonprofit newsroom that produces investigative journalism with moral force. We dig deep into important issues, shining a light on abuses of power and betrayals of public trust – and we stick with those issues as long as it takes to hold power to account.

About Institute for Nonprofit News

[Institute for Nonprofit News \(INN\)](#) strengthens and supports more than 300 independent news organizations in a new kind of media network: nonprofit, nonpartisan, and dedicated to public service. The INN community shares best practices, collaborates on stories, pools resources, and receives cutting-edge training in professional, organizational, and business development

About Chicago Public Library

Since 1873, Chicago Public Library (CPL) has encouraged lifelong learning by welcoming all people and offering equal access to information, entertainment, and knowledge through innovative services and programs, as well as cutting-edge technology. Through its 81 locations, the Library provides free access to a rich collection of materials, both physical and digital, and presents the highest quality author discussions, exhibits and programs for children, teens, and adults. For more information, please call (312) 747-4300 or visit [chipublib.org](#). To follow CPL on social media, visit us on Twitter ([@chipublib](#)), Facebook ([Chicago Public Library](#)), or Instagram ([@chicagopubliclibrary](#)).

Captions from left to right:

Marshall Elijah Hatch Sr. Marshall Elijah Hatch Sr. Voices of New Mt. Pilgrim Vinyl, Mid to early 1970's, Recorded Live Featuring "Well Done" © Garfield Park Citizen Archives 2021, Scanned by CatchLight Local Fellow Samantha Cabrera Friend

LaShone Kelly: Garfield Park, October 1961 © Garfield Park Citizen Archives 2021, Scanned by CatchLight Local Fellow Samantha Cabrera Friend
LaShone Kelly and family on Walnut St, June 5, 2021. Photo by CatchLight Local Fellow Samantha Cabrera Friend