

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN THE REGIONS...

February 2011

A MONTHLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Money-Making and Public Art-Loving: The Image of Chicago

Kids slide down the base of the Picasso statue in Chicago. Tourists stare at themselves and the skyline in the surface of "The Bean." Nine-to-fivers shuffle under the red Calder piece in the Federal Plaza to their offices five days a week. Not only does the public visit, interact, and play with Chicago's outdoor art, but the city's image has been shaped by many of these large, accessible pieces. Yet who owns public art? Who can financially benefit from the reproduction of these pieces?

In 1967, the City of Chicago Public Building Commission claimed they maintained the copyright to the Chicago Picasso statue. They created and distributed a policy statement regarding the use and sale of reproductions. For example, one stipulation was that the city would grant licenses to parties interested in making two-dimensional (postcards, photographs, books) reproductions for gift or profit for \$250 and royalties of five percent.

The Letter Edged in Black Press, Inc. challenged the city's claim of copyright in a 1969 civil court case in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division. They argued that interested parties should be allowed to reproduce the image of the Chicago Picasso statue without paying the city a fee or providing a percentage of the royalties from products. Their argument asserted that Pablo Picasso had presented his work as gift to the people of Chicago, and that the image of the statue was already in use and in the public domain prior to a copyright plaque being attached.

The court ruled in favor of the plaintiff, The Letter Edged in Black Press, Inc., and stated that the city could not charge for reproductions. The Chicago Picasso was free and open to the public.

While this case, 69C353, *The Letter Edged in Black Press, Inc. vs. Public Building Commission of Chicago*, presents an interesting tale of copyright law and public art in the sixties, it also highlights the story of Chicago's Picasso. The plaintiff's request for documents and the admission of facts contain an entire treasure trove of records. These include correspondence between William Hartman, Public Building Commission of Chicago members, Pablo Picasso, and the Art Institute; plans for the sculpture and plaque; dedication ceremony

materials; affidavits from those involved in the statue's construction; initial postcards for sale in the Art Institute; and businesses requests to use the image to capture the creation of a piece of art synonymous with the City of Chicago.

Next time you're in Chicago pay our Picasso a visit and look for any signs of the old copyright statement ©1967 Public Buildings Commission. Then stop by and visit our facility at 7358 S. Pulaski Road in Chicago to examine the entire court case.

In the meantime, you can view sample documents from this case on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/nationalarchiveschicago. Further information on U.S. District Court records found in Record Group 21 for the Great Lakes states can be found online at <http://www.archives.gov/great-lakes/holdings/rg-001-049.html>

The Chicago Picasso statue after installation, but before the dedication ceremony on August 15, 1967 (left), and the statue unveiled. Photographs from case 69C353: *The Letter Edged in Black Press, Inc. vs. Public Building Commission of Chicago* in records of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, RG 21.



NARA WestCoast February 2011

Row of school desk outside in snow.

Photographs and other graphic materials from Sir Henry Solomon Wellcome Collection, 1853-1936
Item from Collection WME: Sir Henry Wellcome Collection, 1856-1936
Courtesy of National Archives at Anchorage



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
Exhibit: Seattle, WA "Faces of the Pacific Northwest" Ongoing					Fort Collins, CO Colorado State University Continuing Education Genealogical Discussion Group 9 A.M. Workshop General Public 303-407-5749	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
				Seattle, WA "Brick Wall" Genealogical Discussion Group 11:30 A.M.-1 P.M. Workshop Genealogists 206-336-5115	Fort Collins, CO Colorado State University Continuing Education Genealogy 8 A.M. Workshop Academicians 303-407-5749 Denver, CO NOAA Tour and Presentation 2 P.M. Lecture and Tour Federal Agencies 303-407-5749	Seattle, WA Martin Luther King Church Genealogy Kids TBA Workshop K-12 Students 206-336-5115
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
					Denver, CO Colorado State University Continuing Education Research Experience 8 A.M. Workshop and Tour General Public 303-407-5749 Denver, CO Colorado State University Continuing Education Genealogy Workshop 9 A.M. Workshop and Tour Academicians 303-407-5749	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					Fort Collins, CO Local Cable Channel Genealogy Interview Genealogical Discussion Group 8 P.M. General Public 303-407-5749	Seattle, WA Museum of History and Industry "Primary Source Documents" 9 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 206-336-5115
27	28	Exhibit: Juneau, AK "Alaska Library Association Conference" 2/17-20/2011				

The National Archives at	Riverside 951-956-2000 riverside.archives@nara.gov	San Francisco 650-238-3501 sanbruno.archives@nara.gov	Denver 303-407-5740 denver.archives@nara.gov	Seattle 206-336-5115 seattle.archives@nara.gov
				Anchorage 907-261-7800 alaska.archives@nara.gov



NARA EastCoast February 2011

Old Bean Station Inn, now a tourist home.
Records of the Tennessee Valley Authority,
1918-2000, Record Group 142
Courtesy of National Archives at Atlanta



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
		1	2	3	4	5	
Exhibit: New York City, NY "The Ringling Bros. and Barnum Go to Court" Ongoing		Waltham, MA Researching African American Genealogy 2 P.M. Lecture and Tour General Public 866-406-2379		Pittsfield, MA Women in the Berkshires 10 A.M. Radio Program General Public 413-236-3604 Pittsfield, MA Beginning Your Genealogy at the National Archives 11 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600 Waltham, MA Exploring Our Civil Rights 6 P.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 866-406-2379		Philadelphia, PA First Friday Genealogy Open House Noon Genealogists 215-606-0100	Morrow, GA Congressman David Scott Program 8:30 A.M. Conference General Public 770-968-2555
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
		Waltham, MA Census, Passenger Lists, and Naturalizations 2 P.M. Lecture and Tour Genealogists 866-406-2379		Pittsfield, MA Using Census Records at the National Archives 11 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Exhibit: Philadelphia, PA "Blasting Through the Silence: The Allegheny Arsenal Explosion of 1862 and the Creation of Public Memory" Ongoing			Morrow, GA Home School History 10 A.M. Guided Group K-12 Students 770-968-2530			Morrow, GA African American Heritage Day Celebration 10 A.M. Open House General Public 770-968-2555	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
		Quincy, MA Adams National Historical Park 4 P.M. Lecture General Public 866-406-2379	Waltham, MA Genealogy for Kids 10 A.M. Workshop and Tour K-12 Students 866-406-2379	Pittsfield, MA Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor at the National Archives 11 A.M. Workshop Genealogists 413-236-3600		Morrow, GA Continuing Journey of the Generations 9 A.M. Conference General Public 770-968-2555	
27	28	Exhibit: Morrow, GA "Revisiting the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement Through an Activist's Lens: A Documentary Photography Exhibit in Black and White" 12/18/10-2/28/11					

The National
Archives at

Pittsfield
413-236-3600
pittsfield.archives@nara.gov

Boston
866-406-2379
waltham.archives@nara.gov

New York City
866-840-1752
newyork.archives@nara.gov

Philadelphia
215-606-0100
philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

Atlanta
770-968-2100
atlanta.archives@nara.gov



NARA Midwest February 2011

Woman in shawl stands in snow outside cabin, ca 1935.
Records of District Courts of the United States, Record Group 75
Courtesy of National Archives at Kansas City



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
Exhibit: Kansas City, MO "Documented Rights" 11/2/10-3/19/11						Kansas City, MO "In Cold Blood" 1 P.M. Film Screening General Public 816-268-8000
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
						Kansas City, MO "Ride with the Devil" 1 P.M. Film Screening General Public 816-268-8000
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Exhibit: Chicago, IL "James B. Parsons: More Than a Judge" Ongoing					Kansas City, MO Alien Files (A-Files) for Genealogy 1 P.M. Lecture Genealogists 816-268-8000	Kansas City, MO Introduction to Archives Management 8 A.M. Lecture Graduate Students 816-268-8000 Raymore, MO Introduction to Naturalization Records 9:30 A.M. Lecture Genealogists 816-268-8000
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				Kansas City, MO The Barnstormer and the Lady 6 P.M. Author Event: Mary Lynn Beech Oliver and Dennis Farney Public Reading General Public 816-268-8000	Kansas City, MO Documented Rights and Documented Wrongs 10 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 4 P.M. Exhibition Tour and Reception 816-268-8000	Kansas City, MO DocsTeach-a New Online Tool for Teaching with Documents 10 A.M. Workshop K-12 Teachers 816-268-8000
27	28	Exhibit: Kansas City, MO "Cowboys, Quacks, and Carousels: Stories of Kansas" 2/15/11-5/28/11				
				Exhibit: Chicago, IL "Becoming American: Immigrants, the Federal Courts in Chicago, and the Expansion of Citizenship, 1872-1991" Ongoing		

The National Archives at	Chicago 773-948-9001 chicago.archives@nara.gov	Kansas City 816-268-8000 kansascity.archives@nara.gov	St. Louis 314-801-0850 Archival Programs Division	Fort Worth 817-831-5620 ftworth.archives@nara.gov
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