

WOODLAWN



Welcome!

**WOODLAWN
& SOUTH LAKEFRONT
TOURISM
CENTER**

6431 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago

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Hero Ascending

RICHARD HUNT
Sculpture Garden
at the Till Museum

One of the last public sculptures Richard Hunt designed will be placed near the home of Mamie Elizabeth Till Mobley and her son Emmett Till in West Woodlawn, Chicago.

Hunt's contribution to the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley House Museum is *Hero Ascending* (2024), a soaring fifteen-foot-tall monument of steel. The cast bronze maquette of *Hero Ascending* rises out of an angular base and transforms into organic forms reaching out and up. Hunt's design evokes a bird the moment it is about to take flight, or a blossoming flower about to open, or the spirit of aspiration.

Hero Ascending completes the work Hunt started in his basement studio nearly seventy years earlier when he created a tribute, *Hero's Head* (1956), to grapple with terror of racism. Now, Hunt is providing us with everything that *Hero's Head* did for him. *Hero Ascending* will be an indelible memorial to those lost to racial violence and provide a soaring monument to a new future.

Once completed, the sculpture will add to national efforts to commemorate the legacy of Emmett Till and his mother. The Emmett Till and Mamie Till Mobley National Monument was established by President Joe Biden in 2023 in several locations, including Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, where funeral services for Till were held September 3-6, 1955.



EMMETT TILL & MAMIE TILL MOBLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

and Richard Hunt Sculpture Garden

Here, we will honor the beauty of Black childhood, the power of a mother's love, and the enduring impact of one Great Migration family—whose story helped awaken the conscience of a nation.

**COURAGE
FORGIVENESS
INDUSTRY
CREATIVITY
GENIUS
SOUL
DIGNITY
FAITH
LOVE**

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TILL™



**WOODLAWN
& SOUTH LAKEFRONT
TOURISM
CENTER**



GREAT MIGRATION GUEST HOUSE



**AFFORDABLE LUXURY
3 BRMS/SLEEPS 6 + 1.5 BA
COOK'S KITCHEN
DECK & GARDEN ACCESS
WASHER/DRYER
WALK TO GREENLINE &
OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER
FREE STREAMING & WIFI**



**WOODLAWN
& SOUTH LAKEFRONT
TOURISM
CENTER**



VISITORS LOUNGE & CAFE



- TOUR INFO & BUS DEPARTURES**
- COFFEE & GIFT SHOP**
- PRIVATE EVENT CATERING**
- CONFERENCES & COURSES**
- CUSTOM EXPERIENCES**
- PERFORMANCES**
- DECK & GARDEN ACCESS**
- FULL MEDIA & WIFI**
- WALK TO GREENLINE
& OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER**



WOODLAWN & SOUTH LAKEFRONT TOURISM CENTER



BUSINESS HUB



**BOOKING OPTIONS:
HOUR- DAY-WEEK- MONTH-YEAR
BIOMETRIC LOCKS
BRING YOUR LAPTOP & TEAM
KEY CONTROL COPIER
STAFFING AVAILABLE**



WOODLAWN
SOUTH LAKEFRONT
TOURISM
CENTER

SHRINE OF THE GREAT MIGRATION

Former Lincoln Memorial Congregational UCC Church

6454 S. Champlain - West Woodlawn

SANCTUARY SEATS 500

FORMAL & INFORMAL GATHERINGS

BASEMENT WITH STAGE & AMPLE OPEN SPACE

AVAILABLE FOR SUNDAY RENTALS, WEDDINGS, CONCERTS

COMMUNITY ENERGY ~ RESILIENCE ~ PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

COMMUNITY HALL & YOUTH REPERTORY THEATRE WITH COMMERCIAL KITCHEN

FIND YOUR WAY HERE

Woodlawn

PLACE OF PIONEERS

Home of

OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER

EMMETT & MAMIE TILL MOBLEY HOUSE MUSEUM

DUSABLE BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM & EDUCATION CENTER

with Blacks in Green

Great Migration Wayfinding Signage Series

WEST WOODLAWN

West Woodlawn stands as one of the most revealing and powerful urban stories in America—a place where prairie became suburb, suburb became a center of Black aspiration during the Great Migration, and that same community became a frontline in the national struggles over segregation, disinvestment, and self-determination. Academic research from the Chicago History Museum and the University of Chicago shows that Woodlawn was never simply a “neighborhood in decline,” but rather a place shaped by powerful external forces—restrictive covenants, urban renewal policies, and economic restructuring—alongside equally powerful internal forces of organizing, culture, and resilience. Scholars such as Horace Cayton document how policy and economic shifts concentrated hardship, while the rise of The Woodlawn Organization demonstrates that Woodlawn also helped invent modern community organizing and resistance. Today, as Woodlawn stands at the threshold of reinvestment anchored by the Obama Presidential Center, its history offers not only lessons of injustice, but a blueprint for regeneration rooted in land, culture, and community power. For Blacks in Green, this body of research affirms that West Woodlawn is not a case study of loss—it is a national model in the making, where the next chapter can be authored intentionally through the Sustainable Square Mile.



**SOUTH
LAKEFRONT
COMMUNITIES**

Bronzeville

Hyde Park

Woodlawn

South Shore

Chatham

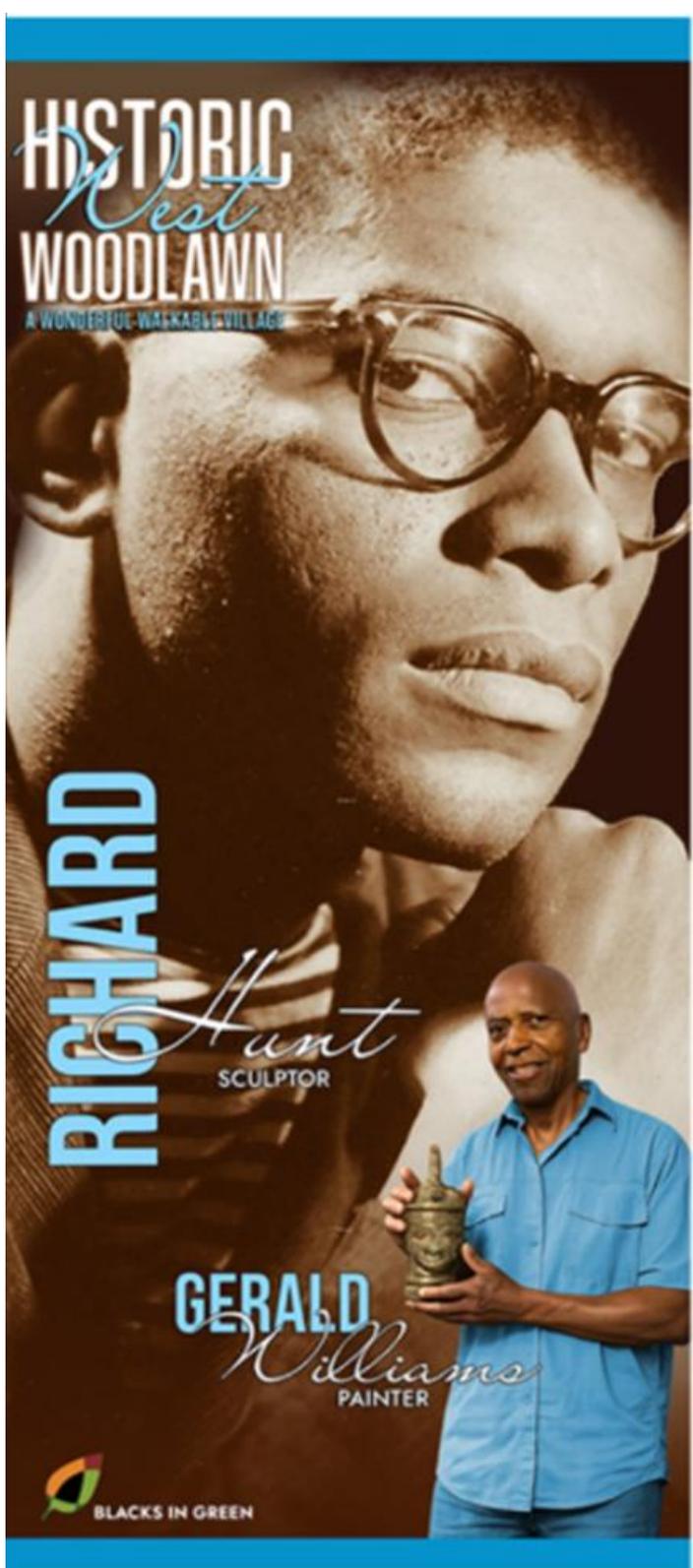
East Side

Hegewisch

Altgeld Gardens

Riverdale

**“ANCESTORS
& LIVING
LUMINARIES”
SIGNAGE
SERIES**



An Initiative of the Blacks in Green
West Woodlawn Sustainable Square
Mile & Great Migration Guest House

WOODLAWN
TOUR

CUSTOM PROGRAMS

THE 5TH PRINCIPLE OF
*"Each village celebrates its
culture through stories in print"*

FOR GROUPS

BUS & WALKING TOURS

BOOKS MAPS

VIDEOS

TEES HATS

TOTES

VISIT HISTORIC
WEST WOODLAWN

WOODLAWN

MASTER STORYTELLERS

GIFTS

LECTURES

DEMONSTRATIONS

REINACTMENTS

PARTIES

CONCERTS

SING-ALONGS

EMMETT & MAMIE TILL-MEMORIAL
BRONZEVILLE LEGACY COLLEGE
WEST WOODLAWN BOTANIC GARDEN
SHRINE OF THE GREAT MIGRATION
DUSABLE MUSEUM OF BLACK HISTORY
COALITION OF BLACK HOUSE MUSEUMS

**LAWN & SOUTH LAKEFRONT
TRISM CENTER**

GREEN-VILLAGE-BUILDING
*is past, present, and future
in text, digital, and theatrical form."*

DLAWN
PLACE OF PIONEERS™



**BRONZE
VILLE USA**

**EMMETT
& MAMIE
TILL-
MOBLEY
NATIONAL
MONUMENT**

**BLACK
METROPOLIS
NATIONAL
HERITAGE
AREA**

**MOBLEY HOUSE MUSEUM
ACTIVE CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS
GARDEN, VILLAGE FARM & ARBORETUM**

**ORATION
HISTORY
MUSEUMS**
**OBAMA
PRESIDENTIAL CENTER**

BLACKBELT

**ILLINOIS
UNDERGROUND
RAILROAD**



**WOODLAWN
& SOUTH LAKEFRONT
TOURISM
CENTER**

6431 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago



**COME SHOP FOR YOUR
GEAR, MUGS, TOTES, COASTERS, ART, CANDLES,
LEATHER GOODS & MORE**



TOUR 1

Freedom & Sustainability Bike Tour

"All Roads Lead to TILL"

Ride from the lakefront through Jackson Park, the Midway Plaisance, and Washington Park to the BIG Garden Network and the Emmett Till & Mamie Till Mobley House Museum. Discover historic parks, public art, and community gardens that demonstrate how sustainability and civil rights history intersect on Chicago's South Side. Duration: Approx Half-Day

Blacks in Green Sustainable Square Mile Tours™

LAUNCH DATE FOR ALL TOURS

Saturday ~ June 20, 2026

Learn More ~ Book A Tour

www.blacksingreen.org

773-236-3053

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TOUR 2

Cultural Heritage Tour Stories of the South Side

Explore the historic neighborhoods of Woodlawn, Bronzeville, and the South Lakefront through the people, institutions, and landmarks that shaped Chicago's Black cultural and civic life. Learn about the Great Migration, civil rights history, arts, and architecture that define this vibrant community. Duration: Approx. Half Day



TOUR 3

Wellness & Culinary Tour - A Place of Pioneers

Enjoy a half day culinary journey highlighting Black owned restaurants, bakeries, and cafés across Woodlawn, Bronzeville, and the South Lakefront. Guests experience something hot, something cold, something savory, and something sweet while exploring the principles of Green Village Building, including Culture, Organization, Education, and Economy.

The People's History of Woodlawn

YOUR STORY, YOUR GLORY!

Join us for a dynamic 90-minute immersive community experience celebrating the voices, legacy, future tourism opportunities, and the vision of the Woodlawn & South Lakefront Visitors Center in Woodlawn. Hosted by Blacks in Green, this joyful, neighbor-driven kickoff invites residents, friends, creatives, historians, and visionaries to actively shape how our community's story is told.

This is not just a history presentation — it's a living, collaborative experience where participants help build local history in real time through storytelling, vision-boarding, mapping, and shared civic pride. We're turning Woodlawn's people, places, and defining moments into a celebration of our Great Migration roots and sustainable economic future. Grab a passport and hit the road with Blacks in Green on this epic hunt for history!

Event Highlights Include:

- A 20-minute community panel exploring history, identity, and future possibilities
- The BIG Story Booth to record short personal or family memories
- BIG Treasure Hunt announcement
- Community mapping project
- Getting to know Woodlawn's Living Luminaries & Ancestors
- Fertile Ground theatrical appearance



WWW.OBAMA.ORG



Join Blacks in Green in celebrating a new narrative for Black communities in America: places that are beautiful, prosperous, comfortable, and joyous.

THE 8 PRINCIPLES OF GREEN-VILLAGE-BUILDING

- 1. WEALTH. Micro-Saving/Lending, Local Currency.** Each village has its own measures, exchanges, and repositories of wealth.
- 2. ENERGY. Local Energy Production & Transportation.** Each village produces and stores its own energy for heat, light, and transportation, and owns its means of production.
- 3. PRODUCTS. Shopping & Waste.** Each village supplies basic goods and services to neighbors, converting waste to wealth in the process.
- 4. HOMESTEAD. Affordable Green Homes & Gardens.** Each village is sustained through jobs-driven development without displacement, providing low-income housing and producing high-quality food through land trust CDC's.
- 5. CULTURE. News & Networks, Stories & Structures.** Each village celebrates its past, present, and future culture through stories in print, digital, and theatrical forms.
- 6. ORGANIZATION. Village Centers & Borders.** Each village is a walkable, self-sustaining whole with perceptible borders, inter-dependent local ties, global context, organized for self-interest.
- 7. EDUCATION. Health, Education & Welfare.** Each village fosters life-long learning through hubs, which are epicenters for green training, development, and lifestyle transformation. V1.27.25
- 8. ECONOMY. Green Jobs & Enterprise.** Each village circulates its wealth through neighbor-owned businesses which invent, invest, manufacture, and merchandise locally.

Call & Visit The Green Living Room
6431-39 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago 773-678-9541





A BREAKTHROUGH SYSTEM, A NEW NARRATIVE, A FLOURISHING ORG, AN EXCEPTIONAL FUTURE

BUILDING ECONOMIES IN ENERGY, HORTICULTURE, HOUSING, TOURISM & WASTE

Blacks in Green [BIG] is national network born to close America's racial wealth gap via the new green economy — increasing Black household income and increasing community resilience against the harms of climate crisis. Our Sustainable Square Mile™ system implements our 8 Principles of Green-Village-Building™ introduced in 2007 to achieve BIG's theory of change: that only a whole-system solution can transform the whole-system problem common to Black communities everywhere; that ultimately self-sustaining Black communities everywhere would change the narrative of what it means to be Black in America; and that our communities would thereby become synonymous with beauty, prosperity, comfort, and joy.

BIG works to increase the rate at which neighbor-owned businesses are created and sustained; to build the capacity of neighbors to own, develop, and manage the property in their community; and to remember and reinvent the conservation lifestyle ~ where households and homesteads produce their own energy, grow their own food, clean their own water, and recycle their own waste. This reignites our Great Migration tradition of walk-to-work, walk-to-shop, walk-to-learn, walk-to-play villages where African Americans own the businesses, own the land, and live the conservation lifestyle ~ the beautiful, do-for-self life!

CALL NAOMI DAVIS, FOUNDER & CEO
LOVE THE MISSION? CONSIDER A CAREER HOME @ BLACKS IN GREEN
NAOMIDAVIS@BLACKSINGREEN.ORG

WEST WOODLAWN SUSTAINABLE SQUARE MILE™

King 9 ZONES Cottage

Family Fun
Activity Centers
Art Galleries
Artisan Studios
Maker Spaces
Bowling
Skating

Tourism Venues
Heritage HotSpot
"Black&Green
Underground"
Neighbor 3rd Places
Theatres&Dining
Music&Dancing
Shopping

Parkway
Gardens

Food Incubators
Indoor Agriculture
Beverage Bottling
Trucking
Buses, Vehicles
Refrigeration
Warehousing
Packaging/Assembly



Artisans:
Museum
Without
Walls

62
Restaurant &
Entertainment
Row

64
OBAMA
PRESIDENTIAL
CENTER
Jackson
Park

66
Healthy
Food
Hub
Zone

68
Implementing
The 8 Principles
of Green-Village-Building:
a whole-system solution
for the whole-system
problem common to
Black communities
everywhere

Oak
Woods
Cemetery

South
Chicago
Ave 71ST

A BlackChicago Walkable-Village Pilot Designed To Close Our Racial Health/Wealth Gap

At BIG! Blacks in Green since 2010 we've been building a "walk-to-work, walk-to-shop, walk-to-learn, walk-to-play" village around economies in horticulture, energy, housing, tourism and more ~ an integrated ecological/resilience hub for clean utilities, transportation, managed water and waste.