



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HISTORY OF HER: WOMEN WHO SHAPED CHICAGOLAND **OPENS MAY 29 AT THE ELMHURST HISTORY MUSEUM**

The Museum's latest original exhibition will celebrate the achievements and influence of women in the Chicagoland area over the past 250 years.

ELMHURST, IL (May 2026) – The [Elmhurst History Museum](#) (EHM), 120 E Park Ave., is proud to debut its latest original exhibit, ***History of Her: Women who Shaped Chicagoland***, opening Friday, May 29 through Sunday, August 9, 2026. Since its establishment in 1833, Chicago and its surrounding neighborhoods have watched generations of girls grow into influential leaders, innovators, and advocates for their communities. Later this month, *History of Her: Women Who Shaped Chicagoland* will explore the early pioneers who settled in the region, examine how girls were educated, and trace the career paths that propelled them forward. Other themes explored will be women in politics and news, social work, the arts, and sports.

From trailblazing activists to ground-breaking artists, educators, athletes, and community pioneers, the exhibit will feature countless women's stories, including Ida B. Wells, journalist, sociologist, educator, and early leader in the civil rights movement, Alta M. Hulette, the first female attorney admitted to the Illinois Bar, Ella Flagg Young, the first woman to serve as superintendent of Chicago Public Schools, Jane Addams, a leading figure in Progressive era social reform, Jane Byrne, Chicago's first female mayor, US Senator Tammy Duckworth, Former First Ladies Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama, TV Personality Oprah Winfrey, All American Girls Baseball League athletes, and many more. The exhibition will feature artifacts, photographs, video, interactive elements, and archival materials that illuminate women's journeys and highlight the lasting impact they have on history.

"For more than 250 years, women have made a great impact on the history of our country. They have played a vital role in shaping who we are and what is possible, inspiring generations of girls today," said Sarah Cox, EHM Curator of Exhibits. "We are thrilled to be able to share these stories and honor the incredible women who have made their mark in the Chicagoland area. *History of Her: Women Who Shaped Chicagoland* will present more than an exploration of the past—it will celebrate how girls and women, both then and now, continue to shape the world around them."

The exhibition will come to life on selection Saturdays this summer in collaboration with Greenman Theatre Troupe. On June 20, July 11, and August 8 from 2 - 2:30 p.m., guests can enjoy living history presentations right in the exhibition, with costumed actors portraying notable Chicagoland women Bertha Palmer, Audrey Wagner, and Frances Willard, performing a brief monologue about the lives and accomplishments of these women. A short Q&A will follow, and performances change monthly.

Throughout the course of the exhibit, guests can dive deeper into the themes presented in *History of Her: Women who Shaped Chicagoland* by taking part in upcoming programs and events, including:

- [Fearless & Fun Summer Jam](#), held in partnership with Elmhurst City Centre, July 12, 1 – 4:30 p.m. *FREE*: This family-friendly event invites guests to enjoy old-fashioned lawn games, patriotic crafts, a performance by Fearless, an energetic Taylor Swift tribute band on the museum's outdoor stage, and more!
- [Summer Storytime at the Museum](#), held in partnership with the Elmhurst Public Library, Select Mondays: June 22, July 20, August 10, 12 – 2 p.m. *FREE*
- [History of Her: Women Who Shaped Chicagoland Gallery Talk with Curator Sarah Cox](#), July 19, 12 p.m. *FREE to Members, \$8 Non-Members*
- [History in Your Hands: Journaling 101](#), July 25, 12 p.m. *\$45/Person*
- [An Afternoon with Abigail Adams with actor and historian Leslie Goddard](#) at Elmhurst City Hall, August 22, 1 p.m. *FREE to Members, \$8 Non-Members*

Additional programs and events details may be found at elmhursthistory.org.

The exhibit will be on display May 29 - August 9, 2026. *History of Her: Women who Shaped Chicagoland* is sponsored by: Feze Roofing, Dollars & Sense for Nonprofit Success, Slone Commercial, and the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation. The Elmhurst History Museum is open to all ages and offers free admission. The museum is open 1 – 5 p.m. Sunday & Tuesday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, and closed Monday. For additional information, please visit www.elmhursthistory.org.

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The Elmhurst History Museum is a department of the City of Elmhurst supported by the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit organization. The Museum is located at 120 E. Park Ave. in downtown Elmhurst. General admission is free. For more information, call 630-833-1457 or visit our website at elmhursthistory.org.

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