



CONTRIBUTORS



he/him

Michael A. Moses is the son of Paul B. Moses and co-curator of multiple exhibits about his father's life. He taught physical education, health, and wellness at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools for 33 years. He also coached varsity boys soccer for 23 years and varsity girls soccer for 15 years at the same school. In retirement, Mike serves as the Whittier College Black Alumni Association president. He enjoys his new rescue dog Lena, traveling, and rooting on all his Chicago sports teams.



she/her

Muneera Walker is the Founder and Director of Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the Main Line, a grassroots nonprofit organization supporting underrepresented communities and youth in the Greater Philadelphia region. Through her activism and work with NHN, she serves to build inclusive communities where everyone has the tools they need to thrive, enriching the lives of thousands of neighbors each year through educational programming, food distribution, and outreach. Muneera is a retired General Contractor and proud mother of two.



she/her

Erin Betley is the Vice President of the Lower Merion Historical Society, providing stewardship and preservation of local history, community education, and outreach. Erin is passionate about how we can build community by learning about and sharing local history. She lives in Bala Cynwyd with her family, and is a conservation biologist with the American Museum of Natural History.



she/they

Lindsey Wavrek is a Philadelphia-based artist and lifelong advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion in the arts and beyond. Currently pursuing a career in art conservation science, she strives to uplift diverse voices and bring inclusive perspectives to our communities and cultural institutions. Lindsey is a proud pet mom who is happiest helping others, reading, and digging in the garden.



NATIVE SON: The Legacy of Paul B. Moses & Black History in Ardmore

Saturday September 14, 2024

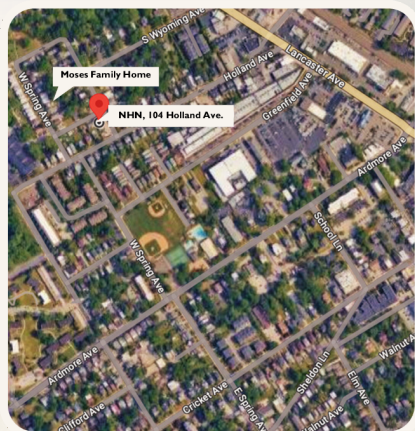
1:00pm - 3:00pm

Neighbors Helping Neighbors on the Main Line
104 Holland Avenue, Ardmore



EVENT PROGRAM

- 1:00 pm Welcome and Introduction by Muneera Walker
- 1:15 pm Ardmore's Native Son: The Paul B. Moses Story Presentation by Michael Moses
- 2:00 pm Conversation led by Michael Moses
- 2:30 pm Community Walk to Moses Family Home
- 3:00 pm Reception and Refreshments



IMAGES

Front Cover: Paul Moses and his mother Annie stand in front of the Moses family home on West Spring Avenue in the mid 1950s. This Page: (Top) Current view of West Spring Avenue. (Left & Above) Detail view and full view of the community of Ardmore. Opposite Page: (Left) Paul Moses kneels beside his oil painting *Ice House* circa 1957. (Right) A detailed view of the painting. Photographs courtesy of Michael A. Moses.



WHO WAS PAUL B. MOSES ?

The extraordinary life of Paul B. Moses (1929–1966) was one defined by barriers overcome. Born to working-class parents, he excelled at school and became the first African-American student to attend Haverford College. There he became a protégé of the collector and art connoisseur Albert Barnes, who nurtured the young man's interest in nineteenth-century French art. The experience fueled Moses' determination to pursue a career as an art historian.

Following his graduation from Haverford, Moses served in the United States Army and taught at an international school in Rome. In 1959 he enrolled at Harvard University, earning a Master's degree two years later and beginning work on his doctoral dissertation, which focused on the etchings and monotypes of the French Impressionist Edgar Degas. He also met and married Alice Johnson, an accomplished and ambitious elementary school teacher. The couple moved to Hyde Park in 1962 when Moses was hired as an instructor in the University of Chicago's Department of Art. He soon distinguished himself among the students and faculty for his innovative scholarship and empathic teaching style. In addition to his academic pursuits, Moses was also an avid amateur painter. His oils, watercolors, and sketches document his travels and demonstrate the keen observing eye he brought to his surroundings.

Moses met head-on the many challenges faced by a Black man working in a predominantly white field during the Civil Rights era. He risked the offense of his white colleagues when he voiced his critiques of Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, calling out the novel's racist elements and their potentially detrimental effects on students. He was often the only person of color at the lectures he gave and art-world events he attended around Chicago. He won grants that enabled him to make several more trips to France to continue his research on Degas, where he was offered a book contract. He also curated an exhibition of Degas' prints, wrote reviews for the arts section of the *Chicago Daily News*, and quickly made a name for himself in the local arts community.

In 1966, at the age of 36, Moses' life was tragically cut short when he was murdered by two young white men who intended to steal his car. The event devastated his family, friends, colleagues, and students, many of whom wrote letters and tributes that underscored the lasting impact he had on their lives. As this chorus of voices made clear, his groundbreaking scholarship, exemplary teaching, and essential humanity together constituted his greatest legacies.

-Text from the University of Chicago Library's exhibit *Paul B. Moses: Trailblazing Art Historian*, co-curated by Michael A. Moses and Stephanie Strother, 2022