



**Join Us Tomorrow for Handicraft Hour!**



Quilters take note! **On Sunday, October 17 at 4pm Central Time**, a special Archives Month edition of Handicraft Hour will highlight handmade patchwork quilts from the Frances Willard House Museum's collections.

We will discuss how quilts serve as archival documents, works of art, social commentary, and a means of promoting community solidarity. The Willard House holds a remarkable collection of WCTU quilts, including the 1876 "Crusade Quilt" (pictured below), which was made by women in Ohio to commemorate the 1873 Women's Crusades that led to the formation of the WCTU. The quilt's center square housed a secret message that was not to be opened for 100 years. Work on your craft project of choice as we explore these unique items of women's handiwork.



RSVP for this free virtual event [here](#). A Zoom link will be sent shortly before the event to everyone who registers.

**Handicraft Hours** are part of the **Arts at the Willard House** program series, which explores the connections between women's creativity, community, and social change.

[Donate and Support](#)

Our programs will remain free this year, but we are encouraging those who can to support our work by making a donation. Donations of any size make our work possible. Thank you!

**New Archives Blog Post: Making History in Southern California**

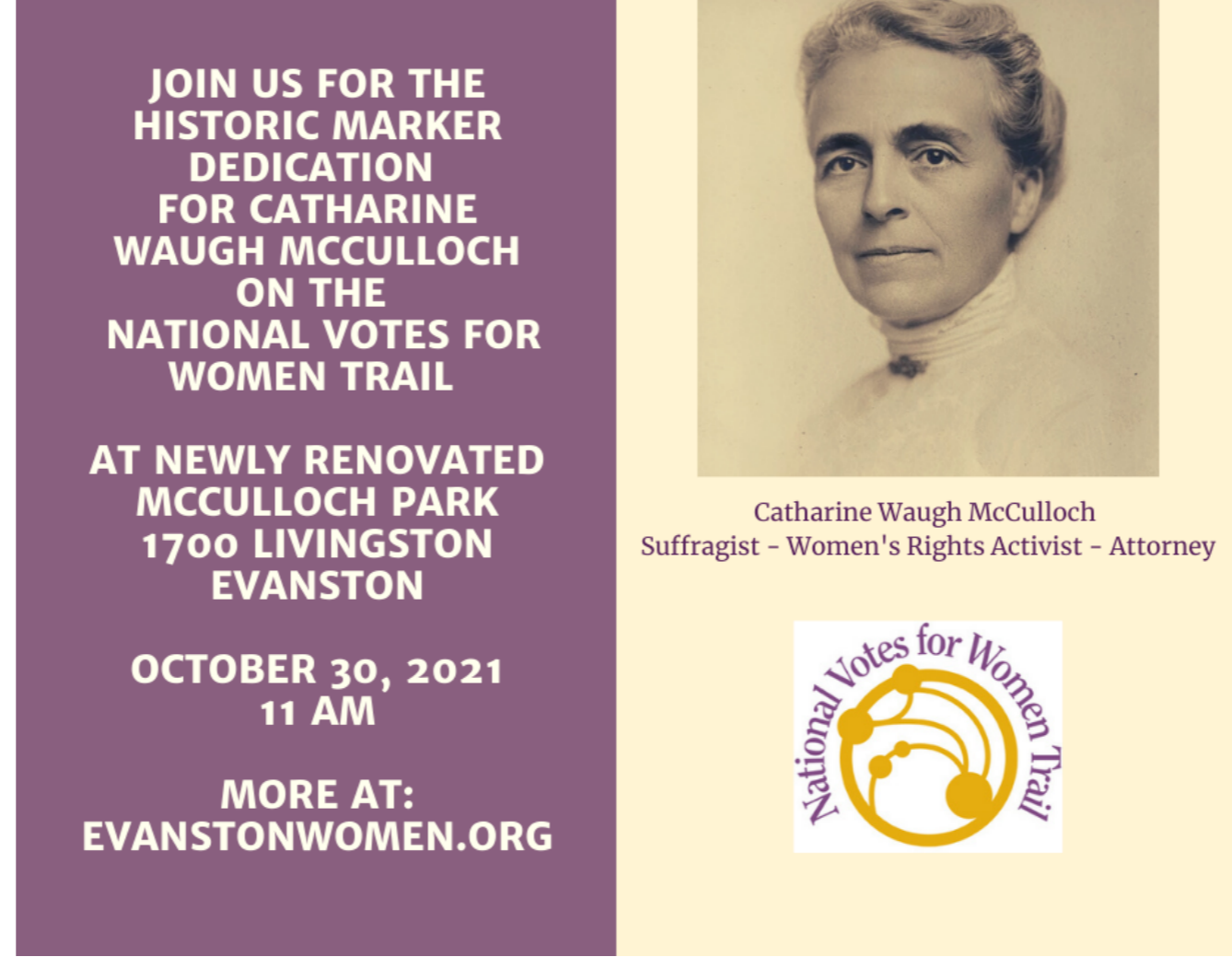


In our latest [blog post](#), Archives Assistant Kristin Jacobsen highlights a rich and newly available resource housed at the WCTU Archives – the records of the Southern California union. Kristin explores the origins and spread of women's temperance activism in California and provides a glimpse into these extensive records, which fill 44 boxes with reports, documents, scrapbooks, and photographs. Encompassing 125 years of women's history, this collection is of interest to researchers in a variety of fields. You can access the detailed finding aid [here](#).

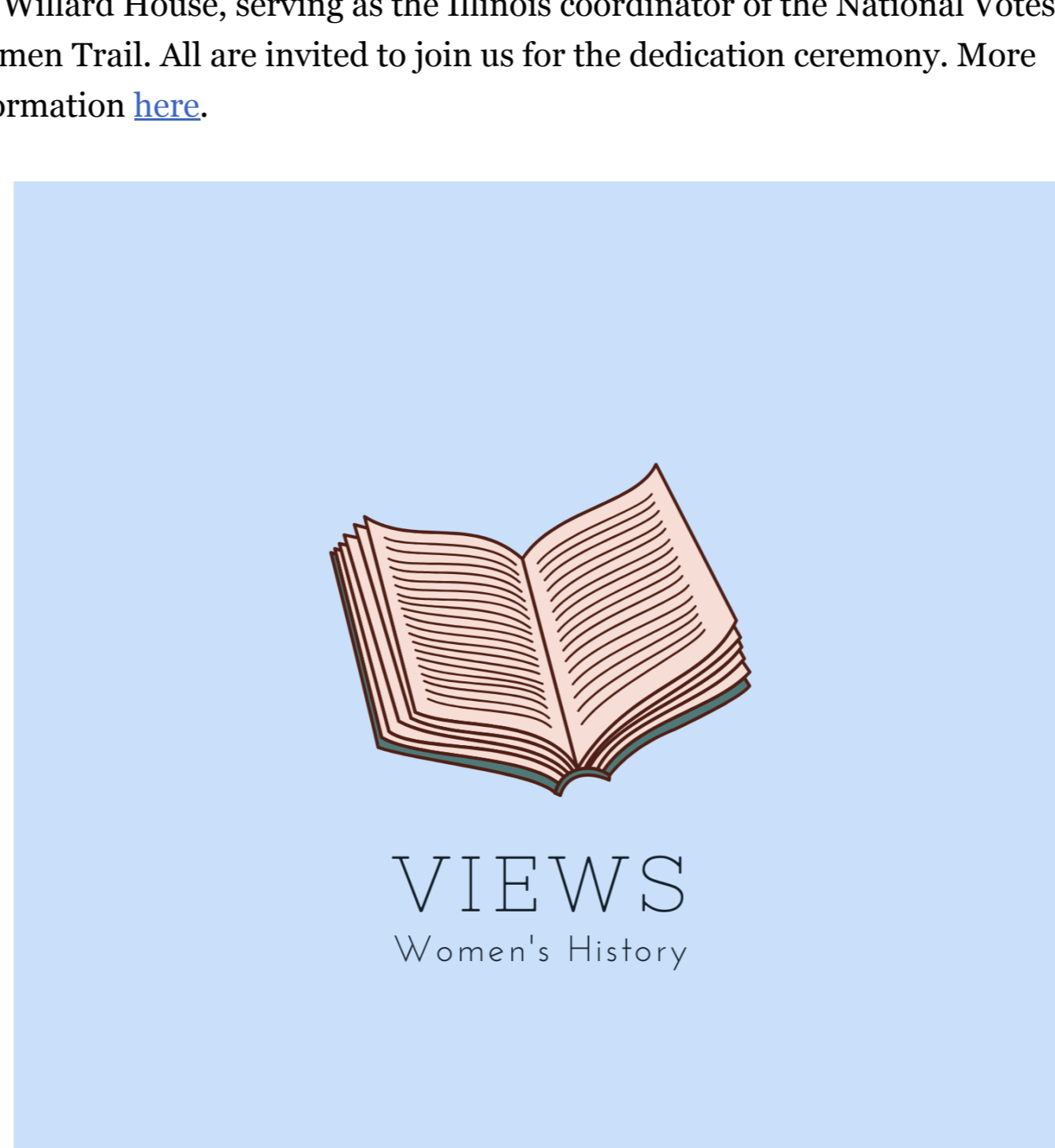
**Save the Date – Upcoming Events**



**October 23: Truth-Telling in Nashville**  
The Willard House's award-winning digital exhibit, [Truth-Telling: Ida B. Wells and Frances Willard](#), is on display in the Votes for Women Room at the Nashville Public Library. Join us for the live-streamed Nashville launch of the exhibit on Saturday, October 23 at 10:30am Central Time. The morning event includes a film screening followed by a conversation with Lori Osborne, the Executive Director of the Willard House, and Michelle Duster, author, public historian, and great-granddaughter of Ida B. Wells. Register [here](#).



**October 30: Catharine Waugh McCulloch Historic Marker Dedication**  
The National Votes for Women Trail Marker for Catharine Waugh McCulloch will be dedicated on Saturday, October 30th at 11:00am in newly renovated McCulloch Park (1700 Livingston Avenue, Evanston, Illinois). McCulloch was a lawyer, suffragist, political activist, and life-long supporter of women's rights. She lived in Evanston for fifty years, from 1895 until her death in 1945. The Evanston Women's History Project at the Evanston History Center led the effort to add McCulloch's marker, with Lori Osborne, the Executive Director of the Willard House, serving as the Illinois coordinator of the National Votes for Women Trail. All are invited to join us for the dedication ceremony. More information [here](#).



**November 7: Views – Louise W. Knight, *American Sisters***  
The first Views program of the season at the Willard House will feature author Louise W. Knight in conversation about her forthcoming book, *American Sisters: Sarah and Angelina Grimké and the First Fight for Human Rights*. Originally from a slaveholding family in Charleston, South Carolina, during the 1830s the Grimké sisters rejected slavery, converted to Quakerism, and became key figures in the abolition and women's rights movements.

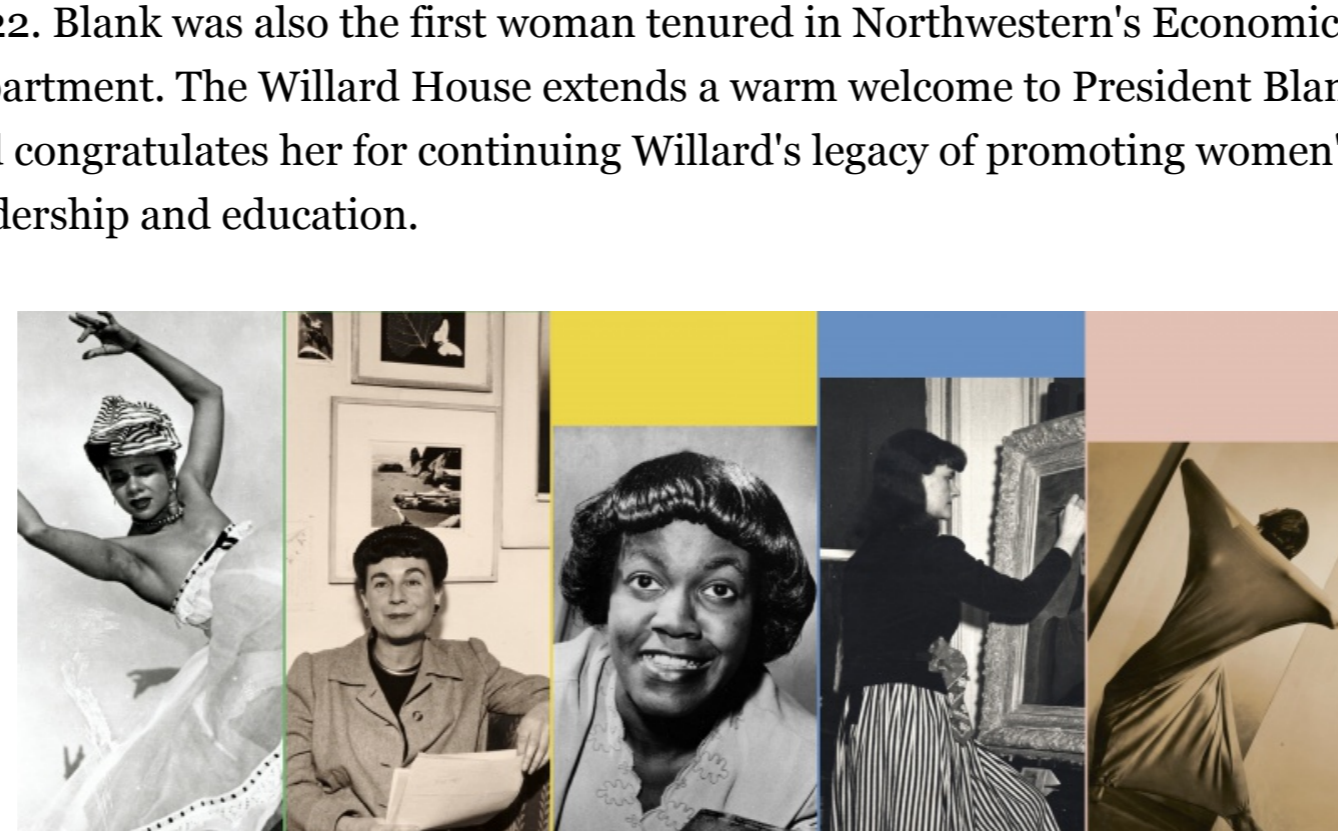
Register for this free virtual event [here](#). A Zoom link will be sent shortly before the event to everyone who registers.

The **Views** program series highlights new research and writing in women's history. This season will present conversations with scholars exploring the theme of **women, faith, and activism**. For generations of women, their faith was a key source of personal exploration and reform motivation. What does that mean today – and what understanding can we gain by examining this in the past?

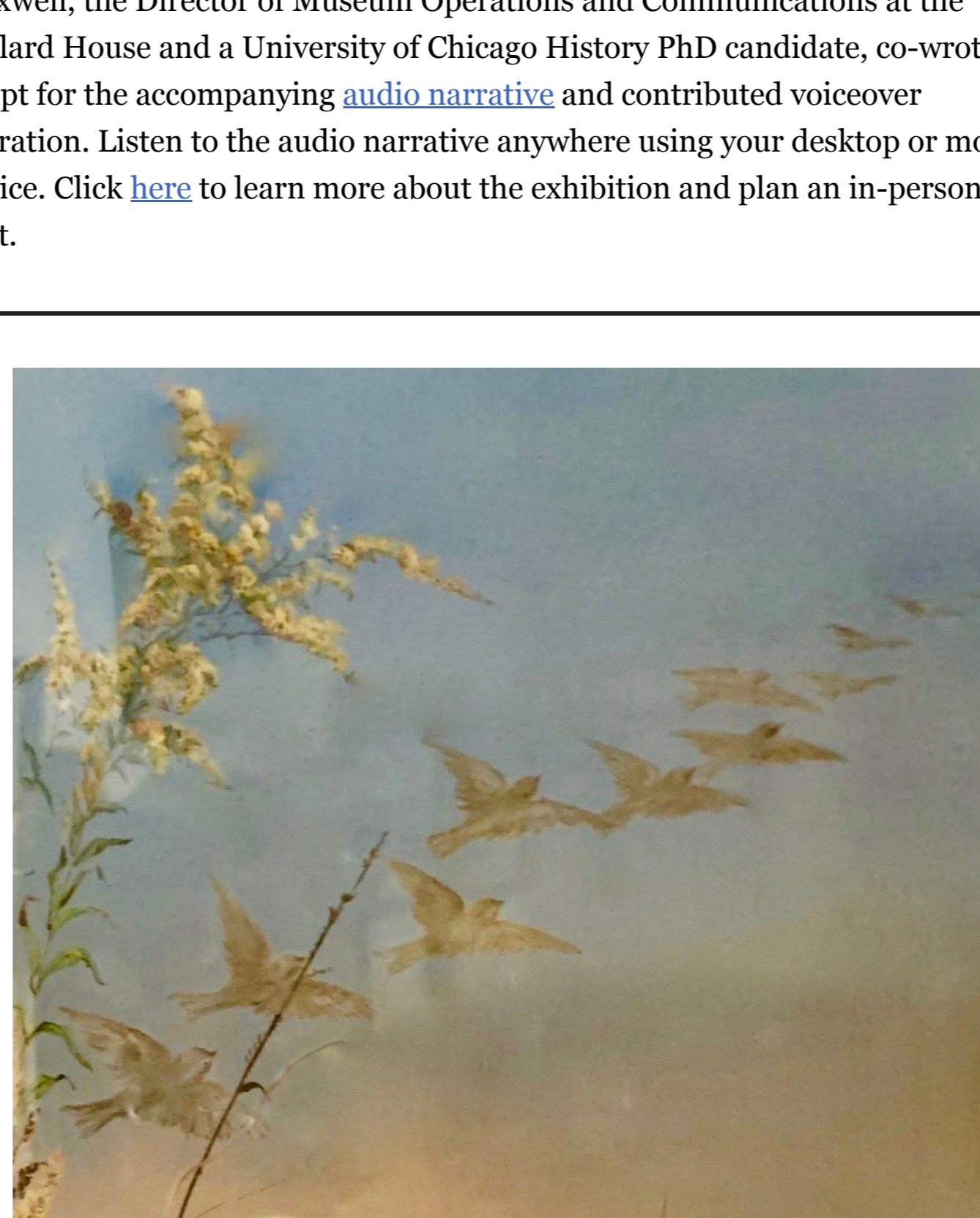
**Women's History Around Town**



**Welcome President Blank!**  
In 1873, Frances Willard was appointed the first Dean of Women and the first full-time woman faculty member at Northwestern University. Fast (?) forward 149 years to this week, when Northwestern announced that Rebecca M. Blank will become the first woman President of the University in the summer of 2022. Blank was also the first woman tenured in Northwestern's Economics department. The Willard House extends a warm welcome to President Blank and congratulates her for continuing Willard's legacy of promoting women's leadership and education.



**Five Chicago Women Artists Ahead of Their Time**  
A new exhibition at the Newberry Library, *Chicago Avant-Garde: Five Women Ahead of Their Time*, tells the stories of painter Gertrude Abercrombie, poet Gwendolyn Brooks, dancers and choreographers Katherine Dunham and Ruth Page, and dealer-curator Katharine Kuh. Through taking risks in their lives and art, they transformed Chicago into a hub of avant-garde experimentation. Fiona Maxwell, the Director of Museum Operations and Communications at the Willard House and a University of Chicago History PhD candidate, co-wrote the script for the accompanying [audio narrative](#) and contributed voiceover narration. Listen to the audio narrative anywhere using your desktop or mobile device. Click [here](#) to learn more about the exhibition and plan an in-person visit.



October print from the Willard House Dining Room

[Donate and Support](#)

