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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact Michal Safar, President, Hyde Park Historical Society, 773-752-7723, president@hydeparkhistory.org

HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES FIRST RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBIT

OF LEGENDARY HYDE PARK PHOTOGRAPHER NANCY HAYS

EXHIBIT RUN: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2019

EXHIBIT OPENING: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2019, 2-4PM

LOCATION: HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 5529 S LAKE PARK AVENUE, CHICAGO, IL 60637

GUEST OF HONOR: FRANCY HAYS, NIECE OF NANCY HAYS

CURATORS: [BECCA AND MIKHAIL MAJOR](#)

The Hyde Park Historical Society (HPS) is pleased to announce that the legendary Hyde Park photographer, activist and preservationist Nancy Hays (1923-2007) will be commemorated in a retrospective photographic exhibit opening on Sunday, October 27, 2019 at the Hyde Park Historical Society and running through December 31, 2019. The exhibit is a collection of 25 images taken from Nancy's extensive photo archive that illustrate the diverse and historic community of Hyde Park and its people as well as Nancy's special skill in capturing the essence of Hyde Park.

Former Alderman Leon M. Despres had this to say of Nancy and her work: *"She was Hyde Park's photographer, a champion of the parks, and an extraordinary person."*

Guest of honor at the Opening is the niece of Nancy Hays, Francy Hays, a resident of Silver Spring, Maryland who has assisted the Society with the exhibit.

In 1958 at the age of 35, Nancy Campbell Hays arrived in Chicago from New York City where she had studied photography and established herself professionally. She settled in Hyde Park and built her legacy through her photography, through her activism and through her passion for preservation. She worked as a photographer for the [Hyde Park Herald](#), crafted innovative advertising campaigns for the Hyde Park Cooperative Society (one of the oldest and largest of the nation's consumer cooperatives), and loved to wander the local streets and lakefront capturing the authentic spirit of Hyde Park, a unique Chicago neighborhood and community. Her photography made her a Hyde Park legend.

HYDE PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 5529 S. LAKE PARK AVE, CHICAGO IL 60637
WWW.HYDEPARKHISTORY.ORG
773-493-1893





In 2007, at her passing, Nancy left her entire collection of photographs and negatives, almost 200 boxes of materials, to the [Hyde Park Historical Society](#). The collection is now housed at the University of Chicago's Regenstein Library, Special Collections Research Center as part of the Society's overall Archives. This exhibit is the first look at Nancy's photographic legacy since her death.

The exhibit is sponsored by the Hyde Park Historical Society. It is curated by local photographers Becca and Mik Major who were inspired to uncover her art and her intimate record of Hyde Park when they serendipitously moved into the condo once occupied by the photography legend.

For more information, visit the [Nancy Hays web site](#) or contact Michal Safar, President, Hyde Park Historical Society, 773-752-7723, president@hydeparkhistory.org.

Founded in 1978, the Hyde Park Historical Society records, preserves, and promotes public interest in the history of Hyde Park. The Society's headquarters is housed in an 1893 restored cable car station.

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