



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of* WASHINGTON, D.C.

WWW.DCHISTORY.ORG

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**August 24, 2016**

MEDIA CONTACT: Laura Barry, 202-670-7684, [lbarry@dchistory.org](mailto:lbarry@dchistory.org)

## **EXHIBITION FEATURES PHOTOGRAPHS OF MT. VERNON SQUARE AND DOWNTOWN D.C. FROM THE 1960S ONWARDS**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**, August 24, 2016: **Bill Barrett, Chris Earnshaw, and Joseph Mills**—three premier chroniclers of mid- to late-20th-century Washington— examine the streets of downtown D.C. in *DISTRICT II*. The exhibition of photographs of the 1960s, '70s, and '80s opens Thursday, September 29, 2016 with an opening reception from 6-8pm.

Presented in the historic Carnegie Library on Mt. Vernon Square, the visual survey explores several decades of architectural and social change in the heart of the Nation's Capital. The show builds on the enthusiastic public response to *DISTRICT Chris Earnshaw*, a solo gallery show of city-wide work presented by the Historical Society in early 2016. *DISTRICT II* narrows the geography of the previous show to Earnshaw's photos of downtown, adding context from views by the accomplished Barrett and Mills. Accompanying the scenes are historical notes on the development, destruction, reuse, and adaptation of buildings and public spaces in downtown.

"This exhibit brings a new dimension to the relationship between Joe and Chris so beautifully explored in Dan Zak's 2016 feature in the *Washington Post*," said Library and Collections Director Anne McDonough "The prints of *DISTRICT Chris Earnshaw* were, as Chris called them, 'me with a touch of Joe in them.' In this show, viewers are presented with the works of three unique artists, overlapping in their time spent shooting in D.C. streets yet with visual styles all their own. Chris once said he was inspired by the work of Bill Barrett. Now he's up there with him."

The show is organized into three sections. ***Mt. Vernon Squared*** presents 16 photographs taken in the 1960s by Wm. Edmund Barrett, Jr., part of the Historical Society's Kiplinger Washington Collection. They document streets radiating from Mt. Vernon Square. ***Billy Luck's Downtown***, approximately 50 drugstore prints and ten enlarged sepia reprints by self-described Cowboy Poet Chris Earnshaw, show Downtown and Mt. Vernon Square in the 1960s through 1980s. ***Inner City***, photograph installations by Joseph Mills, presents more than a dozen mounted and varnished photographs exploring unvarnished, 1980s street life, from F Street shoppers to the downtrodden and despairing.

Exhibition hours will be 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, with additional viewings on selected Saturdays. To encourage the continued documentation of downtown D.C. inspired by *District II* the Historical Society is offering photo walks throughout the fall as part of the Street Photography Series. To register please visit: <http://dchistory.eventbrite.com/>

### **About the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.**

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C., is a community-supported educational and research organization that collects, interprets, and shares the history of our nation's capital. Founded in 1894, the Historical Society serves a diverse audience through its collections, public programs, exhibitions, and publications. The Historical Society's galleries and research library are located in the historic Carnegie Library at Mt. Vernon Square, 801 K Street NW, and are open Tuesday through Friday, 10 am-4 pm. The Historical Society offers exhibitions and programs throughout the year encouraging the collection of local history as well as the documentation of contemporary D.C. To support exhibitions and related programming at the Historical Society and to learn more visit [dchistory.org](http://dchistory.org). ###