



- **Winner, Montaigne Medal Most Thought-Provoking Book, 2015**  
Eric Hoffer Foundation
- **Finalist, Best Current Events/Social Change Book**  
**Finalist, Best Multicultural Non-Fiction Book, 2015**  
Next Generation Indie Book Awards
- **Winner, Best Photography Book, 2015**  
New York Book Festival



**They call  
some books  
gamechangers.**

**The visual tale of courage and optimism that in the face of a near-collapse helped restart support of a once proud civic accomplishment.**

“Most New Yorkers know what public housing looks like from the outside, but a bracingly simple compilation of pictures takes us into the interiors of the buildings and thus into residents’ startlingly ordinary lives.”

**The New York Times**

“Beautiful...an unprecedented and intimate look into the lives of New York City public housing residents.”

**BuzzFeed**

“[The] program started by George Carrano, Chelsea Davis and Jonathan Fisher gave photography training and equipment to NYCHA residents and encouraged them to take photos of their homes—their families and neighbors, their decorations and furnishings, and the social events at the core of the community....Whether or not NYCHA can make a comeback will have a crucial bearing on what the future of America’s safety net looks like.”

**Politico**

“A photography book on life in public housing seen through the eyes of its inhabitants...aiming to change the negative perceptions of their living conditions and culture.”

**Time**

“The images are strong and insightful...thought-provoking....A remarkable job.”

**Apogee Photo Magazine**

“The book includes some wonderful full-page photos, commentary, and a ton of NYCHA facts....Buy a copy.”

**aCurator Magazine**

“Hundreds of participants...embraced the role of storyteller and took back the power from decades of stereotypes....A great story!”

**WPIX 11 NY-TV**

“One of the largest participatory photography projects yet....It’s clear community is at “Nychaland’s” heart. Not crime, poverty, or any other stigma that comes unfairly attached to social housing.”

**Dazed and Confused (UK)**

“Remarkable....A small book that, in words and pictures, delivers a very big punch.”

**The Long Island Press**

“See NYC public housing life as residents turn cameras on themselves....Unique.”

**am New York**

“There are many genuinely lovely images of people inhabiting their apartments: resting on their sofas, playing with their children, showing off their furniture and knickknacks.”

**Hyperallergic**

“Stunning photographs....A fascinating book!”

**National Public Radio**

“Wonderful!”

**NY1-TV**

“Remarkable.”

**annabelle (Switzerland)**

“Stunning!”

**CUNY-TV**

“Revealing and playful.”

**CityLab/The Atlantic**

“A change in perceptions is needed to enable those residing in the projects to reclaim pride and to motivate the involvement of policy makers. And ‘Project Lives’ can be considered the first contribution.”

**Vogue Italy**

“By presenting this look at life in the projects, people in New York and beyond will see why they are worth funding and call for action.”

**Slate Magazine**

“Project Lives’ contributors tell it like it is, warts and all, and in so doing demonstrate that a person’s environment doesn’t necessarily define who they are. Optimistic yet unflinchingly honest.”

**We Heart (UK)**

“An incredibly moving book.”

**Refinery29**

“Remarkable....A weighty mix of visual and textual narratives, inseparable and moving....The book reveals a sense of community, family, and home, with openness and warmth....The failure or success of these housing projects goes beyond New York City itself.”

**Creative Review (UK)**

“Get an in-depth look at the unstable climates of New York’s 334 housing projects, told not by sensationalists, but by the individuals with intimate knowledge of these forgotten, helpless environments.”

**The L Magazine**

“Project Lives grew into an ongoing 12-week workshop that gave 200 New Yorkers living in 16 of the city’s public housing buildings the tools to transform the perception of what it means to live in NYCHA Housing.”

**American Photo**

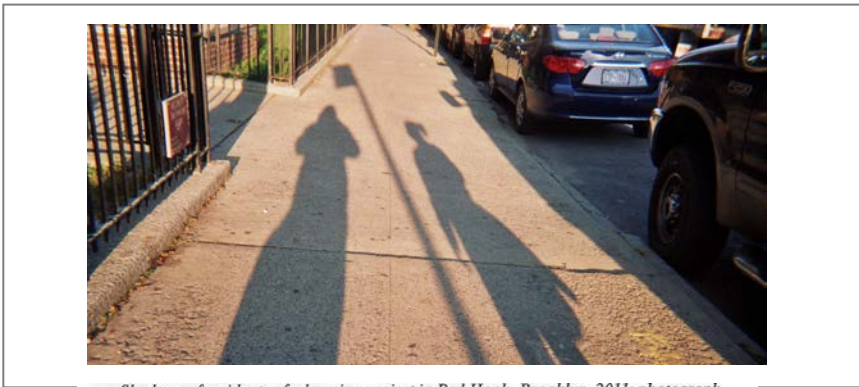
“A startlingly simple and optimistic portrait of family, friends, and neighbors. Photos show a couple cooking dinner, a beloved cat, a first date, the junk that’s accumulated in an apartment over years. There’s nothing really specific about the projects in Project Lives. It’s just life.”

**New York Magazine**

“It is always inspiring to see how the scorned and disenfranchised are able to take control of their lives. When tenants of the New York projects portray their lives with the quiet dignity of the images in ‘Project Lives,’ we recognize yet again the universality of the human family. These photographs open our eyes and uncover the warmth in our hearts. And when an intertwined text shows so convincingly how these lives became subject to so much pressure in the first place, our concerns for social justice broaden and deepen.”

**Noam Chomsky** (“Arguably the most important intellectual alive”—**The New York Times**)

**The New York Review of Books**



*Shadows of residents of a housing project in Red Hook, Brooklyn, 2011; photograph by Jared Wellington, a twelve-year-old workshop participant, from Project Lives: New York Public Housing Residents Photograph Their World. Edited by George Carrano, Chelsea Davis, and Jonathan Fisher, it has just been published by PowerHouse Books.*



The birth of a new form of storytelling. [projectlivesbook.com](http://projectlivesbook.com)

