



Brush Strokes for Equality Visioning Workshop

The Housing Center together with Building Bridges, Inc. hosted a visioning workshop with youth artists who participated in creating a public fair housing mural. The mural celebrates diversity, enhances the streetscape, and recognizes the importance of equal access to housing opportunities.

The workshop included an interactive fair housing activity and presentation to help the young artists understand the issues of fair housing and appreciate integration. Participants then used the information to generate ideas about the amenities that would make the Midtown neighborhood better. The mural will be located at Six Chimneys, a permanent supportive housing facility on E. 39th Street and Prospect Avenue.

The final result of the workshop will be the mural dedication ceremony on April 29th at 5:00 p.m. Following that, a special Community Conversation will take place at the Housing Center's annual Fair Housing Celebration at Trinity Cathedral at 6:00 p.m. The Community Conversation features fair housing advocates: The Honorable Peter Lawson Jones (moderator), Mike Pistorino, Katherine Chilcote (artist) and youth who designed the mural, Julia Shearson (CAIR Ohio, Cleveland Chapter), Shani Meeks, and Daniel Rice (HELP Foundation).

Since 2006, Building Bridges has completed 27 murals and worked with over 750 youth.

The Fair Housing Youth Mural is



supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture and generous donations.



The Fair Housing Act's 46th Anniversary

April 11, 2014 marked the 46th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. The law makes it illegal to discriminate in housing based on one's protected class status; that is protection based on someone's race/color, national origin, sex/gender, religion, familial status or disability. The state of Ohio adds ancestry (where one's parents were born) and military status as additional protected classes. Further, communities have an obligation to affirmatively further fair housing, or to promote residential integration. With all of the progress made in our society, it is sometimes hard to

believe that the Fair Housing Act is still necessary. But much of the country's advancement has been due to fair housing laws. Yet, there remains an estimated 33,000 cases of reported and unreported acts of housing discrimination each year.

The Housing Research & Advocacy Center is one of many fair housing agencies around the country working tirelessly to ensure individuals' fair housing rights. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced this year's Fair Housing Month theme, which is "Fair housing is your right. Use it." The Housing

Center is here to help you do just that. If you believe your rights or the rights of someone you know have been violated as they search for housing, please call.

This issue of Fair Housing Connect highlights two individuals locally who have made an impact on the civil rights struggle: retiring Board member Gay Quereau and The Reverend Bruce Klunder. As we celebrate the anniversary of the Fair Housing Act, let us acknowledge how far we have come, and resolve to continue this fight and end housing discrimination together.

Housing Center Honors Board Member Gay Quereau

The Housing Center is honored by the invaluable service of one of its founding Board members, Gay Quereau, who recently retired from the Board.

Gay is a lifelong civil rights advocate. As a student at Goucher College and a member of CORE (the Congress of Racial Equality), Gay first became active in the Civil Rights Movement by taking part in lunch-counter demonstrations at Woolworth's in 1960, led by students from Morgan State University. When she and her family moved to Cleveland in 1974, Gay volunteered with the Open Housing Task Force at Heights Community Congress, and

subsequently staffed that program from 1978 to 1987. She then became a research associate at the Cuyahoga Plan, tracking demographic and other data pertaining to race and housing and providing technical assistance to others based on those research findings. Gay switched professional focus in 1992 and became a legal assistant, primarily helping to represent plaintiffs in employment discrimination cases. But she remained active in and passionate about fair housing as a founding board member of Metropolitan Strategy Group, the precursor to the Housing Research & Advocacy Center.

Gay has supported the Housing Center's mission to eliminate housing discrimination for more than 22 years. Upon her retirement, the Housing Center board named her Director Emerita. Having served on the Board's nominating committee, she leaves the organization in good hands.



Remembering a Fair Housing Hero

Fifty years ago, the Civil Rights Movement and the City of Cleveland lost a fair housing advocate. The Reverend Bruce W. Klunder was a man of faith who believed his life must be his sermon.

Reverend Klunder was a Presbyterian minister, a Yale Divinity School graduate, participant in the United Freedom Movement (UFM) and an organizer of the Cleveland Chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). In the spring of 1962, Klunder and his wife led a group of students to the south in an effort to understand the Jim Crow culture. Meeting with various religious, business and academic communities, they encountered the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis, and even participated in sit-ins.

His memoir, *Student Impressions of a Week in the South: reporting a week's interracial study visit to Atlanta, Georgia and Nashville, Tennessee—Spring Vacation 1962* states, "The best conclusion to this report would be to say that the whites in our group had learned a little of what it means

to be a Negro in America in 1962. The picture is not pretty and having once confronted it in this concrete way, many in our number will not be the same again."

A proponent of fair housing and racial equality in education, it was no surprise that in 1964 he was called upon to protest segregation in the Cleveland schools. At the time, Cleveland's black population was growing while the City's overall population decreased, which led to overcrowding in the City's predominately black eastside schools. Many area black children were being placed on waiting lists for kindergarten and subjected to half-day class, while the west side white schools experienced under-enrollment. The school board's solution was to build schools in the black neighborhoods to maintain segregation.

The Cleveland Congress of Racial Equality and the United Freedom Movement demanded a stop to the new school construction, preferring to integrate the white schools. In the Glenville neighborhood in the

spring of 1964, protesters sought to stop work on the new Stephen E. Howe elementary school. Four protesters blocked a bulldozer's forward progress and the Reverend Klunder lay down behind it, unknown to the bulldozer operator. Seeking to avoid the people in front of him, the bulldozer operator backed over Klunder, crushing him instantly. He was just 27 years old.

Before his death, he said, "We must—each in his own way—suffer with and for those who are oppressed by those structures of injustice..." He lay down his life for his beliefs of what it meant to be a Christian and a fair society. Fifty years after his death, his legacy of racial equality lives on through other advocates and organizations such as the Housing Research & Advocacy Center.



Opening Doors Through the Art of Storytelling

Last year, the Housing Center collected a number of personal stories from individuals about their experiences with housing discrimination. Each person's perspective is different, but every one is empowering in its description of the emotional impact of fair housing. This is one of the stories:

I grew up in the 1950's and 1960's in a fairly modest development near Massillon. When I was young, I realized that no African Americans lived in our neighborhood. One of my older siblings explained to me that African Americans weren't allowed to buy houses there.

Jewish people were also not permitted to buy in our neighborhood. But, we had an exception: a divorced Jewish mother of three daughters. Of course, when she moved in, she had an Irish Catholic husband. After the divorce, he moved out, and she resumed her maiden name and active practice of her Jewish faith.

*When I started college in the mid-1960's, I learned firsthand how **geography could shape opportunity**. Most of my high school graduating class did not go to college. The guys expected to get decent paying union jobs at Ford or Republic Steel like their fathers, and the girls expected to be homemakers like their mothers. But, I went*

*to college, and had classmates who'd grown up in places like Princeton, New Jersey, or who'd gone to prep schools. They'd had high school classes in courses that I barely knew existed. Where you lived affected **what you knew as well as who you knew**.*

Working on a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning at Ohio State, I attended a class titled simply "Housing," and a wonderful world opened up before me! I was fascinated with where people lived, and why they lived there. I wanted to know to what extent people chose where they would live versus their choices being limited by the actions of others?

Later I worked on a Ph.D. that would allow me to apply a historical perspective to all my urban planning knowledge and explore bigger questions about housing choice and neighborhoods. Through my studies, I discovered that the racially segregated, economically stratified neighborhoods were a product of covenants inserted into the deeds decades ago. As early as the 1900's and 1910's, two or three large scale developers decided which parts of the city would have wealthy white neighborhoods, and which would house "other folks." Exclusionary zoning cemented this system in place, which affected social circles, educational opportunities, and access to public transportation and jobs.

*Studying dozens of deeds I was struck again and again. Specific provisions ensured that those who moved there would be above a certain income level. **Prohibitions against "foreigners" (Italians, Jews, and African Americans, among others) ensured racial, ethnic, or religious segregation.***

I still remember my childhood puzzlement about why some people didn't live in our neighborhood. Obstacles remain, preventing people from living where they choose, which is why I continue to fight for everyone's right "to live here."

The Storytelling project was supported in part by the residents of Cuyahoga County through a public grant from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.



Coming Soon: State of Fair Housing in Northeast Ohio 2014

The State of Fair Housing in Northeast Ohio report will be released this month with important information on protected classes in each city and housing discrimination complaint data. For example, in 2013, there were 199 complaints of housing discrimination filed in Northeast Ohio with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This number was an increase from the 111 complaints filed in 2012 and the first year of increased complaints after four consecutive years of decline.

The State of Fair Housing in Northeast Ohio will be released at the Housing Center's annual Fair Housing Celebration on April 29th at Trinity Cathedral. Please see the Housing Center's website for more information.

Housing Center Completes Three-Year FHIP Grant

The Housing Research & Advocacy Center recently completed work on a three-year Fair Housing Initiatives Program-Private Enforcement Initiative (FHIP-PEI) grant in service to its mission to promote fair housing and diverse communities, and work to eliminate housing discrimination. The Research, Enforcement, Education & Outreach and Administrative teams, along with Housing Center subcontractors, completed a variety of tasks as outlined in the grant. These primary tasks include conducting 295 rental audits, 130 sales audits, 25 lending audits, 25 insurance audits, 20 newspaper advertising audits and 15 accessibility audits; preparing and distributing 12 quarterly newsletters; conducting 17 fair housing law seminars for landlords, real estate agents, and condominium board members; conducting an accessibility seminar; developing a landlord manual for trainings; conducting a survey of new construction; developing model policies for local governments; conducting transitional housing meetings; conducting a visitability seminar for building code officials; and monitoring local newspapers and websites for fair housing violations. In response to complaints and other inquiries, the Housing Center and its subcontractors logged and processed over 1,300 complaints and other inquiries that were received during the grant period. Finally, 144 complaints were filed by the Housing Center with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Ohio Civil Rights Commission or another local FHAP agency.

How can we tell him that the color of his skin is keeping his family from the home of its dreams?

Image by Bernie Kleina

Housing discrimination isn't just unfair – it's against the law. If you feel that you've been denied the sale, rental or financing of a home because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or disability, report it to HUD or your local fair housing center.

Fair Housing Is Your Right. Use It.

Visit www.hud.gov/fairhousing
or call the HUD Hotline
1-800-669-9777 (English/Español)
1-800-927-9275 (TTY)



For local questions or complaints about housing discrimination contact:

The Housing Center
(216) 361-9240
www.thehousingcenter.org



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Mission:

We promote fair housing and diverse communities, and work to eliminate housing discrimination in Northeast Ohio by providing effective research, education, and advocacy.

Values:

Equality, Respect, Honesty, Attention, Acceptance, Commitment, Dedication, Knowledge, and Understanding.

Volunteers in Action

Board member Jacqueline Jackson and Housing Center intern and CSU student, Khalid Ali participated in the Cuyahoga County Conference on Social Welfare (CCCOSW) last month. The conference was an opportunity for social workers to enhance their role in analyzing, formulating and advocating for social welfare policy and to assess the changing context for social welfare policy in Cuyahoga County.

Jacqueline and Khalid distributed materials to conference attendees and answered questions about advocating for clients' fair housing rights.



Inspiring Today's Youth

The Housing Center's Senior Research Associate, Mandy Mehlman, was invited to speak at her Columbus alma mater for career day.

Mandy spoke to students at her former high school during the Linworth Alternative High School's event, "The Road Less Traveled." She talked to the students about her career path, including time spent in the Peace Corps, teaching and nonprofit work. She further informed them about her current research role at the Housing Center.



Save the Date!

THIRD ANNUAL
ROCK the BLOCK
Housing Center 5K Run / 1 Mile Walk
Saturday, September 27, 2014
Edgewater Park

All proceeds benefit the Housing Research & Advocacy Center's fair housing research, education, and advocacy activities to eliminate housing discrimination and promote inclusive communities. Visit us at www.thehousingcenter.org.



You are invited to the
Housing Research & Advocacy Center's
2014 Fair Housing Celebration

BRUSH STROKES *for* EQUALITY

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

5pm Mural Dedication Ceremony

Six Chimneys Apartments

3907 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Come celebrate the installation of the Housing Center's public mural, created in partnership with Building Bridges youth arts organization, to raise awareness about housing choice.

Guest parking available at *Firestone Complete Auto Care* and *Sutton Hardware*.

6pm Community Conversation & Reception

Cathedral Hall at Trinity Commons

2230 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio

Join us for a reception with the mural artists featuring a community conversation about emerging fair housing issues and how we can build more welcoming and inclusive neighborhoods. Moderated by The Honorable Peter Lawson Jones with panelists:

Katherine Chilcote and youth artists, Building Bridges

Shani Meeks, Friend of the Housing Center

Mike Pistorino, C&M Consulting

Daniel J. Rice, HELP Foundation, Inc.

Julia Shearson, CAIR Ohio

Special thanks to the many friends, partnering organizations, and supporters for making this event possible!

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\$25 Individual Ticket

\$50 Advocate Ticket

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FAIR HOUSING EVENTS

Brush Strokes for Equality Youth Mural Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Tuesday, April 29, 2014
5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.
Six Chimneys
3907 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115

Housing 101 Workshop for Social Service Providers

Friday, June 13, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
3631 Perkins Avenue, 3rd Floor
Cleveland, OH 44114
Presented by:
Northeast Ohio
Coalition for the Homeless

Lakewood Landlord Training Program

Tuesday, June 10, 2014
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Lakewood City Hall
12650 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, OH 44117



Brush Strokes for Equality Youth Mural Reception & Community Conversation

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Cathedral Hall, Trinity Cathedral
2230 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44115
Cost: \$25

Panelists include: Katherine Chilcote, Shani Meeks, Mike Pistorino, Julia Shearson, and Daniel Rice. Moderated by The Honorable Peter Lawson Jones.

