



LOUISIANA
FAIR HOUSING
ACTION CENTER

FIT FOR A KING 2021: DISCRIMINATION IS DEADLY



January 14th, 21st, and 28th
11am-1pm



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WELCOME TO FIT FOR A KING 2021

Dear Friends,

We are living through a frightening and painful time. At this point, many of us have lost friends, neighbors or family members to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our hearts have broken seeing these many losses, especially because we know that so many of these deaths are the result of systemic racism putting communities of color most at risk. This year also we watched in horror as George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and too many others were murdered – knowing that the ever-present risk of police brutality weighs heavily on these same communities.



Our theme this year, Discrimination is Deadly, pushes us to recognize that the threats posed by systemic racism are deeply connected – we can't understand the racially disparate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic without understanding environmental racism; we can't understand gentrification without analyzing the role of policing in Black and Brown communities; and we can't address the eviction crisis that currently threatens more than 30 million of our neighbors across the U.S. without addressing longstanding injustice in our housing system.

We host this Summit each year to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s central role in the struggle against segregation and in the historic passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. In doing so, we hope to lift up the essential role of movements in creating change. As much as this was a year of loss, it was also a year of movement building. We have been heartened to see people in the streets – in unprecedented numbers despite a pandemic – as well as providing mutual aid and taking creative action to draw attention to injustice. We're inspired by them and we're honored to highlight their work throughout our summit this year.

We appreciate your support of housing justice, more now than ever. We hope you're continue to be involved in LaFHAC's work so we can keep up the pressure for a just response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a just recovery for all of our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Cashauna Hill'.

Cashauna Hill, Executive Director

A STATEWIDE FAIR HOUSING AGENCY

The Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center (LaFHAC) is a nonprofit civil rights organization established in 1995 to eradicate housing discrimination. LaFHAC's work throughout Louisiana includes educational offerings, free legal services for victims of housing discrimination, policy advocacy, and foreclosure prevention counseling. LaFHAC is dedicated to fighting discrimination because it is an illegal and divisive force that perpetuates poverty and segregation, and limits access to opportunity.

The Center works strategically in four program areas:

Outreach & Education

LaFHAC teaches housing authorities, landlords, and management companies about their fair housing obligations and responsibilities to proactively address discrimination. The Center also educates consumers, including youth, families, and first-time homebuyers, about their fair housing rights, and what to do if they suspect housing discrimination, and offers fair housing trainings for professionals in industries such as architecture, real estate, and supportive housing.

Foreclosure Prevention and Housing Counseling

The Center's HUD-certified counselor assists homeowners facing foreclosure and other issues that stem from possible fair housing violations. Fair housing violations related to homeownership include the targeting of racial minorities for subprime loans and the targeting of elderly persons for mortgage rescue scams.

Policy Advocacy

Center staff analyze and disseminate housing data and work closely with local, state, and national policymakers, government entities, and stakeholders to promote equitable housing policies on the local, state, and federal levels.

Enforcement

LaFHAC investigates possible fair housing violations and, when necessary, helps victims file administrative complaints with HUD and the Louisiana Department of Justice and/or file lawsuits in state or federal court. The Center responds to complaints from the public and conducts "testing," or mystery shopping, to measure and address housing discrimination.

**For more information about LaFHAC's programs and services,
call (877) 445-2100 or email us at info@lafairhousing.org.**

FIT FOR A KING 2021 SUMMIT AGENDA DAY 1

TIME	EVENT	PRESENTER(S)
11:00 AM	<p>Welcome to Fit for a King 2021 Day 1 Welcome remarks</p>	<p>MICHAEL DUNN Board of Directors, LaFHAC</p>
11:00 AM	<p>Panel</p> <p>From Red Lines to the Frontlines: COVID Collides with Environmental Racism in Louisiana</p> <p>The past year has highlighted many ways that institutions and systems treat Black lives and communities as if they do not matter. One impact of generations of racially discriminatory policies is that communities of color face the highest risk of environmental hazards such as toxins in the air, water and soil. COVID-19 has made this legacy even more dangerous. Hear from Louisiana leaders who are fighting environmental racism in their communities and learn how you can support their work.</p>	<p>GIAZZLYN DUNCAN (MODERATOR) Homeownership Protection Director, LaFHAC</p> <p>MONIQUE HARDEN Assistant Director of Law and Policy and the Community Engagement Program Manager, Deep South Center for Environmental Justice</p> <p>LYDWINA HURST Board Member, The Residents of Gordon Plaza, Inc.</p> <p>SHARON LAVIGNE Founder, RISE St. James</p>
11:50 AM	<p>Performance</p>	<p>MICHAELA HARRISON</p>
12:05 PM	<p>Award for Courage</p> <p>Presented by Michelle Morgan, LaFHAC's Coordinator of Investigations</p>	<p>LaFHAC TESTER, "T."</p>

12:15 PM	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>The Courage of Transformation Amidst a Global Climate Crisis</p>	<p>COLETTE PICHON-BATTLE Executive Director, Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy</p>
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FIT FOR A KING 2021 KEYNOTE SPEAKER DAY 1

Colette Pichon-Battle



Colette Pichon-Battle is a generational native of Bayou Liberty, Louisiana. As founder and Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy, she develops programming focused on Equitable Disaster Recovery, Global Migration, Community Economic Development, Climate Justice and Energy Democracy. Colette works with local communities, national funders and elected officials in the post-Katrina/post-BP disaster recovery. She was a lead coordinator for Gulf South Rising 2015- a regional initiative around climate justice and just transition in the South. In addition to developing advocacy initiatives that intersect with race, systems of power and ecology, Colette manages GCCLP's legal services in immigration and disaster law. In 2019, Colette was named an Obama Fellow for her work with Black and Native communities on the frontline of climate change. In 2018 Colette was awarded with an Honorary Doctorate from Kenyon College; in 2016 Colette was named a White House Champion of Change for Climate Equity; and in 2015 she was selected as an Echoing Green Climate Fellow. Under Colette's leadership, the Gulf Coast Center for Law & Policy co-chairs the national Water Equity and Climate Resilient Caucus with PolicyLink and anchors the five-state, multi-issue initiative - Gulf South for a Green New Deal.

FIT FOR A KING 2021 PANELISTS – DAY 1



MONIQUE HARDEN is the Assistant Director of Law and Policy and the Community Engagement Program Manager at the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice. The Center provides research, education, community and student engagement support, as well as worker training in environmental careers. Ms. Harden has more than 20 years of achievements in the practice of law that have helped predominantly African American communities win significant environmental justice victories in the Gulf Coast Region. She is the former co-director of Advocates for Environmental Human Rights, a public interest law firm whose representation of Mossville Environmental Action Now achieved the international precedent that environmental racism is a human rights violation and U.S. residents have the right to seek remedies for it at the Inter-American Commission on Human

Rights. She is the architect of the Gulf Coast Fund for Community Renewal and Ecological Health, the first of its kind community driven philanthropy in response to the systemic oppression laid bare by Hurricane Katrina. Ms. Harden has authored papers and lectured on the right of people to live in a healthy environment and the duties of government to protect this right. She has spearheaded local, regional, and international coalitions in support of communities advocating for the human right to a healthy environment. She works to democratize policymaking on environmental matters by supporting community-based organizations to engage policymakers on preventing pollution that harms their health and warms our planet.



LYDWINA HURST is a retired nurse who resides in the Gordon Plaza subdivision in the Upper Ninth Ward, Desire area. The homes in this area were built on a dump site. This issue has motivated her to serve as an activist, fighting for an end to environmental racism and injustice. She is a board member of The Residents of Gordon Plaza, Inc. where she organizes meetings with residents, participates in rallies, and attends meetings with political leaders and members of organizations in regard to environmental racism and injustices.



SHARON LAVIGNE was born and raised in St. James, Louisiana. She is the mother of 6 amazing children and the grandmother of 12 wonderful grandchildren. She has invested 39 years in the school system teaching students with special needs and disabilities. In October 2018, with guidance from God, she formed a faith-based organization called RISE St. James. Along with the members of RISE St. James, she has taken on the battle against Formosa Plastics to prevent the mega-industry from building in their beloved hometown. Today, they are taking on other hazardous industries as well and continue to advocate for basic human rights such as clean air, clean water and soil.

FIT FOR A KING 2021 PERFORMER – DAY 1



MICHAELA HARRISON is an international vocalist whose career is rooted in relaying the healing, transformational power of music through song. Holding a Bachelor's degree in International Affairs and a Master's in Africana Studies, she is fluent in French and Portuguese, familiar with Spanish and Swahili, and has an expanded repertoire of world music, rendering songs in their original languages. After nearly two decades of calling New Orleans home, Michaela has returned to her native Washington, DC, yet continues to spend extensive time in Brazil, where has headlined music festivals and performs at various venues and events. She has toured in Jamaica, Japan, France, Germany, Italy, England, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and has recorded with members of Sweet Honey and the Rock, Bill Summers, Kermit Ruffins, and Mother Tongue. Michaela is currently engaged in

a project called Whale Whispering, a musical collaboration on water, healing and ancestry with humpback whales based in Bahia.

FIT FOR A KING 2021

SUMMIT AGENDA

DAY 2

TIME	EVENT	PRESENTER(S)
11:00 AM	<p>Welcome to Fit for a King 2021 Day 2 Welcome remarks</p>	<p>SARAH OMOJOLA Board of Directors, LaFHAC</p>
11:10 AM	<p>Panel</p> <p>Targeted: Policing, Gentrification & Housing Injustice</p> <p>Research shows that as neighborhoods gentrify, policing increases and intensifies, particularly against Black and Brown residents. The criminalization of longtime residents contributes to displacement and can have long term consequences, particularly when arrests or convictions lead to housing discrimination locking people out of even more housing options. This panel will discuss how policing and criminalization of communities of color contributes to housing injustice and how fair housing advocates can push back.</p>	<p>ROSA GOMEZ-HERRIN (MODERATOR) Innovation and Strategic Partnerships, Operation Restoration and LaFHAC Board Member</p> <p>CHANCELA AL-MANSOUR Executive Director, the Housing Rights Center</p> <p>BENNETT CAPERS Professor of Law and Director, Center on Race, Law, and Justice at Fordham Law School</p> <p>WENDI COOPER Founder and Executive Director, TRANScending Women</p>
11:50 AM	<p>Performance</p>	<p>SHA'CONDRIA "iCON" SIBLEY</p>

12:05 PM	FAIR HOUSING HERO AWARD Presented by Cashauna Hill, LaFHAC's Executive Director	SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA LEGAL SERVICES HOUSING UNIT
12:15 PM	Keynote Address	SHAMEKA PARRISH-WRIGHT Operations Manager, The Bail Project

FIT FOR A KING 2021 KEYNOTE SPEAKER DAY 2

Shameka Parrish-Wright



Shameka Parrish-Wright is a dedicated community organizer, educator and activist. She currently serves as Operations Manager for The Bail Project, a non-profit organization designed to disrupt mass incarceration. She is passionate about fighting daily to end the cash bail system. She was appointed by the Mayor of Louisville as a Louisville Human Relations Commissioner and she served from 2008 until 2012. She currently serves on many boards including the Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care, The Anne & Carl Braden Memorial Center, Louisville Books to Prisoners, and The Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression. She was worked with Kentuckians For the Commonwealth, Kentucky Jobs for Justice and The

Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression. The Kentucky Alliance one of the oldest civil rights organizations in Louisville and Kentucky and has played a pivotal role in the Justice for Breonna Taylor Movement. As co-chair, Shameka Parrish-Wright and other Black women organizers set up Injustice Square Park, a key site of organizing for the Justice for Breonna Taylor Movement, out of which Breonna's Law was born. Mrs. Parrish-Wright lives in Louisville with her husband James, six children and six grandchildren.

FIT FOR A KING 2021 PANELISTS – DAY 2



CHANCELA AL-MANSOUR, Executive Director of the Housing Rights Center, joined HRC in November of 2010 after having been actively involved in fair housing advocacy for 18 years. Al-Mansour worked at Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County where she supervised the Housing Unit, the Bankruptcy Court Self-Help Center and its HPRP (homeless prevention) work with L.A. City and L.A. County and she litigated hundreds of cases involving landlord-tenant, housing element, mortgage fraud and fair housing laws. Al-Mansour has extensive experience litigating fair housing cases involving familial status, disability and race, producing training and resource materials, and training attorneys in state and federal fair housing law. In private practice, she and her law partner filed the landmark *Roommates.com* case, and litigated cases involving predatory lending and fraudulent mortgage broker practices. She was also an attorney with the Western Center on Law and Poverty. She serves on the boards of the California Reinvestment Coalition, the National Fair Housing Alliance and Friends in Deed (Pasadena food pantry). Al-Mansour graduated from Vassar College and the University of California at Davis School of Law.



BENNETT CAPERS joined Fordham Law School in Fall 2012. He teaches Evidence, Criminal Law, and Criminal Procedure, and is also the Director of the Center on Race, Law, and Justice. A former federal prosecutor, his academic interests include the relationship between race, gender, technology, and criminal justice, and he is a prolific writer on these topics. In addition to co-editing the forthcoming *Critical Race Judgments: Rewritten U.S. Court Opinions on Race and Law* (Cambridge University Press) and *Feminist Judgments: Rewritten Criminal Law Opinions* (Cambridge University Press), he also has a forthcoming book about prosecutors, *The Prosecutor's Turn* (Metropolitan Books). His commentary and op-eds have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and other journals. He is an elected member of the American Law Institute, a Director of Research for the Uniform Laws Commission, and has served as Chair of the AALS Criminal Justice Section and Chair of the AALS Law and Humanities Section. Governor Cuomo has twice appointed him to serve on judicial screening committees. He has also served for several years as a Commissioner on the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board.



WENDI COOPER is a transgender woman of color who is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana. She has been a healthcare provider and mental health professional for over a decade. Wendi earned a B.S. in biology at Southern University at New Orleans in 2011. Additionally, she has an Executive Masters of Criminal Justice with a concentration in juvenile justice from Southern University. Because of her connections with the transgender community, Wendi was proclaimed by council member Latoya Cantrell before being appointed to Mayor Cantrell's transition team. She was a community organizer for the NO Justice Project in New Orleans, LA where she provided key testimony in the federal lawsuit that successfully challenged Louisiana's Crime Against Nature by Solicitation (CANS) law, securing the removal of more than 700 women from the sex offender

registry. Wendi has been featured in an MSNBC News documentary on transgender women's advocacy in Louisiana, in *Floodlines: Community and Resistance from Katrina to the Jena Six* by Jordan Flaherty, and in a Human Rights Campaign on Crime Against Nature by Solicitation feature story. Wendi's goal is to help all women, particularly transgender women, overcome their fears.

FIT FOR A KING 2021 PERFORMER – DAY 2



SHA'CONDRIA "iCON" SIBLEY is an Alexandria, Louisiana native and longtime New Orleans-based award-winning poet, author, performing artist, visual artist, teaching artist, host, event curator, and creator of the viral "*to all the little Black girls with big names*" movement. A multiple-time national poetry slam champion and performer, she travels the country and has made many television and stage appearances, including on TV One's *Verses and Flow* and at mainstage at the Essence Music Festival. Her work has been featured on many outlets such as *Huffington Post*, *For Harriet*, *Teen Vogue*, *InStyle*, *BET*, and *BBC World Radio*. She has also featured on musical projects with multiple national recording artists and has co-written two short films. iCon uses her work/words largely to speak on her existence as a southern Blk woman as they relate to identity, family/community, faith, and healing. Her first

published work, *My Name Is Pronounced Holy*, will be available early 2021.

FIT FOR A KING 2021 SUMMIT AGENDA DAY 3

TIME	EVENT	PRESENTER(S)
11:00 AM	Welcome to Fit for a King 2021 Day 3 Welcome remarks	CASHAUNA HILL Executive Director, LaFHAC
11:10 AM	Morning Keynote Address	CARROLL FIFE Founding Member of Moms4Housing and Councilmember for Oakland's District 3
11:40 AM	Performance <i>Solastalgia</i> by Dance for Social Change	DANCING GROUNDS
11:50 AM	Mondale-Brooke Award Presented by Maxwell Ciardullo, LaFHAC's Director of Policy & Communications	REPRESENTATIVE TED JAMES AND REPRESENTATIVE MANDIE LANDRY
12:00 PM	Afternoon Keynote Address	CONGRESSWOMAN MAXINE WATERS California's 43 rd District

<p style="text-align: center;">12:20 PM</p>	<p>Panel</p> <p>Do We Need Evictions? Transformative Housing Justice Organizing in a Pandemic</p> <p>Is there a humane way to force someone from their home during a global pandemic? Organizers, legal advocates, and activists will discuss the way COVID-19 has reframed eviction defense as life-or-death racial justice work, the solutions we need to keep us all in our homes, and how everyone can take action for justice.</p>	<p>MAXWELL CIARDULLO (MODERATOR) Director of Policy & Communications, LaFHAC</p> <p>TARA RAGHUVVEER Founding Director, KC Tenants</p> <p>FRANK SOUTHALL Lead Organizer and Community Engagement Coordinator, Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative</p> <p>SARAH CARTHEN WATSON Associate Counsel, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law</p>
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FIT FOR A KING 2021 MORNING KEYNOTE SPEAKER DAY 3

CARROLL FIFE



Carroll Fife is an executive director, a community leader, a mother and a fearless freedom fighter. As director of ACCE Oakland, she helped found Moms for Housing and passed legislation at the state and local level to build collective power for tenants. She has fought back against police terrorism and helped to build a network of Black organizations and individuals working together for community self-determination. She has been involved in Oakland electoral politics for over a decade. She is an elected member of the Oakland NAACP's Executive Committee and serves as the housing chair of the organization. Since 2014, she has managed several campaigns, including Oakland's first ever slate of all Black women candidates for City

Council and the OUSD Board. She was a 2016 and 2020 Platform Committee delegate for Senator Bernie Sanders and drafted an amendment for the 2020 Democratic National Convention Platform to make housing a human right.

Carroll's legislative and electoral accomplishments include the grassroots organizing energy behind Oakland's Department of Race and Equity, pushing for the Cannabis Equity Permit program, protecting the Coliseum area from gentrification, passing Oakland's emergency eviction moratoria and pandemic eviction ban, and most recently, pressuring the City Council to reopen the City budget in order to divest from Oakland's police department to invest in community services. Carroll facilitates many grassroots coalitions, mentors youth organizations and candidates running for elected office and is a trusted advocate and servant of marginalized people everywhere.

In November 2020, Carroll was elected to Oakland's City Council representing District 3.

Please visit her website for more information: <https://www.carrollfife.org/platform>

FIT FOR A KING 2021 AFTERNOON KEYNOTE SPEAKER DAY 3

CONGRESSWOMAN MAXINE WATERS



Congresswoman Maxine Waters is considered by many to be one of the most powerful women in American politics today. She has gained a reputation as a fearless and outspoken advocate for women, children, people of color and the poor.

Congresswoman Waters was born in St. Louis, Missouri, the fifth of 13 children reared by a single mother. She began working at age 13 in factories and segregated restaurants. After moving to Los Angeles, she worked in garment factories and at the telephone company. She attended California State University at Los Angeles, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. She

began her career in public service as a teacher and a volunteer coordinator in the Head Start program.

Congresswoman Waters was elected in November 2018 to her fifteenth term in the U.S. House of Representatives with more than 70 percent of the vote in the 43rd Congressional District of California. Congresswoman Waters made history as the first woman and first African American Chair of the House Financial Services Committee. An integral member of Congressional Democratic Leadership, Congresswoman Waters serves as a member of the Steering & Policy Committee and is the Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease. She is also a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, and member and past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Legislative Leadership

Throughout her more than 40 years of public service, Maxine Waters has been on the cutting edge, tackling difficult and often controversial issues. She has combined her strong legislative and public policy acumen and high visibility in Democratic Party activities with an unusual ability to do grassroots organizing.

Following the Los Angeles civil unrest in 1992, Congresswoman Waters faced the nation's media and public to interpret the hopelessness and despair in cities across America. Over the years, she has brought many government officials and policy makers to her South Central L.A. district to appeal for more resources. They

included President Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, Secretaries of Housing & Urban Development Henry Cisneros and Andrew Cuomo, and Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve System. Following the unrest, she founded Community Build, the city's grassroots rebuilding project.

She has used her skill to shape public policy and deliver the goods: \$10 billion in Section 108 loan guarantees to cities for economic and infrastructure development, housing and small business expansion; \$50 million appropriation for "Youth Fair Chance" program which established an intensive job and life skills training program for unskilled, unemployed youth; expanded U.S. debt relief for Africa and other developing nations; creating a "Center for Women Veterans," among others.

As she confronts the issues such as poverty, economic development, equal justice under the law and other issues of concern to people of color, women, children, and poor people, Rep. Waters enjoys a broad cross section of support from diverse communities across the nation.

Congresswoman Waters has led congressional efforts to mitigate foreclosures and keep American families in their homes during the housing and economic crises, notably through her role as Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity in the previous two Congresses. She authored the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which provides grants to states, local governments and nonprofits to fight foreclosures, home abandonment and blight and to restore neighborhoods. Through two infusions of funds, the Congresswoman was able to secure \$6 billion for the program.

To read Congresswoman Waters' full biography, click [here](#).

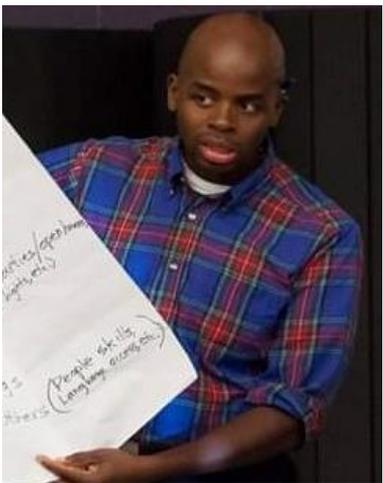
FIT FOR A KING 2021 PANELISTS – DAY 3



MAXWELL CIARDULLO is the Director of Policy and Communications for the Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center (LaFHAC). At LaFHAC he leads the organization's legislative, regulatory, and communications work at the local, state, and federal levels related to policies that encourage fair housing choice and decrease segregation. Prior to joining LaFHAC, he served as a health care access policy fellow with the New Orleans Health Department as part of the White House Strong Cities, Strong Communities initiative. Maxwell holds a master's degree in regional planning from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and an undergraduate degree in Sociology from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.



TARA RAGHUV EER is the founding director of KC Tenants. She is also the Homes Guarantee Campaign Director at People's Action, a national network of grassroots organizations committed to racial, economic, gender, and climate justice. Tara is an Australian-born, Indian-American immigrant who came to the US with her family in 1995 and grew up in Kansas City.



Y. FRANK SOUTHALL is the Lead Organizer and Community Engagement Coordinator for the Jane Place Neighborhood Sustainability Initiative (Jane Place), a community landtrust and housing rights organization. At Jane Place, Frank coordinates the organization's renter justice work, workshops and community outreach to various individuals, communities and groups in Orleans Parish. Frank has been involved in various forms of student, political and environmental organizing work for about twenty years.



SARAH CARTHEN WATSON is Associate Counsel in the Fair Housing and Community Development Project. Prior to assuming the role of Associate Counsel, Sarah was the George N. Lindsay Fellow, where she used a three-pronged approach of impact litigation, local advocacy and community engagement to challenge the discriminatory effects of nuisance and crime-free ordinances on minorities, victims of domestic violence, and low-income communities. In addition to continuing the Fair Housing Project's Nuisance and Crime-Free Initiative, Sarah works with the rest of the Fair Housing and Community Development team to bring litigation challenging discriminatory housing practices, engaging in strategy and advocacy around fair housing policy issues, and working with jurisdictions around the country to draft and implement their fair housing plans in

compliance with the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule. Sarah received her J.D. and Certificate in Public Interest Law from Washington University School of Law in. While in law school, she served as Co-Chair of the Dean's Advisory Committee, Vice-President of the Black Law Students Association, and participated in the Civil Rights, Community Justice and Mediation Clinic. As a clinic student, she worked first as a law clerk at the Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council doing fair housing litigation, staffing the Landlord-Tenant Hotline, and mediating over 50 cases in eviction court. Sarah also spent a clinic semester at the St. Ann Municipal Courthouse outside St. Louis, working on eliminating records backlogs that contribute to the criminalization of poverty through fines and fees. She also worked as a law clerk at the St. Louis District Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the New York City Law Department, the Civil Rights Bureau of the New York State Attorney General, and Legal Aid at Work. Prior to law school, Sarah earned her B.S. in Education and Social Policy from Northwestern University, with a minor in African American Studies. While at Northwestern, Sarah was leader in numerous on-campus student activism and social justice efforts, including Co-Founding the school chapter of Sustained Dialogue Campus Network, serving as the Coordinator of the Black Student Alliance, and leading student protest efforts that ultimately lead to the creation of the office of Campus Inclusion and Community. She is licensed to practice in Minnesota.

FIT FOR A KING 2021 PERFORMER – DAY 3



Developing young leaders. Promoting health & wellness. Advocating for social change. **Dancing Grounds (DG)** is a multigenerational arts organization that brings inclusive and accessible dance programs to New Orleans residents of all ages. With youth dance companies, summer camps, and Dance for Social Change, DG creates safe and celebratory spaces in which the lived experiences of youth are truly valued and their unique creative talents are recognized, developed, and celebrated. We also host the most comprehensive adult dance program in the

city. Since 2012, DG has become a driving force for arts and education in New Orleans and a hub for the local dance community, serving over 3,000 youth, 5,000 adults, and countless audience members. Our work is guided by a set of core values: equity, racial justice, integrity, relationships, learning, collaboration, abundance, and joy.

FAIR HOUSING AWARD FOR COURAGE

For Bravery and Tenacity in the Face of Adversity



Image By Bernie Kleina

The Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center is honored to recognize individuals who, in the face of discrimination, stood steadfast against injustice.

Tester T. has worked to advance fair housing as a mystery shopper with LaFHAC since 2016. In that time, T. has worked on numerous housing investigations across the New Orleans metro area. T. has faced discrimination head on and her efforts have had a positive impact on the community in helping to create more fair and equitable housing for everyone. During one particular investigation, T. was subjected to shockingly racist statements yet remained composed and completed the investigation in a professional manner. Evidence collected during that testing investigation led to a federal lawsuit. Fair housing investigations would not occur without the work of people like T., who sacrifice their personal time to help end housing discrimination. T.'s courage and commitment to holding discriminators accountable is inspiring and commendable.

This year, LaFHAC honors the courage of:

LaFHAC Tester "T."*

*Full name omitted for confidentiality.

FAIR HOUSING HERO AWARD

For Outstanding Contributions to the Fair Housing Movement



Image By Bernie Kleina

Each year the Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center presents the Fair Housing Hero award to an advocate who has made significant contributions to the fair housing movement.

These honorees have not only worked tirelessly to ensure that voices of low-income Louisianans are centered in discussions about COVID-19 relief; they have also continued to represent clients in court, sometimes in unsafe conditions, to keep our neighbors in their homes. They also worked off the clock to connect clients with rental assistance funding and were key partners in LaFHAC's rental assistance efforts that served 200 families between August and December of 2020.

**This year, LaFHAC honors the outstanding leadership of:
Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
Housing Law Unit**

MONDALE-BROOKE AWARD

For Fair Housing Leadership and Civic Participation



Image By Bernie Kleina

Each year, the Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center honors individuals who have distinguished themselves through their leadership as champions of civil rights and equity.

The *Mondale-Brooke Award for Fair Housing Leadership and Civic Participation* honors the legacy of Senators Walter Mondale (D-MN) and Edward Brooke (R-MA), who championed the Fair Housing Act as part of comprehensive civil rights legislation.

On April 11th of 1968, just seven days after the assassination of Dr. King and in the midst of the country's grief, Congress enacted the 1968 Civil Rights Act. Title VIII of the law is commonly known as the *Fair Housing Act*.

This year, LaFHAC honors the outstanding leadership of:

**Representative Mandie Landry and
Representative Ted James**



Thank you for being part of the Fair Housing Movement

Last year was a tough year for everyone. However, a challenging and emotionally taxing year ended on a wonderful note due to YOUR support. Because of you, we were able to raise much-needed funds when it mattered the most. Your generosity helped the Louisiana Fair Housing Action Center exceed our 2020 individual giving goal of \$25,000 by 3%: \$25,750! This is the largest amount raised in recent memory, and our hearts are filled with gratitude for your partnership.

Everyone deserves access to safe housing and access to opportunity. Your support has helped to make the following LaFHAC initiatives possible during our 25th anniversary year:

- Leading the movement to support the Smart Housing Mix, ensuring multi-family developments close to jobs set aside units for affordable housing.
- Supporting New Orleans to become one of the first cities and Louisiana one of the first states with a comprehensive eviction and foreclosure moratorium, before the federal government's moratoriums, by shifting nearly all of our policy and advocacy work to immediate housing needs created by the coronavirus pandemic.
- Implementing a new Eviction Defense program that provides legal representation for residents facing eviction during the pandemic, including providing services for undocumented community members.

Going forward, we ask that you help us amplify our impact! Please tell your friends, family, and colleagues who you think would be interested in helping support our work about LaFHAC's mission. To continue our work advocating for all Louisiana residents, we are asking those in LaFHAC's network to commit to a recurring monthly donation of \$10 or more. A recurring monthly donation on lafairhousing.org/donate contributes to LaFHAC's efforts of fighting for justice and access to opportunity. We have a lot planned to meet the challenges of 2021 and hope that you will join us. This work makes a difference. And you make it possible.

Fair housing is at the heart of every racial, political, and social justice issue. We are excited about the opportunities to advance the movement for fair and equitable housing in 2021 and beyond. Please give online at lafairhousing.org/donate to support our 2021 initiatives, which fight for the systems-level change our communities need and deserve.

FAIR HOUSING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

For Professionals, Government Agencies, and Nonprofits



Schedule a Fair Housing training for your organization, company, agency or school. LaFHAC offers a variety of trainings and presentations, including:

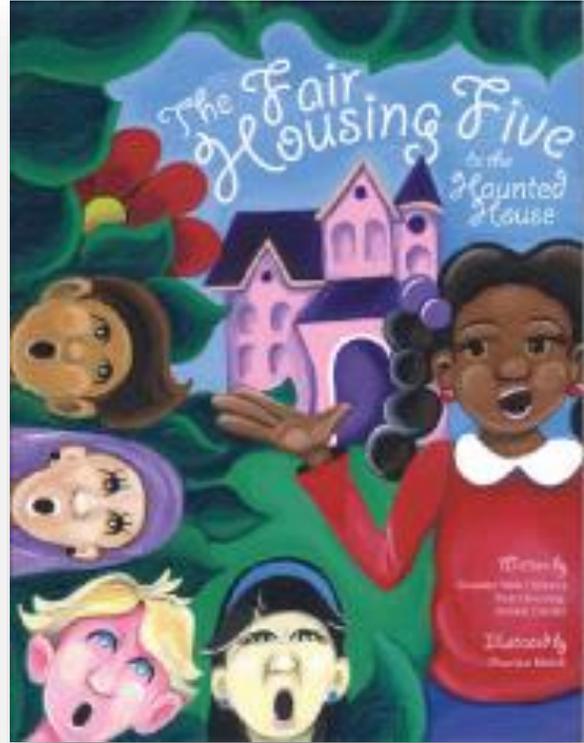
- Know Your Housing Rights
- Fair Housing 101 for Homebuyers
- Fair Housing 101 for Landlords, Property Managers & other Housing Providers
- Fair Housing Act Design Requirements
- Fair Housing for Service Providers
- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

***For more information, please contact
Elana Cohen, LaFHAC Education Coordinator,
at (504) 708-2109 or ecohen@lafairhousing.org.***

FAIR HOUSING EDUCATION FOR YOUTH!

The Fair Housing Five & the Haunted House is an original, full-color children's book developed in partnership with local educators and parents. The book is used in classrooms and youth programs across the country to engage kids in conversations about civil rights and equity. Purchase the book, or learn more, at www.fairhousingfive.org.

A Spanish translation of *the Fair Housing Five*, **Los Cinco de Vivienda Justa y La Casa Embrujada** is now available as well!



LaFHAC Also Offers Fair Housing Youth Workshops:

Welcome to My Neighborhood
(grades 1-4)

The Equal Opportunity Game
(grades 4-9)

For more information, or to bring our youth programs to your school or organization, visit www.fairhousingfive.org or call (504) 708-2109.



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