



Open Doors

News from the Metropolitan St. Louis
Equal Housing and Opportunity Council

Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST Training in St. Louis - May 21!

Join us!

Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST Design and Construction Training



May 21, 2014

8 AM - 4:30 PM

Vaughn Cultural Center
3701 Grandel Square
St. Louis, MO 63108

FREE

Presented by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
and the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis.

This training will present:

Module 10
Design & Construction Requirements of the Fair Housing Act

Module 7
Accessible Routes

Module 8
Accessible Public & Common-Use Areas

[Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST](#) is an initiative designed to promote compliance with the Fair Housing Act design and construction requirements. The program offers comprehensive and detailed instruction programs, useful online web resources, and a toll-free information line for technical guidance and support.

[Register for the training online here!](#)

[Download the flyer \[PDF\]](#)

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EHO is supported by a grant through the U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development and through grants from St. Louis City Community Development Administration, St. Louis County and from supporters like you.



Mission

The Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing and Opportunity Council (EHO) works to ensure equal access to housing and places of public accommodation through education, counseling, investigation and

For more information, contact John Ritzu at jritzu@lcmarchitects.com or (312) 913-1717 x228

Share your input on housing in St. Louis County, Florissant, and O'Fallon

St. Louis County, Florissant, and O'Fallon MO are currently in the process of conducting their Analysis to Impediments (AI). The jurisdictions are contracting with WFN Consulting to conduct the AI.

[Share your input by filling out an online survey here!](#) The survey is available in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

The AI is a report that identifies challenges to a fair and integrated community. Specifically, an AI examines the barriers affecting housing choice on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, family status, and disability. The AI will include recommendations on how to overcome barriers to fair housing. St. Louis County, Florissant, and O'Fallon will use the AI and recommendations in the consolidated planning process to allocate community development and housing funds.

Community engagement is an important part of the AI process that shapes the findings and recommendations. Community meetings were held in each of the jurisdictions during the week of April 7th. A survey is posted online here at www.stlouisfairhousing.com. Comments can also be submitted that will be considered in the development of the AI.

This is your chance to inform and shape fair housing in St. Louis County, Florissant, and O'Fallon! Get involved!

For more information about this AI, visit www.stlouisfairhousing.com.

EHOC Conference Follow Up

Thank you to all those that attended and supported EHOC's 17th Annual Regional Fair Housing Training Conference on Friday, April 4th!

We were honored to have Sara Pratt, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Programs, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as our keynote speaker. An excellent overview of her keynote remarks can be found in an article written by Thomas Bussen, Vice President of IntegTree LLC. [The article was posted online in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on April 11](#), the 46th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act.



Keynote speaker Sara Pratt speaks about affirmatively furthering fair housing.

Later sessions of the conference focused on three specific topics that are barriers to fair housing in St. Louis today, including Crime-Free Housing Ordinances, Disparities in Health, and Immigration. The morning panel provided an overview of the topic and identified the fair housing barriers.

enforcement of fair housing laws.

Services

Education - EHOC provides education about fair housing to consumers as well as to housing providers, real estate agents, local governments, architects and others. If you are a nonprofit organization and would like to set up a workshop, please call 800-555-3951 x7016.

Fair Housing Complaint

Counseling and Investigation - EHOC assists those who believe they have been discriminated against in housing due to their race, color, religion, national origin, gender, familial status, disability or because of sexual orientation, marital status, age (40+), ancestry, military status, source of income under applicable local laws.

Tenant Hotline

- EHOC offers a hotline to educate people on Missouri Landlord - Tenant law and to prevent homelessness.

Support

EHOC receives support from the U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD); St. Louis City CDA; St. Louis County Community Development and through tax-deductible contributions.

Staff

Will Jordan,
Executive Director

Karla Dozier,
Assistant Director /
Senior Staff Attorney



Kate Walz from the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law speaks about the harm of crime-free housing ordinances in the morning panel.

The afternoon workshops focused on going into more detail about each of those three topics. In addition to presentations, the workshops were tasked with creating specific next steps or recommendations that will help to address the policy barriers in each topic.

Crime-Free Housing Ordinances

Many cities in the Metro East have recently enacted crime-free housing ordinances. Kate Walz from the [Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law](#) and EHOc Staff Attorney Zack Schmook spoke about these local developments. A Belleville landlord Lewis Simpson also spoke about the harmful impact the ordinance has on his business practices. To overcome these discriminatory barriers, this workshop discussed increasing public awareness of the problems with crime-free housing ordinances and moving forward with legal actions. To learn more, contact Zack Schmook at zschmook@ehoc-stl.org.

Health Disparities

Dr. Jason Purnell and Dr. Keon Gilbert presented research on disparities in health outcomes of African-Americans in the St. Louis region. They discussed ways to increase quality access to health for underserved communities. For more information on this topic and to further discuss strategies, you're invited to the [For the Sake of All final report and community conference on May 30 at the Missouri History Museum from 8 AM to noon](#).

Welcoming Immigrants

This workshop discussed specific examples of restrictive occupancy permit ID requirements found in a number of St. Louis municipalities. The story of St. Ann, MO included a success in the municipality adopting an inclusive list of acceptable IDs. In order to continue working on these issues, EHOc and [MIRA](#) are starting an Immigrant Housing Project. The project is a consortium of organizations and community members that will work to identify and address housing barriers faced by immigrant and refugees. For more information about joining this work, contact Elisabeth Risch at erisch@ehoc-stl.org.

All of the PowerPoint presentations from the morning and afternoon sessions are posted online through Google Drive. View them here: [2014 EHOc Fair Housing Conference Presentations](#)

Thanks to our generous sponsors and partners, including the City of St. Louis Community Development Administration, St. Louis County, State Farm Insurance, Missouri Commission on Human Rights, the Missouri History Museum, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Congratulations to 2014 Open Door Awards

Zachary Schmook,
Managing Attorney

Katina Combs,
Director of Testing /
Fair Lending
Specialist

Elisabeth Risch,
Director of Research
and Education

Valerie Leslie,
Test Coordinator /
Fair Housing
Specialist Assistant

Kalila Jackson,
Staff Attorney

Alexia Anderson,
Accountant

Deborah Grieder,
General Counsel

Board

Nate Johnson,
President

Ann Lever, Vice
President

Cynthia Jordan,
Treasurer

Hedy Epstein,
Secretary

Valerie Bell
Steve Gunn
Dennis Lavallee
Eric Madkins
Miriam Mahan
Cathy Contarino
Molly Metzger
Sarah Durbin
Melody Goodman
Samuel Henderson

Website

www.ehocstl.org

Did you know?

April is Fair Housing Month!

The Fair Housing Act was passed on April 11, 1968. This year, we celebrate the 46th anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act.

We remember the hardship and turmoil leading up to the

As part of EHOc's Fair Housing Conference on April 4, we presented the 2014 Open Door Awards. Every year, EHOc recognizes those in the community working to further fair housing in the St. Louis region. We were honored to present the Open Door Awards to the following recipients:



EHOc's Will Jordan and Elisha Brown

Elisha Brown, Principal and Founder, Brown-Kortkamp Realty

In 1960 Mr. Brown opened a small real estate company out of his home with a mission to provide comprehensive real estate services. Servicing a primarily African-American clientele, Mr. Brown became more than just a real estate agent; he became an educator and mentor. Mr. Brown has contributed to a more diverse St. Louis. He sold properties to African-American families in communities where they were not welcomed in the 60s and 70s. Despite the adversities he faced, he believed that blacks had the right to live anywhere in St. Louis, moving some of the first blacks into University City and Belnor. Today, Brown-Kortkamp Realty Company has become one of St. Louis' leading minority-owned real estate companies. Mr. Brown has founded two other related entities - Brown-Kortkamp Moving and Storage, and Urban Planning and Development Corporation of America, Inc. (UPDC) - to form the Brown-Kortkamp Family of Companies.

final signing of the bill by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Just seven days prior, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, which sparked riots in hundreds of cities across the country. President Johnson and civil rights leaders urged Congress to pass the Fair Housing Act, which had been stuck in legislation for years.

Finally, Congress passed the bill after mounting public pressure to do something to address Dr. King's death. The bill was approved and signed into law on April 11, 1968.

For more background on the passage of the Fair Housing, watch the short film ["Seven Days: The Untold Story of the Fair Housing Act,"](#) produced by Animal and developed by Nationwide and the National Fair Housing Alliance.

[Watch the video online here.](#)



EHOc Board President Emeritus Dennis Lavallee presents the Open Door Award to Anna Crosslin

Anna E. Crosslin, President and CEO, International Institute of St. Louis

For 35 years, Anna Crosslin has led the International Institute of St. Louis (IISTL). For almost 100 years, IISTL has operated St. Louis' Immigrant Welcoming Center. Today, the Institute offers nationally-acclaimed

services to more than 7,500 immigrants and refugees annually. Our Festival of Nations is the largest annual multicultural celebration in St. Louis, drawing more than 100,000 visitors each year. Crosslin serves on a variety of local and national initiatives including the Steering Committee of the St. Louis Mosaic Project, which seeks to attract more immigrants to St. Louis - and retain the ones already living here. She is also a Board member of the National Asian Pacific Center for Aging, headquartered in Seattle, WA.

More Ways to Support Fair Housing

Have you considered putting the Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing & Opportunity in your will? If you are interested in making a bequest to EHOC to support future fair housing work, please contact Will Jordan at 314-534-5800 ext. 7018

The Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing & Opportunity Council offers four easy ways to support fair housing. Supporters can make a secure credit card donation to EHOC through [Network for Good](#) by clicking [here](#).

Supporters can also mail in a contribution to Alexia Anderson, EHOC, 1027 South Vandeventer Ave., 6th Floor, Saint Louis, MO 63110.

Supporters can also use [Good Search](#) as your Search Engine and select the Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing & Opportunity Council as the recipient.

You can also contribute to EHOC by shopping online through [iGive.com](#) and select Metropolitan St. Louis Equal Housing & Opportunity Council as the recipient.

We are grateful for your support!

[Forward email](#)



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