

OUR CHICAGO

THE FIGHT AND FUTURE OF FAIR HOUSING AT 50

Community Summit

April 28, 2018

Roosevelt University

425 S. Wabash Ave.

#OurChicago #FairHousing50





Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights
and the
Policy Research Collaborative at Roosevelt University

With

Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance,
the John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Support Center & Clinic,
Northside Community Resources,
and Open Communities

Present

Our Chicago: The Fight and Future of Fair Housing at 50

Community Summit

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Roosevelt University

425 S. Wabash Ave.

10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



SCHEDULE

All	Programming	Children's Track	Multimedia
9:30am – 10:00am	Registration; Light Breakfast (Room 418)	Childcare drop-off (Room 317) <i>Childcare available for day's duration</i>	
10:00am – 10:15am	Welcome & Orientation (Room 418)		
10:30am – 11:20am	The Fight for Affordable Housing and Equitable Development (Room 418) Know Your Rights – Housing Discrimination in Renting, Lending, and Homebuying (Room 1215)	Fair Housing for Kids (Room 416) <i>Ages 7-14</i>	Oral Histories (Room 618) Documentary: <i>Voices of Cabrini</i> (Room 616)
11:30am – 12:20pm	Chicago's Unjust Property Tax System (Room 418) Housing Discrimination Intake Clinic (Room 1215)		Oral Histories (Room 618) Documentary: <i>70 Acres in Chicago</i> (Room 616)
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunchtime Keynote Session; <i>Fifty Years Later, Now What?</i> Moderated by Natalie Moore (Room 418)		
1:40pm – 2:30pm	Know Your Rights – Housing Discrimination in Renting, Lending, and Homebuying (Room 1215) Using Data to Fight for Fair Housing (Room 1214)	Fair Housing for Kids (Room 416) <i>Ages 7-14</i>	Oral Histories (Room 618)
2:40pm – 3:20pm	Break-Out Groups (Room 418) – Coming Home: Returning Citizens, People with Criminal Backgrounds, and the Just Housing Initiative – The Rent is Too Darn High: Gentrification and Rent Control – Breaking Through Barriers: Clients, Service Providers, and Challenges to Housing – Vouch for Us: Subsidized Housing and Voucher Holders Housing Discrimination Intake Clinic (Room 1215)		Oral Histories (Room 618)
3:20pm – 3:30pm	Closing Remarks & End of Summit (Room 418)		

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

All day with break for lunch (12:30 - 1:30)

Fair Housing for Kids (Room 416)

Ages 7 - 14

Kids will participate in an interactive reading of *The Fair Housing Five & the Haunted House*, an award-winning children's book developed by the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center in collaboration with parents, teachers, students, and New Orleans illustrator Sharika Mahdi Neville. Kids will take part in collaborative and interactive activities that promote critical thinking and conversations about themes related to fair housing and civil rights more broadly, including inclusion, equity, and privilege and power. After breaking for lunch, the afternoon program will accommodate returning kids and new arrivals.

Oral Histories (Room 618)

Staff with the National Public Housing Museum (NPHM) will be collecting stories from people who want to contribute to the largest oral history archive about public and publicly subsidized housing in America. We invite people to record their stories by signing up at the oral history table on the sixth floor. Typically, recordings are an hour, and participants are interviewed by oral historians from NPHM. Our hope is that family members, researchers, and artists alike will draw inspiration from these stories in the future. Additionally, all participants will receive a copy of their story. NPHM creates a living cultural experience on social justice and human rights that creatively re-imagine the future of our community, our society, and our spaces. NPHM is not just about the preservation of stories, it is about helping to preserve society's highest ideals.

10:30am - 11:20am

The Fight for Affordable Housing and Equitable Development (Room 418)

It has been fifty years since the Fair Housing Act was passed. Why do segregation, disinvestment, and the displacement of people of color remain defining civil rights issues in Chicago? And how do communities fight for their own survival and growth in a climate of increasing new private development?

Moderator:

Quinn Rallins, Program Director, Illinois Justice Project

Panelists:

Angela Hurlock, Executive Director, Claretian Associates

Leah Levinger, Executive Director, Chicago Housing Initiative

Deon Lucas, Member, Hanns & Erving

Byron Sigcho, Director, Pilsen Alliance

Know Your Rights – Housing Discrimination in Renting, Lending, and Homebuying
(Room 1215)

Strongly recommended for intake clinic participants

What does illegal housing discrimination look like, and how can the law protect people from it? The Illinois Department of Human Rights will teach you about protected classes, your legal right to equal access in housing, your right to choose where you want to live, and your right to enjoy the use of the facilities in your unit without feeling intimidated or discriminated against by owners, landlords, real estate agents or brokers, or others.

Documentary: Voices of Cabrini with Director Ronit Bezalel (Room 616)

Join award-winning filmmaker Ronit Bezalel for a screening and discussion of her 1999 movie, *Voices of Cabrini: Remaking Chicago's Public Housing*. Shot over a four-year period, this gripping documentary chronicles the demolition of Cabrini Green from the perspectives of residents, community activists and local business owners.

11:30am - 12:20pm

Chicago's Unjust Property Tax System (Room 418)

For years, the office of the Cook County Assessor has conducted assessments that unfairly shift residential property tax burdens from White to Black and Latinx neighborhoods, and from the rich to the poor. Learn more about how the County's property tax system works, the broader challenges that stem from rising property taxes in Illinois, and how you can get involved with community and legal advocates fighting to replace this unjust system with a fair and transparent one.

Moderator:

Barbara Barreno-Paschall, Senior Staff Attorney, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights

Panelists:

Patrick Brosnan, Executive Director, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council

Christian Diaz, Housing Organizer, Logan Square Neighborhood Association

John R. Petruszak, Executive Director, South Suburban Housing Center

Housing Discrimination Intake Clinic (Room 1215)

Participants are strongly encouraged to attend a morning or afternoon Know Your Rights workshop

Have you experienced housing discrimination? Are you in need of housing counseling? What are your options for legal action? During this intake clinic, service providers will be available for free one-on-one consultations on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please note that the clinic facilitators will not give legal advice, but rather will provide guidance on next steps, which could include possible legal representation by our legal providers. We strongly recommend that participants also attend the morning or afternoon Know Your Rights session. This session will also feature a resource table, with collected brochures from participating organizations.

Documentary: 70 Acres in Chicago - Cabrini Green with Director Ronit Bezalel (Room 616)

Join award-winning filmmaker Ronit Bezalel for a screening of her 2014 film, *70 Acres in Chicago: Cabrini Green*, which explores the effects of demolishing Chicago's iconic Cabrini Green public housing and clearing an African-American community to make room for mixed-income neighborhoods. Shot over the course of 20 years, *70 Acres in Chicago* documents this upheaval, from the razing of the first buildings in 1995, to the clashes in the mixed-income neighborhoods a decade later.

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Lunch and Keynote Session

Fifty Years Later, Now What? Moderated by Natalie Moore (Room 418)

As a WBEZ reporter and author of *The South Side*, Natalie Moore has examined the intricate relationships between housing, education, segregation, and much more. In this lunchtime conversation, Moore will interview Chicago housing experts and an impacted individual in order to explore the Fair Housing Act's effects on the city fifty years after passage, today's housing policies, and the challenges that remain in the fight for fair housing.

Moderator:

Natalie Moore, WBEZ South Side Reporter, Author of *The South Side*

Panelists:

Allison Bethel, Clinical Professor and Director, John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Support Center & Clinic

H Melt, Poet, Artist, Educator

1:40pm - 2:30pm

Using Data to Fight for Fair Housing with Charlie Barlow (Room 1214)

Data can be a powerful tool for fair housing organizers and advocates, if you know where to look. In this workshop, research staff with Roosevelt University's Policy Research Collaborative will teach the steps to file successful Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests with city, state and county officials, and will walk participants through the City of Chicago's data portal. Participants can bring ideas to apply skills learned in the session for real-life housing policy impact in Chicago, and will leave with a resource sheet to support independent work.

Know Your Rights - Housing Discrimination in Renting, Lending, and Homebuying
(Room 1215)

Strongly recommended for intake clinic participants

What does illegal housing discrimination look like, and how can the law protect people from it? Join Access Living for an interactive workshop, with a focus on the rights of people with disabilities. The session will cover basic information about protected classes, as well as delve into reasonable accommodations and modifications, assistance animals, and special rights around sensory disabilities and subsidized housing.

2:40pm - 3:20pm

Break-Out Groups (Room 418)

Impacted community members, advocates, and allies will convene in groups to connect with each other, share ideas, and work together on key regional fair housing issues:

- Coming Home: Returning Citizens, People with Criminal Backgrounds, and the Just Housing Initiative
- The Rent is Too Darn High: Gentrification and Rent Control
- Breaking Through Barriers: Clients, Service Providers, and Challenges to Housing
- Vouch for Us: Subsidized Housing and Voucher Holders

Housing Discrimination Intake Clinic (Room 1215)

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This summit was made possible by the hard work and dedication of many individuals and organizations. We are grateful to these and more who contributed to make Our Chicago a success:

Access Living	Kate Duva
Cara Northern	Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance	Michelle Sharpe
Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights	National Public Housing Museum
Chicago Super Sitters	Northside Community Resources
Christian Diaz	Open Communities
Illinois Department of Human Rights	Patricia Fron
Jawanza Malone	Roosevelt University's Policy Research Collaborative
Kobe Hall	Tyra Peterson
Lilly Lerner	Willie Heineke
The John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Support Center & Clinic	

SPEAKER BIOS

CHARLIE BARLOW

Director, Policy Research Collaborative at Roosevelt University

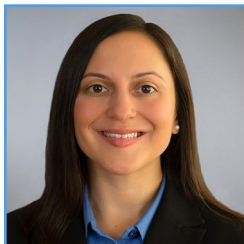


Charlie Barlow is the Director of the Policy Research Collaborative, an applied research and technical assistance center at Roosevelt University. He is passionate about building relationships that better understand, appreciate, connect with, and enhance our communities. Recently, he led research to increase the Chicago Housing Authority's payment standards for Housing Choice Voucher holders with accessibility needs from 150% to 250% FMR, effective March 1, 2018. Charlie chairs the Chicago Area Fair

Housing Alliance's housing discrimination committee, and also serves on the boards of directors for the National Public Housing Museum and Housing Choice Partners.

BARBARA BARRENO-PASCHALL

Senior Staff Attorney, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights



Barbara Barreno-Paschall is a Senior Staff Attorney with the Housing Opportunity Project. In 2017, prior to joining Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, Barbara graduated from The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy with a Master of Public Policy and has experience working in government, non-profit, and the private sector. From 2011 to 2015, Barbara was an Associate in the Employment and Labor Group at Sidley Austin LLP, where she also represented immigrants seeking asylum and twice received the Firm's highest honor for pro bono service. Barbara received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard College and her law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School, where she served as Chair of the National Latina/o Law Student Association and Executive Editor of the *Vanderbilt Law Review*.

ALLISON BETHEL

Clinical Professor and Director, John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Legal Clinic



Allison K. Bethel is a Chicago native and graduate of Northwestern University, B.S. and received her J.D. degree from the University of Florida. In 1996, she joined the Florida Attorney General's Office. She was appointed Assistant Director of the Civil Rights Division and supervised the development and litigation of civil rights cases throughout the State of Florida. In 2000, she was promoted to Director of Civil Rights, where she litigated landmark civil rights cases, drafted and successfully lobbied

for historic amendments to Florida's civil rights act, and developed innovative education and training programs. She joined John Marshall Law School in April 2008 as a Clinical Professor and Director of its Fair Housing Legal Clinic. She is a well-regarded expert in the field of fair housing and lectures nationally on civil right issues.

RONIT BEZALEL

Director, editor, photographer, writer, and journalist



Ronit Bezelel has been creating social issue documentary films for over 25-years. She began her career at the National Film Board of Canada, where she directed *When Shirley Met Florence*. Bezelel's award-winning film, *Voices of Cabrini: Remaking Chicago's Public Housing*, received a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Award to catalyze dialogue about affordable housing issues in Chicago neighborhoods. Newsweek magazine selected Ronit as one of the "Top 10 Women of the 21st Century" for this work. Her follow up Cabrini film, *70 Acres in Chicago: Cabrini Green*, is a longitudinal look at the demolition of Cabrini Green, the displacement of residents, and the subsequent area gentrification. Filmed over a period of 20 years, the documentary is a key teaching tool in classroom discussions on race, class, and housing.

PATRICK BROSAN

Executive Director, Brighton Park Neighborhood Council



Patrick Brosnan is the Executive Director of the Brighton Park Neighborhood Council (BPNC). He has held this position since 2007. He has a B.A. from the University of Michigan and has been engaged in community organizing, policy change campaigns, grassroots leadership development and community building work in Brighton Park and southwest Chicago since 1999. Patrick began his work with BPNC as a turf organizer working with families in the community to organize campaigns to hold slum and absentee landlords accountable. BPNC's full service community school model has expanded into five neighborhood public schools serving almost 2,000 low-income Latino students annually. Patrick also helped found the Federation of Community Schools, a statewide nonprofit advocacy organization with over 700 members dedicated to building school-based resources for children and their families.

CHRISTIAN DIAZ

Housing Organizer, Logan Square Neighborhood Association



Christian Diaz is the Housing Organizer at Logan Square Neighborhood Association. Previously, he served as Executive Director of Chicago Votes where he worked to pass Automatic Voter Registration in Illinois. Christian identifies as queer, Latino and immigrant. He brings years of experience in non-profits, having worked in coalitions to win driver's licenses for undocumented residents, to require data transparency on student arrests in all publicly-funded schools, and to ban 10-day suspensions for high school students in Illinois.

ANGELA HURLOCK

Executive Director, Claretian Associates



Angela Hurlock is the Executive Director of Claretian Associates. Claretian Associates is a community development corporation that has dedicated almost two decades to providing affordable, safe and environmentally efficient housing to the residents of South Chicago neighborhood. Angela believes that sustainable communities are built of good housing, and a holistic approach toward families living in the community. Angela holds masters' degrees in Architecture and Business Administration from

the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has received numerous honors for her commitment to creating a safer, more inclusive and vibrant Chicago starting with her home community of South Chicago. Angela and her husband, Peter, are proud parents of a son and are leaders within their South Chicago neighborhood.

LEAH LEVINGER

Executive Director, Chicago Housing Initiative



Leah Levinger is the founding director of the Chicago Housing Initiative (CHI), a citywide organizing coalition comprised of ten community-based groups working together to amplify the power of low-income renters. Since 2005, Leah has served as a tenant organizer with residents on the front lines of gentrification. Leah worked alongside residents of Grove Parc Plaza Apartments with Southside Together Organizing for Power (STOP), supporting residents of the dilapidated subsidized housing in their

fair housing fight. In 2010, Leah began staffing CHI's campaign to reform the Chicago Housing Authority and enabled ground-breaking exposes which unmasked CHA's waste practices, propelling CHA to lease over 2,400 long-vacant units and release 3,200 housing vouchers. Currently, CHI is organizing to advance a comprehensive housing justice platform at the city level.

DEON LUCAS

Member, Hanns & Erving



Deon Lucas is a Chicago native, architect and social entrepreneur enthusiast. He attended Westinghouse Vocational School High School, Tuskegee University and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and has worked for distinguished design firms including Smith & Smith Associates and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Currently, Deon is a dedicated member of E.G. Woode and Hanns & Erving. E.G. Woode is a group of entrepreneurs seeking to leverage their "collective independence" by

supporting each other's business enterprises. Hanns & Erving is a development organization that leverages social capital as a tool for investment, allowing individuals to contribute their skills, in almost any field, in exchange for equity in residential and commercial real estate. Deon provides vision and guidance that supports both E.G. Woode and Hanns & Erving's efforts for building healthy communities.

H. MELT

Poet, Artist, Educator



H. Melt is a poet, artist, and educator whose work proudly celebrates Chicago's queer and trans communities. Their writing has appeared many places including the *Chicago Reader*, *The Offing*, and *Them*, the first trans literary journal in the United States. They are the author of *The Plural*, *The Blurring* and editor of *Subject to Change: Trans Poetry & Conversation*. Lambda Literary awarded them the Judith A. Markowitz Award for

Emerging LGBTQ Writers in 2017. They've also been named to Newcity's Lit 50 list, as well as Windy City Times' 30 under 30. H. Melt co-leads Queeriosity at Young Chicago Authors and works at Women & Children First, Chicago's feminist bookstore.

NATALIE MOORE

WBEZ South Side Reporter, Author



Natalie Moore is WBEZ's South Side Reporter where she covers segregation and inequality. Her enterprise reporting has tackled race, housing, economic development, food injustice and violence. Natalie's work has been broadcast on the BBC, Marketplace and NPR's Morning Edition, All Things Considered and Weekend Edition. Natalie is the author of *The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation*, winner of the

2016 Chicago Review of Books award for nonfiction and a BuzzFeed best nonfiction book of 2016. She is also co-author of *The Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall and Resurgence of an American Gang* and *Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation*. Natalie writes a monthly column for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Her work has been published in *Essence*, *Ebony*, the *Chicago Reporter*, *Bitch*, *In These Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and the *Guardian*.

JOHN R. PETRUSZAK

Executive Director, South Suburban Housing Center



John Petruszak is an Illinois attorney who has worked in fair housing and civil rights for 36 years. He served as the South Suburban Housing Center (SSHC) staff attorney and Compliance Program Coordinator, practiced law privately, and served as a senior staff attorney with the Illinois Department of Human Rights. In 1995, John returned to SSHC to become its Executive Director, the position he has held for the last 23 years. He has

served on the Board of Directors of the Washington, DC based National Fair Housing Alliance since 2003. He is a 20-year member of the Board of Housing Choice Partners of Illinois, the mobility counseling organization assisting Chicago area Housing Choice Voucher subsidized families. He is also past President and current Director on the Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance's Board.

QUINN RALLINS

Program Director, Illinois Justice Project



Quinn Kareem Rallins joined the Illinois Justice Project in December 2017. Previously, he was a Community Justice Law Fellow at the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, where he focused on criminal justice advocacy and civil rights litigation. He was also appointed by the Illinois Senate President as Co-Chairman of the Mental Health Opportunities for Youth Diversion Task Force. Before that, Rallins was a community organizer and managed successful campaigns throughout the U.S. to address issues such as mass incarceration, solitary confinement, capital punishment, and policing. He has also written on these issues for the *Harvard Journal of African American Public Policy* and *Oxford University Press*. Quinn received his J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law, M.Sc. in Policy from Oxford University, and B.A. in International Studies from Morehouse College.

BYRON SIGCHO

Director, Pilsen Alliance



Byron Sigcho is an immigrant, teacher and activist who lives in Pilsen. Byron is a strong advocate for quality neighborhood schools and affordable housing as he immigrated to the U.S. as a teenager and understands the challenges that working class and in particular immigrant families face every day. Byron started a Spanish Literacy program for Head Start parents at UIC where he is a Visiting Researcher. He is President of the Hispanic Literacy Council of Chicago, Board member for Metropolitan Tenants Organization (MTO) and Chicago Housing Initiative (CHI), and current Executive Director of Pilsen Alliance where he aided grassroots efforts to fight school closings, environmental issues, affordable housing, among other initiatives in the community. Byron holds a Bachelor's in Mathematics and Business Administration, and a MA in Economics from UIC.

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