



April is Fair Housing Month, it has come to be recognized and proclaimed as such nationally and at state and local levels because the Federal Fair Housing Act was signed into law on April 11, 1968.

“On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, [expanding] the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The 1968 act prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, (and as amended) handicap and family status. **Title VIII of the Act is also known as the Fair Housing Act (of 1968).**”

This is our third year celebrating inclusive communities for Fair Housing Month, using a creative art-centric initiative, “HeART and Home: Celebrating Inclusive Neighborhoods for Fair Housing Month”!

★ **Please join us for one or both of the following April events -**

* **April Kick Off: On April 1st, 5:30 pm at North end Studios Burlington, Vermont (All Free, but Donations Accepted) Please RSVP (help us get an idea of the number of attendees to expect) FHP@CVOEO.ORG (put Kickoff in the subject line)**

- Reading of a Mayoral **declaration** of April, 2017 as Fair Housing Month in Burlington by
- Reading of a **resolution** passed by the Burlington City Council proclaiming April 2017 as Fair Housing Month
- A **Community Dinner (food of Nepal) with Presentations**
- Showing of an inspiring and moving 22 minute **documentary video called “Arc of Justice: The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of a Beloved Community.”**

“The *Arc of Justice* traces the remarkable journey of New Communities, Inc. and the struggle for racial justice and economic empowerment among African Americans in southwest Georgia.” * John Emmeus Davis, one of the co-producers of “*Arc of Justice*,” will give a brief introduction and we’ll have some Q&A about the history of the community featured. John is a nationally recognized expert in land trust housing models and an equitable community development consultant.

- **John Rovnak** will present **slides of photos from his ongoing series entitled, “A Matter of Perspective: Street Photography with Levity.”** [This slide show must be rescheduled for another date - Sorry but stay tuned.]

*** Then: On Saturday, April 15th, 6-8 pm.**

An Art Opening at ONE Arts Center

72 N Champlain St, Burlington, VT 05401

oneartscenter.com

Featuring the work of three local visual artists:

Sabah Abbas,

Marchelle Mixson,

and Corrine Yonce.

Art relevant to inclusiveness, cultural diversity, and the meaning of home, community and openness for individuals and the community.

>MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS OPENING AND EXHIBIT AS DATE APPROACHES<

Brief Synopsis of Fair Housing Law History:

The federal Fair Housing Act was passed after a long and difficult political and social struggle. From 1966-1967, Congress considered a fair housing bill but did not achieve passage until shortly after the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr on April 4, 1968. After this historic tragedy, President Lyndon Johnson was able to get Congressional approval of the bill. Dr. King's name had been closely associated with fair housing since open housing marches in Chicago in 1966, which he helped organize and lead.

Vermont enacted laws prohibiting housing discrimination in 1987, and with that passage and subsequent amendments, Vermont law now protects against discrimination in housing on the basis of all the federal categories plus, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and receipt of public assistance.