

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING

The organizers wish to thank all those attending tonight for doing your part to advance housing choice and opportunity across Polk County. Many people and organizations are deserving of recognition in the community whose stories we will not hear tonight, and we look forward to continuing to lift up and honor contributions being made toward this important cause by many more of you in the months and years ahead.

THANK YOU SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

- Polk County Housing Trust Fund
- Corinthian Baptist Church
- DMACC Urban Campus
- United Way of Central Iowa
- HUD Des Moines Field Office
- City of Des Moines Civil & Human Rights
- City of Des Moines Public Works
- AmeriCorps Vista
- VAXDSM



to Celebrate Fair Housing!

DMACC URBAN CAMPUS
DES MOINES, IOWA

APRIL 11, 2023

TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

Program: 6:45 pm
April 11, 2023

Rooms 170-171, Building 7
DMACC Urban Campus, Des Moines

Welcome and introductions

Master of Ceremonies Mike Tramontina, Board Member, One Economy Financial Development Corporation; former Secretary's Representative, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and former Executive Director, Iowa Finance Authority, will introduce:

- **Bobbretta Brewton**, EdD, MSE, fifth year AmeriCorps Vista volunteer
- **Rev. Dr. Jonathan Whitfield**, Senior Pastor, Corinthian Baptist Church
- **Steve Eggleston**, Director, Des Moines Field Office, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Recognition of Honorees

Oakridge Neighborhood

- Presented by Rev. **Robin Jenkins**, Associate Minister and Director of the Board of Christian Education, Corinthian Baptist Church
- Remarks by **Amal Barre**, VP of Strategy and Planning, Oakridge Neighborhood
- Remarks by **Vince Gowdy**, former Oakridge Neighborhood resident

Neighborhood Finance Corporation

- Presented by **Breann Bye**, Executive Director, Sixth Avenue Corridor
- Remarks by **Stephanie Murphy**, Executive Director, Neighborhood Finance Corporation
- Remarks by **Theron Hobbs, Jr.**, NFC homeowner and board member

Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity

- Presented by **Negus Imhotep**, Ph.D., MPA, Deferred Expulsion Program Manager, Urban Dreams
- Remarks by **Lance Henning**, CEO, Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity
- Video presentation featuring **Rocio Rodriguez**, Habitat homeowner

Anawim Housing

- Presented by **Kim Cheeks**, Executive Officer, Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans, Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, Iowa Department of Human Rights
- Remarks by **Russ Frazier**, President, Anawim Housing
- Video presentation featuring Anawim residents **Mona** and **Randy**.

HOME, Inc.

- Presented by **Caroline Gathright**, Community Investment Analyst, City of Des Moines
- Remarks by **Kourtney Kirkpatrick**, Interim Executive Director, HOME, Inc.
- Remarks by **Dora Sedeño**, HOME, Inc. homeowner and board member

Concluding remarks

Eric Burmeister, Executive Director, Polk County Housing Trust Fund, looks at where we go from here.

Tonight's event is one of many being held this month to lift up the cause of housing opportunity during Affordable Housing Week. Find a complete schedule of events at pcht.org/ahw.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PROCLAIM APRIL 2023 "FAIR HOUSING MONTH"



Des Moines



West Des Moines



Urbandale



Ankeny



Polk County

SHINING A LIGHT ON FAIR HOUSING

Today, April 11, 2023, marks the 55th anniversary of President Lyndon Johnson signing the federal **Fair Housing Act** that banned discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of housing nationwide. Congress passed the act shortly following the tragic assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4, 1968. Dr. King and his allies are often cited as laying the groundwork for this Act. They organized and led marches for fair housing during the Chicago Freedom Movement of 1966.

As it exists today, this federal law prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, and familial status. The federal prohibition against sex discrimination has been interpreted by the courts to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Across the Country, people gather to honor the passage of these important protections by celebrating April as **Fair Housing Month**.

Today, the work of implementing the Fair Housing Act is incomplete—among other challenges, large racial and ethnic gaps in housing access persist in communities across the country. According to the National Equity Atlas in Des Moines in 2020, Black households had a homeownership rate of 35% and White households had a homeownership rate of 73%.¹

Portions of the Fair Housing Act itself are not fully realized 55 years later. Recently, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has proposed a rule to fully implement a portion of the Act known as Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH). It is winding its way through a long process.

The proposed AFFH rule would require recipients of HUD funds including states, some local governments and others, to create equity plans covering “housing, community development programs, and residents’ access to well-resourced areas, opportunity, and community assets.”² The proposed rule was published in February and a public comment period in the federal rules process is currently open.

1 National Equity Atlas. nationalequityatlas.org

2 HUD AFFH Fact Sheet. <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/FHEO/documents/AFFH%20Proposed%20Rule.pdf>

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