

Commission on Human Rights

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians on exhibit at African American Heritage Center in Louisville

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The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights and the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage are sponsoring an exhibit of the commission poster series, the Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians. The exhibit will be on display in honor of the National Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday and the national February Black History Month. The commission will display 55 posters in the series.

The exhibit will run from January 15 through April 3 at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage located at 1701 West Muhammad Ali Blvd., in Louisville, Ky., 40203. Center hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (EST). For more information, call Cierra Shields at the center at 502.583.4100 or Mary Ann Taylor of the Kentucky Human Rights Commission at 502.566.9961.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights in 1970 introduced the Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians. The Gallery is one of commission educational programs.

The Gallery consists of biographical posters and bookmarks that recognize Kentucky African Americans who have made remarkable accomplishments, or who have distinguished themselves by breaking racial or professional or other barriers. Many Gallery members serve as excellent role models. The stories of their struggles, perseverance, and achievements may not be highlighted in traditional textbook or other histories. Many of them have attained personal, professional or widely public triumphs, and their

endeavors cover countless interests, careers, talents, and exploits. A very few of the Gallery subjects simply represent dramatic, if tragic, depictions that offer perspectives on life for African Americans in Kentucky during times past. Several members have made a mark on the history of Kentucky, the nation, and the world.

Each Gallery inductee chosen by the commission is recognized with a poster and bookmark displaying the individual's condensed biographical profile and a photo. These items are widely used by schools and libraries as educational tools to bring Kentucky African American role models and history into classrooms and to the public.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights is the state government authority that enforces the Kentucky Civil Rights Act (Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 344), and, through its affiliation with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, enforces federal civil rights laws.

The Kentucky Civil Rights Act makes it illegal to discriminate against people in the areas of employment, financial transactions, housing and public accommodations. Discrimination is prohibited in these areas based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, and disability. In employment, discrimination is further prohibited on the basis of age (40-years and over) and on the basis of tobacco-smoking status. In housing, discrimination is further prohibited based on familial status, which protects people with children in the household under the age of 18-years old, and it protects women who are pregnant. It is also a violation of the law to retaliate against a person for complaining of discrimination to the commission.

For more information about civil rights or to ask for help with unlawful discrimination, contact the commission at 1.800.292.5566.