

# Rights Perspective

*A Semiannual Newsletter of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission*

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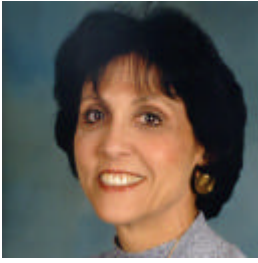


## The LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION CELEBRATES ITS 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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## *Forty Years: In Stark Contrast*

BY COMMISSION CHAIR SAMYE N. MILLER

Forty years ago on June 11, 1963, a son of the old south, Governor George Wallace of Alabama, stood in the door of the University of Alabama. This symbolic attempt to prevent the integration of the university by black students was one of the most famous acts of segregationist defiance. The picture of Wallace standing in the doorway was captured by the media, transported around the world, and has made an indelible mark in our nation's conscience.

In stark contrast to the actions of Governor Wallace and others of their time, our community took another approach. With little fanfare on June 20, 1963 Lexington's Board of City Commissioners passed Resolution No. 1484.

Resolution No. 1484 declared, "the practice of discrimination against any individual because of race, creed, or color is detrimental to the peace, progress and welfare of the city. The lack of full participation of individuals in the privileges of full membership in the community retards the progress of the community and affects the general well-being of the whole city." The Board of City Commissioners further declared that they "described to implement a constructive approach to the problem of *improving relations leading to the elimination of discriminatory practices*" in the city of Lexington. The resolution created the Lexington Human Rights Commission as the government agency to lead the historic change in public policy.

For a community so associated with its southern heritage, this was a courageous act. While today we can value such courage, we have not properly acknowledged those men and women who took the risks to make it happen.

This year, the Human Rights Commission is proud to mark our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We plan to commemorate the historic and courageous actions of those before us. We want to recognize the strides made and plan for the work yet to be completed, with a reception in the fall of 2003. We look forward to honoring the men and women who created change in our community forty years ago with a civil rights luncheon in the spring 2004. We invite you to be a part of our historic anniversary as we consider the progress made and plan for the future challenges in our community.

**Log on to the LFUC Human Rights Commission web site at [www.lfuchrc.org](http://www.lfuchrc.org) for more information on the commission and upcoming anniversary events.**

## COMPLIANCE REPORT – 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter FY 2003

January 2003 – June 2003

### **Cases Received: 70**

Employment-54

Housing-11

Public Accommodations-5

### **Cases Resolved: 45**

Employment-29

Housing-9

Public Accommodations-7



## LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

# 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

### 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception

Recognizing 40 Years of Civil Rights

Thursday, November 6, 2003

### Civil Rights Luncheon

Commemorating 50 Years of

Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas

Thursday, March 4, 2004

For more information:

[http://www.lfuchrc.org/Quad\\_Conference/Quad\\_State\\_Conference.htm](http://www.lfuchrc.org/Quad_Conference/Quad_State_Conference.htm)

### Unity Sculpture

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Log on to [www.lfuchrc.org](http://www.lfuchrc.org) for updates on all anniversary activities and historical information on the commission!

# UNITY SCULPTURE

COMMEMORATING THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

*E Pluribus Unum Out of Many, One United We Stand, Divided We Fall*

## WHO: The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission is an independently chartered agency of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. Local Ordinances 199-94 and 201-99 give the Commission the right to investigate complaints of discrimination in Lexington-Fayette County in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodation based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, familial status and/or sexual orientation/gender identity. In addition, the Commission promotes efforts to improve human relations and the elimination of discriminatory practices in our community through an extensive community relations program.

The history of the Commission is a rich and varied one. Seeking to be pro-active in dealing with racial discrimination issues in the early 1960s, the Commission had its start in 1963, a full year before the federal Civil Rights Act was passed by Congress in 1964. As civil rights protections have expanded, so has the work of the Commission. Lexington-Fayette County can rightfully be proud of its Commission's work to end discrimination facing its residents and visitors and to enrich our community through full and equal opportunities for all.

## WHAT: Sculpture Commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Commission

To commemorate four decades of accomplishments in civil rights, the Commission has asked award-winning local sculptors Stacey Chinn and Micky Maxson of The Atelier studio to design a work that encompasses the spirit and work of the Commission:



**Concept:** As seen above in a side view sketch, the sculpture begins with the concept of unity as expressed in a globe partially resting in the earth. The majority of this sphere is then removed leaving three elements:

1. Arc: A stainless steel arc of polished metal rises 15 feet into the air. The outward steel surface will be polished with a texture. The inward surface will consist of a semi-reflective, smooth surface. Near the top of the arc, a small opening will allow a beam of sunlight to reach down ...and for the viewer to look upwards. As seen in the side view above, the Arc is anchored underground.
2. Seat: Another portion of the sphere's shell remains as a bench of polished stainless steel facing the Arc.

3. Footstone Semi-circle (pictured below in top-down view of sculpture): A semi-circular footstone connects the Arc and Seat. Constructed of polished stone set into the earth, this semi-circle completes the impression of a sphere and will be engraved with the commemorative text:

*E Pluribus Unum    Out of Many, One    United We Stand, Divided We Fall    Celebrating 40  
Years of Civil Rights    Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission, 1963 – 2003  
– And Into Tomorrow*

“E pluribus unum” (Latin for “Out of Many, One”) is our country’s original motto from 1776. “United We Stand, Divided We Fall” is Kentucky’s state motto.

**When:**

To be announced.



**WHERE: Location**

The Commission is seeking a site where many of the historical tours of the area intersect and working with other Lexington-Fayette County agencies to finalize a downtown site. Placed in this location, the sculpture will in effect become the starting point for these tours and the symbolic nexus of our diverse history narratives that together weave our common central Kentucky heritage. Currently we are looking at several sites along the Main Street-Vine Street corridors.

The site will also be landscaped to blend and accentuate the sculpture with other elements of its location. A plexi-glass stand next to the sculpture will contain walking/driving tours highlighting various themes from central Kentucky’s multi-cultural, architectural, and botanical heritages.

Expressing the hopes and dreams of the original founders of the Commission for a unified Lexington full of opportunities for all...of the on-going work of the Commission to enforce civil rights and promote inter-group harmony...and of the role of all individuals in being part of this process... is a difficult artistic task. The authors have admirably brought these visions together through abstract, geometrical forms:

- *Unity* and *Community* are the unseen yet suggested sphere into which the viewer enters. The perfect form represented by the unity of a sphere is also both fragile shell and seed from which the viewer emerges with a message of hope and equality.
- *Hope* and *Opportunity* are represented by the Arc reaching towards the heavens that provides both for light to enter and for the viewer to symbolically look into the distance...to dream...of new horizons and new opportunities.
- Either standing or sitting meditatively on the Seat, the viewer's gaze is drawn to the smooth inner surface of the Arc. Here viewers see a rough reflection of themselves blended into the whole, diffused surface of the Arc. Civil rights and the civic responsibilities of upholding them are not about one group or one type of person but about all Lexingtonians. Similarly, the histories, struggles and contributions of all Lexingtonians are part of our joint heritage.
- The Semi-Circle is incomplete; the circle is not finished. As such, it symbolizes the on-going and incomplete work of eradicating discrimination.
- The stainless steel material itself symbolizes both the strength and shining ideals incorporated into the laws that enforce civil rights.

#### **WHY: Goals of the Sculpture**

- Commemorate 40 years of civil rights accomplishments by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission
- Provide a pro-active message of welcome, harmony, and inclusion to Fayette County's diverse social groups
- Beautify the downtown through local public works of art
- Create a space for education around civil rights and diversity issues
- Create a series of tours linked to the sculpture that will draw local and visiting tourists and education groups to boost the area...and especially downtown's...appeal as a progressive city of amenities and culture

#### **HOW: Funding Sources**

The Human Rights Commission and staff do not fund-raise and are not accepting donations. Donations must go to an account set up through the Blue Grass Community Foundation, who will accept all donations and manage the funds.

#### Contact Information:

Susanna P. Creek  
Executive Director  
Blue Grass Community Foundation  
200 W Vine St Ste 205  
Lexington KY 40507-1620  
Ph: 859-225-3343  
Fax: 859-243-0770  
E-mail: [screek@bgcf.org](mailto:screek@bgcf.org)  
Web site: [www.bgcf.org](http://www.bgcf.org)

## *COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE*

**June 20, 1963** Board of Commissioners of the City of Lexington passed Resolution 1484 creating the Lexington Commission on Human Rights.

**April 1966** The Human Rights Commission recommends the creation of a City-County Human Rights Commission to the Fayette County Fiscal Court and the Board of City Commissioners.

**May 1966** Fayette County Judge Joe Johnson and Mayor Fred Fugazzi appoint the Joint Study Committee to discuss the formation of a Joint City-County Human Rights Commission.

**June 18, 1966** The Joint Committee, Honorable Eugene Mooney, Chair, presents its report to the Fiscal Court and the Board of City Commissioners recommending that a Lexington-Fayette County Human Rights Commission be established and Ordinances prohibiting racial discrimination in public accommodation, employment and housing.

**October 27, 1966** The Board of City Commissioners formally adopts Ordinances 5671 and 5672 creating the Lexington-Fayette Human Rights Commission and prohibiting discrimination in employment and public accommodation.

**November 8, 1966** The Fayette County Fiscal Court formally approves resolutions creating the Lexington-Fayette County Human Rights Commission and prohibiting discrimination in employment and public accommodation.

**January 31, 1967** The City and County formally execute an Inter-Local Cooperative Agreement creating the Lexington-Fayette County Human Rights Commission.

**August 1, 1967** The Fiscal Court formally adopts an “Open House” Ordinance in real estate transactions.

**May 1974** Merger of the City-County Government creates the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission.

**October 6, 1983** Ordinance 190-83 passed by the Urban County Council allowing the Commission to apply for substantial equivalency and participation in the Fair Employment Practices Agency program (FEPA) of EEOC and the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) by HUD.

**September 17, 1992** Ordinance 166-92 passed by the Urban County Council adds disability and familial status as protected basis in housing enforcement.

**July 9, 1999** Ordinance 201-99 passed by the Urban County Council adds sexual orientation/gender identity as protected basis in employment, housing and public accommodation.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Thursday, September 4, 2003      **ACLU 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bill of Rights Dinner.** Kentucky International Convention Center, Louisville. Dinner 7 p.m. e-mail: [acluky@iglou.com](mailto:acluky@iglou.com)
- Friday, September 5, 2003-  
Saturday, September 6, 2003      **Fair Housing Legal Support Center.** John Marshall Law School. Chicago, IL.
- Friday, September 5, 2003-  
Sunday, September 7, 2003      **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Roots and Heritage Festival.**  
<ftp://ftp.lfucg.com/AdminSvcs/PubInfo/Roots/Roots03Start.pdf>
- Tuesday, September 11, 2003      **Day of Caring.** United Way and FIRST-LINK of the Bluegrass. Contact: 859-313-5465 ext. 20 or e-mail [barbara@first-link.org](mailto:barbara@first-link.org)
- Tuesday, September 16, 2003      **2003 Women's Business and Leadership Conference.** Radisson Plaza Hotel. [www.womenleadingky.com](http://www.womenleadingky.com)
- Friday, September 19, 2003      **Kentucky Personnel Law Update 2003.** Lexington. [www.counciloned.com](http://www.counciloned.com)
- Monday, September 22, 2003      **Greater Lexington Apartment Association Trade Show.** 4-8 p.m. Holiday Inn North, Lexington. [www.greaterlaa.com](http://www.greaterlaa.com)
- Monday, September 22, 2003  
Tuesday, September 23, 2003      **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Health in Kentucky Conference**  
Radisson Plaza Hotel, Lexington.
- Monday, September 22, 2003  
Wednesday, September 24, 2003      **Kentucky Society for Human Resources Management Conference.** Louisville, KY. [www.kychamber.com/shrm](http://www.kychamber.com/shrm)
- Thursday, September 25, 2003      **Owensboro Human Relations Commission 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet**  
**"Owensboro 2003: Many Faces, One Body"**  
Executive Inn Rivermont, Owensboro, KY. 6 p.m. Ph: 270-687-8670
- Saturday, September 27, 2003      **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Body and Soul Festival.**
- Saturday, September 27, 2003      **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kentucky African American Heritage Commission Education Forum.** Gheens Professional Development Academy. Louisville, KY. Phone 502-564-7005 with any questions. Web site: [www.kyheritage.org](http://www.kyheritage.org)
- Monday, September 29, 2003-  
Saturday, October 4, 2003      **Race Equality Week.** National League of Cities initiative. Contact William Wharton at [wwharton@lfuchrc.org](mailto:wwharton@lfuchrc.org) or Denis White at [dwhite@lfucg.com](mailto:dwhite@lfucg.com)
- Thursday, October 9, 2003-  
Friday, October 10, 2003      **Governor's Housing Conference.** Hurstbourne Hotel, Louisville.
- Monday, October 27, 2003      **Urban League Annual Dinner.** Lexington Convention Center Grand Ballroom. 6:00 p.m. reception. 7:00 p.m. Dinner & Program.
- Thursday, November 6, 2003      **LFUCHRC 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Reception.** Location and Time TBA.
- Wednesday, March 3, 2003-  
Friday, March 5, 2003      **Quad-State Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Conference.** Lexington. (location to be announced)
- Thursday, March 4, 2003      **Civil Rights Luncheon.** (part of the Quad-State FH and EO Conference). (location to be announced)



**LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY  
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

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Lori Davis

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