



Our poster contest is back—and we are celebrating our renewed connections as a diverse and vibrant community!

Poster contest benefits and opportunities

- Coordinate contest with Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Black History Month, and core curriculum activities
- Incorporate art into teaching moments
- Work with students to envision a community relating to each other as neighbors
- Community recognition of student achievements



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2023 Fair Housing Poster Contest

JANUARY, 2023

"FAIR HOUSING CREATES COMMUNITY"

After two years of isolation, the Board of Trustees and staff of Silver State Fair Housing Council (SSFHC) are excited to announce our 25th annual Fair Housing Poster Contest. We invite you to participate in this opportunity to use art as a learning experience for your students. At a time when our children are often exposed to polarized public discourse, we believe that a focus on the inclusive aspects of fair housing laws can help create a sense of understanding, acceptance, and appreciation for the diversity among our neighbors and throughout our community.

Under federal and state fair housing laws, all residents of Nevada are entitled to

equal access to housing regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, family status, disability, ancestry, sexual orientation, and gender identity/ expression. The contest incorporates themes of civil rights and equal opportunity particularly appropriate for existing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Black History Month observations.

Whether you choose to incorporate the poster contest as an in-class activity, or simply provide students with the opportunity to participate outside of class, we hope you will join with us to promote awareness of fair housing rights!



Past contest winners

2023 CONTEST DATES:
Monday, January 9
through
Friday, February 24

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Kate Zook, Executive Director



In 1997, our staff too often heard from families about the challenges they faced when looking for housing. Being told that "you have too many children" or "children aren't allowed to play outside" is hurtful and illegal. We devised a poster contest as a way to empower children and their parents by helping them to understand the many rights they have under fair housing laws. The response from Washoe County educators

and after-school programs was overwhelming, and now we're so happy to be back! Over the years many people have noted how "cute" these posters are. I can't disagree. But more importantly, they represent the hope our children give us through their inclusive vision of our community and their openness to seeing each other as neighbors. Please join us and participate in our Poster Contest 2023!

Coordinate Poster Contest Activities with State Common Core Goals

The SSFHC fair housing poster contest runs from January 9, 2023, through February 24, 2023. These dates include the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday and Black History Month. Discussion of civil rights, diversity, and fairness to others supports core curriculum standards for multiple grades. Teachers of grades 1 through 6 will find numerous resources for social studies lessons

incorporating those standards.

Using the knowledge gained in classroom discussion, students can use their imaginations to create their visions of a community where all are welcome. Older students may compare and contrast the historic lack of access to housing with the rights now available through fair housing laws.

For younger students, this might also be a lesson in color, composition, and shapes.

Knowledge of fair housing rights can help empower students, especially those whose families may face housing discrimination. The impact of this knowledge extends far beyond the classroom to the community as a whole.



© Photographs by Bernard Kleina

Our staff is available to provide presentations about the Fair Housing Act and housing discrimination issues in our community for classrooms and after-school programs. Please contact SSFHC to discuss the possibilities.

Use our Resources!

Silver State Fair Housing Council (SSFHC) believes that education and outreach about fair housing rights and responsibilities is an integral component of any fair housing advocacy program. SSFHC offers a variety of educational opportunities for teachers and students. We are happy to schedule a time to

speak to your class with age-appropriate information about fair housing, civil rights, and inclusion. Presentations can be provided in person or remotely. We have historic photos of Dr. King's open housing movement in Chicago, posters promoting equal housing opportunity, fair housing stories allowing for class participation, and a growing library of

children's books that include diversity, housing, and cultural acceptance. We're happy to lend materials or bring them with us as part of a presentation. Call our office at 775.324.0990 to schedule a presentation or arrange for materials to be dropped off.



Poster Contest Recognitions and Prizes

The SSFHC Board of Trustees is pleased to recognize each student participating in the poster contest with a certificate of participation, distributed through the classroom. Qualifying artwork will be on public display at locations in Reno and Sparks during April, 2023, national Fair Housing Month. Our grand prize winner will

receive a framed copy of the poster created using their artwork; a framed copy will also be presented to the winner's school. To encourage classroom participation, the school or organization with the most contest participants will receive a recognition plaque. Our Board of Trustees will host an awards reception in April, 2023. We are so



excited to be able to celebrate with you again! Contest winners will receive their prizes and will be recognized by SSFHC, Congressional representatives, and their families and friends. All are encouraged to join us for a celebration of our artists and the diversity of our community.

Contest Guidelines

WORDS & IMAGERY

- Entries **must** contain the written theme: *"Fair Housing Creates Community"*
- Entries **must** include interpretations of the contest theme, including representation of members of protected classes (race, color, religion, sex, national origin, family status, disability, sexual orientation, and gender identity/expression) interacting in a housing-related situation.
- Entries **must** be on construction-type paper and range in size from 8 1/2 x 11" to no larger than 12 x 18." Please do not place wording closer than 3/4" to edge of paper.

MEDIA

- **BOLD** colors and a variety of artistic media (**collages! / paintings! / wallpaper! / fabric! / or ???**) are encouraged.
- 3-Dimensional and computer-generated artwork will not be eligible for judging. PLEASE, **no** corporate logos or brand names in the artwork.
- Artwork will be judged on originality, visual impact, artistic merit, and overall adherence to the contest theme.

REGISTRATION

- Open to all Washoe County students in grades 1 through 8.
- Each entry **MUST** be accompanied by a Contest Registration slip signed by a parent/guardian.
- Registration forms are available in Spanish.
- **ONLY ONE STUDENT NAME PER ENTRY FORM**
- Registrations should be **taped, not stapled**, to the back of the entry.
- Entries without signed registration forms will not be eligible for judging and prizes.
- Per the registration form, artwork becomes property of SSFHC and **cannot** be returned.

Registration forms are
available @
www.ssfhc.org

DEADLINE

- Contest deadline is **Friday, February 24, 2023, at 5:00pm.**
- All entries must be received at the office of Silver State Fair Housing Council: 110 West Arroyo Street, Suite A, Reno, NV 89509, by the contest deadline. You may call our office at 775.324.0990 to schedule a drop-off **OR** to make arrangements for poster entries to be picked up at your school or organization.

Poster Contest Awards

Grand Prize Winner

- Grand prize winner will receive a one year family membership to the Nevada Museum of Art
- Artwork developed into SSFHC's 2023 Fair Housing Poster and 2024 Calendar
- Two framed posters, one for the winner and a second for their school/organization

1st PLACE Winners (Grades 1-3, Grades 4-6, Grades 7-8)

- Each winner will receive 4 guest passes for admission to the Nevada Museum of Art
- Artwork included in SSFHC's 2024 Fair Housing Calendar

Nine Additional Winners

- Each winner will receive 2 guest passes for admission to the Nevada Museum of Art
- Artwork included in SSFHC's 2024 Fair Housing Calendar

Thank you to our 2023 poster contest sponsors:

City of Sparks - City of Reno - Washoe County
Thank you to all of our supporters and participants!

History of the federal Fair Housing Act



The Fair Housing Act, also known as Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, is the result of three years of congressional consideration of housing discrimination and how housing discrimination should be addressed. This debate occurred at the time our country was experiencing the rise of the civil rights movement under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., increasing public awareness of social injustices, and more voices calling for violent responses to those injustices.

On April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. It was a time of great upheaval and Congress worked quickly to pass legislation which would help settle the unrest following Dr. King's assassination. One week after the assassination, on April 11, 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act into law. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibited housing discrimination based on race, color, national origin, and religion. It also included provisions for enforcement of the law.

Housing discrimination cases can be pursued through complaints to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), private court action, a suit by the U.S. Department of Justice, or any combination of these.

Sex was added as a fair housing protection in 1974. In February, 2021, HUD issued a statement confirming that sexual orientation and gender identity are also included in the protections of the Fair Housing Act.

On September 13, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Fair Housing Amendments Act. Additional protections now include family status (having children under the age of 18) and protections for persons with disabilities, including accessibility standards for new multi-family housing.

Attorney and author Robert G. Schwemm likens the passage of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 to passage of the original Fair Housing Act in 1968, when societal changes forced Congress to address civil rights issues for additional groups in our society.

Nevada state law offers explicit protections against discrimination based on ancestry, sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Silver State Fair Housing Council works with Nevada residents to pursue their fair housing rights under both federal and state law.

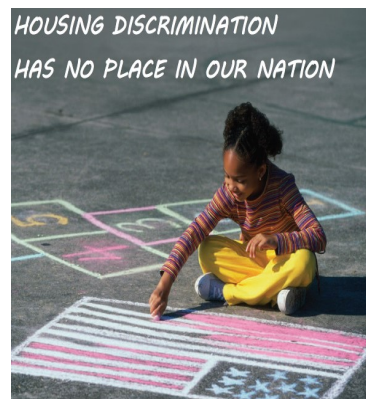


About SSFHC

Silver State Fair Housing Council (SSFHC) is a non-profit agency advocating for equal access to housing in Nevada since 1989. SSFHC has office locations in Reno and Las Vegas to better address inquiries about housing discrimination for consumers, housing providers, and local jurisdictions. SSFHC also provides services in rural communities through personal interactions, meeting utilizing remote

technologies, and community partnerships. SSFHC strives to break down barriers to equal housing opportunity and build opportunities for community members to relate to each other as neighbors by addressing the needs of all members of the community. SSFHC provides education and outreach about fair housing rights; processes discrimination complaints, investigations, and referrals; and assesses barriers to fair housing in

Nevada. SSFHC works to guarantee the right of all people to freely choose where they want and can afford to live.




SILVER STATE
FAIR HOUSING COUNCIL

775.324.0990
702.749.3288
888.585.8634 toll-free
Relay Nevada 711