

The Chicago Freedom Movement Photography Exhibit

By

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In Chicago in 1965 and 1966, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights leaders focused the Chicago Freedom Movement on open housing. Thousands of people participated in the marches and rallies in Soldier Field, Marquette Park, Grant Park and in front of Chicago City Hall.

This was the first large scale fair housing campaign in the country and the most ambitious civil rights campaign in the North. It placed the issue of equal opportunity in housing not just before the people of Chicago, but also before the Nation.

Mr. Kleina's rarely seen color photographs document the 1965-66 Freedom Movement's peaceful demonstrations' call for open housing. The exhibit celebrates the efforts of Dr. King and other civil rights leaders and includes images of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Coretta Scott-King; the Rev. Jesse Jackson; former Atlanta Mayor and UN Ambassador, Andrew Young; comedian activist, Dick Gregory; gospel singer, Mahalia Jackson; and former Southern Christian Leadership Council President, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, as well as thousands of peaceful demonstrators involved in these historic rallies and marches. The photographs also capture many of those who attempted to disrupt these peaceful marches.

Mr. Kleina's photography exhibit on the Chicago Freedom Movement is being shown throughout the country. His photographs should encourage us not only to look back at where we have been, but also to reflect on the challenges we face and the direction we are taking as a Nation.

The Exhibit

The Chicago Freedom Movement exhibit is a collection of more than 50 color photographs taken by Bernard J. Kleina in Chicago in 1965-1966. The photographs are a priceless historical treasure and are the only candid color photographs of Martin Luther King and other civil rights activists taken in Chicago at that time. More importantly, they are a record of the work of so many people to achieve equality in housing. They are also a reminder that the fight for open housing is an integral part of the civil rights movement. It is perhaps the ultimate fight of the civil rights movement.

The photography exhibit also includes five to ten contemporary photographs by Bernard J. Kleina, reminding us that we still have a long way to go before we achieve what Dr. King fought for and what we are fighting for now – open and fair housing and an end to racial and ethnic segregation.

JOIN US April 21 through May 2, 2008 at the Elihu State Office Building, 1515 Clay St. Oakland to see these amazing photographs. Host: Housing Rights, Inc. 510-548-8776.

The Photographs

The photographs are printed on 13" x 19" premium glossy photo paper and are dry-mounted on white foam core. The foam core extends approximately 2 ½ to 3" beyond the photograph. The actual size of the photographs will depend on how each one is cropped, but the average size of a photograph with foam core backing will be about 16" x 21".

The Speaker

Bernard Kleina may be available to speak at the grand opening or special event connected with the exhibit. His remarks help those present better understand the historical connection between the civil rights movement and the fair housing movement. Bernard Kleina brings not only an historical treasure in the photographs, but a passion for equality in housing. After the Chicago Freedom Movement exhibit was shown in the City of Shaker Heights in Ohio, Mayor Judith H. Rawson said in a letter to Mr. Kleina, "Your remarks were insightful, elevating and captivating. Through your photographs and your speech you encouraged us to look at what can still be changed and improved upon so we can continue to work towards Dr. King's dream – even when it is not the popular thing to do. Notwithstanding the fact that the photos are works of art in their own right, they provide a unique backdrop that set the tone for our event. No matter where I looked, the images of the passion, turbulence, and raw humanism of the times were inescapable ... a reminder of the history of our annual event and the roots and legacy of Dr. King."

The Exhibit Materials

Included with the exhibit is a DVD produced by WTTW TV Chicago that combines Kleina's still photographs with archival footage of Dr. King from Chicago, Illinois and Selma, Alabama. This masterfully produced DVD can be shown at an opening ceremony or periodically during the exhibit. Also provided will be a CD with five color images that can be used for pre-exhibit publicity. If requested, HOPE will send, at no charge, a 1 ½ minute DVD showing how the photographs were set up at one exhibit location.

Post cards with images from the Chicago freedom Movement are available and can be used for invitations, publicity and public relations. Also available are reproductions of the front page of the March 21, 1965 Selma Times Journal. It shows Bernard Kleina being arrested by Public Safety Director Wilson Baker during the civil rights marches in Selma.

The Cost

There is a \$500.00 deposit required to hold the dates requested. This deposit will be deducted from the final invoice.

For a 14-Day Exhibit: -2007, \$1,000.00 plus shipping charges*
 -2008, \$1,500.00 plus shipping charges*

For a 21 Day Exhibit: -2007, \$1,500.00 plus shipping charges*
 -2008, \$2,000.00 plus shipping charges*

Speaker -2007, \$ 500.00 plus transportation, lodging and meals
 -2008, \$ 500.00 plus transportation, lodging and meals

Exhibit Materials: -DVD, produced by WTTW TV
 No charge, shipping only
 -CD, with five images of the Chicago Freedom Movement,
 No charge, shipping only
 -Postcards, 25-cents each, plus shipping
 -Selma Times Journal page, 15-cents, each plus shipping

*Shipping: Approximate costs by UPS or Federal Express is between \$400 and \$500.
Return shipping instructions will be provided at the time of the exhibit agreement.

Contact: Bernard J. Kleina or Shirley Stacy
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