

TENNESSEE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

60th Anniversary

HONORING OUR PAST,

CELEBRATING OUR PRESENT,

SAFEGUARDING OUR FUTURE.

2ND

JULY
2024

5:30 - 8:00PM CDT

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC

NASHVILLE, TN

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSIC

115

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TENNESSEE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
WILLIAM R. SNODGRASS TENNESSEE TOWER
312 ROSA L PARKS AVENUE, 23RD FLOOR
NASHVILLE, TN 37243-1102
TOLL FREE: 800-251-3589
www.tn.gov/humanrights

Dear Attendees,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 60th Anniversary celebration of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission. For 60 years the Commission has served the citizens of Tennessee by educating individuals on their civil rights and responsibilities, and enforcing anti-discrimination laws in employment, public accommodations and housing. The Commission has also served the State of Tennessee by monitoring the State's Federal Title VI compliance. This day also marks another monumental date in Civil Rights history, the 60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The theme for this evening is "Honoring our Past, Celebrating our Present & Safeguarding our Future." Today we'll reflect on the evolution of the Commission over the past 60 years, acknowledge leaders advancing civil and human rights in our communities today, and discuss the future challenges to Civil Rights that Tennesseans face.

We hope that you leave today inspired, not only by the progress we've made in Civil Rights over the past 60 years, but by the actions of the Commission and champions across the state who continuously work to make Tennessee a more inclusive and fair space for all Tennesseans to live and work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Muriel M. Nolen".

Muriel Malone Nolen, Esq.
Executive Director



Governor Lee Recognition



Congratulations from the Chair



"Congratulations to the Tennessee Human Rights Commission, on sixty years serving Tennesseans from the Tri-Cities to Memphis! Today, we celebrate the important, and sometimes difficult, work this agency has done. Ensuring all Tennessee citizens live free from discrimination takes dedication and commitment to the ideals that every person has the right to be who they are and be treated fairly. We celebrate all who carried out this work before us, those that continue this work at this very moment, and the ones that will see this mission to its' conclusion. Thank you, for making this state, our home, a better place for all of us."

Darris K. Upton
Chair, THRC Board of Commissioners

Congratulations from Partners

"Congratulations to the Tennessee Human Rights Commission on your 60th Anniversary Celebration! Your collaborative partnership with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for more than 40 years has significantly contributed to our mission of preventing and remedying unlawful employment discrimination and advancing equal opportunity for all. As we mark this milestone, we commend your outstanding achievements in safeguarding individuals from discrimination and wish you continued success in the years to come."

Delner Franlin-Thomas
Acting Director, Office of Field Programs & Memphis District Director
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission



"Since 1963, the Tennessee Human Rights Commission has had the mission of safeguarding individuals from discrimination through education and enforcement. While the times have changed, the need for these valuable services and insights have not. The Tennessee Human Rights Commission ensures that those seeking resolutions are heard and most importantly, provided with assistance as they navigate uncertainty."

Mayor Tim Kelly
City of Chattanooga

"Fair Housing is everyone's right and HUD congratulates the Tennessee Human Rights Commission on 60 years of impactful work in fair housing education and enforcement, enabling equal housing opportunity for all Tennesseans across the Volunteer State."

Walter Perry
Tennessee Field Offices Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



"I extend my heartfelt congratulations for the 60th Anniversary of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission. The City of Memphis greatly appreciates your efforts to ensure that our citizens are protected from discrimination in housing, employment, public accommodation, and Title VI through your education and enforcement initiatives. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to working with you in the future."

Mayor Paul Young
City of Memphis

History of the Commission

The Tennessee Human Rights Commission (THRC) is an independent state agency responsible for enforcing the Tennessee Human Rights Act (THRA) and Tennessee Disability Act (TDA). The Commission has a nine-member Board of Commissioners and 33 staff members in four offices across Tennessee. The founding principles of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission were to encourage and develop fair and equal treatment for all citizens regardless of race, color, or national origin. The mission of the Tennessee Human Rights Commission is safeguarding individuals from discrimination through education and enforcement.

On September 30, 1963, Governor Frank G. Clement, pictured right, signed Executive Order 18 creating the Tennessee Human Relations Commission. The Commission's original purpose was to advise the public of their rights, research, report on human relations, and relay these findings to the governor. The commission accomplished this by working alongside other government agencies with similar responsibilities.

In 1978, the Tennessee Human Rights Act (THRA) became law, transforming the commission from an advisory agency to an enforcement agency. Former Commissioner Jocelyn Wurzburg of Memphis, Tennessee was the author of this legislation; her leadership was critical to its passage.

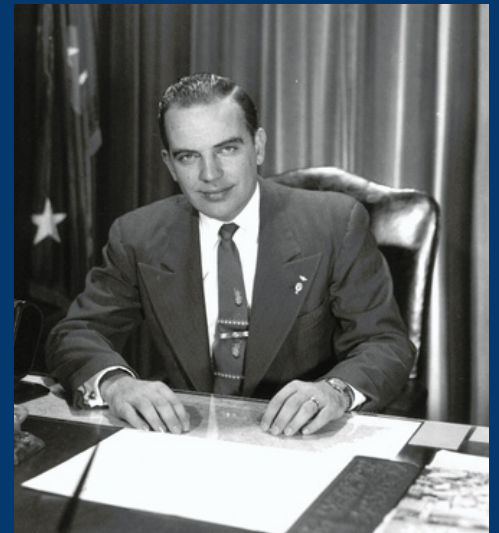
In 1979 and 1980, the law was amended to include disability and age as protected classes.

In 1983, the Commission officially became the Tennessee Human Rights Commission. In 1984, the law was amended to prohibit discrimination in housing. In 1990, the expansion was extended to include familial status and disability as protected classes.

In 2009, the THRA was expanded, and the Tennessee Human Rights Commission was given the authority to verify that state government entities comply with requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of race, color, and national origin.

In 2015, legislation was passed that amended the THRA (T.C.A. §4-21-201) by reducing the THRC Board of Commissioners from 15 members to nine members. In 2022, the THRA was amended again determining that the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House of Representatives nominate three Commissioners each to the Board to represent the three grand divisions of the State: East, Middle, and West Tennessee.

Today, the THRA prohibits discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, age (40 and over in employment), disability, and familial status (in housing). The Tennessee Human Rights Commission has maintained collaborative partnerships with the Federal government for nearly 40 years. These relationships allows the Commission to investigate complaints involving alleged violations of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, and Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act).



THRC Mission

**Safeguarding Individuals From
Discrimination Through
Education and Enforcement**

Commissioners 2014 - 2024

Scott Arnwine	Memphis	2017	Paul McDaniel	Chattanooga	2014
Gary Behler	Chattanooga	2017	Karla Miller	Nashville	2014
David Cocke	Memphis	2014	Marité Pérez	Knoxville	2022
Bill Coleman	Johnston City	2014	Patricia Pierce	Harriman	2014
Eric Crafton	Nashville	2015	Amos Raymond	Memphis	2023
Chrystal Cross Horne	Chattanooga	2016	Joshua Rosales	Murfreesboro	2022
Robin Derryberry	Chattanooga	2015	Rieta Selberg	Nashville	2015
Stacey Garrett	Nashville	2014	Julius Sloss	Mr. Juliet	2015
Mark Hayes	Dryersburg	2020	A.J. Starling	Nashville	2014
Anazette Houston	Knoxville	2017	Daris Upton	Knoxville	2022
Robert Earl Jones	Memphis	2014	Joseph Walker	Nashville	2014
Mark Kelly	Clarksville	2022	Ralph White	Memphis	2017
Bill Martin	Mt. Juliet	2017	Jocelyn Wurzburg	Memphis	2014

View our 50th Anniversary Program

50th Anniversary Program Contains:

- Chronological history of the first 50 years of the Commission
- List of Commissioners from the first 50 years of the Commission
- Program details from 50th Anniversary



60th Anniversary Event Program

RECEPTION

Honoring our Past Exhibit, Networking,
Hor D'oeuvres , and Refreshments

INTRODUCTION

Lelan Statom. Master of Ceremonies, News
Channel 5

WELCOME

C. Dion Brown. President, National Museum of
African American Music

OCCASION

Muriel Nolen. Executive Director, Tennessee
Human Rights Commission

60 YEARS OF THRC

Video Presentation

2024 JOCELYN D. WURZBURG CIVIL RIGHTS LEGACY AWARD

Jocelyn Wurzburg. Former Commissioner
Darris Upton. THRC Board Chair
Patricia Inés Robledo. EL family Liaison, Office
of Ombudsman - Knox County Schools

SAFEGUARDING OUR FUTURE PANEL CONVERSATION

Moderator:
Dr. Russ Wigginton. President, National Civil
Rights Museum

Panelists:

Clifton Harris. Urban League of Middle TN
Debra House. Legal Aid of East TN
Jack Derryberry. Disability Rights TN
Roshun Austin. The Works, Inc.

CLOSING WORDS

Muriel Nolen. Executive Director, Tennessee
Human Rights Commission

CLOSING PEFROMANCE

Jadyn Marshall. Nashville Youth Poet Laureate,
Southern Word

2024 Jocelyn D. Wurzburg Civil Rights Legacy Award

PATRICIA INÉS ROBLEDO

English Learners Family Liaison
Office of the Ombudsman, Knox County Schools

Introduced by:

Jocelyn Wurzburg, Former THRC Commissioner

Darris K. Upton, Chair, THRC Board of Commissioners

Patricia is originally from Colombia, South America. She came to Knoxville in 1982 to work as a VIP Hostess at the World's Fair. She attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and then Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO.

Patricia joined the Public Affairs and Communications team at Knox County Schools in August 2021 as the first Latino Community Outreach Specialist. In 2024, she joined the Office of the Ombudsman, as the English Learners Family Liaison, the primary point-of-contact for parents whose primary language is not English.

In 2011, Mayor Madeline Rogero appointed Patricia as the City of Knoxville's Business Liaison, heading up the new Office of Business Support. In this role Patricia became the first Latina immigrant appointed by a Knoxville Mayor. In 2019 Mayor Indya Kincannon appointed Patricia to serve in her administration as a Development Services Liaison.

Patricia is the owner of Robledo Translations, LLC, which has served clients in federal, state, and local government, as well as in the private sector including national retail and food service chains, television and telecommunications firms and health care providers since 1997.

Patricia has served on the board of directors of various non-profits, including East Tennessee Foundation, YWCA of Knoxville and the Tennessee Valley, Project GRAD, Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Family Justice Center, Knoxville Entrepreneur Center and the Alliance for Better Nonprofits. She is a supporter of Centro Hispano de East Tennessee and HoLa-Hora Latina. Patricia led a Girl Scout troop at Lonsdale Elementary School for close to ten years. Patricia has been a medical interpreter for Knoxville Medical Mission Foundation for 20 years on their annual mission in Guatemala.

She is the proud recipient of the following recognitions and awards: East Tennessee Historical Society's Spirit of East Tennessee (2024); Anything is Possible with Hallerin Hilton Hill 17th season (2019); Knoxville Association of Women Executive's Webb Gibson Notable Woman Award (2017); YWCA Knoxville and the Tennessee Valley's Tribute to Women Finalist (2016); Project GRAD's Caught Doing Right for Kids Award (2016); Centro Hispano de East Tennessee's Spirit of Inspiration Award (2015); Lonsdale Community School Volunteer Hall of Fame (2015); Knoxville FBI Citizens Academy (2014); Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee Community Leadership (2014).



Safeguarding our Future

Panel Moderator

DR. RUSS WIGGINTON

President
National Civil Rights Museum

Dr. Russ Wigginton serves as the President of the National Civil Rights Museum. He assumed this role in August 2021 and brings vast experience in education, fundraising, operations, and community engagement. Prior to assuming this role, Wigginton served as the Chief Postsecondary Impact Officer for Tennessee State Collaborative on Reforming Education (SCORE) from 2019-2021, where he led the organization's work for postsecondary access, retention, and completion. Previously he served as vice president for student life and dean of students at Rhodes College from 2017-2019, where he oversaw the college's co-curricular experience for students.

From 2006-2017, Russ served as vice president for external programs and vice president for college relations, where he helped establish and implement institutional strategy for the college's engagement in Memphis and beyond, and oversaw the college grants, foundations and government relations, alumni relations, communications, career services, and continuing education departments.

Russ taught eight years in the History department at Rhodes, specializing in African- American and community history. He has published a book entitled, *The Strange Career of the Black Athlete: African-Americans and Sports* as well as articles and essays on African-American social and labor history. Russ has served on numerous civic boards, including the National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis Zoo, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Bridges USA, Facing History and Ourselves, Ballet Memphis, ArtsMemphis, UrbanArt Commission, St. George's Independent Schools, Promise Academy, Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, and KIPP Schools.

Russ graduated from Rhodes College with a BA in History and earned a PhD in History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is married to Tomeka Hart Wigginton, founder and principal of the HarWigg Group, a consulting firm specializing in building and managing strategic partnerships and coalitions serving nonprofits, public sector, and philanthropy leaders and organizations. He also has a son, Ryan, a 2022 graduate of the University of Richmond and currently a graduate student at Vanderbilt University.



Safeguarding our Future Panelists

CLIFTON HARRIS

President and CEO
Urban League of Middle Tennessee

A long-time community organizer and advocate, Clifton Harris's work has made him an expert in non-profit management, economic and workforce development, and social justice. Harris currently serves as the President and CEO of the Urban League of Middle Tennessee, where he is responsible for charting and evaluating the vision and mission of the Urban League.

As the former head of the Metropolitan Homelessness Commission, he created and hosted Nashville's first Project Homeless Connect, assisting thousands of homeless individuals in need of various services. Harris coordinated Nashville's efforts to implement "Housing First," placing homeless individuals into permanent housing coupled with intensive case management. This best practice solution reshaped Nashville's approach to offering permanent solutions to the most vulnerable and chronically homeless. The Nashville Business Journal has recognized him as one of the Most Admired CEOs in Nashville for the past three years, and the Nashville Post recently recognized him as one of the "2024 In Charge Leaders" in Nashville.

Prior to his time in Nashville, Harris made tremendous impact within Shelby County's housing and homelessness sectors through Shelby County's local government, Habitat for Humanity, and the Orange Mound Development Corporation.



DEBRA HOUSE

Executive Director
Legal Aid of East Tennessee

Debra House is the Executive Director of Legal Aid of East Tennessee, where she has practiced all aspects of poverty law for the past 35 years. She began her career as a staff attorney in the Cleveland office of the then Southeast Tennessee Legal Services where she later became the managing attorney. Debra moved to the Knoxville office of LAET in 2007 where she served as the Associate Director until becoming the of Director of Development and Compliance in 2016. Deb was appointed Interim Executive Director of LAET in 2021 then named permanent ED in March of 2022.

Deb is actively involved with the Tennessee and Knoxville Bar Associations where serves as Associate Speaker to the TBA House of Delegates and is the former co-chair the KBA Access to Justice Committee. She also serves on the board of directors of the Knoxville Family Justice Center and is President of the board of the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services. Deb received her B.S. degree from Western Michigan University and her law degree from The University of Tennessee College of Law where she has served as an adjunct professor teaching a course in negotiation and dispute resolution.



Safeguarding our Future Panelists

JACK DERRYBERRY

Legal Director
Disability Rights TN

Jack Derryberry received his B.A. in History at Duke University in 1969 and his J.D. at the University of Tennessee in 1972. His practice has consisted of class action litigation on behalf of persons with disabilities, social security disability matters, special education law, TennCare appeals, health care certificates of need, and more. He provided legal services pursuant to *John L. v. Adams* at Woodland Hills Youth Development Center and New Visions Youth Development Center for the Department of Children's Services from 1992-2007. Prior to joining the Disability Rights TN team, Jack worked as a partner in the firm Derryberry & Derryberry in Nashville, Tennessee. Jack has proudly served as the Legal Director at Disability Rights Tennessee since 2020.



ROSHUN AUSTIN

President and CEO
The Works, Inc.

Ms. Austin is the President/CEO of the Works, Inc, thirty year old community development corporation. The Works, Inc (TWI) is the developer of single-family and multifamily properties in distressed neighborhoods. TWI operates a farmers' market, a green grocer, a mobile grocery; provides nutrition education; operates a mortgage loan fund; and does work around the comprehensive needs of children and families. The Works, Inc merged with Neighborhood Preservation, Inc in January 2022, expanding its services to include policy advocacy, the Strategic Code Enforcement Management Academy, the Blight Elimination Steering Team, promoting collaborative efforts to develop practical and sustainable resolutions to blighted properties and to the systems that lead to widespread neglect, and vacancy and the abandonment of real estate.

Current development projects of TWI include the adaptive, mixed-use redevelopment of a 270,000 sq. ft. former high school as a community hub that includes 42 units of affordable housing; the development of a thirty-unit open plan subdivision for ownership; 79-units of senior affordable housing; new construction and rehabilitated units in the Klondike neighborhood and across South Memphis.

Austin earned her M.A. in Urban Anthropology at the University of Memphis and her undergraduate degree at Middlebury College. She's the mother of one daughter, Lailah who is pursuing a career in the real estate and the arts.





60 years of safeguarding, educating and empowering.

It is with great honor that we sponsor and support the Tennessee Human Rights Commission as it celebrates its 60th anniversary. We're proud to gather as one to commemorate your past accomplishments and look forward to an even brighter future.



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AM@RIE
AMARIE RAYMOND

PHOTOGRAPHY • DIGITAL MARKETING • BRANDING



**Tennessee Housing
Development Agency**

Congratulations
**to the Tennessee Human Rights
Commission for celebrating 60 years
of service to our state.**



THDA.ORG





Congratulations
**TENNESSEE
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**
on your

60th
ANNIVERSARY

The Air Assault Team - Keller Williams Realty

2271 Wilma Rudolph Blvd Clarksville, TN 37040

931-919-9467 931-648-8500

AaronMorton.KW.com | AirAssaults.com

Aaron@AirAssaultTeam.com



FIFTH THIRD



**tennessee
fair housing
council**

**HAVE YOU
EXPERIENCED HOUSING
DISCRIMINATION?
WE CAN HELP!**

It is illegal to discriminate in housing due to: Race, Color, National Origin, Religion, Sex*, Familial Status, and Disability. *includes Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

615-874-2344

admin@tennfairhousing.org

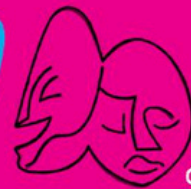
www.tennfairhousing.org

The Tennessee Fair Housing Council is a private nonprofit organization. Our mission is to eliminate housing discrimination in Tennessee. We are funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency, and the Tennessee Bar Foundation.



HATTILOO
THEATRE

SEASON 18 SUBSCRIPTION



HATTILOO
SEASON 18

Subscriber Plus - \$200

General - \$187

Shows of 2024-25 Season

CARMEN JONES

By Oscar Hammerstein II
July 26 – August 18, 2024

COCONUT CAKE

Written by Melda Beaty
August 9 – September 8, 2024

PARADISE BLUE

Written Dominique Morisseau
September 13 – October 6, 2024

Hattiloo Youth Theatre presents

DISNEY'S THE LION KING JR.

October 8 – 27, 2024

A MOTOWN CHRISTMAS

Created & adapted by Nate Jacobs
November 22 – December 22, 2024

BLACK ODYSSEY

Written by Marcus Gardley
January 24 – February 16, 2025

THOUGHTS OF A COLORED MAN

Written Keenan Scott II
March 14 – April 6, 2025

THE BOY WHO KISSED THE SKY

Written Idris Goodwin
May 16 – June 8, 2025

Nashville
MUSIC CITY

ELEMENTAL
WINES

*Muriel &
Taurus Nolen*





asurion



dpr Derryberry
Public Relations

PARLOW
FUNERAL HOME
P.O. BOX 532 • 205 NORTH MAIN
COVINGTON, TN 38019
PHONE: 901.476.9675

Friends of the Commission

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VERONICA MCGRAW	Tennessee Human Rights Commission
EDWIN OSBORNE	Osborne Financial
DARRIS K. UPTON	United Cleanup Oak Ridge LLC
WILL WADE	Tennessee Human Rights Commission

Planning Committee

Jacob	Aparicio	Tennessee Human Rights Commission
Ylonda	Banister	Department of Human Resources
Melissa	Brown	U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Lynn	Cothren	Tennessee Human Rights Commission
Robin	Derryberry	Derryberry Public Relations
Brian	Fesler	Church of Scientology
Seth	Lankford	Tennessee Human Rights Commission
Patricia	Malone	Urban League of Middle Tennessee
Veronica	McGraw	Tennessee Human Rights Commission
Cheryl	Nichols	Tennessee Human Rights Commission
Muriel	Nolen	Tennessee Human Rights Commission
Kenya	Payne	Nashville Cable
Michelle	Petrey	Tennessee Human Rights Commission
Samantha	York	Vanderbilt University

60th Anniversary Partners





**Tennessee
State Government**

Human Rights
Commission

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Mission

Safeguarding Individuals from Discrimination
Through Education and Enforcement