

# 2023 ARIZONA HOUSING FORUM

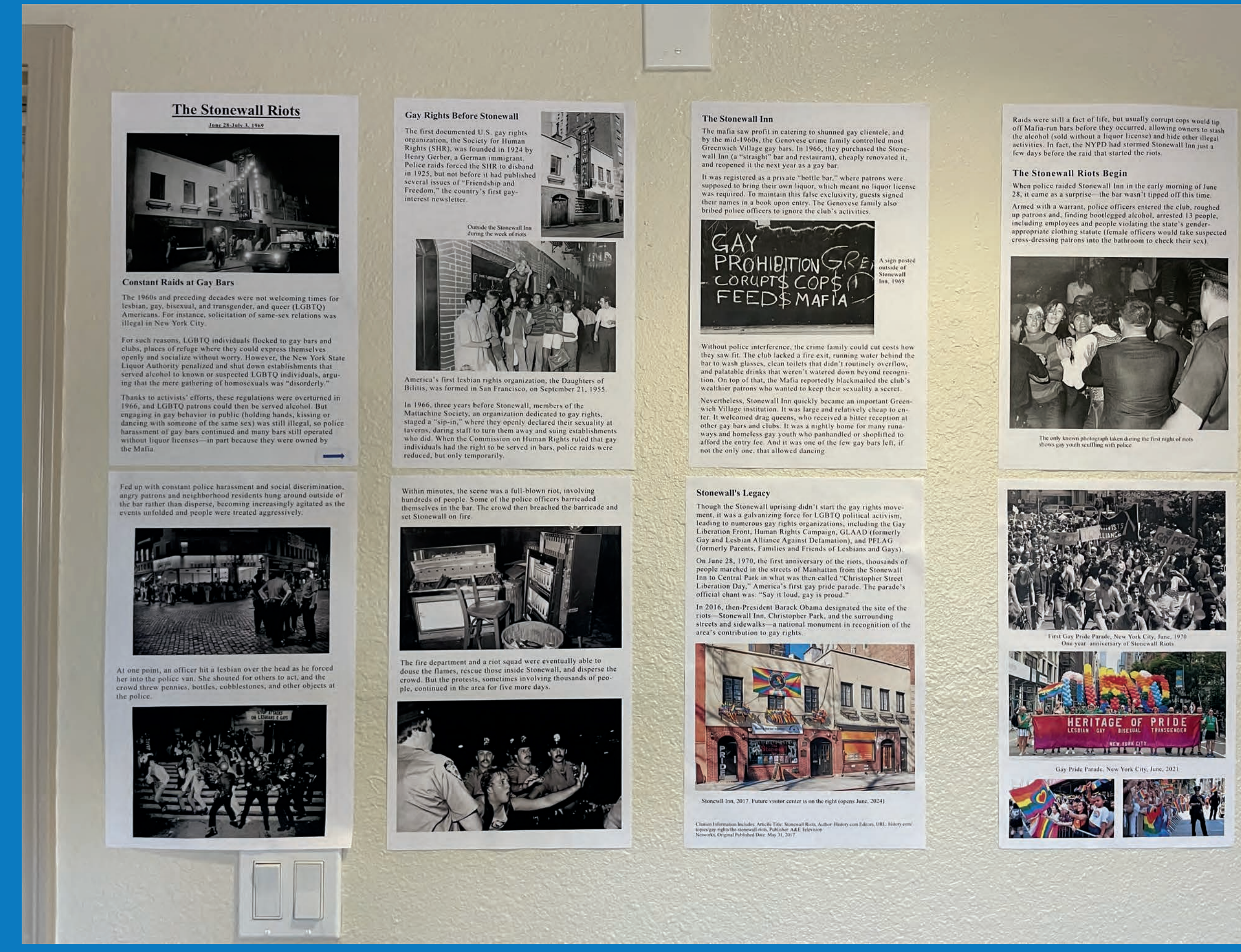
## BRIAN MICKELSEN HOUSING HERO AWARD

### Innovative Supportive Housing Program or Service

BREAD AND ROSES  
OLD PUEBLO COMMUNITY SERVICES

Total Project Cost  
**\$432,000**

In 2019, the Tucson/Pima Continuum of Care (Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness – TPCH) was selected as one of 15 communities across the nation to participate in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project. Over a two-year demonstration period, the initiative focused on developing new models and strategies for replication across the nation related to ending youth homelessness through a re-centering of approach grounded on authentic collaboration, elevated power among people with lived expertise, and innovation.



Project Start Date  
**October 2022**

Through the demonstration project, eight local agencies received funding and technical assistance. One of those agencies included Old Pueblo Community Services (OPCS), which used evidence-based practices and innovative approaches to house youth in a gender affirming crisis transitional housing facility. This project uses a targeted universalism approach to house those with the highest vulnerability by focusing on race equity and LGBTQ+ inclusivity and responding to the youth housing crisis with an equal emphasis on affirmation of youth human experiences in addition to the provision of their basic housing needs.



### Housing At-Risk Homeless Youth

To reduce youth homelessness while addressing fears of unsafe housing options among LGBTQ+ youth in our community, OPCS and the Southern Arizona Aids Foundation (SAAF) operate this crisis transitional housing with an LGBTQ+ affirming culture where youth may safely go to get off the streets. This low barrier project is based in Housing First principles, and in addition to housing, youth have access to community events, workforce/career development, education, peer support, health services, and counseling services. The project elevates youth voices using targeted universal approaches to meet the needs of a variety of special populations including LGBTQ+ youth, youth of color, young people involved in child welfare and justice systems, and immigrant youth.

OPCS manages the transitional housing facility and provides navigation into voucher supported housing in Pima County. Since October 1, 2022, the Bread and Roses Crisis Transitional Housing Project has served 42 youth under age 25, including one parenting youth. 21 of those youth had a history with domestic violence, while 5 of those youth were actively fleeing domestic violence when they had been referred to the project. After their stay in the project, most youth accomplished permanent housing in the following settings: their own apartment, paying their own rent, their own apartment with a rental subsidy, staying long-term with family members, staying long-term with friends, entry into other supportive housing programs, such as Rapid Rehousing, and entry into a Housing Choice Voucher. For youth entering less permanent housing destinations, primarily they went to stay with friends who could support them as they seek more sustainable housing solutions. 65.4% of those served identified as LGBTQIA+, 38.5% of those served identified as gender non-conforming, and 18.2% had child welfare involvement. By program exit, 90.9% left the project with wraparound supportive services in place.

