

**Public Sphere Pedagogy at**

**Cleveland State University**

Topics Surrounding Carl and Louis Stokes.

Over the past two years, the Office of Civic Engagement has organized an interdisciplinary group of twelve faculty to explore the feasibility of implementing a public sphere pedagogy program (PSP) on campus. We are working to build this program through participation by as many faculty across all colleges as possible. This document serves to advise faculty on topics surrounding Carl and Louis Stokes and how they can be incorporated across a variety of academic disciplines.

**Historic First Recorded in Stokes’ Two Terms**

* First black mayor of a major and predominantly white U.S. city
* First thoroughly integrated cabinet and administration
* First black law director
* First black chief police prosecutor
* First black safety director
* First black service director
* First black woman promoted to commissioner rank
* First black city treasurer
* First black purchasing commissioner
* First black parks commissioner
* First black commissioner in Department of Public Utilities
* First black building commissioner
* First black commissioner of Engineering and Construction
* First black medical examiner for the department of public safety
* First black woman appointed to Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority
* First black chairman, first black woman member, first black legal counsel and first black medical officer, Cleveland Transit System
* First black majority on the Civil Service Commission

***Monte Ahuja College of Business***

* + *Affirmative Action*
  + *Integration of black workers into the regional economy’*
  + *Riots had economically significant negative effects on blacks' income and employment*
  + [*Federal legislation outlawing discrimination*](https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2013-02-13/the-stunning-economic-impact-of-the-civil-rights-movement) *in employment and voting had a dramatic effect on this situation, starting in 1964. The share of black employees at South Carolina textile companies jumped from less than 5 percent in 1963 to more than 20 percent in 1970 and to more than a third by 1980. Similar patterns were observed in all the Southern textile states.*
  + *Desegregation of textiles was the single-largest contributor to the sharp increase in relative black incomes from 1965 to 1975*
    - *Mill workers with limited schooling were often able to send their children to college, taking advantage of expanding educational and employment opportunities elsewhere in the region.*
  + *Economic inequality lead to de facto segregation*
  + Carl found support in businessmen, Ralph Besse and Elmer Lindseth, who were directors and officers of the **Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company** and wanted Stokes to having a leading role in the City's Municipal Electric and Light Plant.

[***College of Education and Human Services***](http://www.csuohio.edu/cehs/)

* + *African-American students hold protests at universities, including Cornell University and North Carolina A & T University in Greensboro, asking for changes such as a Black Studies program and the hiring of African-American faculty.*
  + Carl opened city hall jobs to African Americans and women.
  + Louis advocated more **funding for education** (particularly for minority colleges), affirmative action programs to employ more African Americans, housing and urban development projects, and initiatives to improve access to health care for working–class Americans.
  + “When I left office four years later we had built **5,496 units of low and moderate income housing at a cost of more than $102 million.** No city in the country had a record like that." ~ Carl Stokes, 1973

[***Washkewicz College of Engineering***](http://www.csuohio.edu/engineering/)

* + *NASA promoted equal employment in the year before the 1964 Civil Rights Act became law: The agency created a contractors’ group in Alabama that used its money and influence to make sure African-Americans got space jobs. NASA hired Charlie Smoot, called the “first Negro recruiter” in official agency histories, to travel the nation persuading black scientists and engineers to come south. The Marshall Space Flight Center invited representatives of the historically black colleges to Huntsville in 1963, and a year later opened the agency’s college cooperative education program to blacks.*
  + *A small group of young African-American men left Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1964 to work at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. What they accomplished as NASA’s first black engineers was part of the civil rights revolution. (*[*NASA*](http://www.airspacemag.com/history-of-flight/how-nasa-joined-civil-rights-revolution-180949497/)*)*
  + *“*[*Five Black Chemists Who Changed the World*](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Im_17N_JVAE)*.” The five are Patricia Bath, the inventor of the Laserphaco Probe to treat cataracts; George Washington Carver, the agricultural chemist born into slavery and who specialized in the cultivation and use of peanuts; Betty Harris, the inventor of a spot test to identify explosives in the field; Mae C. Jemison, the first woman-of-color astronaut; and Percy Julian, the inventor of a synthesis that vastly reduced the cost of cortisone.*
  + *With the civil-rights movement in the 1960s, society, including engineering firms and employers opened up, became more tolerant and accepting.*
  + “Carl (Mayor at the time) became a national spokesman [for the Burning River],” says Ben Stefanski. “He went to Washington, he was before Congress.”
  + National Environmental Policy Act

***College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences***

* + *The work of black artists, such as photographer Gordon Parks, painter Jacob Lawrence, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and novelist Toni Morrison, received widespread notice and critical praise.*
  + [*Poetry*](http://www.crmvet.org/poetry/poemhome.htm) *of the Civil Rights Movement (Langston Hughes, Sojourner Truth)*
  + *Freedom Movement* [*Poetry*](http://www.crmvet.org/poetry/poemhome.htm)
  + [*Freedom Songs*](http://www.crmvet.org/info/fsongs.htm#fsongssongs)
  + *The song “We Shall Overcome” became an anthem of the movement. Gospel singer* [*Mahalia Jackson often sang at civil rights rallies*](https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aaohtml/exhibit/aopart9.html#0916)*. The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee organized a group called the Freedom Singers to perform around the country, motivating people and raising money for Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Jazz composer Max Roach composed new musical works that explored themes of freedom and protest.*
    - [*"We Insist!: Max Roach's Freedom Now Suite"*](http://www.jazzhistoryonline.com/Max_Roach.html)
  + *Selma*
  + *Segregation caused by economic inequality*
  + Carl served as Chairman of the [House Select Committee on Assassinations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_Select_Committee_on_Assassinations), charged with investigating the murders of President [John F. Kennedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_F._Kennedy) and [Martin Luther King, Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Luther_King,_Jr.).
  + The Glenville Shootout, a race riot, occurred during Carl’s administration.
    - During the first day of the riots, Stokes refused to allow white police officers to patrol the area. When African American leaders in the neighborhood were unable to quell the violence, Stokes sent the [Ohio Army National Guard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio_Army_National_Guard) and the rest of the Cleveland Police into the area to stop the violence.
    - (1968) Stokes agreed to establish Cleveland's first [**SWAT**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SWAT)unit, so that the police could deal with situations like the Glenville shootout. He also agreed to hire 500 new police officers, purchase 164 new patrol cars, and establish a police training academy. The [**National Association for the Advancement of Colored People**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Association_for_the_Advancement_of_Colored_People) began urging African Americans to apply for the new positions, and Police Chief Blackwell agreed to **racially integrate all police patrols** in the Glenville neighborhood.
  + Stokes and other Clevelanders questioned how sit-ins and marches of the civil rights movement could correct **exclusionary zoning practices, police brutality, substandard housing, and de facto school segregation** that African Americans in the country's northern urban centers viewed as evidence of their oppression (Moore, 2003).
  + Stokes became the first black lawyer to serve as general counsel to a major American labor union, the **United Auto Workers.**

[***School of Nursing***](http://www.csuohio.edu/nursing/) *and* [***College of Sciences and Health Professions***](http://www.csuohio.edu/sciences/)

* + *In the 1960s* [*technology*](http://ethw.org/images/2/29/Embs_1.pdf) *became even more prominent in cardiology. A good deal of the work done by biomedical engineers in the 1960s concerned the cardiovascular system.*
  + *Medical Committee for Civil Rights was the brainchild of physician Walter Lear. Lear was actively involved in racial matters, particularly racial inequality in health care. He formed the Medical Committee for Civil Rights specifically to attack the American Medical Association’s policy of refusing to require its southern members to integrate, thereby denying African American physicians hospital privileges throughout the South. A small group of doctors demonstrated on the Atlantic City boardwalk at the AMA national convention in 1963. It was probably the first public protest by doctors acting as a group.*
    - [*MCHR did provide services for civil rights workers.*](http://www.crmvet.org/docs/mchr.pdf) *Most were healthy, and did not need much attention. One of the doctors’ most valuable contributions was providing counseling for veteran Movement workers suffering PTSD. The mere presence of a physician at a project, or visiting movement people who had been jailed, seemed to have a calming effect.*
    - *The key person in the MCHR effort during the summer was Robert Smith, an African American Jackson physician known as “the doctor to the movement.” Smith provided orientation for every medical volunteer who came to Mississippi that summer, help set up appointments, and counseled physicians as well as volunteers. In short, without Smith the MCHR effort never would have gotten off the ground in Mississippi.*
  + Louis secured funds for health-care facilities for veterans in Cleveland
  + [National Institutes of Health](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Institutes_of_Health) is named the Louis Stokes Laboratories
  + [Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center](http://www.cleveland.va.gov/about/index.asp)
  + Louis was an early advocate of federal government intervention in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

***Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs***

* + *Relative* [*decline*](http://www.nber.org/digest/sep04/w10243.html) *in median black family income of approximately 9 percent in cities that experienced severe riots relative to those that did not.*
  + *In 1964, ten years after Brown, only one percent of southern black children attended public schools with whites.*
  + *Establishment of affirmative action, especially in the areas of employment and higher education admissions.*
  + *Civil Rights Act of 1968 (or the Fair Housing Act) - prohibits discrimination by sellers or renters of property.*
  + Carl initiated [*Cleveland: Now!*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleveland:_Now!), a public and private funding program aimed at the revitalization of Cleveland neighborhoods.
  + Louis and Carl lived in one of the first federally funded housing projects, the [Outhwaite Homes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Outhwaite_Homes).
  + [**Black churches**](https://books.google.com/books?id=b7C8-TFSnHkC&pg=PA138&lpg=PA138&dq=carl+stokes%27s+influence+in+cleveland&source=bl&ots=P6QbFzUpJX&sig=bww6Vpk9ro01iU5HEoZtMJPLSq0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjZgKzTtpvNAhVTgx4KHWevCskQ6AEIRzAG#v=onepage&q=carl%20stokes%27s%20influence%20in%20cleveland&f=false) asserted themselves as **vehicles for political action**- reaching out to the community, serving as a gathering place for meetings and rallies, providing forums for candidates and their platforms, and encouraging their members to participate politically and vote (Smith, Harris, 2005).
  + Reverend John T. Weeden (head of the black Baptist Ministerial Alliance) and Reverend Milan Brenkis, a white West Side minister led an interdenominational group of ministers who put together a voter registration drive in black, Puerto Rican, and Appalachian communities.
    - The Black church provided what the Democratic Party couldn’t as a base for the Stokes campaign. The **churches** allowed Stokes to reach blacks and whites.
  + Two campaigns of Carl Stokes provided a springboard for **individual ministers and ministerial alliances to exercise political clout** in subsequent decades (Smith, Harris, 2005).

[***Cleveland-Marshall College of Law***](http://www.law.csuohio.edu/)

* + *1963- Martin Luther King Jr., receives the Nobel Peace Prize.*
  + *Voting Rights Act of 1965*
  + *1967-* [*Thurgood Marshall*](http://chnm.gmu.edu/courses/122/hill/marshall.htm) *becomes the first African American justice of the Supreme Court.*
  + *Congress enacts the* [*Age Discrimination Act of 1967*](http://www.eeoc.gov/policy/adea.html)
  + *Civil Rights Act of 1968 (or the Fair Housing Act) - prohibits discrimination by sellers or renters of property.*
  + *1968- The Supreme Court, in* [*Green v. County School Board of New Kent County*](http://tourolaw.edu/Patch/Green/) *(Virginia), rules that "actual desegregation" of schools in the South is required, effectively ruling out so-called school "freedom of choice" plans and requiring affirmative action to achieve integrated schools.*
  + Carl graduated from [Cleveland-Marshall College of Law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleveland-Marshall_College_of_Law) in 1956 and was admitted to the [Ohio](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ohio) bar in 1957.
    - Carl became an assistant prosecuting attorney for Cuyahoga County.
    - Carl became the United Auto Workers' legal counsel in Cleveland
  + Louis attended [Cleveland-Marshall College of Law](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cleveland-Marshall_College_of_Law) on the [G.I. Bill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/G.I._Bill)
    - He argued the "[stop and frisk](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stop_and_frisk)" case of [*Terry v. Ohio*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terry_v._Ohio) before the [United States Supreme Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Supreme_Court) in 1968.
  + Carl and Louis established the law firm **Stokes, Stokes, Character, and Terry**.
  + Congress passed the National Environmental Policy Act. It was the precursor to the [**Environmental Protection Agency**](http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/guardian-origins-epa).