New York State Celebrates

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Opportunity & Promise

January 17, 2022

Governor Kathy Hochul
Proclamation

Whereas, each year, people across our state and nation honor Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., born on January 15, 1929, and New Yorkers join to commemorate what would have been the 93rd birthday of this extraordinary leader, remembering all that he achieved in his life and the contributions he made to the world; this is a fitting opportunity to reflect upon some of the most important principles that Dr. King advanced and advocated for — freedom, justice, equality, and peace; and

Whereas, impacted by systemic racism, poverty, unemployment, lack of education, and other obstacles to opportunity for Black Americans, Dr. King was dedicated to fulfilling his vision of equality and justice for all, illustrating — through both words and actions — his commitment to civil rights, respect for human dignity, and determination to follow a course of social change through nonviolent means; in this moment we recognize all that Dr. King devoted himself to and ultimately gave his life for is an incomparable legacy yet, as a society, we have much more work to do in order to achieve true and full equality for all people; and

Whereas, the values embodied by Dr. King are reflected in the New York State Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Observance theme, Opportunity and Promise, echoing Dr. King’s legendary “I Have a Dream” speech delivered at the March on Washington in August of 1963, recognized as one of the most powerful and profound orations in American history; his voice and words were heard by millions across our nation and around the world, echoing his call for human dignity and his commitment to following a course of social change through peaceful and nonviolent means; and

Whereas, also central to Dr. King’s philosophy was the concept of community service, and the Empire State maintains this ideal through various philanthropic efforts — including statewide food drives, book drives, blood drives, volunteer fairs, career fairs, as well as children’s educational programs that include art and essay contests — encouraging New Yorkers of all ages to observe the New York State Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Observance and to honor the life and legacy of this great man through the continuation of his good works; and

Whereas, New Yorkers young and old are encouraged to attend programs held during the statewide celebration that honors Dr. King’s legacy through music and art, and to participate in initiatives that support the goals Dr. King fought for and upon which he built his life; this year, New York State is proud to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. King through a statewide broadcast event, “New York State Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Opportunity and Promise” streaming at empirestateplaza.ny.gov/tv/kings; and

Whereas, today we are reminded that Dr. King’s lifelong quest to build a more peaceful world was the foundation of his belief that, as a society, we grow stronger when we focus on our similarities rather than our differences; in celebrating Dr. King’s legacy, we recommite ourselves to upholding the values he championed throughout his life and to imparting his fundamental philosophy of non-violence and respect unto a whole new generation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim January 17, 2022 as

REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

in the Empire State, and ask that we dedicate ourselves to endeavors that reinforce the dreams of Opportunity and Promise in a nation where equality, justice, fairness, and freedom stall true for all.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this sixth day of January in the year two thousand twenty-two.

[Signature]
Governor

Secretary to the Governor
Karen Persichilli Reckag
It Starts with Me: Shifting Priorities to Create the Beloved Community

The King Center’s 2022 National Theme

New York State’s annual commemoration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be presented as a statewide broadcast event, “New York State Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: Opportunity and Promise,” airing on PBS stations throughout New York beginning MLK weekend and streaming at empirestateplaza.ny.gov/nyking.

@NYSMLK

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Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Born at noon on Tuesday, January 15, 1929 at the family home in Atlanta, Martin Luther King, Jr. was the first son and second child born to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr. and Alberta Williams King.

During the less than 13 years of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s leadership of the modern American Civil Rights Movement, from December 1955 until April 4, 1968, African-Americans achieved more genuine progress toward racial equality in America than the previous 350 years had produced. Dr. King is widely regarded as America’s pre-eminent advocate of nonviolence and one of the greatest nonviolent leaders in world history.

Drawing inspiration from both his Christian faith and the peaceful teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. King led a nonviolent movement in the late 1950s and ’60s to achieve legal equality for African-Americans in the United States. While others were advocating for freedom by “any means necessary,” including violence, Martin Luther King, Jr. used the power of words and acts of nonviolent resistance, such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience to achieve seemingly impossible goals. He went on to lead similar campaigns against poverty and international conflict, always maintaining fidelity to his principles that men and women everywhere, regardless of color or creed, are equal members of the human family.

Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, Nobel Peace Prize lecture and “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” are among the most revered orations and writings in the English language. His accomplishments are now taught to American children of all races, and his teachings are studied by scholars and students worldwide. He is the only non-president to have a national holiday dedicated in his honor and is the only non-president memorialized on the Great Mall in the nation’s capital. He is memorialized in hundreds of statues, parks, streets, squares, churches, and other public facilities around the world as a leader whose teachings are increasingly relevant to the progress of humankind.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s nonviolent leadership ended abruptly and tragically on April 4, 1968, when he was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. King’s body was returned to his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia, where his funeral ceremony was attended by high-level leaders of all races and political stripes. Later in 1968, Dr. King’s wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, officially founded The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, which she dedicated to being a “living memorial” aimed at continuing Dr. King’s work on important social ills around the world.
Coretta Scott King was one of the most influential women leaders in our world. Prepared by her family, education, and personality for a life committed to social justice and peace, she entered the world stage in 1955 as wife of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and as a leading participant in the American Civil Rights Movement. Her remarkable partnership with Dr. King resulted not only in four children, who became dedicated to carrying forward their parent’s work, but also in a life devoted to the highest values of human dignity in service to social change. Mrs. King traveled throughout the world speaking out on behalf of racial and economic justice, women’s and children’s rights, gay and lesbian dignity, religious freedom, the needs of the poor and homeless, full-employment, health care, educational opportunities, nuclear disarmament, and environmental justice. She lent her support to pro-democracy movements world-wide and consulted with many world leaders, including Corazon Aquino, Kenneth Kaunda, and Nelson Mandela.

Born and raised in Marion, Alabama, Coretta Scott graduated valedictorian from Lincoln High School. She received a B.A. in music and education from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio and then went on to study concert singing at Boston’s New England Conservatory of Music, where she earned a degree in voice and violin. While in Boston, she met Martin Luther King, Jr. who was then studying for his doctorate in systematic theology at Boston University. They were married on June 18, 1953, and in September 1954 took up residence in Montgomery, Alabama, with Coretta Scott King assuming the many responsibilities of a pastor’s wife at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

One of the most influential African-American leaders of her time, Mrs. King received honorary doctorates from over 60 colleges and universities; authored three books and a nationally-syndicated newspaper column; and served in and helped found dozens of organizations, including the Black Leadership Forum, the National Black Coalition for Voter Participation, and the Black Leadership Roundtable.

Mrs. King died in 2006. A few days after her death, thousands of Atlantans stood in line in the pouring sleet to pay their respects to her at a viewing in Ebenezer Baptist Church. She is today interred alongside her husband in a memorial crypt in the reflecting pool of The King Center’s Freedom Hall Complex, visited by hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world each year. The inscription on the crypt memorializing her life of service is from I Corinthians 13:13 – “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
January 17, 2022

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone across New York State on this Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, as we all pay tribute to the life and legacy of this iconic civil rights leader.

Few individuals have raised the conscience of our nation and the world as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has, both through his words and by his deeds. Every January, New Yorkers and all Americans commemorate the birth of Dr. King and the ideals he exemplified. Today, we recommit ourselves to the values of freedom, social justice, and equality that he championed throughout his lifetime and that remain as a foundation of our society.

On this day – and every day – we are reminded of Dr. King’s strength and conviction in fighting for important causes that resonate with all who are dedicated to fulfilling his dream. In the humanitarian spirit of Dr. King, we are also asked to serve in ways that can benefit our neighbors and our communities.

This year, New York presents a statewide broadcast that highlights the life and work of Dr. King and the vision and promise he instilled within us all. I believe people in communities across our great state will find renewed inspiration and be uplifted by this celebration of Dr. King’s legacy through music and art, and I invite you and your families to watch this moving tribute to an extraordinary man.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hochul
Governor
New York State Office of the Attorney General

“Now more than ever, it is important for us to remember the work that Dr. King started, and strive to continue his legacy. He was a man whose principles and steadfast commitment to equality have left an imprint in every corner of our society and across the globe. In the spirit of Dr. King, we must stand together, march together, and work towards a better, more just world.”

— Letitia James, New York Attorney General

Office of the New York State Comptroller

“Dr. King’s legacy of inspiration and hope continues to move Americans to this day. His teachings and what he stood for represent the very best of what makes America a great nation. We should honor him every day through intentional acts of kindness and having empathy toward our neighbors. Now more than ever, we should commit to honoring and respecting each other.”

— Thomas DiNapoli, Comptroller

New York State Senate

“Remembering the sacrifice and dedication of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is essential during this turbulent time in history. Dr. King was a visionary, freedom fighter, and influential Civil Rights leader. He reminded us of our common humanity and our ability to fight for equality collectively and non-violently. In the words of Dr. King, ‘Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.’ As I reflect on this day, I raise my voice to advocate for things that matter. Our time
to heal is now. Together, we can advance the dreams of equity and social justice through the righteousness of Dr. King.”

— Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senate Majority Leader

New York State Assembly

“Every year on the third Monday of January we celebrate the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the indelible mark he left on our nation. This day serves as a reminder that the fight for equal rights and justice for all is far from over. I am honored to walk in his path and continue to keep his legacy and the spirit of his work alive.”

— Carl E. Heastie, Assembly Speaker

New York State Senate

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. guided America to be unified. We all owe Dr. King a debt of gratitude for his powerful words and long-lasting contributions to the civil rights movement, which helped improve the lives of millions of Americans. Dr. King’s teachings should not just be remembered as history, but as life lessons we should practice today – and for years to come – as we seek to become more united as a nation.”

— Robert Ortt, Senate Minority Leader

New York State Assembly

“As America celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we pay tribute to one of the most inspirational and important leaders in our history. Through an unwavering resolve and extraordinary vision, Dr. King guided the nation's civil rights movement and paved the way for greater opportunities for all. Against tremendous odds and through times of great uncertainty, he never lost sight of his dreams and beliefs. Today it serves as a reminder that regardless of the challenges we face, Dr. King’s lessons of perseverance, faith and love still hold true.”

— Will Barclay, Assembly Minority Leader

City of Albany

“Each year, as we commemorate the life and memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through united voices we renew our commitment against hatred and injustice. For in the words of Dr. King, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

— Kathy Sheehan, Mayor of Albany

NYS Addiction Services and Supports

“Martin Luther King Junior is a role model to millions for his work on racial equality, as well as his selflessness and dedication to service for others. As we work to help New Yorkers impacted by substance use and addiction, we must remain committed to a system of care that is just, equitable and compassionate to ensure we are making a difference in their lives.”

— Chinazo Cunningham, MD, Commissioner
New York State Office for the Aging

“Today we honor Dr. King’s powerful and honorable legacy of committed action for equality and social justice. His immortal words that ‘injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere’ remind us that society is judged by the way we treat any one person – including how we help people who are suffering or in need. This year, we are celebrating Dr. King’s message of volunteerism. I am especially proud of the nearly 1 million older adults across New York State who contribute 495 million hours of voluntary service annually, standing as models of commitment to Dr. King’s hopeful message.”

— Greg Olsen, Acting Director

New York State Office of Children and Family Services

“The New York State Office of Children and Family Services joins you in celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. The issues Dr. King addressed decades ago are hauntingly similar to what we see today. We all have opportunities to support and serve. We must find within ourselves the courage to stop violence, the openness to gain understanding and the resolve to find peaceful resolution to differences. In Dr. King’s memory, we seek the light to cast out darkness and the love to cast out hate, so that we may live in a kinder, promising and just world for all children and families in New York State and beyond. Let us all carry the spirit of today’s celebration forward and answer his call to action through our words and deeds of kindness, mutual respect and understanding.”

— Sheila J. Poole, Commissioner

New York State Department of Civil Service

“The New York State Department of Civil Service is proud to honor a man who inspired a generation while calling for the nation to work towards a better tomorrow. Few individuals have had such a profound impact on modern society as did Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Department takes great pride in honoring his legacy and leadership and remains committed to the fulfillment of this principle by building tomorrow’s workforce today and promoting equal opportunities for all New Yorkers.”

— Rebecca Corso, Acting Commissioner

Department of Corrections and Community Supervision

“The Department is committed to excelling each and every day and abiding by the principles of equal opportunity, diversity, equity, and inclusion, in all of its programs, transactions and services. We expend tireless efforts to protect the inalienable human and civil rights and freedoms of our staff, volunteers, visitors, contractors, and those under our care and supervision. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., ‘Everyone has an opportunity to be great because everyone has an opportunity to serve.’ At the Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, we take pride in our pursuit of excellence, which is reflected in our commitment to serve others.”

— Anthony J. Annucci, Acting Commissioner
New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services

“Dr. King pointed out that only in darkness can you see the stars. Our nation has been through some dark days over the past two years, but challenging times also present us with the opportunity to envision a better world. The state Division of Criminal Justice Services remains committed to the work we do to support local partners who serve and protect, fund programs that help transform lives and contribute to uplifting our communities and keeping New Yorkers safe.”

— Rossana Rosado, Acting Commissioner

The City University of New York

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. recognized with precision the positive forces that would be needed to achieve meaningful, sustainable societal change. ‘Peace is not merely the absence of tension. It is the presence of justice,’ he said in 1956, at the cusp of the civil rights struggle. Now, 65 years later, we read Dr. King’s words in the context of both the advances we have made and the challenges we continue to face in this time of persistent racial, political, and cultural polarization. This year perhaps more than most, to give meaning to our annual commemoration of Dr. King and the ideals he inspired we must dig deeper to find paths to justice and good will. We must redouble our commitment to do better, be better, and come together as the positive force that Dr. King summoned.”

— William C. Thompson Jr., Chairperson, CUNY Board of Trustees

“Dr. King’s memory and message have inspired the best in us through the worst moments of the past two years. Health workers risked their lives to care for the sick. Food pantries and restaurants fed those who lost their paychecks. Social workers, clergy and everyday neighbors comforted those who suffered loss. This sense of community, of selflessness and resolve, have been foundational not only to our city and state’s perseverance through the pandemic but to the struggles against bigotry, injustice, and inequality that Dr. King waged so passionately, and which are no less essential today. At the City University of New York, we look ahead, past the pandemic, with a renewed commitment to the transformative power of education to equip those now coming of age to carry on Dr. King’s legacy.”

— Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Ph. D, CUNY Chancellor

Dormitory Authority of the State of New York

“Martin Luther King Jr once said, ‘Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity.’ The hate in our Country today is like a cancer, but we do not need chemotherapy, we need love, compassion, empathy and understanding. ‘Hate destroys a man’s sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true,’ he goes on to say. Let’s choose this MLK Day to begin our treatment and put this cancer of hate in remission.”

— Reuben R. McDaniel, III, President & CEO
New York State Department of Education

“In a 1956 speech on the historic Brown v. Board of Education ruling, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. talked about the importance of parents telling their children ‘You are somebody, you belong, you count.’ My dream is for our educational system to make every student feel welcomed, valued, and supported. I am proud to say that many of New York’s schools, colleges, and universities are already working to turn that dream into a reality, as they implement the Board of Regents policy on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. As we honor Dr. King’s legacy, we at the Department reaffirm our commitment to support New York’s educators as they, in turn, empower and inspire students from all backgrounds to visualize successful futures for themselves—no matter their race, gender, socio-economic status, disability, language spoken, sexual orientation, or zip code.”

— Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner

Governor’s Office of Employee Relations

“The Governor’s Office of Employee Relations (GOER) is honored to support today’s annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. This year’s theme, Opportunity and Promise, calls us to take stock of the impact we have on the lives of everyone in our workplace and redouble our efforts to ensure that all state employees enjoy the opportunity to serve every New Yorker in a workplace that reflects the fairness and sense of purpose embodied in Dr. King’s life and work.”

— Michael N. Volforte, Director

Department of Environmental Conservation

“The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was a visionary with a gift for recognizing opportunities to transform society for the better. He turned society-imposed limitations into fuel to advance a cause bigger than himself. At DEC, we understand the importance of incorporating our work to achieve environmental justice for our communities into everything we do. We have the opportunity to act on climate change now for the promise of a better tomorrow. New York’s Climate Justice Working Group, establishing criteria to identify disadvantaged communities, is bolstering the State’s efforts to reduce climate-altering pollution in all of our communities. DEC and New York State are committed to meeting the challenge of climate change head on, and we have the most aggressive climate law in the nation to guide us. In the spirit of Dr. King, we know we can meet the challenge and implement the law to benefit all New Yorkers.”

— Basil Seggos, Commissioner

New York State Department of Financial Services

“Dr. King’s wisdom and leadership are as relevant and compelling now as they have ever been, inspiring new generations to pick up his mantle in the fight against racial inequality, social injustice, economic inequity, and disparities in health and well-being. His example should be a beacon before us every day -- in everything we do -- not just on a holiday or after a disaster, and DFS will continue
to seize upon the opportunity and promise Dr. King championed as we march in his footsteps to create a more fair, inclusive, and equitable future for all.”

— Adrienne A. Harris, Acting Superintendent

New York State Gaming Commission

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. endeavored tirelessly at the vanguard of the civil rights movement to ensure a path was carved — one that led to an egalitarian, socially just, and more neighborly America. He believed that ‘Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, “What are you doing for others?”’ At the NYS Gaming Commission, we look toward this guiding light as we continue our promise to provide opportunity to students through our ongoing funding of public education across the whole of New York. We’re proud to honor Dr. King’s legacy and ideals today, and we pledge to keep serving and elevating our state’s burgeoning intellects from Buffalo to New York City.”

— Robert Williams, Executive Director

New York State Office of General Services

“During another turbulent time in our nation’s history, Dr. King reminded us that ‘The time is always right to do what is right.’ As an agency of more than 1,700 public servants, it is incumbent upon OGS to follow the path toward equality and justice that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other leaders of the Civil Rights Movement laid out for us. Whenever possible, we will leverage our resources to help support communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We will fulfill the promise of opportunity by doing what is right for our most marginalized and vulnerable communities. As public servants, OGS will work steadfastly to keep Dr. King’s Dream alive.”

— Jeanette Moy, Acting Commissioner

New York State Higher Education Services Corporation

“At the age of 18, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote, ‘Education must enable a man to … achieve with increasing facility the legitimate goals of his life.’ The New York State Higher Education Services Corporation is committed to the fulfillment of this principle by providing all students, regardless of race, class, or social status, with the opportunity to realize their dreams of a college education with the funding and support services they need to access and succeed in college. Reaching that important goal fortifies the solid foundation New Yorkers can build upon to achieve all of their life goals.”

— Dr. Guillermo Linares, President

Hudson River Valley Greenway

“The Civil Rights and the Environmental Movements are linked in their mission to provide equity and to create a better world for the benefit of future generations. The Hudson River Valley Greenway is proud to support the 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Observance. The Hudson River Valley Greenway is a unique state agency created to assist with the development of a voluntary regional
strategy for preserving scenic, natural, historic, cultural, and recreational resources while encouraging compatible economic development and maintaining the tradition of home rule for land use decision making. The Greenway also manages the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in partnership with the National Park Service.”

— Scott Keller, Executive Director

New York State Division of Human Rights

“The NYS Division of Human Rights has fought for the rights of New Yorkers against discrimination for over 75 years. Our agency pays homage to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. every day by enforcing the NYS Human Rights Law, educating the public about the legal remedies available to them, and proactively working with the community to create a fairer and more just New York for all. It is with a deep appreciation for the mission of equality and justice that the Division carries out its work and honors the vision of Dr. King. Fearless alone, stronger together.”

— Maria Imperial, Acting Commissioner

NYS Office of Informational Technology Services

“Dr. King once said, ‘Through our scientific and technological genius we’ve made of this world a neighborhood. And now through our moral and ethical commitment, we must make of it a brotherhood. We must all learn to live together as brothers — or we will all perish together as fools.’ The New York State Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) remains committed to the advancement of tomorrow’s technologies. IT Products made for everyone should be made by everyone — a concept that supports the promotion of equal opportunities for all New Yorkers and stands up for the values that encompass Dr. King’s dream. With technology, we will bring people together and together we will build a better New York!”

— Angelo “Tony” Riddick, Chief Information Officer

New York State Office of the Inspector General

“Dr. King once said, ‘We stand in life at midnight; we are always at the threshold of a new dawn.’ At this new dawn, the dedicated public servants of the New York State Inspector General’s Office, inspired by his legacy, are committed to working towards a future free from racism, sexism, and corruption, and to earning public confidence in the integrity of our government in service of all.”

— Lucy Lang, Inspector General

NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs

“Even in the darkest of days, Dr. King recognized the opportunity this country held for its citizens. He saw the promise of a new day dawning. That promise continues to dawn today. Each new day brings an opportunity for every single New Yorker, regardless of age, race, creed, or ability, to reach their true potential. The Justice
Center celebrates Dr. King’s vision and works each day to help vulnerable people seek the opportunities that lie ahead on an endless horizon.”

— Denise Miranda, Executive Director

New York State Department of Labor

“Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, ‘No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.’ His words ring true to this day and his advancement of equality lives on through our actions today. We must continue to stand united for the rights of all workers across New York State.”

— Roberta Reardon, Commissioner

New York State Liquor Authority

“The New York State Liquor Authority is dedicated to making a difference in our community by participating in this year’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive. This and numerous other initiatives of the MLK Memorial Observance are an incredible way to show support to our communities, and we are honored to help spread kindness in memory of Dr. King.”

— Lily M. Fan, Commissioner

NYS Office of Mental Health

Dr. King said, “We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools.” The effect of racism and racial trauma on mental health is real and cannot be ignored. The events over the past couple of years have brought to the forefront and spotlight the inequities we face in our society. Let’s use this moment in time as an ‘opportunity and promise’ to do better for those we serve. We proudly honor the life and legacy of Dr. King.

— Ann Sullivan, MD, Commissioner

Metropolitan Transportation Authority

“As we celebrate the 36th anniversary of the federal holiday in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday – Dr. King’s passion for equity and dedication to uplift masses during our nation’s most difficult times have left an ever-lasting global legacy. Dr. King said in his last public speech: ‘Let us stand with a greater determination and let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be.’ Those words stand true with our agency’s mission to ‘overcome’ through this pandemic and future challenges we will successfully conquer ahead.”

— Janno Lieber, Acting Chair & CEO, Metropolitan Transportation Authority

New York State Department of Motor Vehicles

“There are not very many people whose words continue to inspire us more than a half-century later. Martin Luther King Jr. is one of those rare leaders. Our country lost not only a great man when his life was tragically cut short; we lost someone who always encouraged us all to be our best selves. His wisdom continues to
inspire me and our employees. Doctor King once said, ‘Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, “What are you doing for others?”’ I think the world can be a better place if we all begin each day by asking ourselves that question and then, as he did, answer it with our deeds.”

— Mark J.F. Schroeder, Commissioner

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

“Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., while speaking to an audience in Montgomery, Alabama in 1967 said ‘Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’ The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has four guiding principles relevant to his question that day. The agency’s principles are; a commitment to people, a commitment to preservation, a commitment to service, and a commitment to leadership. We all have a great duty and responsibility to ensure that the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. is never forgotten. The struggle for full equality in our society is ongoing, and it is a lesson that must be passed on to each generation. How appropriate, the 2022 Memorial Observance theme is Opportunity and Promise. OPRPH is implementing a new initiative, ‘Our Whole History,’ to seize the opportunity to highlight the complete and integrated history of the diverse racial, ethnic, gender and socio-economic groups that have been underrepresented at New York State Historic Sites We are proud to join Governor Hochul, our colleagues, and partners to honor the promise and legacy of Dr. King and to play a continued role in building a better tomorrow for all New Yorkers.”

— Erik Kulleseid, Commissioner

NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

“Today we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his vision to erase racism, ableism, and discrimination. The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is committed to pursuing Dr. King’s dream of a society where individuals are not judged ‘by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.’ Those of us who work in the field of developmental disabilities, agency employees, the people we support, their families and friends, aspire to continue to build communities where diversity is valued and embraced, and a culture that is welcoming to all.”

— Kerri Neifeld, Acting Commissioner

New York Power Authority

“Martin Luther King, Jr. preached messages of opportunity and promise for a better world, never wavering, even in the face of unspeakable opposition. Throughout a difficult and emotionally trying year, filled with social upheaval and economic uncertainty, the employees of the New York Power Authority and the New York State Canal Corporation have shown unwavering devotion to deliver on our promise of a better New York State for today and for future generations, powered by clean, safe, and reliable energy and responsible environmental and economic development stewardship of the Canal waterways and trails.”

— Justin E. Driscoll, Interim President and CEO
Department of State

“The Department of State aims to be New York’s leading opportunity creator, an accessible and friendly partner to all who seek empowerment and to strengthen their communities. We are proud to provide a diverse array of public services, programs and resources that promote upward mobility, revitalize communities, build resilience, and ensure equity for the people of New York. We embrace Dr. King’s vision as a cornerstone of our efforts, we reaffirm our commitment to racial and economic justice and equality as a core transcendent value in our work, and we recognize that honoring Dr. King’s legacy through our everyday actions is crucial to improving the lives of all New Yorkers.”

— Robert J. Rodriguez, Acting Secretary of State

State University of New York

“On this day and every day, the State University of New York recognizes the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King and the responsibility of public higher education in achieving a more equitable, inclusive, and stronger society. Dr. King once said, ‘the function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.’ With a committed faculty and a rich and diverse student body across our 64 campuses, we must strive to follow Dr. King’s words to ensure our next generation of leaders can help create a world that embodies the principles of equality and justice.”

— Deborah F. Stanley, Interim Chancellor

New York State Taxation and Finance

“More than half a century later, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is still a beacon of hope for equality and social justice. He taught us that each one of us has a story to tell regardless of background, heritage, orientation, or any other factor that makes us uniquely us. It’s up to us to honor Dr. King’s legacy and continue his mission by seeing our differences as a point of strength rather than weakness.”

— Amanda Hiller, Acting Commissioner

New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

“Dr. King’s historic civil rights legacy and commitment to the principles of nonviolence offer important lessons that remain relevant today. As we celebrate Dr. King’s life, we should take time to reexamine how we can, in our own lives, embody the ideals he embraced throughout his life. In commemorating everything Dr. King stood for, we must pledge to continue his struggle to foster a nation defined by peace, unity, and justice for all.”

— Barbara C. Guinn, Executive Deputy Commissioner

New York State Thruway Authority

“Dr. King’s message serves as a constant reminder that in tumultuous times, equality and unity still remain relevant and necessary, in our daily lives and in the workplace. The Thruway Authority takes great pride in honoring Dr. King’s legacy and the impact of his leadership on this day of remembrance.”

— Matthew J. Driscoll, Executive Director
NYS Workers’ Compensation Board

“Dr. King called for an America that would be a land of promise and opportunity for every single one of its citizens, regardless of their race or economic status. This simple expectation of equality and dignity is one the Board is committed to meeting for injured workers across New York State. We honor Dr. King’s legacy and continue working toward fulfilling the message he gave in his final speech, which still rings true today – ‘We have an opportunity to make America a better Nation.’

— Clarissa M. Rodriguez, Chair
Christopher Jackson is a Tony Award-nominated actor as well as a Grammy and Emmy Award-winning songwriter/composer best known for starring as George Washington in the critically acclaimed, award-winning musical “Hamilton” on Broadway. He can currently be seen starring in the hit CBS drama “Bull” and recently finished “Freestyle Love Supreme” on Broadway for a limited run. He also starred in Ava DuVernay’s Netflix mini-series “When They See Us” with Michael K. Williams, Vera Farmiga, and John Leguizamo.

In December 2018, “One Last Time (44 Remix)” was released as a part of the Hamildrop series, which featured Chris alongside President Obama and BeBe Winans.

His Broadway credits include “Holler if Ya Hear Me,” “After Midnight,” “The Bronx Bombers” (Derek Jeter), “In The Heights” (Benny), “Memphis” (Delray Farrell), and “The Lion King” (Simba). Off-Broadway roles include “Bronx Bombers” (Primary Stages), “The Jammer” (Atlantic Theater Co.), “Lonely, I’m Not” (Second Stage), “In the Heights” (37 Arts), and “Cotton Club Parade” (ENCORES at City Center).

In film and TV, he has appeared in “Freestyle Love Supreme” (Pivot Network) “Person of Interest,” “A Gifted Man,” “Fringe,” “Gossip Girl,” “Tracers,” and “Afterlife.”

Christopher has recorded an original song written by Lin-Manuel Miranda for the Disney film “Moana” and was also the Composer/Songwriter for “Sesame Street” (six Emmy nominations and one win) and co-Music Supervisor and Writer for “The Electric Company” (PBS).

Chris won an Emmy Award for his song with Will. I.Am, “What I Am.” In 2010 he released his first solo album titled “IN THE NAME OF LOVE” with Yellow Sound Lab Records and is currently working on his second album. Recently, Chris performed at the Kennedy Centers Honors Gala celebrating Lin-Manuel Miranda. He also has several musical projects in development for the musical stage as sold-out concerts at Carnegie Hall and The Kennedy Center.
Presenters

Lavada Nahon, Interpreter of African American History for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Lavada Nahon is a culinary historian focused on the 17th – 19th-century mid-Atlantic region, with an emphasis on the work of enslaved cooks in the homes of the elite class, and a generalist in African American history through the 20th century. Lavada has more than 18 years of public history experience working with various historic sites, historical societies, and museums across the tri-state region.

Lavada has developed educational programs, after-school programs, lectures and tours, period presentations, and historical dinners for sites, including the New York Historical Society, Albany Institute of Art and History, Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, and Johnson Hall. In addition, she worked as a museum associate and educator for Historic Hudson Valley at Van Cortlandt Manor and Philipsburg Manor Upper Mills and as a production coordinator for their special events team. Her mission is to bring regional history to life by giving presence to the Africans and people of African descent in the landmass that was once New Netherland and is now New York, in whatever way possible.

Brandon Walker, Executive Chef, Essie’s Restaurant

Chef Brandon Walker, a Brooklyn native, and graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, is the executive chef/owner of Essie’s Restaurant in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Chef Walker was drawn to the Hudson Valley Region because of its rich culture of artisans. Immersing himself in the food scene, he has worked in some of the best restaurants in the Hudson Valley, receiving numerous accolades for creating seasonal menus using local ingredients.

He founded B&L Hospitality, the Hudson Valley’s premier restaurant group in 2014 and opened Essie’s restaurant in 2016. Essie’s showcases Walker’s globally influenced cuisine while also paying homage to the excellent cooking of his grandmother and the women in his family who sparked his interest in food. Essie’s has received numerous outstanding reviews for food and service. Chef Walker
Chef Walker is active in his community, conducting an annual event that focuses on improving eating and cooking skills using local products. He also provides workforce development and mentoring to young people seeking a career in the culinary arts and is involved in fundraisers that assist the underserved.

Jerome DuVal, Executive Vice President and Executive Director, Division of Minority and Women’s Business Development, Empire State Development

In December 2020, Jerome DuVal joined the Empire State Development Corporation to lead the Division of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development. The program promotes equality of economic opportunities for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises’ (MWBEs) participation in New York State contracts. It encourages state agencies to award a fair share of contracts to MWBEs. The division is responsible for reviewing applications by businesses seeking certification and maintaining a directory of certified MWBEs.

Mr. DuVal brings over 25 years of diverse experience to his role, having worked at the local, regional, and national levels of government and in the non-profit and private sectors. His career has focused on community and economic development, workforce development, business development, technology, and building national programs.

Robert Searing, Curator, Onondaga Historical Association

Chartered in 1863, the Onondaga Historical Association operates four museums, including the Onondaga Historical Museum in downtown Syracuse; Skä-noñh-Great Law of Peace Center on Onondaga Lake; the Onondaga Veterans Museum at the Onondaga County War Memorial; and the Regional Aviation History Museum at Hancock International Airport. The Regional Aviation History Museum was curated under Robert’s direction and opened to the public in November 2018.
Allen Ballard, Professor of History and Africana Studies, University at Albany
Allen Ballard is a native of Philadelphia and a proud graduate of its Central High School, he holds degrees from Kenyon College and Harvard University and spent most of his career teaching at the City College of New York and the University at Albany. He is the prize-winning author of two novels and four works of non-fiction. His Civil War novel, “Where I’m Bound,” was a 2001 Washington Post, Notable Book of the Year. He lives in Clifton Park, New York and enjoys vacationing on beautiful Lake George.

Kalief Metellus, Student Advocate Fellow at SUNY
Kalief Metellus is a Student Advocate Fellow at SUNY. He was Student Government Association President for two years at SUNY Old Westbury and received his bachelor’s degree in Politics, Economics, and Law in three years. This summer, he will begin his Master of Public Administration at Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy. A New York State resident originally from Brooklyn, he currently resides in Albany.
Ta’Isha Gist, Program Manager, Wyandanch SNUG
Wyandanch SNUG is one of 12 SNUG programs funded and supported by the Division of Criminal Justice Services and New York State Office of Victim Services. NYS SNUG Outreach is an evidence-based violence reduction initiative that seeks to engage high-risk individuals who are causing violence in communities with high rates of violent crimes, address the issues that may be causing high-risk individuals to engage in gun violence, and share with the community how violence is spread. SNUG seeks to modify an existing norm of community acceptance of violent behavior from its citizens by engaging community residents, businesses, and community-based organizations to implement coordinated strategies to reduce and prevent shootings and killings. The program employs and relies on Street Outreach Workers who live in the communities they serve to act and be viewed as credible messengers by persons at high risk of offense.

Ring of Hope Boxing Club
The Ring of Hope Boxing Club, formerly Schenectady Youth Boxing & Fitness, is a non-profit organization providing young people with mentoring and support through physical fitness programs, after-school, and recreational programs. In addition, the Ring of Hope offers instructional fitness programs for adults. Boxing has a long tradition of serving urban youth by introducing tools for self-discipline, character-building, and dedication to a greater goal. It is an important outlet for many kids who are not interested in other sports because of peer pressure or other circumstances. Ring of Hope operates under the direction of head coach Vince Kittle, who has more than 35 years of experience coaching boxing and providing leadership to young people.
Performers

Naima Penniman, Program Director (all pronouns), Soul Fire Farm

Naima Penniman is a freedom-forging futurist rooted in her ancestors’ brilliance. She is a devotee of seeds, a soulful storyteller, a multidimensional artist, movement builder, medicine grower, healer, and educator.

A life-long lover and defender of the Earth, Naima dedicates her creativity and community-building skills to regenerating practices toward planetary interdependence. She serves as the program director at Soul Fire Farm, where she equips a returning generation of Black, Brown, and Indigenous farmers with the skills needed to reclaim leadership in the food system and chart dignified futures in relation to the land.

She is the co-founder of Wildseed, a Black, Indigenous, and People of Color-led, land-based community focused on ecological collaboration, transformative justice, and intergenerational responsibility. Published in “All We Can Save, We Are Each Other’s Harvest, Farming While Black, and Semillas,” Naima is a visionary poet whose performances have inspired people worldwide through the groundbreaking work of Climbing Poetree. She is an original member of the Black Healers Collective, Harriet’s Apothecary, and the founder of the Haitian resilience project, Ayiti Resurrect. Naima is devoted to cultivating collaborations that elevate the healing of our earth, our bodies, our communities, lineages, and descendants.
2022 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ensemble and Children’s Ensemble

The MLK Ensemble is a group of singers who have worked together in previous Capital Region musical events and with many gospel recording artists. This group of anointed singers under the musical direction of the Reverend Dr. Elgin Joseph Taylor, Sr., and Maestro Marcelle Johnson. The choir is comprised of vocalists from Macedonia Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Leonard D. Comithier, Jr., Pastor; the Metropolitan New Testament Mission Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Damone Paul Johnson, Senior Pastor; Greater St. John’s Church of God in Christ, Elder McKinnley Johnson, Pastor; Sweet Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church, Reverend Dr. Elgin Joseph Taylor, Sr., Senior Pastor; and Wilborn Temple Church of God in Christ, Elder Solomon Dees, Pastor. Together, they are some of the Capital Region’s finest voices blended in peace and harmony.

For the past 10 years, Reverend Dr. Elgin Joseph Taylor, Sr. has served as the Senior Pastor of the Sweet Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church of Albany, New York. For over 40 years, as an outstanding musical ambassador, Pastor Taylor has become known for his pursuit of musical excellence, displaying some of the best traditions of sacred choral music while simultaneously carving out his own standard of excellence that can be passed to successive musicians.

Maestro Marcelle Johnson has been musically gifted throughout his lifespan and has risen to become a musical genius in technology and production. He serves as the Minister of Music and Arts at the Metropolitan NTM Baptist Church of Albany, New York. Above the many rare qualities of Mr. Johnson, his gift and spirit are synonymous, enabling his effectiveness as he’s evolved to be a well noted and respected Minister of Music. With a musical heritage, he embodies Christian music’s uniqueness while remaining relevant by blending all forms of music for all generations.
State University of New York at Albany Marching Band
The University at Albany Marching Band, which is open to all students, started in the fall 2013 semester and is led by Band Director Kevin Champagne. The Marching Great Danes perform at all football home games.

Purchase College Conservatory of Dance
The Conservatory of Dance in the School of the Arts at Purchase College is one of only a handful of conservatories in the world where you can learn what it means to be a dance professional. Purchase alumni currently perform with many of the foremost international contemporary modern and ballet dance companies. They also teach, direct, and choreograph major productions, dance on Broadway, have founded companies across the globe, and are nurturing the next generation as professors in higher education.

Ja’ Malik, Director and Founder, Ballet Boy Productions
Ja’Malik is the director and founder of Ballet Boy Productions, which he was inspired to create in response to the growing number of deaths in America of young black men. He credits his dance training as a life-saving opportunity while growing up in a rough Cleveland, Ohio neighborhood. He is a former member of Cleveland Ballet, Oakland Ballet, North Carolina Dance Theatre, Nathan Trice Rituals, City Dance Ensemble, Ballet Hispanico, and Ballet X. Based in Harlem, New York, Ja’ Malik has created works for North Carolina Dance Theater 2, Oakland Ballet, and CityDance Ensemble of Washington, D.C.
New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Art and Essay Exhibition
The virtual gallery will be available for viewing at empirestateplaza.ny.gov/nyking from January 18 to February 28, 2022.

Every year New York State schools and their K-12 students are invited to submit artworks and essays that reflect on the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The categories are painting, drawing, photography, and writing. Approximately 83 schools participated with over 1,600 artworks and essays submitted.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Statewide Food Drive
December 10, 2021 to February 11, 2022
In keeping with Dr. King’s legacy, the 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive will mark the 22nd anniversary of the community service initiative. New York State Agencies and several community-based organizations helped to collect over 673,660 pounds of food and raised over $132,265 in monetary donations to date. Donations are collected and distributed in every region of the state; from the major urban areas of New York City, Albany, and Buffalo, to the rural towns of Sherburne, and Ogdensburg. The food drive is co-sponsored by the Food Bank Association of New York State.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Statewide Book Drive
February 22 to April 22, 2022
The purpose of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Statewide Children’s Literacy Drive is to collect new or gently used children’s books for distribution to elementary, middle, and high schools, and to after school programs across the State. The program continues to grow beyond expectations each year. Since 2004, through the continued partnership with the Albany City School District’s Literacy Programs, Project Flight (Buffalo State College), and Reach Out and Read, Greater New York, 366,869 books have been collected.
Support for the production of the **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Observance** is provided by the following:
“Like an unchecked cancer, hate corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity. Hate destroys a man’s sense of values and his objectivity. It causes him to describe the beautiful as ugly and the ugly as beautiful, and to confuse the true with the false and the false with the true.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) is proud to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Diversity is central to our mission and we are committed to creating true opportunities for all.
The principles of Dr. King are etched in the cornerstones of the DOL mission.

We celebrate his memory by providing outstanding support to help workers and businesses grow and thrive, by connecting people to new job opportunities, and by educating and protecting our workers and businesses.

“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) is committed to the vision and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and strives to ensure equal employment opportunities to all qualified employees and job candidates, consistent with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the NYS Human Rights Law. The Department is also committed to the principles of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in all employment actions, in compliance with the mandates Executive Order No. 187.

Our Department is continuously looking for qualified candidates from all backgrounds to fill a variety of positions throughout the State, including but not limited to:

- Correction Officers
- Parole Officers
- Clinical Physicians
- Correctional Regional Health Service Administrators
- Registered Professional Nurses
- Pharmacists
- Dentists and Dental Hygienists
- Plant Utilities Helpers
- Plant Utilities Assistants
- Plant Utilities Engineers
- Instructors of the Blind
- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (Manual Communications)
- Manual Communicators (American Sign Language)

For more information on the diverse job opportunities DOCCS has to offer, please visit https://doccs.ny.gov/employment-opportunities and the New York State Department of Civil Service at http://www.cs.ny.gov/, where you can sign up to receive email notifications when new exams are announced. You may also contact the Department of Civil Service at 1-877-697-5627.

The New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
“Everyone has an opportunity to be great because everyone has an opportunity to serve.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
The New York State Office of Mental Health believes everyone should have an equal opportunity for mental wellness. This means removing obstacles and implementing services and policies aimed at reducing disparities in access, quality, and treatment outcomes for historically marginalized, underserved and unserved populations.

We proudly honor the life and legacy of Dr. King.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

- Martin Luther King Jr.
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“We have before us the glorious opportunity to inject a new dimension of love into the veins of our civilization.”

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. December 3, 1956
“Dr. King’s message serves as a constant reminder that in tumultuous times, equality and unity still remain relevant and necessary, in our daily lives and in the workplace. The Thruway Authority takes great pride in honoring Dr. King’s legacy and the impact of his leadership on this day of remembrance.”

Matthew J. Driscoll
Executive Director

2022
As we honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy, the Board of Regents and the New York State Education Department reaffirm our commitment to support New York’s educators as they empower and inspire students from all backgrounds to visualize successful futures for themselves.

"Diversity is not our problem. It is our promise."
-- Elijah Cummings

WELCOMED AND SUPPORTED
- Diversity means a wide range of human qualities and attributes
- Diversity is an educational and social asset for ALL
- Respecting diversity helps us meet the physical, social and emotional needs of ALL

"Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else."
-- Margaret Mead

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUCCEED
- Equity means fair treatment and opportunity for ALL
- Equity is fair access to programs, classes and needed supports
- Equity prepares ALL students to be actively engaged citizens

"There is only one way to see things, until someone shows us how to look at them with different eyes."
-- Pablo Picasso

CULTURES, LANGUAGES AND EXPERIENCES
- Inclusion means recognizing, understanding and accepting ALL
- Inclusion teaches and models respect for ALL
- Inclusion makes ALL feel safe, supported and valued

"Diversity is being invited to the dance. Inclusion is being asked to dance. Equity is allowing you to choose the music."
-- Cynthia Olmedo
"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Life's most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are YOU doing for OTHERS?’

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance is proud to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as we continue to empower New Yorkers and provide life-changing opportunities.

www.otda.ny.gov

[Logo of New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance]

Photograph courtesy of the Library of Congress.
“Education must enable a man to become more efficient, to achieve with increasing facility the legitimate goals of his life.”

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

At the New York Lottery, we hold fast to this notion as we continue our work to provide opportunity to students across the whole of New York State.

The New York Lottery is honored to aid in the ongoing cultivation of New York’s young, flourishing intellects. Only through investing in our youth can we take solace in a brighter tomorrow.
The City University of New York honors the legacy of

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

on the occasion of the

2022 New York State Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Observance

January 17, 2022

William C. Thompson Jr.
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez
Chancellor
The Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority (BPCA) is a Class A New York State public benefit corporation.

**WHAT WE DO**

The BPCA’s mission is to plan, create, co-ordinate and maintain a balanced community of commercial, residential, retail, and park space within its designated 92-acre site on Manhattan’s lower west side known as Battery Park City. Parcels of land are leased to developers who build in accordance with the Authority’s guidelines, which also incorporate green provisions mandating state of the art environmental specifications to maximize energy efficiency and minimize water usage. With more than five million square feet of environmentally sustainable construction on its 92-acre site, Battery Park City is the largest “green” neighborhood in the world.

**DOOR OPENERS: INSIGHT ON NAVIGATING BPCA**

BPCA endorses a competitive public bidding process and, as such, solicits bids from contractors for work throughout Battery Park City. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are posted in the New York State Contract Reporter and the New York City Record as well as the BPCA’s website: www.bpca.ny.gov.

Pursuant to Article 15-A of the Executive Law and regulations adopted thereunder, BPCA has established goals for the participation of certified minority and women-owned business enterprises (M/WBEs) in the performance of services under contract with BPCA. The language of Article 15A appears in all of BPCA’s leases.

These goals have been prescribed as percentages of the overall proposal/contract dollar amount. BPCA’s goals are placed on construction contracts totaling over $100,000, and procurement contracts over $25,000. MWBE-certified firms are found in the Directory of Certified MWBEs offered by Empire State Development.

BPCA is a major sponsor of The Competitive Edge Conference. Held annually, the conference provides an excellent opportunity for MWBEs to network with City, State and Private Sector firms. For more information, visit The Competitive Edge’s website: (www.competitiveedgesite.org)

**HOW TO CONNECT WITH US**

Battery Park City Authority
Diversity@bpca.ny.gov
Tel. 212-417-2000
200 Liberty Street, 24th Floor
New York, NY 10281-1097
www.bpca.ny.gov
"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope."

Kathy Hochul, Governor
RuthAnne Visnauskas, Commissioner/CEO

HCR is proud to support the 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Observance
Life’s most persistent and urgent question is,

what are you doing for others?

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Today, we celebrate the power of service, and join in honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., through a continuing commitment to making our communities better places to live, work and play.
“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

MLK DAY
2022

Times Union is proud to support the
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Memorial Observance

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Office of Addiction Services and Supports
STOKED is a mentoring program at Belleayre Mountain that teaches snowboarding to school kids from New York City.

The New York State Olympic Regional Development Authority salutes the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr, who taught the world about

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ORDA encourages everyone from Olympic Champions to first timers to experience the outdoors. Whether its skiing, hiking, skating, or biking, New York State offers some of the best recreational opportunities.
We are honored to join New York’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Observance

Opportunity & Promise: NYS Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
at the Empire State Plaza and across the state.

This Annual Memorial Observance pays homage to Dr. King’s legacy of civil rights, equality and inclusion. It’s a reminder that non-violent forms of protest can lead to significant social change.

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Dr. King’s legacy paved the way for the Environmental Justice movement, which seeks to ensure the right to a clean and healthy environment for all people. Please consider joining our team as we work together to improve water quality for all New Yorkers.

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“Each year, as we commemorate the life and memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through united voices we renew our commitment against hatred and injustice. For in the words of Dr. King, ‘Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.’”

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is proud to stand together as an agency and with peers across the country in remembrance of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Recent events in our nation remind us of the critical need to not only celebrate the legacy and memory of Dr. King but to honor and advance his legacy every day.

This year’s theme of Opportunity & Promise underscores the Port Authority 2021 Leadership Steering Committee’s commitment to examining race dynamics within the agency, and the development of 25 actions and recommendations to advance racial and cultural diversity in the workplace.

To learn more about these initiatives scan the QR code:
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“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”
—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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In 2022, Dr. King’s legacy lives on, and his words still inspire. The NYS DMV continues to heed his call to achieve greatness through serving the public.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us that by walking together we can reach the mountaintop. Inspired by his teachings, the New York State Department of Transportation is dedicated to working hand-in-hand with all New Yorkers to embrace our differences, overcome obstacles and find common ground so we can work together to better serve the needs of all communities. By moving forward together as OneDOT, we can confront the challenging times in which we live and achieve the “beautiful symphony of brotherhood.”
The New York State Office for the Aging honors the life and legacy of

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
“If you can’t fly, then run,
If you can’t run, then walk,
If you can’t walk, then crawl,
but whatever you do,
You have to keep moving forward.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Explore rewarding and meaningful New York State public service opportunities
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“Everyone has an opportunity to be great because everyone has an opportunity to serve.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Dr. King believed everyone has an opportunity to be great, because anybody can serve. It is our great honor to serve injured workers and help them return to their labors with dignity.

If you can’t fly, then run. If you can’t run, then walk. If you can’t walk, then crawl. But whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
“Economic justice [requires] a land where men will not take necessities to give luxuries to the few, and where all our gifts and resources are held not for ourselves alone but as instruments of service for the rest of humanity.”

- Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

By protecting New Yorkers’ access to healthcare and promoting financial inclusion, DFS works to honor Dr. King’s life and legacy.

The New York State Liquor Authority is dedicated to making a difference in our community by participating in this year’s Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Food Drive. This and the numerous other initiatives of the MLK Memorial Observance are an incredible way to show support to our communities, and we are honored to help spread kindness in memory of Dr. King.

www.sla.ny.gov
"We must walk on in the days ahead with an audacious faith in the future.”

- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Department of Agriculture and Markets is proud to support New York farmers as they bring vibrancy, beauty and sustenance to our communities.

“LIFE’S MOST PERSISTENT AND URGENT QUESTION IS ‘WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR OTHERS?’”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The New York State Department of State proudly pursues Dr. King’s vision by providing diverse services and strategic investments that revitalize communities, spur economic growth and create opportunities for all New Yorkers across the state. Learn more at dos.ny.gov.

Hudson River Valley Greenway
www.hudsonsgreenway.ny.gov

The Hudson River Valley Greenway is a unique state agency created to assist with the development of a voluntary regional strategy for preserving scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreational resources while encouraging compatible economic development and maintaining the tradition of home rule for land use decision making. The Greenway also manages the Maurice D. Hinchey Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in partnership with the National Park Service.
Celebrating His LIFE.
Carrying On His LEGACY.

Dedicated to diversity and inclusion for everyone, in every workplace.
NYSIF is proud to support the 2022 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Observance.
nysif.com

Join us for a special evening as we celebrate a part of our Gospel Jubilee family and the Capital Region’s own Regina “Gina” Parsons and Antonia “Toni” Brown. Beloved souls who shared their captivating voices of song and ministry.

Antonia “Toni” Brown
Regina “Gina” Parsons

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New York State Office of General Services would like to express its gratitude to everyone who made this year’s celebration possible. Your tireless efforts in remembering, acknowledging, and acting on the lessons passed on by Dr. King will help ensure that his message will continue to live on and grow stronger.

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THE FUNCTION OF EDUCATION IS TO TEACH ONE TO THINK INTENSIVELY AND TO THINK CRITICALLY.

INTELLIGENCE PLUS CHARACTER – THAT IS THE GOAL OF TRUE EDUCATION.

-DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.