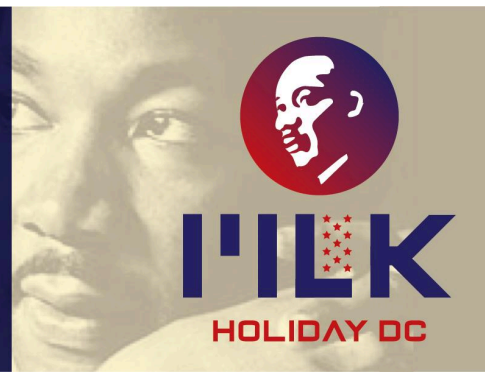


DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY PARADE COMMITTEE

www.mlkholidaydc.org



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Media Advisory

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MLK Holiday DC Parade & Peace Walk: **Honoring Dr. King and Uplifting Black Women** *Commit to the Noble Struggle for Equal Rights*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk and Parade will take place in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 11 AM.

For the first time, the annual event will be held indoors at the Entertainment and Sports Arena (ESA) on the campus of St. Elizabeth's in Southeast.

The theme: **Commit to the Noble Struggle for Equal Rights** amplifies the annual event commemorating Dr. King's enduring legacy of peace, justice, and unity while shining a spotlight on the pivotal but often under-appreciated contributions of Black women in the ongoing fight for civil rights.

Black women have been the backbone of the civil rights movement — often unpaid, invisible, and undervalued. Today, the call to action is clear: those who have benefited from Black women's leadership must step up in their support.

This year also marks 46 years since the first MLK parade was held in the District of Columbia following the assassination of Dr. King on April 4, 1968 and before the national holiday was declared in 1994. Singer/composer Stevie Wonder was the grand marshal on January 15, 1979. He rode alongside parade founders Ward 8 Councilmember Wilhelmina Rolark, Washington Informer Publisher Dr. Calvin W. Rolark and radio talk show and activist Ralph "Waldo" Petey Green.

This year's invited grand marshals include: D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, former Mayor Sharon Pratt, and former Councilmembers LaRuby May, Edie Whittington Sandy Allen of Ward 8, and Yvette Alexander of Ward 7.

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Event Details

Peace Walk: The parade will be preceded by a Peace Rally beginning at 9:30 AM at Shepherd Park (intersection of MLK & Malcolm X Aves., SE) followed by a one-mile walk promoting unity and peace along MLK Avenue.

Parade Route: The parade will begin at 11:00 AM at Sycamore & Cypress Streets, S.E. and proceed to the Entertainment and Sports Arena on the St. Elizabeths Campus (1100 Oak Dr SE).

The Parade: Participants will perform inside the ESA at center court. There are 2,500 seats available for spectators to see the parade and participate in activities. Registration is required at mlkholidaydc.org

Parade Processional

The parade lineup will be on Cypress Street at Sycamore and head east on Cypress St to the rear of the ESA facility.

Additional Activities

Prayer Breakfast: Reflect on faith, hope, and service. Saturday, Jan 11 at 9am to Noon at Matthews Memorial Baptist Church (2616 MLK Ave SE)

Faith Service: An evening of prayer, praise and celebration. Monday, Jan 13 at 6:30pm to 8:30pm at Living Word Church (4101 MLK Ave SW)

Community Cleanup: Help revitalize local neighborhoods as a day of service. Friday, Jan 17 at 2pm to 4pm at Shepherd Park (intersection of MLK & Malcolm X Ave)

Health & Wellness Fair: Access resources for community well-being. Saturday, Jan 18 at 10:30am to 1:30pm at ESA (1100 Oak St SE)

Youth Essay Contest: Sponsored by the Marion Barry Youth Leadership Institute for elementary, middle and high school students. The winners will be recognized during the opening of the parade program at ESA on Saturday, January 18 at 11:00 AM

How to Get Involved

- Register or Volunteer: <https://2025mlkhdc.eventbrite.com>
- Learn More: Visit <https://mlkholidaydc.org> for event schedules, the student essay contest, and sponsorship opportunities.

Join us to honor Dr. King, uplift Black women, and continue the work for equality and justice.

FOR ON SITE INQUIRIES, A MEDIA STATION WILL BE LOCATED IN THE TENTED AREA NEAR THE PAVILION AT SYCAMORE AND CYPRESS STREETS, SE