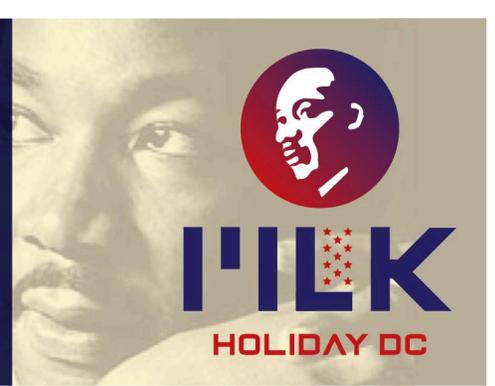


DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY PARADE COMMITTEE

www.mlkholidaydc.org



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Media Advisory

For Immediate Release
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MLK Holiday DC Peace Walk & Parade: Honoring The life and Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. *The Struggle is Real! The Fight is Still!*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 21st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Walk and Parade will take place in Washington, D.C., on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 11 AM.

We are back outside in Southeast DC in the Barry Farm community for the start of the MLK Holiday DC celebration..

The theme: **The Struggle is Real! The Fight is Still!** amplifies the state of America at this moment in time under the leadership of the current presidency and reminds us of the ongoing fight for civil rights, human rights, and equity.

Here on the verge of the dawn of 2026, our committee reminds all of us that the call to action is clear: those who have benefited from the prayers, tears, sweat, and blood of leaders like Dr King must stand for a just society.

This year also marks 47 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: Charlie Gussom, Romeo Spaulding, Anise Jenkins, DeJuan Mason, Harriet’s Wildest Dream, Pastors Kristine and Dennis Wiley.

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Event Details

Peace Walk: The parade will be preceded by a Peace Rally beginning at 9:30 AM on Sumner Road SE followed by a one-mile Peace Walk promoting unity and peace along MLK Avenue.

Parade Route: The parade will begin at 11:00 AM on Sumner Road SE, and proceed North on MLK Jr. Avenue SE to Marion Barry Avenue SE.

The Parade: Participants will march down MLK Jr. Avenue SE across Howard Road, pass the reviewing stage which will be located near the Big Chair on MLK Jr. Avenue SE. Registration is required; go to mlkholidaydc.org and click the get involved tab.

Parade Processional

The parade lineup will be at Firth Sterling Avenue and head east on Sumner Road to a left turn onto MLK Jr. Avenue SE.

Additional Activities

Faith Service: An evening of prayer, praise, and celebration. Monday, Jan 12 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Living Word Church (4101 MLK Ave SW)

Prayer Breakfast: Reflect on faith, hope, and service. Saturday, Jan 17 at 9:00 am to Noon at Covenant Baptist Church (2616 MLK Ave SE)

Community Cleanup: Help revitalize local neighborhoods as a day of service. Monday, Jan 19, from 10 am to 1 pm at Shepherd Park (Starting near the Health and wellness fair)

Health & Wellness Fair: Access resources for community well-being. Monday, Jan 19, from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm in the PNC parking lot (2006 MLK Jr. Avenue SE)

Youth Essay Contest: Sponsored by the Marion Barry Youth Leadership Institute for elementary, middle, and high school students. High School winners will be announced during the Prayer Breakfast on Jan 17th.

How to Get Involved

- Register or Volunteer: <https://2026mlkhdc.eventbrite.com>
- Learn More: Visit <https://mlkholidaydc.org> for event schedules, the student essay contest, and sponsorship opportunities.

Join us to honor Dr. King and continue the work for equality and justice.

**FOR ON SITE INQUIRIES, A MEDIA STATION WILL BE LOCATED IN THE HEATED TENT
NEAR SUMNER ROAD SE**