



About the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission (AMLKC) was created by Act 1216 of 1993. The AMLKC is an offspring of the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Commission. It was established under former Governor Bill Clinton by executive order and then signed into legislation by former Governor Jim Guy Tucker. The Commission was created to promote the legacy and philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1997, a formal mission statement, a stated purpose, goals and objectives, and the Commission Board were developed. Because of its limited resources, a consensus determined that the Commission would focus on youth-oriented projects first, and then expand. Violence and crime among youth was one of the critical concerns with the people of Arkansas. The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans. The purpose and goals of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission are to promote racial harmony, understanding, community service, respect and goodwill among all citizens, to promote principles of nonviolence, promote awareness and appreciation of the Civil Rights movement and advocacy of the principles and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Develop, coordinate and advise the Governor and General Assembly of ceremonies and activities throughout the state relating to the observance of Dr. King's Holiday.

Mission

Promote racial harmony; understanding; community service, respect and goodwill among all citizens.

Promote principles of nonviolence.

Promote awareness and appreciation of the Civil Rights movement and advocacy of the principles and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Develop, coordinate, and advise the Governor and General Assembly of ceremonies and activities throughout the state relating to the observance of Dr. King's Holiday.

Vision & Goals

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is guided by Dr. King's teachings and philosophy of love, tolerance, and nonviolence. The Commission strives for social improvement in Arkansas, helping communities and organizations achieve new levels of leadership and public service. The Commission works directly with youth and others, encouraging them to embrace alternatives to violence and discover their common humanity. Through activities that stress racial and cultural diversity, the Commission offers the youth of Arkansas a new understanding of the important roles they play in the communities, now and in the future. The Commission advocates creating social change through changing public policy by providing training and technical assistance to developing and established organizations with similar goals. Whether working with the Arkansas State Capitol or at small community centers across the state, the Commission strives to build alliances. The Commission brings people together to better focus on common goals and increase



The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Hosts a Second COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

Through a partnership with UAMS and the Arkansas Health Services Permit Agency, The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, did our part in trying to end the

COVID-19 health pandemic by hosting a second free vaccination clinic on Monday, May 17, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in downtown at 906 Broadway, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

Special thanks to your friends at Rock Region Metro for providing free bus rides to COVID-19 appointments through May 31 along current bus routes!

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID-19 vaccines teach our immune systems how to recognize and fight the virus that causes COVID-19. It typically takes 2 weeks after vaccination for the body to build protection (immunity) against the virus that causes COVID-19. That means it is possible a person could still get COVID-19 before or just after vaccination and then get sick because the vaccine did not have enough time to provide protection. People are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, or 2 weeks after the single-dose Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.

We should keep using all the tools available to protect ourselves and others until we are fully vaccinated. After we are fully vaccinated, we can start doing some things we had stopped doing because of the pandemic.

Learn more about what we can do when we have been fully vaccinated.

Arkansas Health Services Permit Agency
UAMS
Rock Region METRO

FREE COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC
MONDAY
MAY 17, 2021
10:00 AM-1:00 PM
FREE FOOD

Location
Mosaic Templars State Temple
906 Broadway
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Must wear masks
No insurance needed
Open to persons ages 16 and Over
Bring Photo Identification
You may feel side effects
Stay for 15 minutes after receiving vaccination for observation

To Register and for more information call
(501) 526-2211

FREE TRANSPORTATION via Rock Region Metro

UAMS Health **Arkansas BlueCross BlueShield** **Vaccinate The Natural State**

Virtual Programs

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission completed 21 virtual programs during the first quarter. Programs included but not only:

First-time Homebuyers Workshop

Crucial Community Conversations- First program highlighting the Asian experience

Lady's Only “ The Lady's only installment of "Crucial Community Conversations

The Voyage to Alabama to Remember the Martyrs

A Journey to the “Sacred Grounds”

The First Juneteenth Celebration on Dumas, Arkansas

The Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission presented a Juneteenth Celebration from 1-5 p.m. June 19 at Dumas High School, 709 Dan Gill Drive. The 2021 Juneteenth Nonviolence Youth Summit Delta Financial

Literacy Program was open to the public. The celebration included live music by a combination choir from the students of the Lake Village School District, a comedy showcase by Comedian Nate Williams, special performance by Rapper Dana Dane.

Activities included a kids zone, food trucks, Juneteenth Car Show, a free covid-19 vaccination clinic, health screenings, free school supplies and voter registration, employment opportunities, a free Money Camp for youth, Free legal services, free phones and Southeast Arkansas' first Victory Over Violence Peace and Unity March that began at 12:30 p.m.

The keynote speakers were Selwyn Jones, uncle of the late George Floyd, and Tawanna Gordon, cousin of the late Breonna Taylor, special appearances by rapper and actor Romeo "Lil Romeo" Miller. The Arkansas MLK Commission, said the cultural event drew hundreds to the Southeast Arkansas city, including involvement from Pine Bluff, McGehee, Dumas, Dermott, Lake Village and as far as Sherwood, Arkansas.

The Juneteenth program was an opportunity to provide outreach to the Delta, the Southeast corner of the state which is largely underserved, according to DuShun Scarbrough, Arkansas MLK Commission executive director. "We are pleased to host the families of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor," Scarbrough said, "These individuals have turned their pain into a platform to promote unity, healing, reconciliation and solidarity." "We are also pleased to announce that in partnership with Fox 16 and KARK-TV, we will host Southeast Arkansas' first 'Victory Over Violence' Unity and Peace March," Scarbrough said. "We're inviting the public to bring out youth groups, faith groups, law enforcement, all to march with us to raise awareness about the community's involvement and role in curtailing violence."



JUNETEENTH HISTORY Known as America's second Independence Day, Juneteenth is a special celebration for communities around the U.S. A combination of "June" and "nineteenth," Juneteenth is a holiday that recognizes when slaves were informed that they were free two years after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, according to the news release. On June 19, 1865, two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas, with news the war had ended and the slaves in Texas were now free. Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of chattel slavery in the U.S. As of today, Juneteenth is recognized by 47 states and the District of Columbia but is not yet federally recognized

2021 Juneteenth

https://www.kark.com/news/state-news/juneteenth-celebrated-as-a-national-holiday-in-dumas-youth-summit/?fbclid=IwAR1C1uaAwulxftGLrYxYWI9uDsWOSjHw75UJ_VXIdUITxg5bxju0vU3HmI8

Juneteenth Celebrated as a National Holiday in Dumas Youth Summit

State News

Posted: Jun 19, 2021 / 10:16 PM CDT / Updated: Jun 19, 2021 / 10:16 PM CDT

DUMAS, Ark. – Arkansans from across the Delta region gathered in Dumas Saturday to celebrate the newest federal holiday.

“Juneteenth” – or June 19th – marks the emancipation of the last slaves in the United States and is used as a day to celebrate black history and culture. The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosted a Juneteenth gathering and youth summit at Dumas high school, where speakers, vendors, and performances marked the national holiday.

The event included speeches, live performances, a car show, food trucks, and a vaccine clinic in the school gym.

Juneteenth colors and its meaning behind the federal holiday

Kamicka Thompson and family drove nearly two hours to be in Dumas, traveling from Sherwood to attend the event. “It’s that important,” Thompson said. She shared what Juneteenth means to her, and why she’s thrilled the day is now an official federal holiday. “It just means more recognition,” Thompson explained.

Thompson and many others couldn’t miss the chance to celebrate black history in Arkansas – and look towards the future as the fight for equality continues on.

One of the celebration’s keynote speakers was Tawanna Gordon, cousin of the late Breonna Taylor. Taylor was shot and killed by Kentucky police during a raid on her apartment in 2020. Gordon spoke on peace and unity and stressed the importance of remembering the past in order to change the future.

“Ask yourself, ‘what am I willing to do to bring my community together?’,” Gordon said. “In order to know where we’re going, we need to know where we come from.”

But the day of remembrance was also filled with joy as vendors and visitors alike celebrated what it means to be black.

Biden signs bill making Juneteenth a national holiday

“We are celebrating our culture,” explained Brittany Desmuke, who was there with her brand, KB Christian Apparel. “We’re celebrating our community. This is our Independence Day, this is our day of freedom!”

President Biden signed a resolution on Thursday officially recognizing Juneteenth as a national holiday.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission welcomes entrepreneur and rapper, Romeo Miller to Juneteenth 2021, the Nonviolence Youth Summit Delta Financial Literacy Program

The tragic stories of their family members broke the news headlines, now they're turning their pain into purpose! The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission welcomes two powerful voices of social change to Juneteenth 2021, the Nonviolence Youth Summit Delta Financial Literacy Program hosted by the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education. Saturday, June 19, 2021, 1:00 PM-5:00 PM

*Selwyn Floyd, uncle of the late George Floyd
Tawanna Gordon, cousin of the late Breonna Taylor

Southeast Arkansas' first "Victory Over Violence" Unity and Peace March, the Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission invited the public to bring out youth groups, faith groups, law enforcement, all to march with to raise awareness about the community's involvement and role in curtailing violence.

Where to find Juneteenth events around Arkansas _ thv11.com <https://www.thv11.com/article/life/holidays/list-of-juneteenth-events-around-central-arkansas/91-009386ee-07c5-453b-8689-f538aefa7c57>



Scarborough said. On Tuesday in Washington D.C. the US Senate unanimously passed a bill to make Juneteenth a federal holiday. Scarborough called the move a step in the right direction. "Juneteenth points to an American story of people who came from nothing and they received news that they got a new start, a new beginning. it was an opportunity to rewrite history, and I think it speaks volumes of this bill," Scarborough said. [Arkansas organizations begin Juneteenth events, support bill establishing national holiday](#)

"DuShun Scarbrough"

As-it-happens update · June 17, 2021

NEWS

[Arkansas organizations begin Juneteenth events, support bill establishing national holiday](#)

KATV

DuShun Scarbrough, the executive director of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission said for their Juneteenth celebrations, they plan to ...



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MLK Fitness Challenge -

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, announced the 90-Day Fitness Challenge to promote healthy lifestyles for youth and families.

Youth fitness is steadily declining and childhood obesity is at an all-time high. Our younger generations face a severe and growing health crisis as they are moving away from reading a book and physical activity and towards things with a screen. Computers, televisions, smart phones and electronic game screens have captivated our youth and fast food is now their diet. Our goal is to show them better choices, not just tell them.

Through this challenge, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission provided scholarships for youth to participate in chess, taekwondo, basketball, and more to encourage them engage in physical activities.



2021 MLK Dream Keepers HBCU Tour, Thursday, July 29, 2021 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

We are pleased to announce the 2021 MLK HBCU College Tour. The purpose of the MLK Historically Black College and University Tour is to expose youth to the experience of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with hopes of transforming their lives by continuing their education and attending a HBCU. The tour will take place Thursday, July 29, 2021, free transportation will be provided by Rock Region METRO, breakfast, and lunch will be provided by the schools. We will depart from the office of the Arkansas MLK Commission located at 906 Broadway, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 at 8:30 AM to visit

- Arkansas Baptist College, 1600 Doctor M.L.K. Jr Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202
- Shorter College, South 604 N Locust St, North Little Rock, Arkansas 72114
- Philander Smith College, 900 W Daisy L Gatson Bates Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72202

Free tickets were available to be reserved on [Eventbrite.com/amlkc](https://www.eventbrite.com/amlkc) or by calling our office at v501-683-1300.



2021 Nonviolence Youth Summit Back to School Summer Fest, Sunday, August 22, 2021, 12:00 PM-5:00 PM, West Central Sports Complex, Little Rock

In partnership with the Arkansas Department of Human Services, The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission proudly presented the 2021 “Nonviolence Youth Summit Back to School Summerfest” promoting economic development, nonviolence, and education as the summer ends and youth begin the 2021-2022 school year. This event will take place on Sunday, August 22, 2021, 12:00 PM-5:00 PM, West Central Community Center, 8616 Colonel Glenn Road, Little Rock, Arkansas 72204. The Commission hosted breakout sessions, free food, and a live concert featuring gospel recording artist, Pastor Mike Jr. The event was free and open to the public.



[Nonviolence Youth Summit draws young people seeking to improve their communities – KNWA](#)

KNWA

Commission just wrapped up the 2021 **Nonviolence Youth Summit** Back to School Summerfest . Dozens of young people gathered at the West Community Center this ...

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[Nonviolence Youth Summit draws young people seeking to improve their communities – KLRT](#)

KLRT – FOX16.com

Commission just wrapped up the 2021 **Nonviolence Youth Summit** Back to School Summerfest. Dozens of young people gathered at the West Community Center this ...

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Virtual Programs

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Crucial Community Conversations- First program highlighting the Asian experience

Current events hosted by the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

- **March for Voting Rights- August 28, 2021 and the 58th Anniversary of the March On Washington**

On Saturday, August 28, in support of the power of democracy and free elections, the AMLKC will embark on a historic “March On for Voting Rights” to encourage legislatures across the country end their push for restrictive voting laws and that Congress pass the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Restoration Act, which will ensure free, fair access to the ballot for every American voter.

March On for Voting Rights is a mass mobilization that will take place on the 58th anniversary of Dr. King’s peaceful and historic March On Washington—this time, to demand that King’s “I Have a Dream” vision be deferred no longer. Since January, 48 states have introduced 389 bills that would restrict voting access, largely in response to record turnout in the 2020 election.

Marches will be held in Atlanta, Houston, Miami and Phoenix, where voting rights are under attack, and in Washington, D.C., where Congress is debating voting rights legislation. The AMLKC has joined the National

Action Network and organization founded by Martin Luther King, Jr., and dedicated to the King legacy of addressing racism through peaceful solutions and will take part in these efforts.

As an initiative to the cause for change within our community, the AMLKC will have a meeting with U.S. Senator Jon Boozman to promote Community and Law Enforcement Engagement Partnership with law enforcement representation from Little Rock Police Department, Bryant Police Department, North Little Rock Police Department, Pulaski County Sheriff's Office.

Walmart Essay

In promoting the message of service, we encourage and challenge the youth of Arkansas to demonstrate what they can do to keep Dr. King's dream alive and relevant in this 2022 King Holiday: Day of Impact Essay Contest. This experience will increase students' knowledge about Dr. King, and enhance their language and writing skills, creativity, self-esteem, and character.

There are roughly 269 school districts in the State of Arkansas and each district will be asked to participate. Finalist will be submitted by the districts to the AMLKC and we will provide them to a committee of current or previous educators and volunteers from various divisions of the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) for scoring. The winners as well as runner up/finalists will be selected from the middle school category and the high school category according to their scores.

Prizes will be sponsored by our friends at Sams Club and Walmart.


National Statuary Hall Committee honoring Daisy Bates and Johnny Cash selection of artists.

The creation of the National Statuary Hall Collection was authorized by the United States Congress in 1864 to allow each State to provide two statues of notable citizens for display in the United States Capitol. The Joint Committee on the Library of Congress has oversight of the collection, and, under the committee's direction, the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) is responsible for the reception, placement, and care of the statues.

In efforts to keep the nation educated about the rich history here in Arkansas, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission serves on the board of the National Statuary Hall Committee to honor Civil Rights activist Daisy Bates, and music legendary Johnny Cash with a statue in the national Hall in Washington DC.

- **SWAC (Southwest Athletic Conference) Partnership with the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff**

This project is being developed by Mr. Scarbrough to promote scholarships across the state. Youth organizations from Little Rock and Pine Bluff, McGehee and Monticello, Arkansas were able to take this opportunity to bring their youth to experience the HBCU game firsthand.

 King Week 2022 has been drafted and will be unveiled soon. Some of these programs and projects will include

- The Annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast – “Dr. King was a great influence on so many in the interfaith community during his lifetime and even to this day. He was able to intersect in the civil rights movement. Therefore, this event attracts hundreds of attendees including the faith-community members, community leaders, Christians, Muslims, Jews, Protestants, Catholics, and they all come together with city officials, dignitaries and

prominent interfaith, business and community leaders to honor his efforts and teach our beloved community about the importance of community involvement and engagement with each other no matter the race, religion, ethnicity, age or background.



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Crucial Community Conversations

"I have decided to stick with **LOVE**. Hate is too great a burden to bear."
- Martin Luther King Jr.

Crucial Community CONVERSATIONS
Friday, June 11, 2021 12:00 PM

Asian American & Pacific Islander HERITAGE MONTH

Mayor Joe Dan Yee, City of Lake Village
Juliana Grantham, Community Leader
Roza Bost, Community Leader
Tiffany G. Pettus, Moderator, AMLKC Historian

Tune in to watch virtually: Facebook: @AMLKC and @ArkansasED
Twitter: @AMLKC and @ArkansasED Instagram: @AMLKC and @Arkansas_ED YouTube: AMLKC and www.ARKingDream.org

For more information contact DuShun Scarbrough at 888-290-KING

Don't miss the next installment of "Crucial Community Conversations," presented by the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education. This will be an eye-opening conversation about issues affecting the Asian community. Join us on Friday, June 11, 2021 at 12:00 PM.

Tune in to watch virtually: Facebook: @AMLKC and @ArkansasED Twitter: @AMLKC and @ArkansasED Instagram: @AMLKC and @Arkansas_ED YouTube: AMLKC and www.ARKingDream.org



Lending a Helping Hand to our neighbors in Waverly, Tennessee

<https://www.kark.com/.../arkansas-mlk-jr-commission-to.../>

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education traveled to Waverly, Tennessee to assist with relief efforts for residents affected by weekend flooding. "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, "What are you doing for others?"



By: Miriam Battles

Posted: Aug 25, 2021 / 10:52 AM CDT / Updated: Aug 25, 2021 / 10:52 AM CDT



LITTLE ROCK, Ark. - The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission announced on Wednesday that they will assist the victims of the Tennessee flood.

According to the commission, they will provide water donations to area churches and organizations to help those impacted by the flooding in Waverly, Tenn.

"Waverly residents are hurting and providing them with potable water that they can use to drink, cook, clean baby bottles, especially during the pandemic, is a small way that we can help our neighbors who are suffering," MLK, Jr. Commission executive director DuShun Scarbrough said.

ADVERTISING

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Current Estimated Jackpot: **\$332 Million**

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ARKANSAS MEGA MALLIONS

August 27, 2021

1 16 44 47 54 23 33

Current Estimated Jackpot: **\$306 Million**

CHECK YOUR NUMBERS >

TRENDING STORIES

