



## **Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission announces virtual programming lineup for Black History Month**

**King Commission will take virtual voyages to Selma, Montgomery, and Birmingham to commemorate significant historical events**

**Award-winning Rapper, Announcer announced as narrator for virtual Arkansas Black history month tour**

- What:** The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission announces Virtual Programming celebrating African American History Month
- Who:** The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, A Division of the Arkansas Department of Education
- When:** Black History Month, February 2021
- Where:** Virtual Platforms and selected television media

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The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission announces a series of ongoing virtual programs to highlight the accomplishments of African Americans in observance of African American history month. In honor of Black History Month, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, will celebrate great accomplishments and milestones achieved by African Americans. The Commission's goal is to identify African Americans and organizations whose contributions have made an impact in the lives of all Americans. Through this educational outreach, we aim to educate and increase awareness of their lives and noble works within the communities of Arkansas and engage youth from all walks of

life. This event is virtual and will promote culture, history, education, and community involvement.

**Streaming on the following platforms**

Facebook: @AMLKC and @ArkansasED

Twitter: @AMLKC and @ArkansasED

Instagram: @AMLKC and @Arkansas\_ED

YouTube: AMLKC and

[www.ARKingDream.org](http://www.ARKingDream.org)

Arkansas Department of Education- ADE.Arkansas.gov.

- **“Living Witness to History Part I”- Oral Historian, Mother Annie Abrams”**  
**Friday, February 5, 2021 12:00 PM -12:45 PM** The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission sits down to chat with beloved community mentor and educator, Mother Annie Abrams in her home at 1925 Wolfe Street, which she has transformed into a library to discuss Little Rock history and the rise and fall of historic West Ninth Street. Mother Annie Abrams is a retired teacher and mentor who is well-respected in the community. “She has mentored the Little Rock Nine and several great leaders over the years. She always talks about service and how our service to others is the “rent” we pay here on the earth. “History is a lot closer than we think,” says Scarbrough. “You can find out a lot of history that is not written or recorded by talking to our senior citizens.” This is a way for the Commission to be inclusive and offer cross-generational programming.”
- **Wednesday, February 9, 2021, 12:00 PM- “Sacred Grounds (Pre COVID 19 Event)”**  
The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission visits the Equal Justice Institute and National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, a “sacred ground” and memorial to the thousands of lynching victims in the United States
- **“Living Witness to History Part II” – “The Fifth Girl” Friday, February 12, 2021, 12:00 PM** “Addie Mae will you tie my sash?” Those were the last words Sara Collins heard before a blast ripped through the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. Alabama killing her sister, Addie Mae Collins and four other girls in September of 1963. Mrs. Sara Collins-Rudolph will share her account of that fateful day and her life as “The Fifth Girl.” Some conversations about history are very difficult to discuss. However, they are necessary. Children played a significant role in the Civil Rights movement. There were several who made sacrifices along the way, these young ladies were martyred, the most innocent victims. We want to encourage children to have these conversations, though difficult, they enable us to analyze history and reaction to tragic events, understanding, and promoting nonviolence as a way of life. “I’ve visited the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church National Historic Site and being there is a very emotional experience. We are honored to

host Mrs. Rudolph, she has an incredible story. She is a survivor,” says DuShun Scarbrough, Executive Director of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission.

- **Friday, February 19, 2021 12:00 PM “Virtual Voyage through Arkansas Black History” 12:00 PM, narrated by DJ MC Lyte and Spoken Word Poet and Rapper, Malik Yusef** Arkansas has made several entries into black history and American history. The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission welcomes award-winning announcer, M.C. Lyte as we highlight notable events and Arkansans in the areas of law enforcement, government, law, education, and entertainment.
- **Friday, February 26, 2021 12:00 PM The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission’s Pilgrimage to Alabama (Pre COVID 19 Event)**
- The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission visits the hometown and church of Jimmy Lee Jackson, martyr for voting rights in Selma, Alabama
- **Friday, March 5, 2021, Re-Enactment of the Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee ((Pre COVID 19 Event)**

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The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission participates with thousands from across the country in the “Bloody Sunday” Reenactment and Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee. This annual event in Selma, Alabama, commemorates "Bloody Sunday," which occurred March 7, 1965, when a group of about 525 African American demonstrators gathered at Browns Chapel to demand the right to vote. Two weeks later, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and 3,200 civil rights protesters marched the 49 miles from Selma to the state capital, Montgomery—an event that prompted Congress to pass the Voting Rights Act. Every year on the first weekend in March, the Bridge Crossing Jubilee commemorates both the bloody confrontation at the Pettus Bridge and the March from Selma to Montgomery that followed.

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