

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

2024 Executive Summary Part II

The mission of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a Division of the Arkansas Department of Education is to promote understanding and acceptance of nonviolence and human equality as a way of building community among all Arkansans and abroad in an effort to ensure that those involved acquire enhanced knowledge of the tenets and morals of other races and cultures that co-exist within the state's borders.

JUNE

June 7th Gun Violence Awareness Day presented in partnership with Jefferson-Lincoln County Circuit Court - 6th Division

Conflict Resolution Training held on June 7, 2024 at the Pine Bluff Convention Center

On June 7, 2024, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosted a significant Conflict Resolution Training at the Pine Bluff Convention Center in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. This impactful event brought together delegates who had traveled to the King Center in Atlanta, Georgia, to participate in the 365 Nonviolence for Social Change Training.

The training aimed to equip participants with essential skills in conflict resolution, emphasizing the principles of nonviolence championed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Throughout the day, delegates shared their insights and experiences from the King Center, fostering a deeper understanding of nonviolent strategies for social change.

Hundreds of youth attended the event, actively engaging in various sessions designed to teach practical conflict resolution techniques. Each session concluded with a powerful moment where the youth took a pledge of nonviolence, led by the delegates. This pledge symbolized their commitment to applying the principles of nonviolence in their daily lives and communities.

The atmosphere at the Pine Bluff Convention Center was one of inspiration and hope, as young people from diverse backgrounds came together to learn and grow. The event not only provided valuable training but also created a sense of unity and purpose among the participants, reinforcing the enduring legacy of Dr. King's teachings on nonviolence and social justice.

- **The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission welcomed Scrappy to Pine Bluff in partnership with GVI in observance of Annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day.**
- This was a free community event! Gun Violence Awareness Day was set with the theme "Stay safe. Stay alive. Stay free." from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 7 at the Pine Bluff Convention Center. Violence Intervention. Highlights included workshops, a rally with speakers, family activities, and free food. Free parking was provided. A clear bag policy was enforced, according to a news release from StuffinTheBluff.com. GVI was a collaborative initiative designed to reduce gun violence in the city of Pine Bluff by identifying group-involved individuals most likely to shoot or become the victim of a shooting, according to the release. GVI centered on several elements, including "custom notifications," which were in-person visits or direct calls to those driving violence in the community or victims who might be highly likely to retaliate. The main message

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was to stop the violence, don't retaliate, and instead, take advantage of wraparound services offered through GVI. Gun Violence Awareness Day.

- **Lil Scrappy Stops by William E. Thrasher Boys & Girls to talk to youth about Nonviolence**

On June 7, 2024, the William E. Thrasher Boys & Girls Club in Little Rock, Arkansas, buzzed with anticipation as Darryl Raynard Richardson III, better known by his stage name Lil Scrappy, took the stage. The event, hosted by the Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, aimed to inspire youth to embrace nonviolence and make positive life choices.



Lil Scrappy, a prominent figure in the hip-hop community, shared his personal journey with the young audience. He spoke candidly about the impact of violence on his life as someone who had witnessed its devastating effects. He recounted moments from his past where violence seemed like the only option, but also how those experiences shaped his resolve to seek a better path.

With heartfelt sincerity, Lil Scrappy emphasized the importance of nonviolence, drawing parallels between his life and the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He encouraged the youth to find strength in peace and to use their voices for positive change. His message was clear: choosing nonviolence can pave the way for a brighter future.

The event was more than just a speech; it was a call to action leaving a lasting impression on the young minds present. His story of transformation and his commitment to promoting peace served as a powerful reminder that change is possible, no matter the circumstances.

June 19th

Juneteenth Celebration and Hunger Relief Food Giveaway June 19, 2024.

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At Martin Street Church of Christ, 200 East Martin Street Jacksonville, AR 72076-3404 with Minister Jodie T. Carter.

JULY

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

In a vibrant celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission orchestrated a series of inspiring events across central Arkansas on July 2, 2024. The day kicked off with a press conference at 9:30 AM at the William E. Thrasher Boys and Girls Club Gymnasium.

Historian Tiffany Pettus captivated the crowd with a compelling recount of Civil Rights history, sharing pivotal moments and unsung heroes whose efforts shaped the movement. She highlighted the significance of the Civil Rights Act and detailed the ongoing journey toward equality.

At 10 AM, the streets of Little Rock came alive as youth of all ages gathered at 33rd and Martin Luther King, Jr. St. for a powerful 60th-anniversary recommitment march. This march was not just a walk but a vibrant tapestry of hope and unity, honoring the trailblazers of the Civil Rights Movement.

Civil Rights Act 60th anniversary, local communities celebrate

by Cayla Christian

Tue, July 2nd 2024 at 6:22 PM



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2024 Executive Summary Part II

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The commission also took this momentous occasion to relaunch the Dream Keepers program, aimed at guiding youth towards making positive life choices, and the Leadership Education and Acceptance of Diversity program, which fosters community service and inclusivity.

To keep the energy high, interactive chants echoed through the streets, with youth enthusiastically participating. Chants like “Stand Tall, Justice for All?” and “Stand for What’s Right” resonated, creating a powerful and unifying atmosphere.

Hundreds of young people from across central Arkansas, alongside community members, joined in this Recommitment Walk, creating a moving tribute to those who paved the way for civil rights and equality for all.

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Joins the North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce

A Ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the union was held at the North Little Rock Chamber of Commerce on July 2nd in recognition of the 60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act celebration



MLK Commission to host Day of Kindness in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Change, and Dr. Bernice A. King are partnered together to host a Day of Kindness.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission hosted a special day in Little Rock school focusing on the true meaning of kindness and its importance.

The commission hosted its Day of Kindness at different locations throughout Little Rock on Friday, July 12. Youth were provided enrichment and educational opportunities to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and ensure his legacy of nonviolent social change lives on in the community.

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2024 Executive Summary Part II

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This was also an opportunity to bring the community together, celebrate shared values, and inspire the next generation to carry forward the principles of nonviolent social change.

The Day of Kindness hosted activities, featured guest speakers and community service projects, and led to a "read-in" of Dr. Bernice A. King's children's book, "It Starts With Me".

Participants took part in the Be Love Pledge on "Be Love" day.

For these stories and more, follow these links:

https://katv.com/news/local/little-rock-youth-embrace-unity-through-arkansas-mlk-commissions-day-of-kindness-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-nonviolent-social-change-peace-love-forgiveness-boys-and-girls-club-bernice-king-it-starts-with-me?fbclid=IwY2xjawEiGCtleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHTM5-7-6qkPoVaA5C8jPAqmSVoA0J5m7NYS9msgFa3N8qhYC1eQnE1_gw_aem_HJzaMr0v17KF0BrK19oXJg#

Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, U.S. Bank launch program to help families become homeowners

Little Rock, Arkansas - The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, in collaboration with U.S. Bank, proudly introduces the Access Home Community Impact Initiative 2024. This initiative aims to dismantle barriers that low-to-moderate-income families face on their path to homeownership. The kickoff event for the program took place at 1 p.m. on July 29 at United Real Estate, 1319 Broadway in Little Rock.

The U.S. Bank Access Home Loan Program addresses challenges such as lack of capital, limited credit access, and the complexities of the home buying process by offering down payment assistance, lender credits, mortgage insurance coverage, and fixed interest rates.

Aligned with A.C.A. § 25-24-102, the initiative includes a comprehensive Financial Literacy Toolkit, vendor partnerships, promotional efforts, virtual and in-person community-based work

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2024 Executive Summary Part II

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groups, needs assessments, interactive online lessons, progress tracking, and a completion ceremony.

An online survey was conducted to determine challenges for potential homeowners and tailor solutions to community needs. Respondents received an invitation to the kickoff event.

The commission is also working to establish community work groups to assist with the program.

~ “You can use your powerful economic resources to wipe poverty from the face of the earth.” Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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2024 Executive Summary Part II

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us bank **ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** *follow us:*

PARTNERS ON THE PATHWAY TOWARDS HOMEOWNERSHIP

Access Home Community Impact Initiative 2024

Join us and help low-to-moderate income families find their home in Arkansas.

888-290-KING
call to find out more

JULY 29, 2024 1PM-3PM
KICKOFF EVENT
UNITED REAL ESTATE
1319 BROADWAY
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72202



AUGUST

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Hosts Free Back-to-School Events to Promote Nonviolence, Mentorship

On August 3, 2024, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission successfully hosted two back-to-school events in Little Rock aimed at promoting nonviolence and mentorship among students. The events garnered

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2024 Executive Summary Part II

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significant community participation and provided essential resources to prepare students for the upcoming school year.

DuShun Scarbrough, the commission's executive director, expressed enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, "We were thrilled to host these events to support our community's students as they prepared for the new school year. It was a wonderful opportunity to provide necessary resources and bring everyone together for a day of fun, education, and inspiration."

During the events, youth had the chance to sign up for the commission's L.E.A.D. and Dream Keepers programs, while parents were encouraged to volunteer. Notably, actor Pooch Hall made a special appearance at both events, motivating students and enhancing the overall experience.

The Back-to-School Fishing Derby, held at MacArthur Park, attracted families and students alike. In collaboration with Beyond Your Imagination, participants enjoyed a day of fishing, with prizes awarded for catching tagged fish. This event not only provided a fun outdoor experience but also facilitated the distribution of school supplies, ensuring that children received the materials needed for a successful school year.

Overall, the events marked a significant step in fostering community engagement and reinforcing the commission's commitment to empowering students through mentorship and resources.

The image is a collage featuring four photographs of people fishing at a pond. The top-left photo shows a man and a child fishing together. The middle-left photo shows a man and a child fishing. The bottom-left photo shows a large fish being pulled out of the water. The bottom-right photo shows a group of people sitting on chairs and fishing. In the center is a promotional poster for the 'Beyond Your Imagination Annual Back to School Family Fishing Derby'. The poster includes the following text: '-BYI- Beyond Your Imagination Corp.', 'BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL FAMILY FISHING DERBY', 'AT MACARTHUR PARK', 'FREE FREE FREE SATURDAY AUGUST 3', 'AT MACARTHUR PARK 601 E Ninth Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 *PRIZES FOR TAGGED FISH', '10:00 AM-2:00 PM', 'MORE INFO: 888-290-KING 501-272-0379', 'RSVP AT EVENTBRITE.COM', 'Bring a rod, reel, and tackle', '*Participants ages 16 and up must have fishing license', 'Parents may attend to assist children without a license', 'Sponsored by The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission', 'entergy', and 'LR BLACK FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION'. There is also a Walmart QR code in the top right corner of the poster.

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2024 Executive Summary Part II

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🌟 **The Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission is adding another surprise as students prepare to return to school! Actor Pooch Hall will attend the Back-to-School giveaway at Murray Lock and Dam to greet parents and students promote the Commissions Dream Keepers and LEAD mentorship programs. This event is hosted in partnership with Lil Reds Athletics.**

On August 3, 2024, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission successfully hosted a special back-to-school event in Little Rock, aimed at preparing and inspiring students for the upcoming academic year.

During the event, youth had the opportunity to sign up for the commission's L.E.A.D. and Dream Keepers programs, fostering a commitment to mentorship and personal development. Parents were also invited to volunteer, enhancing community involvement. Actor Pooch Hall made a special appearance, encouraging and motivating students as they prepared for the school year.

The **Back-to-School Giveaway**, held at Murray Lock and Dam, provided students with essential school supplies to ensure they were well-equipped for success. In partnership with Lil' Reds Athletics, the event also offered opportunities for students to sign up for sports mentorship programs. A highlight of the day was a celebrity dodgeball game, which added an element of fun and excitement.

Overall, the event exemplified the commission's dedication to supporting students and fostering community engagement. For more information, DuShun Scarbrough, the commission's executive director, was available at 888-290-KING or through the website www.ARKingDream.org.



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2024 Executive Summary Part II

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2024 Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission to Host Nonviolence Youth Summit

On September 19, 2024, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission successfully hosted the Nonviolence Youth Summit and the MLK Nonviolence Community Fest in Little Rock and North Little Rock. The commission, dedicated to promoting the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., organized these events to empower youth, foster community service, and address important social issues.

The summit, rooted in Dr. King's philosophy of love, service, and nonviolence, aimed to inspire Arkansas youth to adopt alternatives to violence and take leadership roles in building a more inclusive society. Throughout the day, participants engaged in workshops, discussions, and activities that facilitated meaningful dialogue and collaborative action aligned with Dr. King's vision for a compassionate society.

DuShun Scarbrough, the commission's executive director, expressed enthusiasm for the events, highlighting their role as an extension of Dr. King's legacy. "We are excited to engage Arkansas' youth and community in a day of education, empowerment, and action," he stated, emphasizing the importance of promoting peace, service, and unity.

The Nonviolence Youth Summit featured a series of breakout sessions that educated attendees on conflict resolution, community engagement, and the power of nonviolent leadership. Special guests, including Mac Royals, Romeo Miller, Melvin Williams, Johnny Gill, and Famous Amos, contributed to the event's success by inspiring young people to become active participants in their communities. Topics addressed included financial literacy, mental health, and conflict resolution.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, operates under the principles of love, tolerance, and nonviolence as espoused by Dr. King. The commission is committed to uplifting Arkansas communities by promoting racial harmony, cultural diversity, and leadership development. Through initiatives focused on youth engagement, the commission continues to encourage individuals to choose alternatives to violence and recognize their shared humanity.

After Kevin Kelly, Fox 16 New Anchor and advocate for Step Up, Stop Bullying, presented a presentation on bullying, youth were led to sign a banner to identify their loved ones who had been affected by bullying and violence.

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2024 Executive Summary Part II

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FREE EVENT
9 AM-3 PM

NONVIOLENCE YOUTH SUMMIT
VOICES OF NONVIOLENCE

YOU'RE INVITED

DuShun Scarbrough
Executive Director

Special Appearance by
Johnny Gill
R&B Legend

Bishop
Kenneth L. Robinson, Sr.

"Nonviolence is a way of life
for courageous people"
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mac Royals
Recording Artist

Famous Amos
Social Media
Sensation

Melvin Williams
Legendary Gospel Artist

Kevin Kelly
Fox 16 News Anchor

Cool B

Little Rock Southwest High School
Arena
9715 Mabelvale Pike
Mabelvale, Arkansas 72103
For more information contact
888-290-KING

Romeo Miller
Entertainer
AMLKC
Nonviolence
Ambassador

Presented by
Bull Fish
Entertainment

AT&T | entergy | Walmart | WILKIN | BOND.A

SEP 19

Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission

2024 Executive Summary Part II

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2024 Executive Summary Part II

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Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Attended Unveiling of Johnny Cash Statue in Washington, D.C.



Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission student delegates... (Photo: Staff Commercial/Epiphany Obery)

Capitol tour educates, inspires state students

EFRAANUS CHAVIN
STAFF COMMERCIAL

A group of high school students from Arkansas recently embarked on the Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Dream Keepers Tour led by Executive Director Dr. Sharrin Scarborough.

The tour included a visit to the U.S. Capitol, where the students were given a behind-the-scenes look at the workings of government, the National Mall and other monuments in the nation's capital. They also witnessed the unveiling of a bronze statue of Johnny Cash at the Cap-

itol. The trip was an educational and inspiring experience for the students who learned about American history, government and the power of music and art.

On Monday, students from Watson Chapel, White Hall and Rivercrest toured the Capitol as well as the House of Representatives and Senate chambers, and the Supreme Court building.

"It was an amazing experience to see how the government works firsthand," said Gabriella Wynne, a student at Rivercrest, located in the northeast part of the state. "I learned so much

about the history of our country and the role that Congress plays in our democracy."

Watson Chapel's Makya Terry expressed her captivation by the lifelike statues and shared how her selection for the Dream Keepers Tour has opened her eyes.

"It's amazing," she said. "We don't learn all of this in history class and it was a lot that I learned that I didn't know."

The students also had the opportunity to visit the Nation-

See TOUR, PG6



Little Rock, AR – September 10 – The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission (AMLKC), a division of the Arkansas Department of Education, proudly announced its participation in the historic unveiling of the Johnny Cash statue in Washington, D.C., from September 20-25, 2024. This event honored Johnny Cash, the legendary musician from Kingsland, Arkansas, whose influence significantly shaped American music and culture.

As part of its Dream Keepers Tour, the AMLKC led a group of selected student delegates to this prestigious event. These students had the unique opportunity to witness the unveiling ceremony, attend exclusive pre-and post-reception events, and tour historic landmarks.

The unveiling of the Johnny Cash statue was a significant moment for Arkansas, highlighting one of its most celebrated figures on a national stage. For the students involved, this trip represented a unique educational opportunity to explore the role of public service and cultural contributions in shaping societal progress, much like Dr. King's work continues to inspire generations. Student delegations were selected from White Hall, Watson Chapel, and Rivercrest School districts.

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2024 Executive Summary Part II

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The AMLKC remained committed to providing educational experiences that emphasized service, equality, and leadership. This event, centered around Johnny Cash’s legacy, offered an enriching extension of those core values.

For more information on the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission and its programs, please visit arkingdream.org or contact DuShun Scarbrough at 888-290-KING.

Natural State students thankful for trip to D.C. hosted by Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission by: [Tylisa Hampton](#)

Posted: Sep 23, 2024 / 10:13 PM CDT

Updated: Sep 23, 2024 / 10:13 PM CDT

WASHINGTON D.C. – Multiple Arkansas students are getting a special chance to experience the nation’s history thanks to the Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission.

The many Natural State students attending the trip said they’re thankful to be part of the Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission’s Dream Keeper’s Tour in Washington D.C.

Students “astonished” in D.C. on Arkansas MLK commission ‘Dream Keepers Tour’

The students have visited multiple different museums and monuments, including Dr. King’s.

“I really like how they have all his quotes on this wall right here and we were able to read him,” Makya Terry noted.

Getting a tour of the U.S. Capitol was also a high note for many students.

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“I remember seeing these in textbooks in history class and seeing these in person was a different experience,” Raburn noted.

White Hall High School Principal Nathan Sullivan said the trip is an invaluable experience for the students.

“To take a step back and look at the last few centuries of our nation’s history, it’s a special place,” Sullivan said.



“These experiences and the Martin Luther King Commission bringing us on this has just been amazing,” White Hall High School student Hayden Raburn said. “I just love this trip so far.”

Follow the link for the full story <https://www.kark.com/news/state-news/natural-state-students-thankful-for-trip-to-d-c-hosted-by-arkansas-martin-luther-king-jr-commission/?ipid=promo-link-block3>

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2024 Executive Summary Part II

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- **September 26, 2024 - Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Named Award Finalist**

Mid Week Minority Enterprise Development Week Presented by aptegy named the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission as a finalist for the 2024 Minority-Owned Nonprofit of the Year hosted by the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The Commission was nominated for its continuous outstanding community outreach projects that address diversity, food insecurities, mentorship, nonviolence presentations, youth empowerment and economic development involvement.

