

## *Special Thanks...*

Thanks to the hundreds of citizens and businesses who contributed to construct the memorial and to make its restoration possible.

### **New Century Fund, Inc. Board of Directors**

Wally Pfeffer, chair; Robert Roper, treasurer; Kathryn Digges, secretary; Eliot Battle, Susan Stalcup Gray, Mayor Darwin Hindman, John Ott, board members

### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Restoration Committee members**

Eliot Battle and Susan Stalcup Gray, co-chairs; Beulah Ralph, honorary chair; Michael Alden, David Ballenger, Daniel Brown, Sherman Brown, Jr., George Farris, Bob Gerding, Cheryl Jarvis, Teresa Rouse Maledy, Mary Anne McCollum, Julie Middleton, Mike Middleton, Joe Moseley, Don Neely, Al Plummer, Mary A. Ratliff, Barbara Schlemeier, Mike Stroupe, board members

### **Columbia City Council**

Mayor Darwin Hindman, Almeta Crayton, Barbara Hoppe, Bob Hutton, Chris Janku, Jim Loveless, Laura Nauser

### **City of Columbia**

Bill Watkins, city manager; Ray Beck, city manager emeritus; project coordination by the Office of Cultural Affairs, Parks & Recreation Department and Office of Volunteer Services.

### **Restoration Contractors**

Russell-Marti Conservation Services, Inc.; Huebert Builders, Inc.; David Gaines Construction

### **Artist**

Barbara Grygutis

### **Event Assistance**

Boys & Girls Club, Park Patrol volunteers, Shelter Insurance, University of Missouri Athletic Department

*Assistance for this project has been provided, in part, by the Historic Preservation Fund of the Save America's Treasures grant program of the National Park Service, a division of the U. S. Department of Interior.*

# Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial at Battle Garden R E D E D I C A T I O N

*On the forty-third anniversary  
of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech*

Monday, August 28, 2006  
6:00 p.m.

800 S. Stadium Boulevard  
Columbia, Missouri

# Dedication Ceremony

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Pre-event entertainment	Children's Choirs from Progressive Missionary Baptist Church and Second Missionary Baptist Church under the direction of Rev. Myra Drummond-Lewis and Mrs. Helen Guyton Warren
Welcome	Joe Moseley, emcee
Invocation	Rev. Carolus Taylor, moderator, Mt. Carmel District Baptist Association
Flag procession	Columbia Fire Department Honor Guard
National anthem	Kyle Stegall, student, University of Missouri
Black national anthem	Celestine Guyton Hayes, Columbia Public Schools
Remarks	Chris Janku, city councilman & Mary Anne McCollum, former mayor  Dr. Arvarh Strickland, Professor Emeritus, University of Missouri, History Department  Mary Ratliff, state president, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
"Oh Freedom"	Rev. Myra Drummond-Lewis, Associate Minister/ Director of Music, Second Missionary Baptist Church
Dr. King dramatization	Dr. Clyde L. Ruffin, senior pastor, Second Missionary Baptist Church
Closing remarks	Eliot Battle & Susan Stalcup Gray, co-chairs, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Restoration Committee
Benediction	Rev. Jim Bryan, pastor, Missouri United Methodist Church

*Refreshments will be served at the shelter immediately following the ceremony.*

## **History of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial**

For many years, Columbia citizens dreamed of creating some type of memorial to honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In February 1988 the first step was taken to make the dream a reality. The Columbia City Council appointed a committee that included Liz Schmidt, Allen Tacker, Raymond Prince, James Gray, Tony Holland, Matthew Tyler and Janet Ruthenberg. During public hearings, citizens were asked to envision a memorial that would demonstrate a commitment to Dr. Martin Luther King's dream of freedom, equality and justice for all Americans.

Liz Schmidt, George Farris, Beulah Ralph and Tony Holland served as the second task force named by the City Council in June 1988. They were to develop a plan to appropriately honor Dr. King and recommend a site. This task force spent almost one year considering seven sites and evaluating many different types of memorials, including naming a street or a new school for Dr. King. The task force's final plan advised the City Council that a special monument be located on a two-acre site in the heart of Columbia at the Stadium Boulevard entrance to the MKT Nature & Fitness Trail owned by the city. The task force felt that this central site would enable everyone to learn more about Dr. King's teachings.

The third committee appointed by the City Council in November 1989 was responsible for determining the design of the memorial and raising the funds to erect it. Members included James Gray (chair), Walter Daniel, Liz Schmidt, George Farris, Beulah Ralph, Joyce Jordan, Chris Janku, Sidney Larson, Gertrude Marshall, Patrick Overton and Mildred Robertson. The committee held a national competition and the 25 models submitted were evaluated by a five-member regional jury and a three-member national jury. The jurors' selection was augmented by votes and comments from approximately 500 citizens who viewed the entries at the Columbia Art League. The winning design was created by Barbara Grygutis, an artist from Tucson, Arizona.

The committee then focused on fund-raising by establishing a public/private partnership to finance the project and create opportunities for community involvement. More than 500 people gave generously to make this "dream" a reality. School children and other organized groups enthusiastically sponsored fund-raisers. The committee's fund-raising goal of \$52,775 for the memorial amphitheater was exceeded. The City of Columbia appropriated \$96,990 for the garden and provided the site. Columbia's Parks and Recreation Department completed engineering and construction of the garden while the Public Works Department engineered the sculpture footings, adding over \$42,000 to the city's contribution. The artist, Barbara Grygutis, laid the final stones and tiles on the work.

The memorial was dedicated on August 28, 1993, on the thirtieth anniversary of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

## **Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial at Battle Garden**

The City of Columbia honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through the memorial and surrounding garden. Its high visibility from Stadium Boulevard and proximity to the

popular MKT Nature and Fitness Trail provides easy access for community, social and memorial functions.

Public art is a significant part of this memorial garden. The design is a semicircular earth mound built into the site. The interior of the mound is faced with five circular steps topped with granite. The surfaces of the stone steps are smooth so that people can sit, as in a small amphitheater. On top are eight triangular upright columns. These sculptural forms fan out to provide a radial display of the writings of Dr. King. The spiral is a global symbol for infinity. Dr. King's teachings bear universal meaning that will live in the hearts and minds of future generations. Linda Bolton, a professor from the University of Iowa, assisted Ms. Grygutis in researching the King quotations.

Over the years, many citizens have used the memorial and garden for community events. The MKT Trail amenities include a large parking lot, rest room facilities and a new picnic shelter that lend accessibility to bus loads of school children visiting and learning about the life and work of Dr. King. The memorial garden enhances the community's livability by providing a location where community and cultural events can be held in a handicapped-accessible site. It exhibits our community's obligation to preserve our environment and demonstrates our commitment to Dr. King's dream of freedom, equality and justice for all American citizens.

The Columbia City Council unanimously voted to name the area surrounding the memorial Battle Garden on August 18, 2003 to honor community leaders Eliot and Muriel Battle for their decades of service. The Battles moved to Columbia in 1956 to teach in the Columbia Public Schools. In 1960, Eliot Battle was the first African-American faculty member in the integrated Columbia Public School system. Muriel Battle became the first African-American teacher at West Junior High School in 1962 and represented diversity and perseverance when she was named the first African-American principal in Columbia in 1987 and the first female associate superintendent in the Columbia Public Schools system. In 2000, the Battles were recognized as Citizens of the Year by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce for their contributions to the community. Eliot and Muriel Battle served not only as superb role models for countless Columbia children but also numerous citizens through their integrity, honesty and optimistic outlook.

## **The Restoration of the Memorial**

Since the Memorial was constructed, a great deal of water damage occurred to the face of the blue tiles, which comprise the steps of the amphitheater. Regular cleanings were not sufficient to deal with the problem.

The city began in earnest to address the problems of the site in 1999 by having a basic site assessment conducted by professionals who work with outdoor sculpture. In 2001 a conservation service completed extensive study and testing at the memorial to determine the problem and how it could be repaired.

In late 2002, the New Century Fund adopted the memorial restoration as a project. The New Century Fund is a 501c3 with the purpose of supporting City of

Columbia projects and programs. A fund-raising drive, led by a 20-member citizen's committee, was conducted in 2003. More than \$83,000 was raised from donations from citizens, businesses, and foundations to fund the restoration and an endowment for future maintenance.

With the assistance of Missouri Senator Christopher S. "Kit" Bond, the U.S. Department of Interior's Save America's Treasures program provided a \$98,000 grant for the project. Restoration of the memorial included replacing the blue tiles using a different installation system, replacing the top decking of the Memorial and adding two drains to better move water from the site. Improvements to the site were tested through a year of seasons to determine their effectiveness. Other site improvements include a new park shelter, walkways and park sign.

**Memories of Dr. King** *by George Farris*

The year of 1960 was the first time I had an opportunity to meet Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the wedding of my brother Isaac Farris and Dr. King's sister Christine King.

As we assembled at the wedding reception, many of those present were questioning him about the civil rights movement. We all realized that he had clearly committed his life to a way and means of bringing about freedom and justice for all men regardless of race, creed or color.

The manor in which he answered questions indicated that he was not afraid to die for his belief.

He believed that any man who had something worth living for should have something worth dying for. He adopted the nonviolent method for conducting marches and demonstrations. He knew the nonviolent method would reduce the number of casualties.

I remember most vividly the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott and the march on the nation's capital. Dr. King led a year long boycott on the Montgomery city buses as a result of Rosa Parks arrest for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger.

This boycott brought integration to the city bus system in 1955.

Dr. King's *I Have a Dream* speech required constant prayer and extensive planning to give a wake up call to over 200,000 marchers of different races, religions and cultures to join peacefully at the nation's capital. This called for civil rights, freedom and justice for all.

Dr. King's seven roads to freedom were:

1. Love not hate
2. Feed the hungry
3. Shelter the homeless
4. End poverty
5. Stop racism
6. Peace without war
7. No drugs and alcohol

Immediately following the assassination of Dr. King in 1968, Coretta Scott King devoted much of her time carrying out her husband's dream. She established The King Center for nonviolent social change in Atlanta. Mrs. King also devoted much effort in establishing Martin Luther King's birthday as a federal holiday. She guided the creation and housing of the largest archive of documents from the civil rights movement.

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King - We thank you for your great work in trying to create justice and freedom for all.*

**National & Columbia Milestones in Civil Rights**

- 1864 John Williams "Blind Boone" Boone, is born May 17 in a Union Camp of the 7<sup>th</sup> Militia at Miami, Missouri.
- 1888 The Excelsior School, formerly Cummings Academy (first school), is renamed Douglass School in honor of Frederick Douglass.
- 1935 Douglass School is accredited as a four year high school by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- 1955 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. successfully leads a yearlong boycott achieving integration of Montgomery, Alabama, buses. The victory attracts world attention.
- 1960 Columbia Public Schools integrates the district's high schools.  
Eliot Battle is the first African-American faculty member in the integrated Columbia Public Schools.
- 1963 Dr. King gives his "I Have A Dream" speech.
- 1967 All Columbia Public Schools are integrated and on May 8 the Board of Education voted to close Douglass School.
- 1968 Dr. King is assassinated on April 4 in Memphis, Tennessee.
- 1969 Dr. Arvarh Strickland becomes the first African-American professor at the University of Missouri.
- 1971 Betty McCaskill becomes the first female elected to the Columbia City Council.
- 1972 Harold Warren becomes the first African-American to serve as a member of the Columbia City Council, representing the First Ward until 1975.  
William "Bill" McKee is appointed as the first African-American to serve as housing authority director.
- 1978 Dr. Muriel Battle is the first African-American to be appointed as a principal in the Columbia Public Schools and served as the Assistant Superintendent.
- 1989 Second ward council representative Mary Anne McCollum is elected as the City's first female mayor; she is reelected in 1992.
- 1991 The City of Columbia appropriates funds to complete the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Garden.  
The city begins to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday as an official holiday.
- 1993 Columbia School Board officially approves renaming Secondary Learning Center as Frederick Douglass High School.  
On August 28, the city's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial is dedicated.
- 1999 Almeta Crayton is elected to the Columbia City Council becoming the first African-American female to serve. She is reelected in 2002 and 2005.
- 2003 The Columbia Board of Education hires Dr. Phyllis Chase as the district's first African-American superintendent.  
Dr. Elson Floyd is named the first African-American President of the University of Missouri System.
- 2006 Mike Anderson becomes the first African-American head basketball coach at the University of Missouri-Columbia.