

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR COMMISSION

Enabling Laws

Act 1386 of 2005

A.C.A §25-24-101 - §25-24-103

History and Organization

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission was created by Act 1216 of the Arkansas General Assembly. The Commission is an offspring of the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Commission and was established under then Governor Bill Clinton by executive order. The Commission was created to promote the legacy and philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Initially, the Commission had one staff person, and was housed within the Governor's Office at the State Capitol. Then Governor Jim Guy Tucker appointed the 25-member board and recommended that Tracy Steele serve as Executive Director. The Board confirmed the Governor's recommendation, and later Steele hired an Executive Assistant. In January 1994, the Commission moved into its home at 1400 West Capitol Avenue in Little Rock, Arkansas, and remained at that location until December of 2001. The current headquarters for the Commission is 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 214, in Little Rock.

In February of 1997, the Board held its first retreat. This meeting produced a mission statement, a stated purpose, goals and objectives, and the Junior Commission Board. 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. Then Governor Jim Guy Tucker called a special legislative session to deal with the problem of juvenile crime. The Commission formed the Junior Commission Board, which is composed of Arkansas high school and college students who have demonstrated strong qualities of leadership and community service. The Junior Commissioners have particular influence in advising the Commission in projects dealing with youth.

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is to:

- 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 advocate 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

JUNIOR COMMISSION BOARD

The Junior King Commission was created to give younger Arkansans an opportunity to have a voice in the Commission's work, especially as it relates to youth. In addition, serving as a Junior Commissioner is an educational opportunity that will encourage leadership, and promote personal and professional growth.

The duties of a Junior Commissioner are to:

- Promote the Commission in their respective community
- Advise the Commission on youth and service projects
- Act to help carry out the Commission's responsibilities as set forth by the State Legislature
- Assist in the design and implementation of programs
- Assist in planning Commission events
- Attend official training sessions
- Present a list of recommendations on policy to the Governor and the Arkansas General Assembly
- Serve at the will of the Executive Director

The Commission designed programs and a fundraising campaign that resulted in a three-year partnership with the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. The Commission also attended the National Planning Meeting for the Federal Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission. This meeting enabled the Commission to interact with other state Commissions and express an interest in hosting the National "I Have a Dream" Youth Assembly. After a site visit and despite stiff competition, the Arkansas Commission won the bid to host this prestigious event.

In August of 1994, the National Youth Assembly was a huge success with a record attendance of over 1,500 youth participants from twenty states. Several celebrity guest speakers attended, including Mrs. Coretta Scott King and actor Charles Dutton.

Over the next year, the Commission enjoyed phenomenal growth. The staff doubled with the hiring of a Chief Fiscal Officer and a Volunteer Coordinator.

The Commission was asked to assist with the coordination of the Governor's Summit on Crime Prevention, during which time the Commission submitted a concept paper for the Common Ground programs. Later, this program would result in legislation that would create the Arkansas Common Ground Program that provides over a million dollars per year to youth prevention programs.

President Clinton signed legislation to expand the 1995 Martin Luther King holiday to be a national day of service. This federal legislation would change the way America celebrates the King Holiday. To help implement this new initiative, Director Steele was appointed to the National Martin Luther King Holiday Community Service Committee.

By using this new initiative, the Arkansas King Commission with the Department of Health & Human Services Division of Volunteerism planned and implemented six days of service programs, which included health, increase the peace, salute to greatness, community service, and interfaith service days. By promoting community service and volunteerism, the King Commission coordinated the most celebrated King Holiday in the history of the State.

The King Commission also officially launched the King Team Program, which is designed to form teams of young people who will commit themselves to community service. Today there are over twenty (20) throughout the state. By involving young people in the Commission's work, the Commission has been dispelling the negative attitude toward our youth. King Team involvement helps youth make choices that will have a positive impact on their lives. The Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services Division of Volunteerism has selected the King Team Program as one of the top ten youth programs in the State.

The King Teams are organized with the following commitments to community service:

- Hold anti-violence workshops
- Organize a nonviolence pledge card signing campaign
- Write letters to people who are victims of crime
- Assist with literacy programs
- Visit the elderly, sick, and/or shut-in
- Help feed the hungry and shelter the homeless
- Work to eliminate racism and other prejudices
- Volunteer to serve in hospitals and health care facilities
- Tutor grade school and high school students
- Work with physically challenged individuals
- Assist with voter registration
- Clean up a neighborhood or park

Because of the enormous demand from the youth of Arkansas, there was the establishment of the Arkansas "I Have a Dream" Youth Assembly. Although this was a state event, it attracted participants from seven other states and had an impressive attendance of over 1,200 participants. Former Miss America Debbye Turner and actor Tommy Ford were the special guest speakers. The participants joined with community leaders and special guests, Mrs. Daisy Bates, former Razorback Corliss Williamson and radio personality Craig O'Neil on a march to the State Capitol to re-enact the March on Washington.

In addition, Dr. King's daughter, Yolanda King, addressed the assembly participants with her one-woman play entitled, *Achieving the Dream*.

The Commission continued to grow by establishing the first Martin Luther King Jr. Young Achievers Competition for young people throughout the state who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and academic skills. The Commission's volunteer program was also enhanced and expanded to over 200 volunteers who have logged over 14,000 hours of work for the Commission. For two consecutive years, the Spirit of 110 has honored the Commission for its volunteer program.

The Commission was honored to have played a role in the 40th Anniversary of the Crisis at Little Rock's Central High School. Director Steele was appointed by Mayor Jim Dailey to serve on the planning committee. The Commission played a vital role in the coordination of a candlelight vigil held at Philander Smith College. This event included the Little Rock Nine and President and Mrs. William Jefferson Clinton. The Commission also helped to coordinate the Little Rock appearance of the nationally syndicated Tom Joyner Radio Show. This show featured the Little Rock Nine, Governor Mike Huckabee, Secretary of Transportation Rodney Slater and Attorney Thurgood Marshall Jr. and

others.

The Commission established an aggressive public relations campaign that has resulted in various public service announcements on all major television stations, cable stations, and radio stations throughout the state. To date, the Commission's work has been featured in over 200 news publications throughout the state. Nine documentaries of past youth assemblies and the yearly 'Salute to Greatness Gala' have been aired on statewide and local television. The outreach programs publicize, as well as reach and teach, various communities about the work of the Commission. The Commission has also coordinated a pledge-card drive that asks young people to commit to being non-violent and work to eliminate crime, drugs, and racism. To date, more than 8,000 young people have taken the pledge.

The Commission hosted more than 500 at its first Drum Major Leadership Conference on November 1-3, 2001 in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Conference participants were addressed by local and national leaders. Dr. Ozell Sutton (civil rights leader), now serving as the Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Justice in Atlanta, Georgia, kicked-off the conference on Thursday evening. Dr. Richard Bucher, Professor of Sociology, and noted author of *Diversity Consciousness*, discussed racial and cultural diversity. Dr. Joycelyn Elders, former U.S. Surgeon General, delivered Friday's noon keynote address. Former Arkansas Governor and U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers was Friday evening's banquet speaker, and Former Arkansas Republican Governor Frank White interjected a delightfully light-hearted flair to the evening. Reverend Samuel Billy Kyles, Pastor of Monumental Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, and the only surviving person to have shared King's final hour of life, stirred Saturday morning's breakfast audience with his rousing declaration that "the dream is not dead". Then University of Arkansas Basketball Head Coach Nolan Richardson brought the final keynote address on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Jennings Osborne closed out the conference with a feast fit for a king. In addition to the array of great keynote speakers headlining the conference, perhaps the most noteworthy feature of this event was the caliber of the individuals conducting breakout sessions.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission unveiled its first Arkansas African American History Makers Coloring Book on January 7, 2002 at 12:30 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet Inter-district Elementary School located at 905 Dr. Martin Luther King Drive, Little Rock. The coloring book will introduce Arkansas children to some of the state's distinguished African American Arkansans, and expose all the children of Arkansas to the history and the accomplishments to some of our African American Arkansans.

The coloring book is also an important tool of childhood education by encouraging students to use crayons properly, strengthens the muscles in the fingers, helps develops motor skills, and improves penmanship. Coloring also improves eye-hand coordination, and can be used to teaching proper color coordination.

Additionally, the Arkansas African American History Maker Coloring Book will support the Department of Education's efforts in educating students in African American History and Arkansas History according to Act 1993, No 963, & 1:1995, No. 1296, & 19. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission, The Department of Education, and the Arkansas Educational Service Cooperatives worked together to distribute the coloring book across the State of Arkansas. The project was supported by the Arkansas Humanities Council, Department of Arkansas Heritage, and the Arkansas Black History Commission.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission formulated plans for an historic celebration of Dr. King's 73rd birthday. The event was dubbed "The Great Gathering", and was the brainchild of Mrs. Annie Abrams, Honorary Chairperson of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission.

The Commission, with the aid of Governor Huckabee's office and the Arkansas Municipal League, requested that citizens of each city in the state come together at 12:00 noon on Monday, January 21, 2002 for a brief celebration of the principles for which Dr. King stood. Mr. Don Zimmerman, Executive Director of the Arkansas Municipal League, and Mrs. Annie Abrams, a former educator and community activist served as state co-chairs for this event.

This "Great Gathering" came at a time when the entire nation is manifesting a spirit of unification that has not been seen for many years. "*In Unity, There is Strength*" was the theme for this event, which offered Arkansans an opportunity to demonstrate to the rest of the nation and to the world that we stand united, and true to the values that have made this country great. The gathering encompassed people of all races, religions, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Over 60 Arkansas cities held a "Great Gathering" commemorative service.

The Commission's second Drum Major Leadership Conference was held at the Arlington Hotel & Spa in Hot Springs, Arkansas on November 6-8, 2003. The more than 500 participants were privileged to hear the following speakers:

- Federal Appeals Court Judge, Lavenski Smith
- Superintendent - Pulaski County Special School District, Dr. Donald Henderson
- Nationally noted journalist and author, Tony Brown
- Noted author and television commentator, Dr. Julianne Malveau
- Pastor of St. John Baptist Church, Dr. Leonard Hawkins
- Noted Professor, author, and motivator, Dr. Dennis Kimbro

Conference attendees participated in panels and town-hall meetings on 'The State of Education in Arkansas and The Role of the Church in Race Relations' and attended workshops on health, politics, and education issues.

January of 2004 brought a tremendous increase in statewide participation in King Holiday activities. Along with the usual capitol city activities-Increase the Peace Day, Community Service Day, Feed the Hungry Cookout, and Salute to Greatness Community Service Awards Banquet-cities and communities from across the state requested information and assistance in order to hold their own celebrations, from parades to banquets.

The 2004 "I Have a Dream" National Youth Assembly was held on July 9-11, at the Doubletree Hotel/ Robinson Center/ Statehouse Convention Center Complex, with an attendance of 800 students between the ages of 12 to 19. Motivational coach and trainer, Lawson Pilgrim, delivered the opening keynote address on Friday afternoon. Arkansas Razorbacks Head Coach, Houston Nutt, made the keynote speech at Saturday morning's King Team Breakfast, and nationally noted television court judge, Greg Mathis, addressed the audience at the Youth Hall of Fame formal banquet on Saturday evening.

The 2005 King Holiday, themed Now More Than Ever, began with a Birthday Bash in honor of Dr. King at selected schools with a decrease in disciplinary actions for the 2003-2004 school year. Students were presented with a cake and a speaker explained Dr. King's Six Principles of Nonviolence. The annual Salute to Greatness Community Service Awards Gala highlighted those who showed extraordinary commitment to humanitarian efforts. Recognition included youth, business, non-profit, and individuals.

King Teams collectively participated in community service activities around the state for the King Holiday. To ensure that students celebrated the holiday as a day on and not a day off, the Commission sponsored the MLK, Jr. Holiday Hoops Classic at Alltel Arena in North Little Rock. The event, held on the King Holiday, showcased top girls and boys basketball teams in Arkansas while providing educational activities for the students, including a re-enactment of Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech during a halftime performance.

In August 2005, the King Commission had the unique opportunity to assist with the unveiling ceremony for the monument honoring The Little Rock Nine, "The Testament." The monument was made possible by 2005 legislative session sponsored by Arkansas State Senator and Executive Director Tracy Steele. Local artist John Deering was commissioned to design it. The unveiling took place a few hours before the United States Postal Service released a commemorative stamp, also in honor of the Little Rock Nine, at Central High School. The Commission assisted with the planning of that event as well. Both events received national coverage in the media.

During the month of September, the King Commission co-sponsored Unity in the Community, an event that brings the Central High community together across the boundaries of race and religion. The event consisted of a youth lock-in, a walk from the Daisy Bates' home to Central High School, a midnight tour of the Central High Museum, and a festival featuring live entertainment, food vendors, games and information booths. In addition to weekly planning of the event, the staff participated in a public service announcement and provided food for the youth lock-in.

Throughout 2005, the King Commission conducted several regional meetings, the second phase of the Drum Majors Leadership program. The purpose of these meetings was to develop a structured leadership force in communities by educating potential leaders and concerned citizens to become more effective in addressing local concerns. The regional meetings were scheduled in Fayetteville, Texarkana, Blytheville, and El Dorado. Speakers and panelists fostered discussions among citizens about problems and solutions in their communities.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission board participated in a board retreat following the regularly scheduled quarterly meeting on November 10, 2005, at the Willie Hinton Resource Center in Little Rock. Honorary Chairperson Annie Abrams introduced Mr. Freeman McKindra, a retired consultant, as the retreat facilitator. The retreat began with a DVD presentation of a 10-year documentary on the King Commission that also served as orientation for newly appointed board members. The documentary covered the following:

- History
- National "I Have a Dream" Youth Assembly
- King Team Program
- Drum Majors Leadership Conference

- Salute to Greatness Community Service Awards

Board members provided suggestions for the documentary, which would premier on Comcast Cablevision Channel 18 in December 2005, prior the 2006 King Holiday. After the DVD presentation, Mr. McKindra gave board members an evaluation to complete for the documentary. Next Mr. McKindra discussed a board assessment questionnaire designed to help members of a nonprofit board of directors assess their performance. The questionnaire allowed board members to rate the King Commission board in areas of information, values, independence, ambassadorship, preparedness, attendance, board orientation, resource development, community activity, formal leadership, special service, accessibility, special interest representation, and mission agreement. The assessment also included suggestions for forming a plan of action in areas rated as needing improvement.

Following the questionnaire, board members gathered in small groups for a problem solving activity that focused on commitment. After that activity was completed and discussed, board members signed up for standing committees and met briefly with those respective committees before ending the retreat.

The observation of the 2006 King Holiday began on January 6, 2006, with the theme of "Why We Can't Wait!" This theme was the title of a book by Dr. King that appealed to the nation's conscience with his account of the 1963 nonviolent campaign for civil rights in Birmingham, Alabama.

The first event was Increase the Peace Day where resource speakers taught Dr. King's Six Principles of Nonviolence in area schools. On January 10, the MLK Birthday Bash to celebrate of Dr. King's 77th birthday was held at Oak Park Elementary School in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, for having a decrease in disciplinary action. Mayor Carl Redus, Pine Bluff's first African American elected mayor, spoke to the students about Dr. King, and Ronald McDonald of McDonald's restaurant made an appearance and provided the students with a snack of apple crispers. Sam's Club of Little Rock also donated a sheet cake with the King Commission logo for the event. Staff members in attendance were director Tracy Steele, program coordinator Frank Bateman, and AmeriCorps Vista worker Delisa Shaw.

King Teams across the state participated in various community service activities on January 14, the designated Community Service Day. The activities included visiting nursing homes, picking up trash, painting, and community clean up. Channel 11 recognized the Little Rock King Team for their service at the Gaines Street Nursing Home, which they have adopted. After participating in the NAACP Parade, King Teams also partnered with City Year Little Rock for a project at the Watershed that included painting hallways and classrooms and cleaning the facility. Director Steele also gave the keynote speech for the induction of City Year Little Rock's Young Heroes, a youth community service program.

For the first time, the King Commission incorporated the Drum Majors Leadership Conference with the January King Holiday activities, including the Salute to Greatness Community Service Awards Gala, to magnify the 20th anniversary of the national King Holiday observance. It was held January 12-13, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, at the Austin Hotel and Hot Springs Convention Center. Approximately 500 elected officials, business owners, state employees, religious and grass-roots leaders, and other citizens from communities across Arkansas were in attendance. Issues that were addressed included ways to bring about needed changes in education, health, business, and

government in cities and communities in the state. Keynote speakers included civil rights activist and son of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mr. Martin Luther King, III; author, lecturer, and cultural critic Mr. Bakari Kitwana, scholar, author and activist Dr. Maya Rockeymoore, and U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis. The conference co-chairs were Mr. John Selig, deputy director of the Department of Health and Human Services, and author Ms. Linda Delaney.

The two-day conference began with a panel discussion on the state of education in Arkansas with panelists Rep. Jodie Mahony, Dr. Lawrence Davis, Jr., and Dr. Naccaman G. Williams. The panel moderator was Rep. Linda Chesterfield. The lunch plenary session was led by Mr. Eddie Armstrong of Tyson Foods, and included a most honored speaker, Mr. Martin Luther King, III. It was indeed a historic moment for the Commission to have Mr. King as a guest at the event. He was introduced by a King family friend, former Arkansas State Senator Bill Walker.

Following the luncheon, men and women separated for gender discussions on leadership. The male panel included Judge Willard Proctor, Mr. Ken Richardson, Dr. Ivory Toldson, and Judge Wendell Griffen. Patrick Oliver was the facilitator. For the women, Ms. Melda Beaty, Ms. Deun Ogunlana, Dr. Maya Rockeymoore, and Mrs. Maura Lozona-Yancy were panelists. Conference co-chair Linda Delaney was the facilitator.

Break-out sessions for the first day were Step Up! Elevating Your Leadership Skills to the Next Level, Work it Out! Handling the Haters, Juggling Act! Key to Multitasking, and Can We All Get Along? Diversity in Leadership.

The bridging the gap portion of the conference was another highlight. Cohesion in generational leadership was discussed with panelists representing three generations: Mrs. Annie Abrams and Dr. Theman Taylor for civil rights; Rev. Esau Watson, Mrs. Robynne White and Rev. Joseph E. Washington for the baby boomers; and Dr. Maya Rockeymoore, Dr. Walter Kimbrough and Mr. Kevin Dedner for the hip hop generation. A talent show, networking receptions, and entertainment by the Genine Latrice Perez Trio ended Thursday's events.

On Friday, January 13, the day began with a health march led by Minister Phyllis Hodges, and an exposition featuring approximately 40 businesses and organizations. Case studies were presented on the topics of small-town racial conflict, flu epidemic, gang violence, and industry loss followed by workshops dealing with leadership development, stroke prevention, grant writing, empowerment for the poor, and tips for being a healthy leader.

The keynote address was delivered by U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis of Chicago, a native Arkansan. Afternoon workshops covering faith-based community partnerships, mental health awareness, financial empowerment, community conflict, and work for Arkansans followed.

The Salute to Greatness Community Service Awards Gala was held on Friday evening. The 2006 honorees included Individual honorees Mr. Ozell Nelson, Rev. Leon R. Massey, Dr. Eduardo R. Ochoa, Jr., and Mrs. Beth Gladden Coulson; Act of Courage honorees Mrs. Lillian Green and Dr. Robert C. Brown; Business honoree Doyne Construction Company; Drum Major honoree Mr. John Deering; Joesetta Wilkins Courage honoree Little Rock City Director Willie Hinton; UPN Youth Achievement honoree Mr. James "Lil' JJ" Lewis; and Volunteer of the Year honoree Mr. Willie McGhee. The conference concluded with entertainment from Ms. Nicky Parrish and an accompanying

band.

Less than two weeks after the King Holiday activities ended did the Commission learn, along with the world, of the death of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, wife of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 30, 2006. The Commission immediately made plans to attend the funeral that was held at New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Georgia, where the youngest of the Kings' four children, Bernice, is a minister. Volunteers and community members traveled by chartered bus along with staff members to the service. Sen. Bill Walker arranged for the bus to be included in the funeral processional along with 20 other buses that were escorted by police to the church. The funeral was attended by famous authors, poets, civil rights leaders and four presidents, including President George W. Bush.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission released the second volume of the Arkansas African American History Makers Coloring Book in February 2006. The project was sponsored in part by grants from the Arkansas Humanities Council and National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Arkansas Department of Education.

Each person selected to be included in this publication was chosen because of their significant accomplishments that contributed to the history of Arkansas and this country. Sixty thousand copies of the second volume were produced. The King Commission distributed 50,000 books with assistance from the Arkansas Department of Education to young people throughout the state. Church youth departments and other learning centers also received copies of the coloring book.

A commercial to promote the coloring book was produced by Constantly at Work Productions and featured Miss Arkansas Eudora Mosby and World Middleweight Champion Jermain Taylor, who are both included in the publication.

The commercial was filmed at Gibbs Magnet School of Foreign Languages and International Studies in Little Rock and aired on Comcast Cablevision stations Headline News, Nickelodeon, TNT, BET and ESPN. An audio spot of the commercial also aired on KIPR Power 92.3 FM through the Citadel Broadcasting Company.

During Black History Month, the coloring book was promoted on The "Broadway" Joe Morning Show as a part of prize packages to listeners who answered African American history trivia questions correctly. Broadway Joe was also featured in the coloring book and appears on the front cover. The King Commission received numerous calls daily as a result of that promotion.

In 1993, the Arkansas General Assembly passed Act 963, which was intended to promote the teaching of African American history in kindergarten through the twelfth grade. In 1997, Act 963 was amended to form a special committee to work on the project.

This unique publication acknowledges this legislation by helping to promote knowledge of the contributions African American Arkansans have made to the history of this state and our country.

Staff members attended the Fair Housing Summit April 13-14, 2006, in West Memphis where Director Steele was the keynote speaker. The Arkansas Fair Housing Commission celebrated the enactment of the Federal Fair Housing Act on April 11, 1968; passed only days after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968. With that tragedy, President Lyndon Johnson was

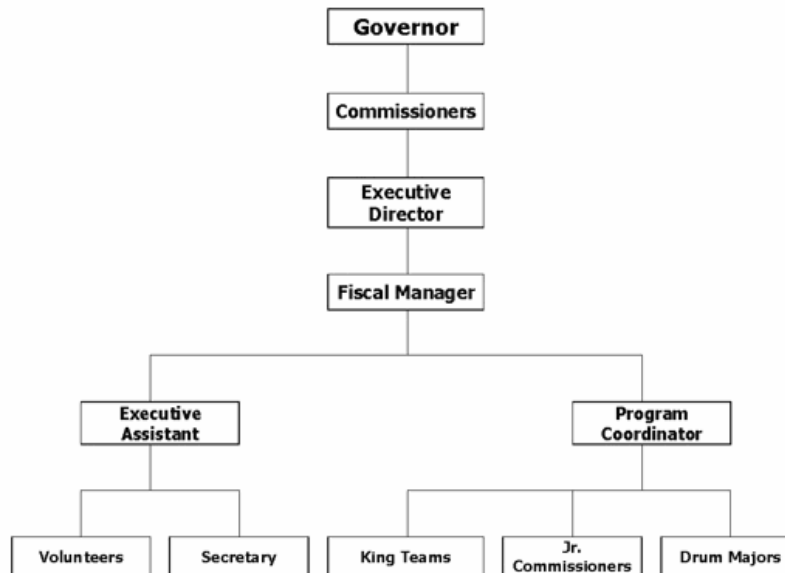
able to urge swift Congressional approval of the legislation. Since the 1966 open housing marches in Chicago, Dr. King's name had been closely associated with the fair housing act. President Johnson viewed it as a fitting memorial to Dr. King, and wanted to have the act passed prior to Dr. King's funeral.

On April 23, 2006, the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission sponsored a volunteer cookout to celebrate National Volunteer Week, April 22-29, 2006. The event was held at Murray Lock and Dam State Park in Little Rock. Co-chair Odies Wilson assisted in providing the pavilion at the park for the event. There were over 125 volunteers from Conway, Russellville, Arkadelphia, Hot Springs, Jacksonville and other surrounding areas in attendance. Three board members, Jim Porter, Debrah Mitchell, and Benard Mitchell, attended, as well as former board member Alcobra Hall who also helped prepare the meal.

The 2005-2006 school year was the last for Rightsell Academy Elementary School at 911 West 19th in Little Rock. The school board decided not to complete the multi-million renovations to bring the school up to current educational standards that was built in 1906. Students will be reassigned to King and Washington elementary schools. In support of the school, the King Commission provided cupcakes for the last field day for the students on May 31, 2006.

In honor of the recent passing of Mrs. Coretta King, the King Commission supported the Interested Citizens for Voter Registration (ICVR) King Team of Pine Bluff, Arkansas, to petition the Pine Bluff Parks and Recreation Commission to rename the senior citizens center in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park for her. The request was honored in March of 2006. The unveiling of the sign and building renaming took place on June 17, 2006, at 2 p.m. at the building site in Pine Bluff. Dr. Joesetta Wilkins, former state representative who championed the legislation of King Commission, was the guest speaker. She was introduced by her son, Sen. Hank Wilkins. Mrs. Annie Abrams, honorary chairperson, gave remarks. The ICVR King Team is led by Rev. Jesse Turner.

The Commission operates with a small budget from the state. Most of its programs are supported by non-State funds. Almost 50% of the Commission's total expenditures have come from private donations and foundations. Another 15% has come from federal grants. The Commission thrives on being fiscally responsible with all expenditures. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission continues to reach out to people throughout the state until Dr. King's dream is accepted and realized by every Arkansan.



Agency Commentary

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is requesting Base Level for 2008-2009. In addition, the agency requests general revenue funding for both years of the biennium for the deficiency in salary and fringe benefits, and maintenance and operations. Currently for FY07, we were allotted \$206,449 in general revenue funding. This amount is not sufficient to cover salaries and maintenance expenses. We are currently funding this deficit through outside grants and contributions. However, it is becoming progressively harder to obtain these funds. Base Level for the biennium is \$268,556. This leaves a shortfall of \$62,107. We are requesting the incremental amount for both years. Acquiring the necessary funding through general revenue dollars will assist the Agency with the ability to continue operating. This relief would help stabilize operations and enable the staff to more effectively offer the citizens of the State quality youth and adult programs.

Audit Findings

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
 AUDIT OF :
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMISSION
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2005

Findings	Recommendations
None	None

Employment Summary

	Male	Female	Total	%
White Employees	0	0	0	0 %
Black Employees	2	2	4	100 %
Other Racial Minorities	0	0	0	0 %
			Total Minorities	4 100 %
			Total Employees	4 100 %

Cash Fund Balance Description as of June 30, 2006

Fund Account	Balance	Type	Location
3390100	\$7,312	Checking	Bank of America, Little Rock

Statutory/Other Restrictions on use:

A.C.A. §25-24-102(5) authorizes the Commission to receive donations and contributions from individuals, and public and private organizations in order to carry out its responsibilities.

Statutory Provisions for Fees, Fines, Penalties:

None

Revenue Receipts Cycle:

None

Fund Balance Utilization:

Grants and donations are awarded and received on an irregular basis throughout the year. The funds are expensed for programs in which the Commission supports for the prevention of youth violence, adult education, and leadership training and development.

Publications

A.C.A 25-1-204

Name	Statutory Authorization	Required for		# Of Copies	Reason (s) for Continued Publication and Distribution
		Governor	General Assembly		
Annual Reports 25-1-105	25-24-101	Y	Y	2	Keep legislative powers abreast of the Commission's activities

Department Appropriation

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

Appropriation	2005-2006		2006-2007		2006-2007		2007-2008				2008-2009			
	Actual	Pos	Budget	Pos	Authorized	Pos	Agency	Pos	Executive	Pos	Agency	Pos	Executive	Pos
125 Martin Luther King State Oprs	246,903	4	267,110	4	268,674	4	268,556	4	268,556	4	268,556	4	268,556	4
B34 Martin Luther King Cash Oprs	51,620	0	61,517	0	61,522	0	61,522	0	61,522	0	61,522	0	61,522	0
Total	298,523	4	328,627	4	330,196	4	330,078	4	330,078	4	330,078	4	330,078	4

Funding Sources		%		%		%		%		%		%	
Fund Balance	4000005	2,685	0.9	10,088	3.0			7,535	2.2	7,535	2.2	7,535	2.2
General Revenue	4000010	200,811	65.1	206,449	61.4			268,556	79.5	208,270	61.7	268,556	79.5
Cash Fund	4000045	100,782	32.7	119,250	35.5			61,522	18.3	121,808	36.1	61,522	18.3
Merit Adjustment Fund	4000055	4,333	1.3	375	0.1			0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Funds		308,611	100.0	336,162	100.0			337,613	100.0	337,613	100.0	337,613	100.0
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(10,088)		(7,535)				(7,535)		(7,535)		(7,535)	
Grand Total		298,523		328,627				330,078		330,078		330,078	

Agency Position Usage Report

FY2004-2005						FY2005-2006						FY2006-2007					
Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused	Authorized in Act	Budgeted			Unbudgeted	% of Authorized Unused
	Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total			Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total			Filled	Unfilled	Total	Total	
4	4	0	4	0	0.00%	4	4	0	4	0	0.00%	4	4	0	4	0	0.00%

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation: 125 - Martin Luther King State Oprs

Funding Sources: HUA - Miscellaneous Agencies Fund

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission was established by Arkansas Code Annotated §24-24-101. The Commission consists of twenty-six (26) members: four (4) members between the ages of sixteen (16) and nineteen (19) from the general public; thirteen (13) members of the general public who represent various geographical areas of the State, and various civic, religious, educational, labor, business, and artistic organizations committed to resolving conflict and upholding the humanitarian philosophy of Dr. King; four (4) members of the House of Representatives; and a representative of the Governor's Office.

The responsibility of the Commission is to promote racial harmony, understanding, 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. King; develop, coordinate, and advise the Governor and the General Assembly of appropriate ceremonies and activities related to Dr. King's birthday; and to receive donations and contributions from individuals and public and private organizations to carry out its responsibilities. Funding to support the activities of the Commission is derived from general revenue.

The Agency Base Level request is \$268,556 for FY08 and FY09.

A cost of living increase is not incorporated in Base Level pending the outcome of the Classification and Compensation Study. FY07 salary levels have been held flat each year for all incumbents. Personal Services Matching may reflect increases in the Base Level due to the Social Security Tax maximum income limit and certain increases in Worker's Compensation and Unemployment Tax rates. Personal Services Matching also includes a \$30 increase in the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total State match per budgeted employee of \$350 per month.

While the agency requests Base Level appropriation, general revenue funding only, of \$60,286 is requested for each fiscal year to replace cash funds budgeted in the current biennium.

The Executive Recommendation provides for Base Level appropriation with no additional general revenue funding.

Appropriation

Appropriation: 125 Martin Luther King State Oprs
Funding Sources: HUA - Miscellaneous Agencies Fund

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

Commitment Item	2005-2006	2006-2007	2006-2007	2007-2008			2008-2009		
	Actual	Budget	Authorized	Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries 5010000	157,403	159,122	162,296	159,122	159,122	159,122	159,122	159,122	159,122
#Positions	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Personal Services Matching 5010003	49,169	52,303	50,693	53,749	53,749	53,749	53,749	53,749	53,749
Operating Expenses 5020002	40,331	55,385	55,385	55,385	55,385	55,385	55,385	55,385	55,385
Conference & Travel Expenses 5050009	0	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Professional Fees 5060010	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Data Processing 5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay 5120011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	246,903	267,110	268,674	268,556	268,556	268,556	268,556	268,556	268,556
Funding Sources									
General Revenue 4000010	200,811	206,449		208,270	268,556	208,270	208,270	268,556	208,270
Cash Fund 4000045	41,759	60,286		60,286	0	60,286	60,286	0	60,286
Merit Adjustment Fund 4000055	4,333	375		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Funding	246,903	267,110		268,556	268,556	268,556	268,556	268,556	268,556
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	246,903	267,110		268,556	268,556	268,556	268,556	268,556	268,556

The FY07 Budgeted amount in Personal Services Matching exceeds the authorized amount due to matching rate adjustments during the 2005-07 biennium.
 The agency requests an increase in General Revenue funding each year.

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation: B34 - Martin Luther King Cash Oprs

Funding Sources: 339 - Martin Luther King - Cash

Since its inception, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission has been participating in an active campaign to heighten awareness in Arkansas for the need to develop and maintain positive behavior among youth. The activities of the Commission include establishing partnerships with other state agencies as well as private corporations to involve local communities in planning and implementation of initiatives to eliminate youth violence and crime. The Commission sponsors the annual "I Have a Dream" Youth Assembly to promote nonviolence and encourages youth to strive for excellence, respect others ethnic, racial, economic, and religious backgrounds and promote community involvement.

One of the responsibilities of the Commission is to receive donations and contributions in order to carry out its duties of promoting racial harmony, understanding, respect and goodwill, with these revenues deposited into a cash fund account pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated §25-24-102. The Commission continues to apply for grants in support of community-based programs and services for the prevention of youth crime and violence.

The Agency Base Level request is \$61,522 for both years of the biennium. There are four (4) Extra Help positions authorized for this appropriation. The Base Levels consist of Extra Help (\$15,900), Personal Services Matching (\$1,698), Operating Expenses (\$38,924), Travel (\$2,000), and Professional Fees (\$3,000).

The Executive Recommendation provides for the Agency Request. Expenditure of this appropriation is contingent upon available funding.

Appropriation

Appropriation: B34 Martin Luther King Cash Oprs
Funding Sources: 339 - Martin Luther King - Cash

Historical Data

Agency Request and Executive Recommendation

Commitment Item		2005-2006	2006-2007	2006-2007	2007-2008			2008-2009		
		Actual	Budget	Authorized	Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Extra Help	5010001	9,267	15,900	15,900	15,900	15,900	15,900	15,900	15,900	15,900
#Extra Help		2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Personal Services Matching	5010003	787	1,693	1,698	1,698	1,698	1,698	1,698	1,698	1,698
Operating Expenses	5020002	39,816	38,924	38,924	38,924	38,924	38,924	38,924	38,924	38,924
Conference & Travel Expenses	5050009	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Professional Fees	5060010	1,750	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Data Processing	5090012	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Capital Outlay	5120011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		51,620	61,517	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522
Funding Sources										
Fund Balance	4000005	2,685	10,088		7,535	7,535	7,535	7,535	7,535	7,535
Cash Fund	4000045	59,023	58,964		61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522
Total Funding		61,708	69,052		69,057	69,057	69,057	69,057	69,057	69,057
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(10,088)	(7,535)		(7,535)	(7,535)	(7,535)	(7,535)	(7,535)	(7,535)
Grand Total		51,620	61,517		61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522

FY06 actual exceeds Authorized Appropriation in Operating Expenses due to a transfer from the Cash Fund Holding Account.