



# CITY OF BLOOMINGTON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION COMMISSION

**Wednesday July 24, 2024**

The meeting began at 5:04 pm

**Commission Members (in-person unless noted):**

Gloria Howell, Lily Kleinlein, Julie Roberts, James Sanders, Angel Thornsby

**Staff:**

Michelle Moss, Shatoyia Moss

**Associates and Guests:**

Dan Enslow (zoom)

**Introductions:**

None

**Approval of Minutes:**

May minutes were reviewed (no June meeting). James moved to approve as written, Julie seconded. All approved.

**Staff Liaison Report:**

Michelle shared Shatoyia Moss is the new Director of CFRD. Shatoyia introduced herself in her new role, thanked commissioners, and said that the CFRD is looking to fill the Safe and Civil Cities role as well as organization of Black History Month. Michelle updated that the MLK funding account currently has: \$5,009.33

**Old Business:**

**Social Media/Newsletter Features:** Michelle said that any events or articles of interest could be shared with her to go into the next newsletter or could be promoted via social media if more applicable. Gloria suggested including the 60th anniversary of Freedom Summer and the 70th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Ed.

**New Business:**

**A. 2025 Performers/Alternate Presentations:**

- a. **Keynote:** Michelle said that our keynote speaker, Keith Beauchamp, submitted his vendor forms and the process is moving forward with paperwork and contracting. The theme is "A

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Necessary Renaissance: Telling the Stories to Ignite the Change.” Michelle said that depending on how long the keynote presentation goes, it will impact our other needs. Gloria confirmed that her communication with Keith confirmed that it would still be 20-30 minutes.

- b. **Music/Entertainment:** When Michelle reached out to AACE about potential music for next year, they responded that they aren't available to perform. This opens the door for our previous discussions about changing the performances for the new year and will leave about \$1,000 to potentially use for other ideas. Gloria suggested asking local churches to form a community choir (Bethel, City Church, The Connected Church, Second Baptist, Lighthouse, etc). Others noted that there are existing community choirs: Peace Choir, Sing for Joy. Gloria said that the Ministers of Music at Lighthouse and Second Baptist are both interested in doing more in the community and might be able to organize such a group and she'd be happy to reach out to inquire. Michelle said that if they are interested, Gloria should inquire about logistic or funding they would need from us to move forward. Julie said that if the choral idea doesn't work out, the world music drummers from Fairview were really exciting to watch or as a backup we contact college students who could perform for a fee. Michelle reminded the group that performances from IU Dance or even an IU Jazz group could be backup connections. The conversation then turned to inviting a soloist to open and close the show. James suggested Tyrell Cooper, Troy Thomas, Tiara “Squeaky” Jagetic, or other soulful soloist who could bring a moving message to start the program rather than a spoken welcome by the emcee (a centering). James will reach out to inquire. James also suggested a piece by PDVNCH. Lily said that last year some of the transitions between groups took time and having multiple large groups of performers would require more coordination to ensure there isn't a lot of time spent waiting. Some suggested singers performing in less traditional spaces, having the Fairview drummers set up to perform first.
  - c. **Order of Program:** Order of program would likely change if we opened with a soloist. Singing to open, emcee welcome, Mayoral welcome, potentially an NAACP remarks, Legacy Award. We discussed that both Gloria and James have been emcees for the past few years and they suggested Jennifer and Justin Crosley or Caleb Poer as emcees or presenters. James suggested thinking outside of the people who are most frequently invited to lead. Shatoyia suggested reaching out to community networks (teachers, volunteer groups). Michelle suggested compiling a list of people, activities, presenters and we keep the conversation going over email and in the coming months. Lily suggested reaching out to those who have in the past given remarks if we plan to exclude them, to recommend they share a message via their own channels in lieu of an on-stage or on-video remarks live at the event (sharing that we are focusing more on community presentations this year over governmental remarks).
- B. **Additional Funding/Collaboration Opportunities:** We had spoken about potential collaborations with IU to work with Keith Beauchamp in exchange for more funding. Michelle said that OVPDEI contributed \$2,000 last year and Gloria said she will check with them on increasing the amount, and she will reach

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out to the Dean of the Media School as well. We discussed opportunities for the community to see “Till” prior to the event and Lily suggested checking with the MCPL to find out if they can host a community showing.

C. **2025 Day On 40 Days of Peace/Spring Programming:** Tabled for next month due to time.

### **Public Comments (non-MLK Commissioners):**

Dan shared over email and zoom an idea to host community town halls with the Mayor. He said that emotions are likely to be inflamed by national and world politics and sees these structured meetings as a way to channel the concerns of the public into positive and proactive measures toward peace. Lily suggested it might fit better with Safe and Civil Cities than the MLK Commission. Gloria and Angel also suggested pushing people toward organizations that are already doing great work (joining NAACP, attending current town halls with important talking points, community conversations) rather than creating something new at this time.

### **NAACP Update:**

No updates.

### **Commission on the Status of Black Males Update:**

James announced that the CSBM is planning the Million Father March on August 7 (8:30 Fairview Elementary School), bringing well wishes to the students as they kick off the school year. They are also hosting Male Youth Summit September 12 (9:30-2:00 City Hall), bringing local students in for keynotes, breakout sessions, games. He also shared that Caleb Poer has a show on Aug. 2 (5-8pm) at the I Fell Gallery.

### **Announcements:**

None

### **Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

August 28, 5:00-6:00 pm, Kelly Conference Room (#155)

September 25, 5:00-6:00 pm, Kelly Conference Room (#155)

October 23, 5:00-6:00 pm, Kelly Conference Room (#155)