

## Living the Legacy:

### A Week of Remembrance and Celebration of African American History in Bloomington through Art and Storytelling

**April 4-8, 2023**, the MLK Commission will host commemorative activities and events that speak to all audiences and bridge artists/historians with the people who live and work in and around five historic sites in the Near Westside neighborhood and beyond.

#### Events and activities include:

**Tuesday, 5:00-7:00 p.m.:** *Carmen Jones* @ Wells Library Screening Room 048, IU Film screening of *Carmen Jones*, the 1954 musical; afterwards the audience will engage in conversation about the film.

**Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 p.m.:** Discussion of *Why We Can't Wait* by MLK @ Morgenstern's Bookstore and Cafe, 849 S. Auto Mall Rd. Facilitated by community members and MLK commissioners. Kid-friendly activities too.

**Thursday, 1:45-3:15 p.m.:** *Fairview Art Contest* Awards/History Walk for Students @ Fairview Elementary School, 500 W. 7th St. Fairview Elementary School will present winners of the 2023 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Student Art Contest.

**Friday, 5:30-7:00 p.m.:** History Center Gallery Event @ Monroe County History Center, 202 E. 6th St. Join artists, historians, storytellers, and the general public for a gallery event, with light appetizers. Fairview students who won their art contest will be honored.

**Saturday, 2:00-4:00 p.m.:** History Walk for Community (start at any location on the history walk—see inside of brochure)

## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission seeks to promote and celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and promote the acceptance of diversity in the community. The Commission sponsors events and programs to commemorate the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday, including a volunteer service day initiative "A Day ON! Not a Day Off," "40 Days of Peace," the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award, and the annual community-wide Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration. The Commission also sponsors events throughout the year which promote justice, racial harmony and equal opportunity.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Birthday Celebration  
Commission

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For more information, contact  
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<https://bloomington.in.gov/mlk>  
<https://www.facebook.com/cobmlk>

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**April 4-8, 2023**

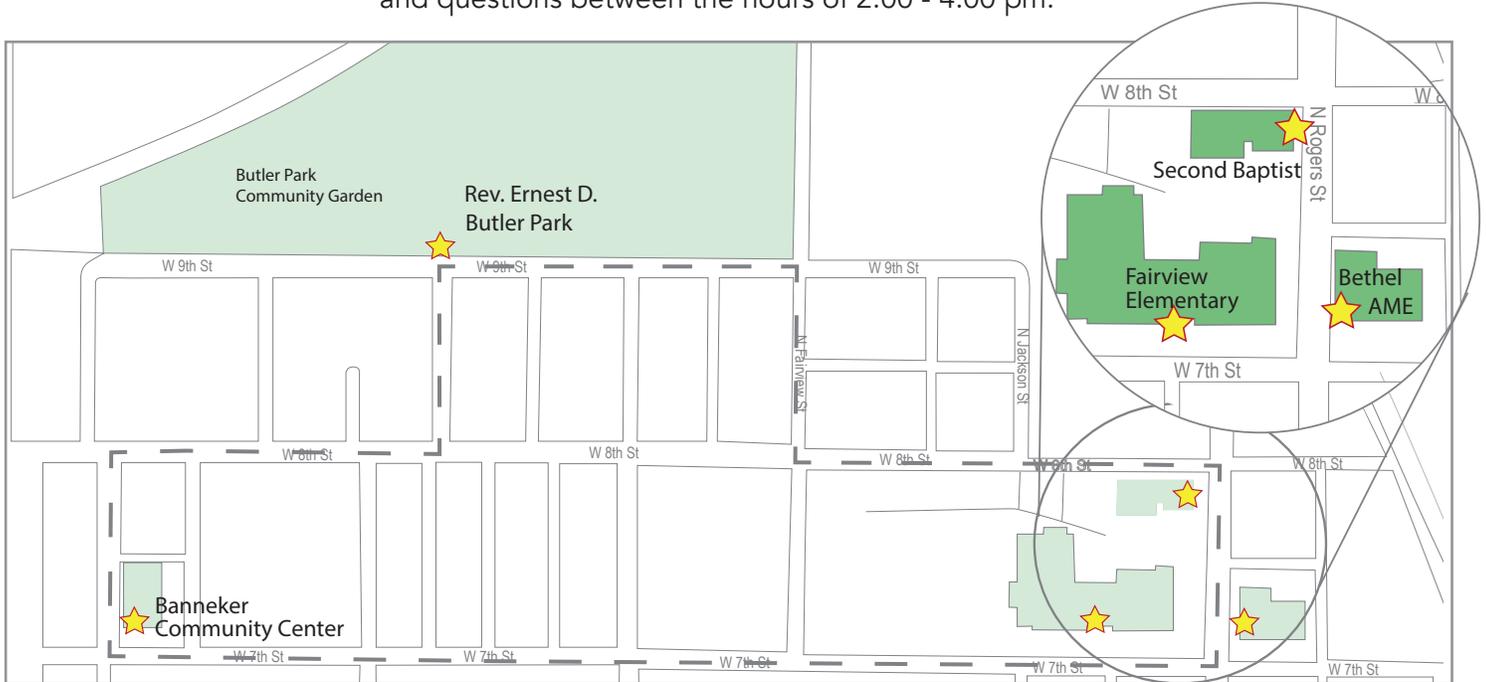
Events and Activities Inside



CITY OF  
**BLOOMINGTON**  
The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
Birthday Celebration Commission

## History Walk for Community, Saturday, April 8, 2023

Participants may view the selected artwork on site and engage with the artist and the historians on site. Please visit all five sites, listed below, in any order. The artists/historians will be available for presentations and questions between the hours of 2:00 - 4:00 pm.



### Rev. Ernest D Butler Park, 812 W. 9th St.

The City's 9th Street Park was renamed in 2005 to honor Rev. Ernest D. Butler, who led Second Baptist Church for over 40 years. Rev. Butler played a significant role in founding the local Human Rights Commission and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commission. He worked to end housing discrimination, hire Blacks in schools and all areas of local business and industry. The park includes a story trail provided by the Monroe County Public Library. Artist: Eric Agyemang-Dua—*Dr. King, Above All Else*; Historian/Storyteller: Vivian Bridgwaters



### Banneker Community Center, 930 W. 7th St.

The Banneker School opened in 1915 and served as a school for Black children for nearly 40 years. Banneker closed as a segregated school in 1951 and served as Fairview Annex from 1951-54, housing integrated classes of sixth graders, while younger children attended the old Fairview School. In 1955, the building became the Westside Community Center for after school and summer programs, through the Bloomington Recreation Department. It was renamed Benjamin Banneker Community Center in 1994. Artist: PDVNCH—*From Prince to King*; Historian/Storyteller: TBD



### Fairview Elementary School, 500 W. 7th St.

The first Fairview School was built at the corner of 7th and Fairview in 1892-93. A new building was built on 8th Street in 1953-54, and the original 1893 Romanesque building was torn down. In 2010-11 a new building was built at 7th and Rogers, and the old buildings were demolished. The community helped build the chimney swift tower on the northwest corner of the block before the old building and its large chimney were torn down. Artist: Caleb Poer—*Perseverance*; Historian/Storyteller: Jeremy Brown



### Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, 302 N. Rogers St.

The Bethel AME congregation was formed in 1870. They built a new building in the early 1900s designed by local architect John Nichols and dedicated in 1922. Mattie Jacobs Fuller, a local hairdresser and community leader, raised over \$13,000 toward the building by playing gospel hymns and spirituals on her portable organ. Bethel AME received local historic district status in 2022. Artist: Christina E—*Carry Me On*; Historian/Storyteller: Nancy Cross-Harris



### Second Baptist Church, 321 N. Rogers St.

The Second Baptist congregation began in 1872. The church has had two long-serving pastors. The first, Rev. M. M. Porter, from 1907-52, led the congregation during the construction of the new building in 1913. It was one of the first limestone buildings built by a Black congregation in Indiana. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Artist: Kem Cotton—*Samuel Plato, Suspended Balcony*; Historian/Storyteller: Martha Chamberlain