



## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **43rd Annual MLK Commemorative Parade to celebrate Dr. King's legacy on Jan. 17, 2022**

TULSA, Oct. 4, 2021 – “*Hope and Action: The Fierce Urgency of Now*” is the theme for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Parade that will celebrate the revered civil rights leaders’ legacy on Jan. 17, 2022. Each year, over 100 entries participate in the parade featuring themed floats, music and marchers. Thousands of people are expected to attend the parade that begins at the corner of N. Detroit Ave. and John Hope Franklin Blvd. and meanders through historic Greenwood Avenue to Archer, ending near ONEOK Field.

“In light of the pandemic and the deep divisions in our country, Dr. King’s commitment to truth-telling and the pursuit of justice and reconciliation is one that is indeed urgent,” said Pleas Thompson, president of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Society. “He gave a voice to those who were silenced, and his message of peace, hope and love grows more relevant with every passing year. Once again, we look forward to celebrating Dr. King’s legacy with other Tulsans. Our children’s futures are dependent upon the realization of his dream.”

The goal of the MLK Day Parade is for participants of all ages to have fun, remember Dr. King’s legacy and how they can be a part of keeping his dream alive. Parade floats and various entries should convey the theme and be appropriate for viewing by children and adults. Parade marshals, security personnel and volunteers will be posted along the parade route to ensure the safety of participants and guests. Advance registration is required of all parade entries – no “walk-ups” are allowed. Check-in is from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. at sponsors’ designated numbered slots in the staging area. Judging of parade entries begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. For attendees, the parade begins at 11 a.m. and is free to the public.

Regarding COVID-19 protocols, parade organizers will follow CDC and local Tulsa Health Department Guidelines. Depending on COVID levels in the community, more information will be available prior to the Jan. 17 parade date. Please visit the website at [www.mlktulsa.com](http://www.mlktulsa.com) for updates.

A map of the parade route is available at <https://bit.ly/3IJgsEF>.

(more)

Entry fees for the parade vary by category – i.e., Non-Profit, Small Business, Corporate and Educational. There is an early bird discount of \$10 for entry fees paid by Oct. 31, 2021. Online registration is available at [www.mlktulsa.com](http://www.mlktulsa.com). No registrations will be accepted after Dec. 31, 2021.

Sponsorship packages are available ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, with varying levels of recognition and benefits. Potential sponsors are encouraged to act quickly in order to maximize their visibility/exposure.

The organization is actively seeking volunteers for Parade Day. Please email for more information at [mlktulsa@gmail.com](mailto:mlktulsa@gmail.com). Volunteer opportunities will be posted on the website as details become available.

### **About the MLK Jr. Commemoration Society**

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Society, Inc. is a Tulsa, Oklahoma-based 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization focused on honoring and preserving the works and ideals that Dr. King practiced. The society has provided programming, leadership development, civic engagement and opportunities for artistic expression involving more than 20,000 boys and girls in Tulsa County and the surrounding area since it was founded in 1978. The Society has awarded \$102,000 in scholarships over the past three decades to local high school graduates aspiring to achieve Dr. King's dream.

Tax-deductible donations to the MLK Scholarship Fund or the Celebration may be made without participating in the parade. Any amount is sincerely appreciated. Donations of \$25 or more will receive a special letter of appreciation. Checks should be made out to "MLK Commemoration Society" and mailed to: P.O. Box 14025; Tulsa, OK 74159-1025.

For parade information, sponsorship inquiries or volunteer opportunities, please visit [www.mlktulsa.com](http://www.mlktulsa.com), call 918-492-9495 or email at [mlktulsa@gmail.com](mailto:mlktulsa@gmail.com).

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