

# KING LEGACY CELEBRATION

JUSTICE MOVING FORWARD

JANUARY 18, 2021



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## A COMMUNITY TRADITION

The King Legacy Celebration has been a community-led tradition since January 1992, originally organized through the Arts Consortium of Cincinnati. The purpose of this annual community event is to promote cooperation between the community, organizations, businesses and corporations to celebrate the spirit, vision and dream of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This tradition was brought to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in 2005.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

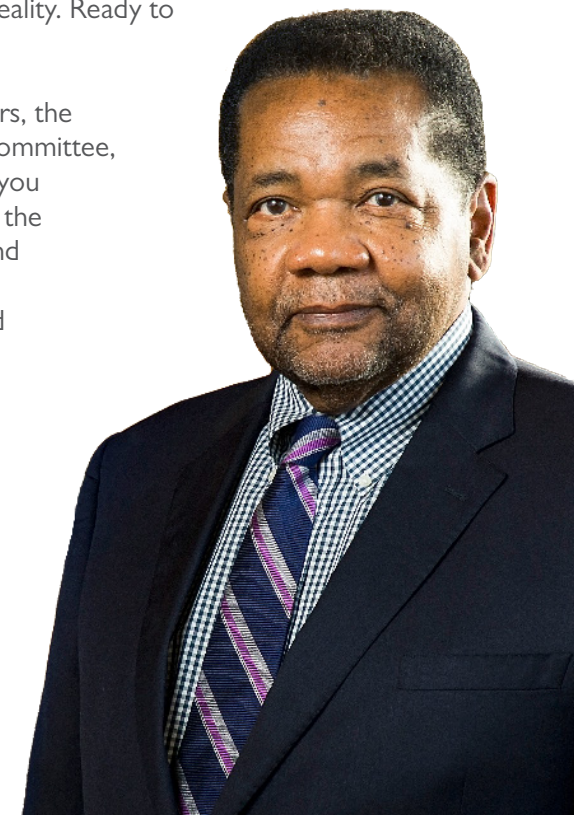
Welcome to the 2021 King Legacy Celebration! This virtual program continues our annual tradition of celebrating the birth, life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and all who work to uphold his vision.

Our theme this year is Justice Moving Forward. Racial tensions have escalated in the midst of a pandemic, revealing the unfinished work in achieving justice and equity for all. The road to inclusive freedom is long and difficult. Despite the work and the progress made over the past 50 years, Dr. King's dream remains unfulfilled, his work unfinished. But we take heart in knowing there is a generation coming of age in this moment ready to take the torch, ready to make equity a reality. Ready to move justice forward.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, the King Legacy Celebration planning committee, our staff and volunteers, we thank you for joining us today. We appreciate the support from each of you, today and ongoing, to continue the work of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center.

Warm regards,

Woodrow Keown, Jr.  
President and COO,  
National Underground Railroad  
Freedom Center



# PROGRAM

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## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Courtis Fuller

## MUSICAL SELECTION

"We Shall Overcome"

Cincinnati Black Theatre Company

## WELCOME

Woodrow Keown, Jr., President  
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

## REMARKS

Senator Rob Portman  
Hamilton County Commissioner  
Alicia Reece

## MUSICAL SELECTION

"Hold On"

Reginald Smith, Jr.

## MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor John Cranley

## KING LEGACY YOUTH LEADERSHIP PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

## HONOREES

Savoy Lackey, The Seven Hills School  
Mason Mack, Cincinnati Country Day School

## SPOKEN WORD PERFORMANCE

Zoe Cummings, Walnut Hills High School

## MUSICAL SELECTION

"Battle Hymn of the Republic"

Reginald Smith, Jr.

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with inclusion, makes our  
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Fifth Third Bank is passionate about our diversity work and engaging with our community partners to make deeper connections that positively impact inclusion across our footprint.

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Freedom Center.**



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## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DeMarco Morgan  
Journalist and TV/News Personality

## REMARKS

Senator Sherrod Brown

## CLOSING SONG

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”  
Cincinnati Black Theatre Company

## MLK MARCH

The 46th Annual Commemorative March and Motorcade begins at 10:30 a.m. at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Virtual commemorative program to follow at noon. Details at [mlkcoalition.org](http://mlkcoalition.org).



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER DEMARCO MORGAN

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Morgan is an American news reporter, anchor and journalist. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Jackson State University, Mississippi and a Master's from Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. While working on his Master's, he covered the September 11 terrorist attacks, helped found the J-School's student chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) and was named both a DuPont Scholar and a CBS Scholar. In 2002, Morgan was the only Black male ranked in the Scripps Howard's Top 10 Collegiate Journalists in the country.

Morgan is also a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, the site of one of the nation's worst incidents of racial violence known as the Tulsa Race Massacre. The massacre occurred in 1921 when a white mob killed dozens of Black residents and destroyed more than 35 square blocks of Black homes and businesses. Morgan will provide a distinct perspective on the continued struggle for justice a century after the Tulsa massacre.



**Cincinnati Bell is a  
Proud Sponsor of the  
2021 King Legacy Celebration**



# KING LEGACY YOUTH HONOREES

SAVOY LACKEY  
THE SEVEN HILLS SCHOOL

Savoy Lackey is a senior at the Seven Hills High School. When she graduates, her major of choice is Psychology. She started out in the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Youth Docent Program and has since joined the King's Legacy Program.



MASON MACK  
CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Mason Mack is a senior at Cincinnati Country Day School. He is a forward for his basketball team and enjoys using the game as an outlet for serving and bringing in communities outside his school. He participated in the Youth Docent Program at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Mason would like to attend The Ohio State University and major in Business Analytics.



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**THE 2021 KING LEGACY  
YOUTH HONOREES.**

Thank you for your  
leadership and  
commitment to the  
vision and legacy of  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## What must we do to eliminate injustice and inequality?

**EVERYTHING.**

We know that so much has to be done for everyone to be treated as full and equal partners in society. It will take all of us, doing all we can, to make this happen.

Here's what the people of Duke Energy are doing now:

- Contributing \$200,000 to Ohio and Kentucky organizations working for social justice and racial equity
- Engaging local organizations and leaders to support real solutions
- Listening and learning from each other, our customers and communities
- Standing up against racism, inequality and discrimination

LEARN MORE AT [DUKE-ENERGY.COM/EVERYTHING](https://duke-energy.com/everything)





## 2021 KING LEGACY CELEBRATION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Edna Keown, Chair

Robin Bearden	Andrea Howard	Meili Price
Susan Bierer	Ashley Jordan	Paula Sherman
Verneida Britton	Steve Kabin	Karen Sylvester
L'Tanya Cole	Robin Lee	Otto Welborn
Adelaide Harris	Chris Miller	Jarrod Williams
Cody Hefner	Rachael Moser	Kay Yount
Cassandra Hooks	Toilynn O'Neal Turner	

## KING LEGACY YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE

Verneida I. Britton  
Cassandra Hooks  
Toilynn O'Neal Turner

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# PERFORMERS

## THE CINCINNATI BLACK THEATRE COMPANY

The mission of the Cincinnati Black Theatre Company is to keep alive the spirit of Black theatre by offering top-notch theatrical productions, performance and employment opportunities, children's theatre, educational programs and community outreach in all aspects of theatre arts. CBTC is committed to increasing literacy, promoting diversity and multiculturalism, pursuing community outreach and collaborations and providing access to the arts.



## ZOE CUMMINGS

Zoe Cummings is a junior at Walnut Hills High School who enjoys writing, reading and all things creative. She is currently the Louder Than A Bomb student ambassador (hosted by Elementz) and is the community service chair for the Midwestern Region of Jack and Jill as well as the Teen Vice President of the Cincinnati chapter. Her hobbies include martial arts, dancing and you can always find her in the kitchen singing along to the latest SZA song.



## REGINALD SMITH, JR.

Baritone Reginald Smith, Jr. has been lauded as a “passionate performer” (The New York Times) with an “electric, hall-filling” (The Baltimore Sun) and “thrillingly dramatic” (Opera News) voice that is “one of the most exciting baritone sounds to come along in years” (Opera News).

Mr. Smith, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, was a Grand Finals winner of the 2015 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and a graduate of the Houston Grand Opera Studio. He has appeared in operatic performances with Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Wolf Trap Opera, Toledo Opera and Houston Grand Opera. In concert, Mr. Smith has performed with the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Cincinnati Pops, Lexington Philharmonic, Columbus Symphony Orchestra (GA), North Carolina Symphony, Johnson City Symphony, Boise Philharmonic, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony Orchestra and the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra at Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow, Russia.

Previous operatic highlights include *La Bohème* (Marcello), *Die Fledermaus* (Falke), *Madam Butterfly* (Sharpless), *La Traviata* (Giorgio Germont), *The Pirates of Penzance* (The Pirate King), *Gounod's Romeo and Juliet* (Capulet) and *The Marriage of Figaro* (Count Almaviva). Mr. Smith will appear as Dr. Bartolo in Cincinnati Opera's 2021 season production of *The Barber of Seville*.

## OPENING SONG

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### “We Shall Overcome”

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,

We shall overcome someday;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,

We shall overcome someday.

The Lord will see us through, The Lord will see us through,

The Lord will see us through someday;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,

We shall overcome someday.

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,

We shall live in peace someday;

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,

We shall live in peace someday.

## CLOSING SONG

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### “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,

'Til earth and heaven ring,

Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise

High as the list'ning skies,

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

Let us march on 'til victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,

Bitter the chastening rod,

Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat,

Have not our weary feet

Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,

We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

Out from the gloomy past,

'Til now we stand at last

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,

God of our silent tears,

Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;

Thou who has by Thy might

Led us into the light,

Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,

Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;

Shadowed beneath Thy hand,

May we forever stand,

True to our God,

True to our native land.



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# IN MEMORY

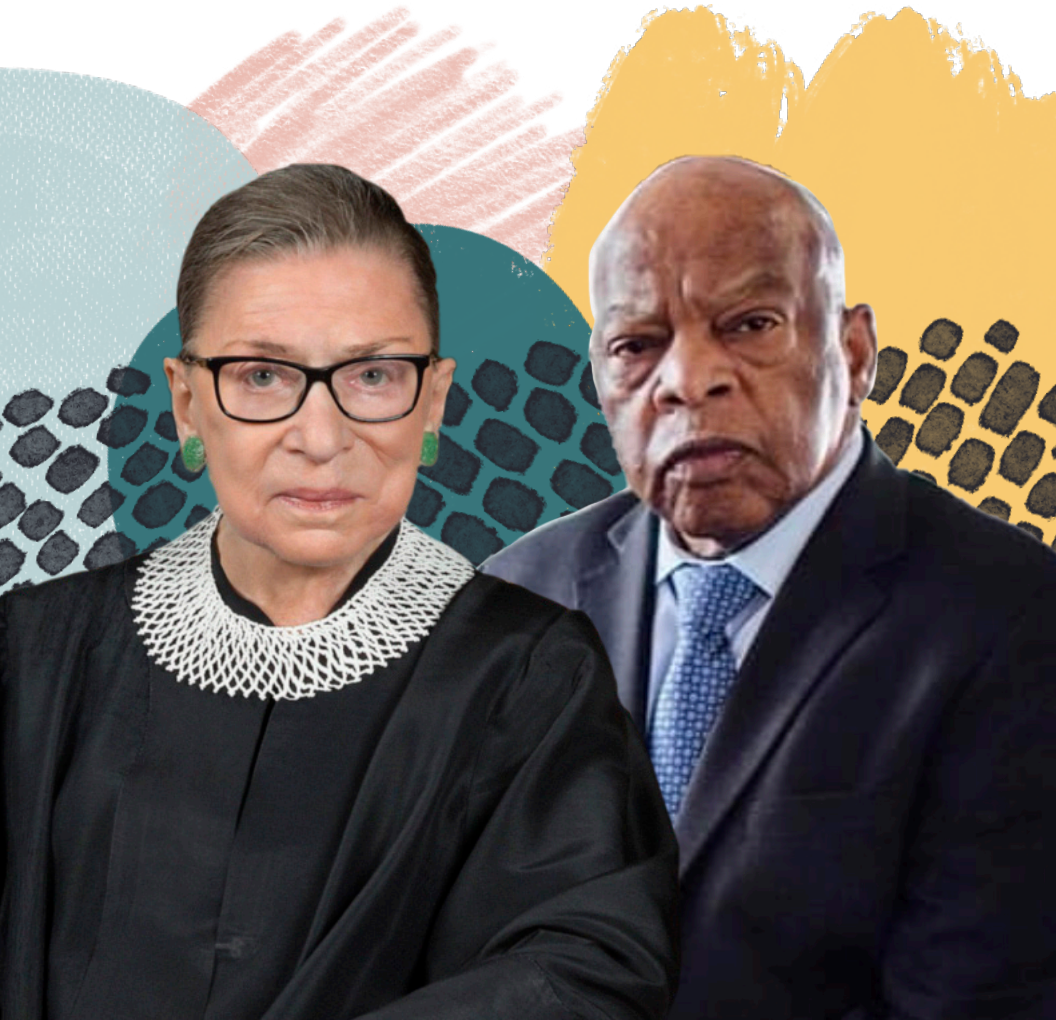
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**Ruth Bader Ginsberg**

1933 - 2020

**John Lewis**

1940 - 2020



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