

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR COMMISSION

Enabling Laws

Act 418 of 2003

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 also 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 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 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, has 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, 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 thirty-minute documentaries of past youth assemblies and the yearly 'Salute to Greatness Gala' have been aired on statewide and local television. Our 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 the 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".
- 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 to 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. Using crayons properly, strengthens the muscles in the fingers, help the child develop motor skills, and helps improve 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 sixty 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 five hundred 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

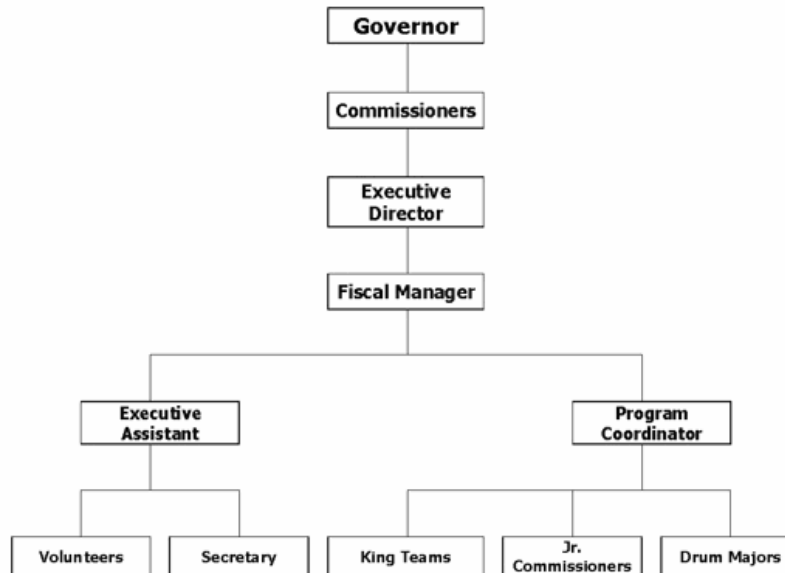
Conference attendees participated in panels and town-hall meetings on 'The State of Education in Arkansas' and 'The Role of the Church in Race Relations' and attended workshops on health, politics, and education issues.

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 Picnic, 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 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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission is requesting Base Level for 2005-2007.

Audit Findings

DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
 AUDIT OF :
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. COMMISSION
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2003

Findings	Recommendations
None	None

Employment Summary

	Male	Female	Total	%
White Employees	0	0	0	0 %
Black Employees	3	1	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, 2004

Fund Account	Balance	Type	Location
3390100	\$4,425	Checking	Bank of America, LR

Statutory/Other Restrictions on use:

A.C.A. 25-24-102(5) authorizes the Commission to receive donations and contributions from individuals, 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 that 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 / Program Summary

Historical Data						Agency Request and Executive Recommendation								
Appropriation / Program	2003-2004		2004-2005		2004-2005		2005-2006				2006-2007			
	Actual	Pos	Budget	Pos	Authorized	Pos	Agency	Pos	Executive	Pos	Agency	Pos	Executive	Pos
125 Martin Luther King State Oprs	247,415	4	255,617	4	249,502	4	263,036	4	263,036	4	268,674	4	268,674	4
B34 Martin Luther King Cash Oprs	71,818	0	61,517	0	62,379	0	61,522	0	61,522	0	61,522	0	61,522	0
Total	319,233	4	317,134	4	311,881	4	324,558	4	324,558	4	330,196	4	330,196	4

Funding Sources			%		%		%		%		%		%
Fund Balance	4000005	30,226	9.3	4,424	1.4			907	0.3	907	0.3	907	0.3
General Revenue	4000010	189,245	58.5	186,055	58.5			263,036	80.8	200,811	61.7	268,674	81.1
Cash Fund	4000045	101,119	31.2	120,225	37.8			61,522	18.9	123,747	38.0	61,522	18.6
Merit Adjustment Fund	4000055	3,067	1.0	7,337	2.3			0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total Funds		323,657	100.0	318,041	100.0			325,465	100.0	325,465	100.0	331,103	100.0
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)		(4,424)		(907)				(907)		(907)		(907)	
Grand Total		319,233		317,134				324,558		324,558		330,196	

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation / Program: 125 - Martin Luther King State Oprs

Funding Sources: HUA - Miscellaneous Agencies Fund

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission was established by Arkansas Code Annotated §25-24-101. The Commission consists of twenty-six (26) members with the following composition: Four (4) members between the ages of sixteen (16) and nineteen (19) from the general public; thirteen (13) members from 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 Senate; 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 good will 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 also derived from General Revenue.

The Agency Base Level request is \$263,036 for FY06 and \$268,674 for FY07. Base Level for this appropriation includes graduated salary increases of 3% to 1.5% each year over FY05 salary levels, along with related Personal Services Matching costs for four (4) Base Level positions. This includes a \$600 minimum increase for employees earning \$20,000 or below. Included in Personal Services Matching is a \$40 per month increase in the monthly contribution for State employee's health insurance for a total state contribution of \$320 per month.

While the Agency requests Base Level appropriation, General Revenue funding only, of \$62,225 is requested for each fiscal year to replace Cash funds budgeted in the current biennium.

The Executive Recommendation is for Base Level in appropriation. The Executive does not approve the increase in General Revenue.

Appropriation / Program Summary

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

Commitment Item	Historical Data			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation					
	2003-2004 Actual	2004-2005 Budget	2004-2005 Authorized	2005-2006			2006-2007		
				Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Regular Salaries 5010000	151,688	153,153	153,238	157,666	157,666	157,666	162,296	162,296	162,296
#Positions	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Personal Services Matching 5010003	40,272	46,779	40,579	49,685	49,685	49,685	50,693	50,693	50,693
Operating Expenses 5020002	55,385	55,385	55,385	55,385	55,385	55,385	55,385	55,385	55,385
Travel-Conference Fees 5050009	70	300	300	300	300	300	300	300	300
Professional Fees and Services 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	247,415	255,617	249,502	263,036	263,036	263,036	268,674	268,674	268,674
Funding Sources									
General Revenue 4000010	189,245	186,055		200,811	263,036	200,811	206,449	268,674	206,449
Cash Fund 4000045	55,103	62,225		62,225	0	62,225	62,225	0	62,225
Merit Adjustment Fund 4000055	3,067	7,337		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Funding	247,415	255,617		263,036	263,036	263,036	268,674	268,674	268,674
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	247,415	255,617		263,036	263,036	263,036	268,674	268,674	268,674

The FY05 Budgeted amount in Personal Services Matching exceeds the authorized amount due to matching rate adjustments during the 2003-05 biennium. The agency requests an increase in general revenue funding each year.

Analysis of Budget Request

Appropriation / Program: 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 the awareness in Arkansas of 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 the planning and implementation of prevention initiatives to eliminate youth violence and crime. In response to the Commission's goal of promoting nonviolence and appropriate activities through awareness, the Commission sponsors the annual "I HAVE A DREAM" Youth Assembly. The activities of the Youth Assembly include encouraging youth to strive for excellence, respect various ethnic, racial, economic and religious backgrounds of others, appreciate diversity 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 good will, with these revenues deposited into a cash fund account pursuant to Arkansas Code Annotated § 25-24-102. The Commission continues to apply for grants that support community-based programs and services for the prevention of youth crime and violence. All grant funds secured are for the express purpose of fostering positive behavior among today's youth.

The Agency Base Level request is \$61,522 for both years of the biennium. There are four (4) Extra Help positions that are authorized for this appropriation.

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

Appropriation / Program Summary

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

Commitment Item	Historical Data			Agency Request and Executive Recommendation					
	2003-2004 Actual	2004-2005 Budget	2004-2005 Authorized	2005-2006			2006-2007		
				Base Level	Agency	Executive	Base Level	Agency	Executive
Extra Help 5010001	11,072	15,900	17,000	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	877	1,693	1,301	1,698	1,698	1,698	1,698	1,698	1,698
Operating Expenses 5020002	56,869	38,924	39,078	38,924	38,924	38,924	38,924	38,924	38,924
Travel-Conference Fees 5050009	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Professional Fees and Services 5060010	3,000	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	71,818	61,517	62,379	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522
Funding Sources									
Fund Balance 4000005	30,226	4,424		907	907	907	907	907	907
Cash Fund 4000045	46,016	58,000		61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522
Total Funding	76,242	62,424		62,429	62,429	62,429	62,429	62,429	62,429
Excess Appropriation/(Funding)	(4,424)	(907)		(907)	(907)	(907)	(907)	(907)	(907)
Grand Total	71,818	61,517		61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522	61,522

FY04 Actual exceeds Authorized Appropriation in Operating Expenses due to a transfer from the Cash Fund Holding Account. FY05 Budgeted amount in Personal Services Matching exceeds the authorized amount due to matching rate adjustments during the 2003-05 biennium.