(R)EVOLUTION
from Segregation to Elevation

MLK Symposium | Keynote Memorial Lecture
January 16, 2023, 10 am (ET) | Hill Auditorium
mlksymposium.umich.edu
Remarks from President Santa Ono

Welcome to the 2023 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium, the University of Michigan’s annual celebration of a global leader whose powerful words and actions continue to resonate throughout our lives.

This year’s theme, “The (R)evolution of MLK: from Segregation to Elevation,” compels us to examine the steps we take as a university to be as diverse and inclusive as possible. We continually evolve as a community that welcomes and respects all in the spirit of collegiality and openness.

This commitment is not always easy, and the journey to a more just and welcoming campus requires all of us to contribute. We must address institutional racism and elements of our past from times when U-M was not always accessible or hospitable. This is why I am so proud of our Inclusive History Project and our efforts to study, document, and better understand our history concerning diversity, equity, and inclusion. The project’s first significant focus will be the history of race and racism at the University. The Inclusive History Project may lead to new coursework and research initiatives, more accurate and inclusive exhibits, powerful institutional storytelling, and more.

We must be willing to acknowledge our mistakes. It will be painful at times. But until we reckon with our history, we cannot come to terms with it in a way that will allow our community to improve for future generations.

Equally important is our Culture Journey and the work to identify and uphold the shared values that bind us as a university community. Respect and integrity are fundamental to being an inclusive campus. Many have shared ideas and suggestions about building a stronger community, and I look forward to the recommendations being developed by the Culture Change Working Group.

I am proud of our ongoing commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. As a community, we have taken meaningful steps toward realizing Dr. King’s dream. But we must remain focused and vigilant. We must continue to grow and evolve.

I applaud the 2023 MLK Symposium Planning Committee members for creating an engaging series of programs. Please take full advantage of the wide range of events, performances, and exhibitions available throughout the month.

Sincerely,

Santa J. Ono
President
Remarks from Chief Diversity Officer
Tabbye Chavous

Dear Colleagues and Community Members,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this year’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium.

Today’s event marks the 37th year that the University of Michigan has honored and celebrated the life and impacts of Reverend Dr. King. U-M faculty, students and staff have developed a thought-provoking event that prompts each of us to analyze, critique and apply King’s life work and legacy in relation to current societal challenges of inequality, including our own efforts to move our communities and society forward.

This year’s symposium theme highlights King’s revolutionary vision for a better and more just future, a vision that our own efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) can learn and draw from. King was a revolutionary through his practice of social movement organizing based on solidarity with the causes and empowerment of the people. He was a revolutionary through his analysis and recognition of interconnected systems of oppression—imperialism, poverty and economic stratification; educational and health access barriers; racism as root causes of social injustice in our nation and globally. He was also a revolutionary through his spiritual commitment to the values of equality, justice and humanity. King’s vision is just as relevant to the contemporary DEI challenges and opportunities we face as it was in his lifetime.

The symposium program is your guide to many events that the University sponsors throughout this month. I invite you to attend as many events as possible, whether in-person or virtually, and also to encourage others in your network to share information with faculty, staff, students, alumni, community partners and affiliates. Your collective participation will contribute to critical, on-going dialogue and action around how our community can work together to make our campus climate more diverse, and to leverage the benefits of our rich diversity by creating equitable and inclusive environments where all can thrive.

Thank you to the MLK Day Symposium planning committee members, invited speakers, and many other individuals involved in the program planning process across our campus.

I look forward to your engagement with this year’s MLK Symposium events.

Best Regards,

Tabbye Chavous
Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion & Chief Diversity Officer
The 2023 MLK Symposium Planning Committee
Presents
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium
2023 Keynote Memorial Lecture

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
Solomon Milner and Jaime Fuentes

OPENING PERFORMANCE
Dr. Stephen Rush, Composer
Performed by Dr. Daniel Washington and Dr. Scott Piper

GREETINGS AND OPENING REMARKS
Dr. TabbYe Chavous
Vice-Provost for Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS
Dr. Santa Ono
President

SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS
Sharonda Chiangong
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, Senior, International Studies

2023 KEYNOTE MEMORIAL LECTURE REMARKS
DR. ALETHA MAYBANK
Chief Health Equity Officer and Senior Vice President for the American Medical Association

MR. EDWARD BUCKLES
First-Time Director and Best New Documentary Director Winner of The Albert Maysies Award for the Documentary, Katrina Babies

MR. JALEN ROSE
Sports Analyst, Author, Documentary Producer, Philanthropist, and Former Basketball Star for the University of Michigan and the NBA

MODERATED DISCUSSION
Dr. Aletha Maybank, Mr. Edward Buckles, and Mr. Jalen Rose
Moderated by Dr. Earl Lewis, Prof. of History, Afroamerican & African Studies

CLOSING REMARKS
Dr. TabbYe Chavous
Vice-Provost for Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

CLOSING PERFORMANCE
“We Win”
Voices of Distinction Choir, Detroit School of Arts
Directed by Julian Goods

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARTIN!!
The (R)evolution of Martin Luther King

From Segregation to Elevation

Evolution: the gradual process of development and/or diversification from earlier realities, especially from simple to more complex.
Revolution: a forcible, sudden, or complete change, in favor of a new system.

Over the last two centuries, this country has gradually evolved from one where only the wealthy male landowner fully held the “right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”, to where we are now – still in need of much movement towards full justice and equality, but at least with the language of justice and equality in the constitution.

In 1954, Brown V Board of Education, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1896 Plessy V Ferguson decision, the legal concept of “separate but equal,” in public schools. This was revolutionary. Integrating the nation’s public schools provided a major catalyst for the civil rights movement, making possible advances in desegregated housing, public accommodations, and institutions of higher education. Evolution continues in these areas, though periodically halted or reversed by elected administrations.

But “separate but equal” remained the de facto law of the land, and much effort was made towards eliminating arbitrary demarcations between where Black and white people could be, whether sitting on buses, using restrooms and other public accommodations, being served at lunch counters, or attending schools. The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. first rose to national prominence in 1955, as a result of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the highly successful, community-based action that focused on integrating the Montgomery bus system.

When Martin Luther King Jr’s home was bombed in 1956, his initial reaction was to apply for a gun permit and arm his household. Bayard Rustin and other proponents of nonviolence persuaded him against the belief that guns would or could protect him and his family. His complete abandonment of guns was a revolution, though perhaps his thought behind the abandonment of weapons was more of an evolution.

The bus boycott ended in December of 1956 with a decision to allow Black riders to sit in any seat – a revolution – but real and enduring change across communities had to evolve.

Over the years of the Reverend King’s storied career, he evolved, often learning from others frequently described as his “followers”. Those people are not often credited, but they certainly provided a curriculum for King, who had grown up in
relative privilege having never experienced many of the harsh realities suffered by most “negroes” in the south. Later in his short life, he began to connect the dots between capitalism, imperialism, poverty, race and class, connections leading him towards revolution. The fact that he continued to speak against the Vietnam War despite criticism from others in the movement was revolutionary.

He still had a long way to go. Regarding gender -- women played a limited role in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Legendary organizer Ella Baker struggled to have her voice heard and her vision of a more grassroots style of organizing accepted by the male-dominated leadership. And Dr. King’s veritable closeting of Bayard Rustin, his openly gay strategy genius, tells us he had a lot of work to do regarding LGBTQ inclusion and equality as well. We’d like to believe King’s thinking on these issues would have evolved.

The Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. was on a journey towards revolution, as his awareness, understanding, and analysis evolved. King’s words at the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom displayed some of his evolution. His final acts in support of Memphis Sanitation Workers in 1968 focused on social justice and economic equality. In between, the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March was organized to ensure that African Americans could exercise their constitutional right to vote, even in the face of a segregationist system that fought to make it impossible, through violence, denial of employment, bogus poll taxes and literacy tests, and general intimidation. The very act of organizing another march just weeks after the earlier violent and deadly attack on marchers was revolutionary.

Justice is an essential element of equality, and this Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. clearly understood. Evolution is inevitable for survival. Justice is revolutionary. The struggle for justice continues.
Keynote Speakers

Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH

Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH, currently serves as the Chief Health Equity Officer and Senior Vice President for the American Medical Association (AMA). She focuses on embedding health equity across all the work of the AMA and leading the Center for Health Equity. She joined the AMA in April 2019 to launch AMA’s Center for Health Equity as its inaugural Chief Health Equity Officer. Before joining the AMA, Dr. Maybank served as the Founding Deputy Commissioner for the Center for Health Equity at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (2014). Aimed at strengthening equity efforts and transforming organizational culture, the Center became a model of success recognized by NYC leadership, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the World Health Organization. She was instrumental in infusing equity at the neighborhood level and advancing the Department’s place-based approach to addressing health inequities. She also set precedence with groundbreaking work at the Office of Minority Health in the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (2006) while serving as the Founding Director. In 2012, along with a group of Black woman physician leaders, Dr. Maybank co-founded “We Are Doc McStuffins,” a movement inspired by the Disney Junior character Doc McStuffins serving to shine a light on the critical importance of diversity in medicine.

She is a highly sought-after health expert in media, appearing on national and influential media outlets such as NPR, MSNBC, NewsOne, Roland Martin, the Lancet, Journal of the American Medical Association, to name a few. More recently, due to her leadership in the COVID response efforts, she has been interviewed by Oprah Winfrey and authored the New York Times Op-ed “The Pandemic’s Missing Data” to bring more awareness to the structural inequities in the United States. She moderates the AMA monthly web series, “Prioritizing Equity,” that elevates the voices and stories of physicians centering equity in COVID-19 response efforts.

Dr. Maybank holds a BA from Johns Hopkins University, a MD from Temple University School of Medicine, and a MPH from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. She is a pediatrician and preventive medicine/public health physician.
Mr. Edward Buckles

Edward Buckles, Director, is a son of New Orleans. Mr. Buckles is a First-Time Director and Best New Documentary Director Winner of The Albert Maysles Award for the documentary Katrina Babies. His non-linear path to filmmaking has birthed a brand of visual storytelling – an aesthetically beautiful marriage between fine art and guerilla-style documentation. Buckles’ work calls his audience towards remembrance and to see the beauty in imperfections. The ground-breaking filmmaker, director, and producer continues to find inspiration in his people and innovative ways to share the stories of Black communities that would otherwise be lost in the passing of time. He was 13 when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. His family fled the city just in time, but the storm changed him forever. After years as an educator and filmmaker, Buckles decided to make a film about the children—including himself—affected by the storm.

His production company, House of the Young Ent., is a beacon in the New Orleans’ arts community and a platform for the city’s culture. His debut documentary, Katrina Babies, is currently on HBO Max and has recently won two awards at Tribeca Festival, including its inaugural Human/Nature Award and The Albert Maysles Award for Best New Documentary Director. Katrina Babies also was nominated for Best Feature Documentary at the International Documentary Association (IDA) Awards. Buckles’ award-winning film also landed the August 2022 digital cover of Time Magazine, which included a conversation between Buckles and award-winning journalist Soledad O’Brien.

Mr. Jalen Rose

Current ABC/ESPN analyst and former 13-year NBA star, Jalen Rose has maintained a high profile athletically and professionally in diverse venues and enterprises, consistently showing his versatility in the broadcast booth, the entertainment world, and as a philanthropist. Jalen was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan where he attended Southwestern High School. Entering college at the University of Michigan in 1991, he was part of the legendary “Fab Five”, where he and his teammates revolutionized the sport of basketball on and off the court as they led the Wolverines to back-to-back NCAA Championship game appearances.

In 1994, Jalen was drafted in the first round by the Denver Nuggets. He made an impressive bold leap amid his NBA career in 2002 by becoming a multi-faceted reporter for BET Mad Sports and an on-air personality for Fox Sports Net’s famed Best Damn Sports Show Period. Shortly after retiring from basketball in 2007, Jalen (a mass communications major at U of M), went full throttle
pursuing his passion in the multi-media sports and entertainment world, signing with ABC/ESPN as an analyst. In 2012, Jalen was named a studio analyst for NBA Countdown, ABC and ESPN’s pre-game show.

Jalen’s commitment to community and education is exemplified in his establishment of the Jalen Rose Leadership Academy (JRLA). The Academy is an open enrollment, tuition-free, public charter high school on the Northwest side of Detroit. It currently serves over 400 ninth through twelfth-grade students with one hundred percent of the Academy’s graduates having gained college, trade/technical school, or military acceptance. Jalen leads this educational endeavor, serving as the President of the Board of Directors and inspires by example, JRLA students as well as thousands of youth nationally, to pursue excellence in education as a means to success.

A philanthropist who truly gives from the heart, Jalen has donated nearly $2 million via his charitable fund to support his hometown’s charter school. In a movement to transform public education, he is also an Ambassador for the American Federation for Children.

In 2016, Jalen was awarded the 11th Annual National Civil Rights Museum Sports Legacy Award for his significant contributions to civil and human rights and for laying the foundation for future leaders through his career in sports in the spirit of Dr. King.

The Detroit News has recognized Jalen with the prestigious Michiganian of the Year Award in recognition of his excellence, courage, and philanthropy to uplift not only the metropolitan area but all of Michigan. In 2016, he was awarded the 11th Annual National Civil Rights Museum Sports Legacy Award for his significant contributions to civil and human rights, and for laying the foundation for future leaders through his career in sports in the spirit of Dr. King.

Jalen released his first book in October 2015. One of the most outspoken and original voices in sports sounds off while revealing his incredible life story in “Got to Give the People What They Want.” This colorful collection of stories and opinions about basketball was a New York Times Bestseller and made the list of Michigan Notable Books from 2016.
Professor Earl Lewis

Earl Lewis, noted social historian, award-winning author, and educational leader, is the founding director of the University of Michigan Center for Social Solutions. Also the Thomas C. Holt Distinguished University Professor of History, Afroamerican and African Studies, and public policy, Lewis is president emeritus of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (2013-18), one of the premier philanthropies supporting the arts, humanities, and higher education. At Michigan, Lewis and colleagues in the center are addressing four core areas of social concern: diversity and race, slavery and its aftermath, water and security, and the dignity of labor in an automated world. Before returning to Michigan and leading the Mellon Foundation, he served as the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at Emory University and the Asa Griggs Candler Professor of History and African American Studies (2004-2012). Lewis was previously on the faculty at the University of Michigan (1989-2004) and the University of California at Berkeley (1984-1989). In addition to academic roles and titles (Robin D.G. Kelley and Elsa Barkley Brown Collegiate Professor), he served Michigan as Vice Provost and Dean of the Rackham School of Graduate Studies (1998-2004).

As a scholar and leader in higher education and philanthropy, he has examined and addressed critical questions for our society, including the role of race in American history, diversity, equity and inclusion, graduate education, humanities scholarship, and universities and their larger communities. A frequent lecturer, he has authored or edited nine books, scores of essays, articles, and comments. Along with Robin D.G. Kelley, he served as general editor of the eleven-volume Young Oxford History of African Americans. He currently partners with Nancy Cantor in editing the Our Compelling Interests book series. That effort, published in partnership with Princeton University Press, investigates how diversity pairs with democracy to enhance the likelihood of shared prosperity. A member of numerous boards of directors or trustees, he was an Obama administration appointee to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity and is the outgoing chair of the board of regents at Concordia College-Moorhead, vice chair of the board of the Educational Testing Service, and a past president of the Organization of American Historians.

The Norfolk, Virginia native is an alum of Concordia College-Moorhead, where he graduated with honors in history and psychology (1978), and the University of Minnesota (PhD, history, 1984), which honored him most recently with the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Alumni Award (2018). Lewis is the recipient of eleven honorary degrees, is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2008).
Performance

“Black Pilgrims”

“Black Pilgrims” an impactful operatic performance, will accentuate the (R)evolution of Dr. King through the premier hip-hop and electronic min-opera/oratorio that depicts a sung and spoken fictional conversation between Dr. King and Malcom X. The opera will exhibit a quite-parallel vision of Civil Rights, from the voices of King and Malcolm X post-travel (India for King and Mecca for Malcolm) and the resulting perspectives on how different societies treated “otherness.”

The opera was created by Stephen Rush, professor of dance/music technology, School of Music, Theatre & Dance; and will be performed by Scott Piper, the Norma L. Heyde Faculty Development professor of voice, SMTD; and Daniel Washington, professor of music (voice), SMTD.

Stephen Rush

The “Black Pilgrims” composer, Stephen Rush, has had premieres on five continents and has released many publications of his musical compositions. He has written six operas, over 50 works for dance, chamber and electronic works, concertos, and three symphonies performed by the Detroit Symphony and the Warsaw National Symphony. He has authored two books, including Free Jazz, Harmolodics, and Ornette Coleman. Rush has recordings on Nessa, Pi, Innova, ESP-Disk’, Equilibrium, Deep Listening, Centaur, MMC, RogueArts (Paris), Eroica, Summit, and CALA Records (with the New York Philharmonic Chamber Musicians).

Rush is a professor of music at the University of Michigan, where he founded the Digital Music Ensemble (DME), which he has directed for 25 years. DME has worked with Pauline Oliveros, Elliott Sharp, Alvin Lucier, and Robert Ashley and premiered works by John Cage, Philip Glass, and La Monte Young. He collaborates with virtually every ensemble at SMTD, having written scores for the University Symphony, University Choir, and Trombone Ensemble, as well over 100 scores for dance.

Rush has also taken over 130 students to India every summer since 2005, where they study music, dance, and yoga for one month. There they study, one-on-one, with gurus who are deeply committed to the cultural traditions of India. Rush has over 30 CDs released and has performed or recorded with Roscoe Mitchell, Henry Grimes, Elliott Sharp, Steve Swell, Eugene Chadbourne, Peter Kowald, and the Art Ensemble of Chicago. He also tours and records with his electronic psychedelic improvisation band, Crystal Mooncone.
Scott Piper  
Artist. Scholar. Educator. Arts Ambassador

Paul Robeson Scholar Award recipient, Los Cabos Children’s Foundation Artist Ambassador, and twice-winner of the Gerda Lissner Foundation Award, tenor Scott Piper continues to receive critical acclaim for his operatic, orchestral, and concert performances. He comes to the faculty of his graduate alma mater, having been honored with the Paul Boylan Award for distinguished alums in the performing arts.

As the Norma L. Heyde Associate Professor of Music in Voice, and Chair of the Voice Department, Piper maintains a selective studio of undergraduate and graduate voice students in classical voice, contemporary singing, and musical theatre. His private studio at the University of Michigan draws students equally committed to exploring their deepest holistic potential and building bridges through the arts to their global community.

From the beginning of his career, Piper has been committed to seeking ways to serve our global village through song. In Piobbico, Italy, Piper’s leadership and stewardship of the voice program at the Brancaleoni International Music Festival (Italy) resulted in attracting over 110 vocal participants over the past three years. Since his professional debut in opera at the age of 24, Piper has spent the majority of his professional operatic career specializing in operas of Verdi and Puccini.

In conjunction with his exemplary teaching and commitment to service, Piper maintains an active international performance profile. In Taiwan, under the auspices of the prestigious Tunghai University Music Department in Taichung, he has performed in opera and recital and conducted performances of The Merry Widow. At the national level, Piper is a sought-after clinician and is recognized as a specialist in effective learning practices for the applied voice studio.

In 2013, he was asked to prepare, direct and conduct the first-ever recording from the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. Entitled Mater Eucharistiae, that CD debuted at #1 of the Billboard chart for classical albums.

Piper received his BM in voice performance from Truman State University and his MM and DMA in voice performance from the University of Michigan.
Daniel A. Washington

Daniel A. Washington is a bass-baritone and tenured Professor of Music (Voice) at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, & Dance, and an Honorary Professor (Humanities) at the University of Cape Town, South African College of Music. An award winning artist, teacher, mentor, scholar, and administrator, Washington is an expert on African American classical music and spirituals, Porgy and Bess, and diversity in the arts. He graduated with a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, where he received the Chramer Scholarship for Excellence in Opera. Washington received a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from Furman University in Greenville, SC.

Highlights of Washington’s operatic career include his Royal Opera Covent Garden debut in Strauss’ Die Frau ohne Schatten, conducted by Bernard Haitink, as Jochanaan in Salome at the Teatro Massimo in Palermo, Sicily, and as Porgy at Theater des Westens (Berlin) in the highly acclaimed production directed by Götz Friedrich. He also created the role of Steven Biko in the world premiere of the opera Biko for the Royal Opera’s Garden Venture Project and performed the title role in King, The Musical at the Piccadilly Theatre in London.

Washington has received awards for artistry, including the First Prize in the International Voice Competition of Toulouse, First Prize in the International Competition of Lyric Singing in Verviers, and the Bad Hersfeld Opera Prize. His recordings include the critically acclaimed Nobody is Somebody, a CD of songs by black composers from the early 20th century, a recording of Spirituals, “Songs My Mother Taught Me,” the Baritone Solo in Appalachia by Frederick Delius, conducted by Charles Mackerras, Pizarro in Beethoven’s Fidelio, Tom in Gershwin’s Blue Monday Blues, the Bass Soloist in Stabat Mater by Rossini, the title role of Chaka, an opera in two chants by Akin Euba, and Tarquinio in Respighi’s Lucretia. He is currently completing a recording that includes works by African American composers of the 21st century.
Performance
“We Win” - (R)evolution Through Overcoming

This performance will feature Vincent Bohanan’s song “We Win,” performed by the Voices of Distinction from Detroit School of Arts, and conducted by Julian Goods, a graduate of the University of Michigan. The performance focuses on Victory. The message from the Voices of Distinction is “As we continue the fight for equality, freedom, and a better world we must remember that we are overcomers and that no matter how hard things get we will win the fight that Dr. King worked so hard for.

Julian J. Goods, born in Pittsburgh, PA and raised in Chicago, IL, currently serves as Co-Director of Choirs at Detroit School of Arts. He is a two-time graduate of the University of Michigan, receiving a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education and a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting. While at the University of Michigan, Mr. Goods studied under Dr. Eugene Rogers, Prof. Daniel Washington, and Dr. James Kibbie and focused on making classrooms and teaching more diverse in population and the Music being taught. In 2018, he traveled to South Africa where he learned about the South African choral music tradition, found ways to incorporate South African Music in the classroom, and served as a guest clinician for many choirs in the cities of Pretoria and Soweto.

Along with his duties at the Detroit School of Arts, Mr. Goods serves as an organist at the historic Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit, MI. As an organist, Mr. Goods has appeared in recitals at the University of Michigan Organ Conference, The National Association of Negro Musicians, Inc. Central Region Conference, and other major work concerts, including Handel’s Messiah, under the direction of Dr. Eugene Rogers. Mr. Goods has served as music director for several productions, including Basement Arts (Michigan) production of Crowns and Musket’s production of The Wiz. Beyond his skills at the piano and organ, Mr. Goods has performed as a vocalist in many venues and various productions, including the University Musical Society’s Porgy and Bess: Opera in Concert in 2018.

The Detroit School of Arts Voices of Distinction comprises students of Vision Ensemble, Concert Choir, Vocal Jazz, and the Lady Achievers. The students represent some of the top students of the Vocal Program at the Detroit School of Arts. The Vocal Department, currently under the leadership of Mr. Julian
Goods and Mrs. Ashley Paul, has recently received superior ratings at MSVMA District and State Level Choral and Solo & Ensemble Festivals. In 2021, Vision Ensemble received a perfect score at State Solo & Ensemble and was selected to represent their region at the MSVMA All-State Showcase. Over the years, the Vocal Department has been honored to perform in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival in Kalamazoo, Michigan. They have collaborated three times with the University of Michigan Men’s Glee Club in 2012, 2019, and 2022 under the leadership of both Dr. Eugene Rogers and Prof. Mark Stover. DSA Voices of Distinction members have performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Ms. Kathleen Battle, and Sir. Sidney Poitier. They have traveled the country visiting colleges and auditioning for scholarships, performing for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Monument Foundation Fundraiser, singing at Carnegie Hall twice, and performing internationally at the Iholmbe Choral Festival in South Africa. This year the group will travel to Washington D.C. to perform at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts with Dr. Eugene Rogers to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” Speech. The Voices of Distinction, under the direction of Mr. Goods, continue to carry out the 30-year legacy of the Detroit School of Arts Vocal Department to bring to audiences a variety of genres of music in a most educational, entertaining, and professional manner.

We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite Hope.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Sharonda Chiangong is a senior at the University of Michigan’s School of Literature, Science and the Arts. She is majoring in International Studies and minoring in Music. With a passion for infectious Disease Epidemiology, she is interested in learning how and why different socioeconomic statuses affect the spread of diseases within communities. She is currently a Diversity Peer Educator for Mosher Jordan Residence Hall and Modeling Chair for the African Students Association. Continuing her commitment to social justice, this year Sharonda is a second year intern for the MLK Symposium.

Solomon Milner is an enrolled member of the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians and Co-Chair for the Native American Student Association at UM. They are currently a senior dual majoring in English and Communications with a minor in Native American Studies. Their main interests surround the importance of stories/storytelling and representation. They currently serve as a student coordinator for the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow, held in March. They hope to use the skills and knowledge they gained in their time at UM to create a positive impact within their communities and pursue research surrounding Afro-Indigenous stories.

Jaime Fuentes is an enrolled member of the Hopland Band of Pomo Indians and Co-Secretary for the Native American Student Association at UM. After completing a MS in Cellular and Developmental Biology at California State University, he started at UM in the Dept of Microbiology and Immunology in 2018 where he is pursuing his PhD in the lab of Dr. Eric C Martens. His research aims to discover how common human gut bacteria have evolved to persist despite constant pressure by bacteriophage and environmental factors. He hopes to utilize a background in teaching and engagement acquired through community development and scientific inquiry to foster new relationships and increase diversity in STEM and academia.
MLK Committee

2023 MLK Symposium Co-Chairs
Janice R. Jones, Assistant Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives
Gregory O. Thomas, Assistant Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives
Gloria Derr Taylor, Director, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives

2022-2023 MLK Symposium Planning Committee Members
Abigail Eiler, School of Social Work
Alyssa Brandon, School of Education
Ayanna McConnell, Alumni Association
Caitlin Burr, School of Public Health
Charles G. Ransom, University Library
Chinyere Neale, School of Public Health-Dean’s Office
Crystal Flynn, Office of Provost & Executive VP Academic Affairs
Darlene P. Nichols, University Library
Debbi Covington, College of Engineering, Office of Student Affairs
Deborah Willis, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Denise Sepulveda, Center for Engaged Academic Learning
Elizabeth James, College of Literature, Science and the Arts; DAAS
Ethriam Brammer, Rackham Dean’s Office
Feodies Shipp, UM Detroit Center
Helen Look, University Library
Henry O. Meares, School of Education
Janice Reuben, Alumni Association
John Rodriguez, Equity Inclusion & Academic Affairs
Keenan Colquitt, College of Literature, Science and the Arts; NCID
Kellyn Mackerl-Cooper, Trotter Multicultural Center
Kreed Lile, College of Literature, Science and the Arts; Center for Social Solutions
Kyra Shahid, Trotter Multicultural Center
Lauren Davis, School for Environment and Sustainability
Leeah Allen, UM Detroit Center
Lisa Borgsdorf, Museum of Art
Lynnette Iannace, Ross School of Business
Maria Elie, Ross School of Business
Marionette Cano, Office of Provost & Executive VP Academic Affairs
Mike Morland, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Nadia Bazzy, Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs
Patricia Coleman-Burns, School of Nursing
Paul Artale, Rackham Graduate School
Robert Ernst, Office of the VP for Student Life
Ruquel Atchison, Michigan Athletics
Sharon Burch, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives
Sharonda Chiangong, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives
Sheri Samaha, Center for Educational Outreach
Tanesia White, Office of Institutional Equity
Thomas Bell, Ross School of Business
Whitney Peoples, School of Public Health
Zarinah Aquil, Office of Provost & Executive VP Academic Affairs
MLK Celebration Events

Historically Black Phrases: Musings on The Black Church’s Influence on Black Language & Popular Culture
January 13, 2023, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

MLK Children and Youth Program
January 16, 2023, 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

37th Annual Memorial Keynote Lecture: Dr. Aletha Maybank, Mr. Edward Buckles, Mr. Jalen Rose, with Moderator, Dr. Earl Lewis
January 16, 2023, 10:00 AM-11:30 AM

Carillon Recital: Evolution in Black Carillon Music, 1962-2021
January 16, 2023, 12:00 PM-12:30 PM

MasterClass and the Department of Anesthesiology present a screening of “Critical Race Theory: American Law and Racism”
January 16, 2023, 12:00 PM-1:00 PM

33rd Annual MLK Health Sciences Lecture
January 16, 2023, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Before the Black Action Movement: The UM African-American Student Project, Washtenaw County’s Black Communities, and the Struggle for Inclusion
January 16, 2023, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

MLK and Militarism: What would MLK Say Today?
January 16, 2023, 2:00 PM-4:00 PM

The Power Of Restorative Justice
January 16, 2023, 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Jeh Johnson, 4th U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security
January 16, 2023, 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

“The Water Remembers” Performance by The Sister Tour
January 16, 2023, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM

Marjorie Lee Browne Colloquium – Math Corps: Social Justice Through Loving and Believing in Kids—and a few Equations
January 16, 2023, 4:00 PM-5:00 PM

Addressing Racism in the White Church
January 17, 2023, 1:00 PM-2:30 PM

Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation
January 17, 2023, 4:30 PM-6:00 PM

Genocide Prevention in the 21st Century
January 18, 2023, 4:00 PM-5:30 PM

UCC Skilled and Savvy Conference: Contributing to a Diverse Workplace
January 18, 2023, 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

Titus Kaphar: Unsettling Histories
January 19, 2023, 5:30 PM-7:00 PM

Masterclass in Activism with Angela Harrelson
January 20, 2023, 4:00 PM-6:00 PM

How to Flourish: Growing In Community
January 21, 2023, 12:20 PM-3:30 PM

Anti-Racism Teach-In/Workshop
January 24, 2023, 3:00 PM-4:30 PM

The Half-Life of Freedom: Notes on Race, Media and Democracy
January 24, 2023, 6:00 PM-7:30 PM

Black History Month, Opening Ceremony
January 25, 2023, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

Civil Rights in the 21st Century
January 26, 2023, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Faculty Symposium on Anti-Racism Research & Scholarship at U-M (Day 1)
January 30, 2023, 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

Faculty Symposium on Anti-Racism Research & Scholarship at U-M (Day 2)
January 31, 2023, 10:00 AM-4:00 PM

#BlackLivesMatter Arts in the Performing Arts
February 10, 2023, 12:30 PM-2:00 PM

Full event details can be found online at mlksymposium.umich.edu
**Historical Chronology of MLK Holiday**

**Chronology of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday**

**1968**
On April 8, four days after Dr. King is assassinated, US Rep. John Conyers (D-Michigan) introduces the first legislation providing for a Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday.

**1971**
During April, petitions gathered by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference bearing six million signatures in support of a King Holiday are presented to the US Congress. But Congress takes no action to move the holiday legislation forward.

**1973**
First state King Holiday bill, sponsored by then-Assemblyman and later Mayor of Chicago Harold Washington, is signed into law in Illinois.

**1974**
Massachusetts and Connecticut enact statewide King Holidays.

**1975**
New Jersey State Supreme Court rules that the state must provide a paid holiday in honor of Dr. King in accordance with the state government’s labor contract with the New Jersey State Employees Association.

**1978**
On November 4, National Council of Churches calls on Congress to create a King Holiday.

**1979**
Mrs. Coretta Scott King testifies before the US Senate Judiciary Committee and before joint hearings of Congress on behalf of a national Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday and directs the King Center staff to begin intensive organizing of a nationwide citizens lobby for the holiday. The King Center launches a new nationwide King Holiday petition campaign, which is signed by more than 300,000 before year’s end.

President Jimmy Carter calls on Congress to pass a national King Holiday. Energized by a grass roots “prairie fire,” the King Holiday bill finally begins to move through Congressional committees.

During November, the King Holiday bill is defeated in a floor vote in the US House of Representatives.
1980
The renowned composer, singer and musician Stevie Wonder releases “Happy Birthday,” a song celebrating Dr. King and urging a holiday in his honor. It becomes a hit and a rallying cry for the holiday. During November, the King Holiday bill is defeated again, but by only five votes.

1981
The King Center mobilizes a coalition to lobby for the holiday. Stevie Wonder funds the holiday lobbying office and staff based in Washington, DC.

1982
On February 23, Mrs. King testifies in support of an MLK Holiday before the Subcommittee on Census and Population of the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

1982
Mrs. King and Stevie Wonder present King Center petitions bearing more than six million signatures in support of an MLK Holiday to Rep. Thomas “Tip” O’Neill (D-Massachusetts), Speaker of the US House of Representatives.

1983
During August, the House of Representatives passes the King Holiday Bill sponsored by Reps. Katie Hall (D-Indiana) and John Conyers (D-Michigan) by a vote of 338 to 90.

On August 27, the King Center convenes the “20th Anniversary March on Washington,” in which more than 750,000 demonstrators at the Lincoln Memorial call on the US Senate and President Ronald Reagan to pass the King Holiday Bill.

On October 19, the King Holiday Bill sponsored by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts) passes the US Senate by a vote of 78-22.

On November 3, Republican President Ronald Reagan signs a bill establishing the third Monday of every January as the Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday.

1984
On August 27, President Reagan signs legislation providing for the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission.

1986
On January 20, the first national King Holiday is observed.

1989
On January 16, the number of states that have legislated an MLK Holiday grows to 44.
1990
The United Auto Workers union negotiates contracts with the Big Three auto companies requiring a paid MLK holiday for all auto union employees.

On January 15, the Wall Street Journal reports that only 18% of 317 corporate employers surveyed by the Bureau of National Affairs provided a paid King Holiday.

1992
On November 3, after a coalition of citizens for an Arizona King Holiday launches successful protest and boycott campaigns, the citizens of Arizona pass a referendum establishing a Martin Luther King Jr. state holiday.

1993
During January, Arizonans observe their first statewide King Holiday, leaving only New Hampshire without a state holiday in honor of Dr. King.

1994
On August 23, Democratic President Bill Clinton signs the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday and Service Act, expanding the mission of the holiday as a day of community service, multiracial cooperation and youth anti-violence initiatives.

1996
Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday Commission concludes its mission and transfers responsibility for coordinating nationwide holiday activities to the King Center in Atlanta.

1998
A Bureau of National Affairs survey of 458 employers found that 26% provided a paid holiday for their workers on the King Holiday. The survey found that 33% of firms with union contracts provided a paid King Holiday, compared with 22% of nonunion shops.

1999
On June 7, Gov. Jean Shaheen of New Hampshire signs King Holiday legislation into law, completing recognition of the holiday in all 50 states.

On October 29, the US Senate unanimously passes legislation establishing a federal holiday requiring national observance.
Chronology of Annual MLK Symposium
Keynote Lectures

Chronology of the University of Michigan Annual
Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Lecturers

1988    Gov. Douglas Wilder of Virginia
1989    Mayor Willie Brown Jr. of San Francisco
1990    Cesar Chavez, President, United Farm Workers Union
        Kevin Locke, Traditional Native American Dancer and Musician, Lakota Nation
1991    Adelaide Sanford, Regent, State University of New York
1992    Maulana Karenga, Director of Black Studies, California State University, Long Beach
1994    Charles Long, Director for Black Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara
1995    Benjamin Hooks, Executive Director of the NAACP
1997    Mary Frances Berry, Chairperson of the US Commission on Civil Rights
1998    Cornel West, Professor of African American Studies and Religion, Harvard University
1999    Nikki Giovanni, Poet, Author and Essayist
2000    Henry Louis Gates Jr., Director of African American Studies, Harvard University
2001    Edward James Olmos, Actor and Humanitarian
2002    Dr. Benjamin Carson, Neurosurgeon and Medical School Alumnus
2003    Grace Lee Boggs, Detroit Activist and Author
2004    Lani Guinier, Harvard Law Professor and Author
2005  Henry G. Cisneros, Former Secretary – US Dept. of Housing & Urban Development

2006  Anna Deavere Smith, Professor, Playwright, Actress

2007  Kweisi Mfume, Executive Director, NAACP

2008  Louis Gossett Jr., Academy Award-winning Actor, Founder of the Eracism Foundation

2009  Julian Bond, Former Chairman of the NAACP

2010  Gwen Ifill, Moderator & Managing Editor of PBS’s “Washington Week” & Co-anchor for the “PBS Newshour”

2011  Shirley Sherrod, Civil rights activist and former Georgia rural state director for the United States Department of Agriculture

2012  Michelle Norris, Author and Award-winning Journalist

2013  Morris Dees, Civil Rights Activist and Founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center

2014  Harry Belafonte, Singer, Songwriter, Actor and Social Activist

2015  Marc Lamont Hill, Journalist, Scholar, Author and Activist

2016  Naomi Tutu, Race and Gender Activist

2017  Amy Goodman, Broadcast Journalist, Author and Activist, & Isa Rae, Actress, Writer, Director and Producer

2018  Hill Harper, Award-winning Actor, Best-selling Author, Philanthropist, & Youth Advocate

2019  Tim Wise, Author and Scholar & Julia Putnam, Detroit Principal and Writer

2020  Angela Davis, Political Activist, Author, and Professor

2021  Dr. Gloria House, Poet, Essayist, Educator and Human Rights and Community Activist & Malik Yakini, Educator, Farmer, Food Justice Advocate and Guitarist

2022  Dr. Rashad Richey, Ph.D.: Dr. Richey, university professor, lecturer, Emmy nominated broadcaster, and political/social analyst & Maria Hinojosa, Mexican-American journalist. She is the anchor and executive producer of Latino USA

*Positions and titles listed reflect status at the time of address
Every year the **Michigan Ross** community honors Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream and legacy through important events and activities that embody his commitment to social justice, service to humanity and civility. Equity and inclusion remain at the forefront of our values as we continue to strive toward our mission to create a better world through business. It is my hope that the Michigan Ross community is inspired by this opportunity to reflect, learn, have conversations, and take action in pursuit of creating a more equal and just world for all people. It is through these efforts that we will be able to realize real and lasting change.

Sharon F. Matusik  
Edward J. Frey Dean  
Stephen M. Ross Professor of Business
Acknowledgments

Karl Cole, Nathan Dorman, Michigan Media  
Ron Peleg, American Program Bureau Speakers, Inc.  
Jessica Porter Teryk Friar, DEAF C.A.N.  
Leticia Fox, ScreenLine Captioning, L.L.C.  
Sharonda Chiangong, 2023 MLK Planning Committee Student Intern  
Hanna Quinlan, Office of Public Affairs & Internal Communications  
Britton Goetz, Foresight Group  
Kathryn Goodson, School of Music, Theater and Dance  
Office of the President  
Office of the Provost  
City Events  
Trotter Multicultural Center

Special Thanks

2023 MLK Planning Committee  
Gregory Thomas, Janice Jones, Co-Chairs MLK Planning Committee  
Sharon Burch, Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives  
Lynnette Iannace, Abigail Zygment, Allison Correll, Ross School of Business  
Mike Morland, Alyse Guenther, Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion  
Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives  
Stephen M. Ross School of Business  
Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Chinyere Neale, School of Public Health  
John Rodriguez, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion  
Earl Lewis, Center for Social Solutions  
Stephen Rush, Scott Piper, Daniel Washington, School of Music, Theater & Dance  
Julian Goods, Members of the Voices of Distinction, Detroit School of the Arts High School  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Beta Eta Chapter  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Epsilon Chapter

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Keynote Memorial Address is produced by the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, a unit of the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
The University of Michigan as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action, including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex, color, religion, creed, national origin, or ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability or Vietnam-era veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Senior Director for the Office of Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, Office of Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX at 2072 Administrative Services Building, 1009 Greene Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48109-1432, 734-1817.
The theme of (R)evolution invokes a spirit of fighting for change and change within the fight. History has shown that when there is energy in a movement to reconstruct an aspect of our culture, that movement brings forth new energy and we become aware of the kaleidoscope of ways that we can grow and improve ourselves and our society. It is important for the viewer to see themselves and their own fight for change in this artwork.

**John Rodriguez** is the Strategic Communications Manager for the Strategic Plan Team with the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion. He is a multimedia creator that works with traditional and digital media forms. His work is often tailored toward storytelling and the exploration of cultural representation. John is of Afro-Caribbean heritage being the oldest of five siblings. He was born on the island of St. Thomas and throughout his adolescence, raised in Los Angeles, California. Holding a degree in Political Science from UCLA, his interests include fiction literature, comic books, movies, sports, and providing a safe and fulfilling environment for his family which includes two boys.
For an up-to-date list of 2023 MLK events, please visit:
MLKSYMPOSIUM.UMICH.EDU

The co-chairs for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium, Gregory Thomas and Janice Jones would like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of this event.

The 2023 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Keynote Lecture is sponsored by

the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, a unit in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

the Stephen M. Ross School of Business

and the Stephen M. Ross Athletic Campus