



## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **45th Annual MLK Commemorative Parade to celebrate Dr. King's legacy on Jan. 15, 2024**

TULSA, Oct. 24, 2023 – “*Dr. King’s Dream: A Vision for the Future*” is the theme for the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Parade that will celebrate the revered civil rights leaders’ legacy on Jan. 15, 2024. 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.

“Dr. King continues to challenge our world with a vision of the future in which racism has been eliminated, and all people are treated with respect, dignity, and integrity,” said Pleas Thompson, president of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Society. “On January 15, Tulsa’s MLK Parade will once again pay tribute to Dr. King and his message of peace, love and equality. The dream is alive and well in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Please join us as we celebrate Dr. King’s vision of this glorious future.”

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 are encouraged to 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.

A map of the parade route is available at [www.mlktulsa.com](http://www.mlktulsa.com). Please visit the website for the latest parade updates.

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, 2023. Online registration is available at [www.mlktulsa.com](http://www.mlktulsa.com). No registrations will be accepted after Dec. 31, 2023.

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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. All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and three-wheelers are strictly prohibited from participating in the parade.

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 \$132,000 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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