



City of Portland
Martin Luther King Memorial Selection Committee
Date: July 22, 2019
Location: Council Chambers, Portland City Hall

1. Site tour of the MLK Memorial (Meet at Bayside Trail site at 5:30 PM).
2. Regular meeting of the Committee at City Hall - 6:15 PM.
 - a. Scoring and discussion of the proposals-a summary of the 9 proposals.
3. Discuss next steps with finalists.
4. Adjournment

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MLK Memorial Committee

MLK Memorial Selection Committee,

A friend and resident of Portland recently told me about the Bayside MLK memorial project. I was immediately inspired by Dr. King. A design came to me instantaneously.

A design that inspires thought in the viewer, commands reflection, exhibits strength and endurance all while having grace and elegance, not just in form, but in also in materials.

Bayside holds a dear place in my heart. I lived in Portland for over a decade and both of my daughters were born there. I had 2 different studios in Bayside; Parris St and Anderson St. I have seen the struggles, the growth, the wins, and the loses, that the neighborhood endured and continues to endure. I would love the opportunity to leave my mark as an artist on a town I love so much, and to also be part of the lifting of the Bayside neighborhood in memorial of one of the greatest leaders of humankind.

My vision for the memorial is drawn from my body of work. It is abstract in nature. I believe abstract art inspires thought and reflection, it leaves the viewer to ask and answer the questions rather than be presented with them. It inspires engagement while still being approachable by all peoples, from all places, all ages and all backgrounds. Dr. King's life and work is worthy of this kind of engagement, pondering and thought. Humanity struggles with the fight between the darkness and the light. I believe it will only be through inspiration and reflection that we find our way. Dr. King not only found that path, he held true to the light, and he had the strength and endurance to stay on that path and guide others down it. I have captured this sentiment in my design. My work is also a reflection of my own path. The process of creating my work is destructive, loud, aggressive and fiery. I am drawn to those things. Though the end result, and goal, is a tranquility, balance and strength that is enduring, for that is what I crave.

I commend the City of Portland and the members of this committee in their efforts. I believe public art is a vital component to a vibrant community. Public art offers aesthetic enhancement and encourages economic growth and development. Portland residents and visitors alike will greatly benefit from strong cutting edge public art projects.

My Best

Adam L. Wiedmann

Caleb Johnson Studio

MLK Memorial

Our vision for the memorial is a space that, like MLK himself, evokes feelings of reflection and connection. He was a galvanizing force in the civil rights movement and a towering personality. Our concept recognizes, in abstract monument form, the force and character of MLK. Other landmarks will be incorporated to commemorate those individuals who have worked towards the dream of justice and how it is perceived and recognized throughout the world and, specifically, locally in Portland, Maine. Starting at the monument and landmarks and stretching outward will be an array of plantings. These tendrils must be tended and maintained, symbolizing that we all must maintain the progress that has been made and carry it on into the future.

Franklin Street in a huge divide disconnecting two pieces of the trail. This memorial will create a visual bridge between the two sides and expand the crosswalk to create a wider more pedestrian friendly route to cross the street. In this way, creating a visual connection between the two nodes of the trail, using the memorial to bridge a divide which is both symbolic and useful to the city of Portland Maine. We suggest that for future phases an actual footbridge be considered to allow for easy crossing and a very direct statement of the power of unification and connection.

**Ironwood Design Group
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MLK Memorial

The Beloved Community Memorial:

As we The Artists have conceived it, The Beloved Community Memorial will be located in the project area designated on the Bayside Trail between Franklin Street, Marginal Way, and Somerset Street.

The design we propose will fit within boundaries of the specified project area to accommodate these memorial features.

- Memorial Gateway
- Community Gathering Space with Amphitheater
- Timeline Trail
- Fragmented Walkway and Contemplation Space

Memorial features will be enhanced by design elements that inspire Dr. King's Beloved Community: Beacons and date capsules.

King's vision for a Beloved Community was all inclusive, and thus, the memorial would be designed with universal accessibility and would include design elements that could be enjoyed by individuals with hearing and sight impairments.

Design Element: Beacons

We embrace the use of beacons as a practicality, to guide visitors through the memorial, but also as sources of inspiration. Beacons are symbols for the light of truth and justice. A number of possibilities include beacons that:

- Reflect light down to reveal an array of hues, representing people of color
- Project inspirational words of Dr. King onto the trail's paved surfaces
- Provide light to a space with a traditional luminaire, but programmed to change color on important dates in the life of Dr. King

Beacons can be fabricated to project sound as well as light, symbolizing Dr. King's call for action. Audible beacons would be programmed to emit a low volume so the sound did not disturb people in other areas of the memorial or outside the memorial. Examples of projected sounds might include:

- Recorded music
- Recordings of portions of Dr. King's speeches spoken by local artists

- Recordings of portions of Dr. King's speeches spoken by Dr. King (with permission from The King Center)

In the overlay plan, we have suggested locations for 3 beacons. An objective of a limited public participation process would be to refine the memorial beacon design and its functions.

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Project vision: MLK Memorial

For this project, I want to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for his message of equality for all. The idea is to represent humans as giant pencils (pencils large enough to sit on like a bench). All pencils have equal potential, opportunity, and voice. The lengths of the pencils show age; used erasers show growth through mistakes; and the inherent nature of the pencil itself symbolizes creativity and education. By refocusing and representing humans as pencils, we can break down the associated barriers of race and ethnicity to have unbiased discussions about equality. The pencil sharpener is a crucial tool for progress, reminding us how we need a sharpening every so often to refine our point on current issues. The broken pencil symbolizes Dr. King's assassination. What's so beautiful about the broken pencil is that it still has a voice. A voice that can be refo-cused to a point and continue to create, write, and teach equality for all.

This sculpture can be used as a gathering place to inspire conversation around equality and the teachings of Dr. King, sharpening the minds of our community and beyond. As you can see in the picture, the longest pencil (also the youngest), is being propped up by the other 'older' pencils to represent how important children are in continuing Dr. King's message of equality. We need to set an example for our children, in order to create the world we want to see and read about tomorrow. The piece will be accompanied by a plaque explaining this in full. I plan on collaborating with Luc Collette of Collette Monuments to help with the creation and installation of this piece. Luc is also a MECA Alum who lives and works in Maine. Collette Monuments have been a family owned Maine business since 1971. The plan is to use all Maine sourced granite and labor to complete the project.

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MLK Memorial

Memorial Site Descriptions:

Presented below are brief conceptual descriptions of sculptures and related features that complement the surrounding landscape to address the topographical attributes of the memorial site location along the Bayside Trail.

Option A: “Radiance of Spirit”... Steel Monolith with Powder Coated Finish

Rising from the center of the semi-circular hardscaped plaza is a trapezoidal tower of steel with a life-sized full length cut-out of Martin Luther King. In one respect, this monument is a sculpture “in reverse”. The negative space integral to the sculpture allows sunlight to pass through to create a projection along the ground in the image of MLK. Hence the title of this work... “Radiance of Spirit”.

The steel plate for this piece is fitted with robust steel “gusset” for reinforcement and aesthetic appeal. The sculpture rests on a four-sided base of granite with each side presenting a separate inspirational quotation from Dr. King. The base is positioned over a suitable footing to assure stability through winter frost cycles. The steel can be finished with a tough weather protectant colored coating, or left to weather to a natural patina.

This monument rises approximately 10 feet from the hardscape. It is about 5 feet wide and 2 feet deep at its base.

The immediate surroundings of the memorial will be augmented with appropriate solid granite seating to invite contemplation and discussion. This area will be a suitable place to bring school children for field trips to learn about the impact of Martin Luther King.

Option B: “Embodiment of Souls”...Granite Monolith

Resting at the edge of the semi-circular hardscaped plaza along the Bayside Trail, a circular granite disk faces southward bearing the etched image of Martin Luther King. His face is bordered in symmetrical circumference by an etched chain of human figures with joined hands (Embodiment of Souls). The disk measures approximately 4 feet in diameter, and is about 6 inches in thickness. The disk is mounted on a granite base of contrasting color to lend a levitating

effect to the face of the monument. The base is set upon a suitable footing to assure stability through winter frost cycles. In totality, the monument is about 6 feet in height, and 4 feet in width. At its base it is approximately 18 inches.

The monument is flanked on the left and the right by two rectangular granite stones with inspirational quotations from

Dr. King engraved into polished beveled surfaces. These stones are of the same material and color of that of the base cradling the monument.

The immediate surroundings of the memorial will be augmented with appropriate solid granite seating to invite contemplation and discussion. This area will be a suitable place to bring school children for field trips to learn about the impact of Martin Luther King.

Option C: “Benevolent Radical”... Corten Steel Monolith

Visible from 2 vantage points... by motorist on the Franklin Arterial and by pedestrians on the Bayside Trail, a two-sided steel sculpture raises above the grass berm that now rests at the trail's edge of the hardscaped “plaza”. Bisecting flat and rectangular steel surfaces are positioned similar to that of an opened book, each rising approximately 8 feet off the ground. One surface displays the facial image of Dr. King created by a multitude of openings cut through the steel plate to reveal his readily recognized depiction. Etched with generous proportions into both sides of the corresponding solid surface are inspirational quotes by MLK speaking out with command (Benevolent Radical). ...Continued

Option C Continued...

The sculpture rests on a base of granite atop of a suitable footing to assure stability through winter frost cycles. The steel can be finished with a tough weather protectant colored coating, or left to weather to a natural patina.

The immediate surroundings of the memorial will be augmented with appropriate solid granite seating to invite contemplation and discussion. This area will be a suitable place to bring school children for field trips to learn about the impact of Martin Luther King.

Maintenance

Each of the three options presented here are designed with low maintenance in mind. None of these options require additional landscaping, such as shrubbery, flower beds, or turf. The designs take advantage of the existing attributes of the immediate vicinity designated for the memorial. This minimalistic approach proposes nothing to detract from the intention of communicating the significant contribution of Martin Luther King.

Examples of MLK Quotes

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”

“Courage is the power of the mind to overcome fear”

NOTE: (The MLK Memorial Selection Committee should decide on the specified quotations to be featured.)

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Dear Mr. Fitzgerald, Councilor Duson, Reverend Lewis and the Selection Committee,

Evan Haynes, Artist and TJD&A, Landscape Architects are pleased to submit this letter of interest and qualifications package for RFQ 19092, the proposed Martin Luther King Memorial for the Bayside Trail in Portland. These materials have been developed and submitted based upon information contained in the Request for Qualifications and addendums issued by the City, our past experience with memorials, civic and trail projects, and our knowledge of the project area.

We feel that our Design Team has the research, planning, design, outreach, and organizational experience necessary to effectively address the Memorial's complex set of issues and complete this effort with excellence. The MLK Memorial presents an exciting opportunity for the community and the City at large, providing, as the Selection Committee states, "a focal point for our continuing commitment to combat prejudice, racism and discrimination and work affirmatively to promote social justice".

Our initial vision is one in which the Dr. King's memorial will:

- Result from an open process that invites participation from all citizens.
- Provide opportunities for citizens and visitors to learn about Martin Luther
- King and his message of responsible citizenship, freedom, and democracy.
- Function as a gathering place, a contemplative ceremonial space, a place for serious discussion, and a place for joy.
- Be a catalyst for community programs to take root and nurture the interests and aspirations of Bayside and all citizens.
- Further the objectives of the Bayside Trail and align with the City's stated goals of incorporating the visual arts into public spaces

The following narrative expands on this vision and provides the committee a greater understanding of our approach at this point. We have also included statements and MLK Memorial background information on the individuals involved in the team, showing the breadth of experience that we bring to the design of the Martin Luther King Memorial.

Context

Both TJD&A and Evan Haynes have a history of involvement with the City of Portland through various projects. Our experience allows us to see the MLK memorial project in the context of other design and planning initiatives in Bayside and elsewhere on the peninsula. We will focus on the opportunities that exist at the memorial's chosen site on the Bayside Trail, while being sensitive to the larger history of development in Bayside. Other open spaces (intriguingly named after Lincoln and Kennedy), other trail systems such as the Portland Freedom Trail, the Armenian Genocide Memorial, and community arts projects, like the Welcome Feast produced at Kennedy Field by TEMPOart, provide a context of possible symbiotic relationships.

Community Process

This design team has a commitment to community engagement in its work. A forum for all people to be heard in planning and design discussions is a key ingredient to the success of any public art installation and will be an integral part of our proposal. We actively participated in a number of outreach and listening sessions held as part of the previous MLK RFP 10 years ago. While that set of public comments is still relevant, the social climate in the City, the nation, and the world has changed in the last decade and it seems important to us to ask members of the Greater Portland community, again, what their goals and visions are for the memorial.

Similarly, we anticipate a continuing dialogue with the Committee throughout the process. As artists and designers, we are charged with creating the form of a public project. However, we have an equally important role as facilitators, sharing the ownership of any public initiative with all constituents, and thus promoting, access, social justice, and racial equity.

Form and Narrative

Our vision of the memorial is a sculpted landscape; informed by the rugged beauty and timelessness of Maine's landscape; an iconic place in a dynamic urban greenway; built with solid materials within the established budget; easy to maintain and considerate of four season use in daylight and at night.

A simple yet powerful place, engaging for people of all ages and abilities, meaningful for individuals as well as assemblies of community groups, inspired by Dr. King's writings and speeches ---a place that becomes a catalyst for social action.

"I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land" MLK Memorial

"Even if I knew tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree" "

We may have all come on different ships but we're in the same boat now."

We imagine weaving his message into the fabric of the site with light, text, visual and private audio elements in an effective manner that resonate beyond an initial visit.

Programming

We think the suggestion by the City that memorial designers consider programmatic elements in their ideas is an excellent one. The MLK Memorial can be an opportunity to introduce more community activities into the Bayside neighborhood and to further the goals of the Bayside Trail. Among many, two NPO arts organizations, Mayo Street Arts and TEMPOart, have worked in the neighborhood. They are creative, skilled at cross-cultural programming and would be excellent collaborators in the process.

For some, the power of Dr. King's vision will key on a private experience of contemplation and reflection. For others, the memorial will function best as social space for all people to gather together and share. A resolution balancing these needs will result in a meaningful memorial space along the Trail; a catalyst for a more engaged citizenry. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this meaningful project.

Sincerely,

Terry DeWan FASLA and Evan Haynes

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MLK Memorial: The DREAM+BELIEVE Sculpture

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is widely regarded as the father of the modern American Civil Rights movement. Through his consistent advocacy for nonviolent protest and his oratorical gifts, he was able to help African Americans achieve more racial equality in his short tenure than in any time prior in American history. He is truly a leader we can aspire to emulate. With his deeply held faith-based world view and his inspiration influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. King brought about significant progress by using the power of words and staying true to his vision of change acquired through peaceful protest. Along the way, he inspired millions as he transformed our society. Eternally relevant in today's world, as people advocate for fair treatment of all humans, no matter what race, religion, sexual orientation or belief system, Dr. King's words and practice are more germane than ever.

Inspired by two very powerful words Dr. King gave life and energy to, the DREAM+BELIEVE sculpture is a memorial paying tribute to his convictions. The tall, colorful sculpture combines the words DREAM and BELIEVE to form a singular, abstract form. The sculpture will be set in an open area which provides a natural forum for the community. The setting will encourage citizens and visitors to express themselves with words or performance. There will be areas to sit, listen and watch. Or people can simply pause for a moment, and reflect with gratitude on Dr. King's life and his lasting impact on our lives.

Conceptualized by Robert Brochu (Brochu Design) and Liam Brochu (Little Lion Landscape Design).

Artist's Statement

When you visually combine words and shapes, a new meaning results from the collision. The fragments and shards conspire together to form a third, abstract word. It isn't always easy to see or understand. But it reveals an unspoken truth found in the unique tension of its counterparts.

This is what inspires me. I've worked professionally as a graphic designer for over 25 years, but I've been an artist for as long as I can remember.

In New York City, I attended the School of Visual Arts where I studied advertising and design. I went on to work as a Senior Designer at Nautica Apparel.

After the birth of our second child, my wife and I packed up and headed to Portland, Maine where we still live today. Now, with my design business, I have the pleasure to work with companies developing brand identities, logos and other creative services. Many of my projects

include large environmental graphics and mural installations where I've learned the impact of dimensional design and the power of messaging.

I believe art can foster community and begin conversations. It shines light and color into dark corners and has a tendency to surprise you. I hope to do the same.

Roger. R. Richmond- Space Light Design

CONCEPTION FOR A DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL FOR PORTLAND, MAINE

The Man, the Message, and the March

The memorial needs to be conceived to express Dr King as a man, of passion, compassion, towering intelligence, and inspiration in his leadership of the past and continuing Civil Rights Movement. The memorial needs to become a statement and "story" of his enduring and articulate dream of social freedom and equality for every person everywhere. On September 30th, 1956, in retaliation after the successful Montgomery bus boycott, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s home was fire-bombed by resentful segregationists, angry over the results of the unexpected Montgomery outcome.

Dr King and his family were thankfully unhurt, but the event caused the iconic civil rights leader to evaluate his future which suddenly seemed to be threatened ...He essentially stated to colleagues, the press, friends, and supporters "*if I am stopped, this march must go on.*" This statement, made at a time of severe personal crisis became the inspiration for how I determined to explore the design of a memorial to this great 20th century civil rights iconic leader...

The MARCH itself, he considered even perhaps more vital than his own personal safety, or even perhaps the safety of his family...such was his dedication to his dream of social equality for all.

In any design for a Dr. King Memorial, I believe several elements must be expressed in revealing the power of the man and his ideas, and the story of his quest for social, political, and human equality...

The "racist forces" that existed at the time (and unfortunately still seem to exist today) that imbued him with the passion to peacefully fight for human equality may be expressed as a part of the story, but perhaps not as vital as his response to those forces, that needs to be memorialized.

What is important, and I believe needs to be expressed is the following...

1...A powerful physical expression of the "march" that he wanted to continue no matter what happened to him personally (including his own assassination), in which visitors to this memorial would become an active rather than passive participant...In other words, a design path sequence that invites, in a sense, the visitor to join the march itself.

The path expression would extend from the memorial entry, and continue, serving as a guide onward suggesting that the visitor to continue on their own to be connected to the movement as the path traverses the memorial and is suggested to go beyond...

2... Much of my memorial designs are sunlight related...in other words, the power of the sun, and the light it radiates would be evident and an integral part of the design, which I believe will give the memorial a sense of "life" and "a unique Dr King presence."

As long as the sun shines, its participation in the "message/story" of Dr King's quest for social equality would be recognized and honored. This ideal would be expressed by a large "portrait" in metal, *(the actual material and its expression is yet to be decided, and may be dependent upon budget requirements)* cut out of the metal plate leaving openings through which the light of the sun may pass. The sun/shadow projection would create an ever-changing true image of Dr King onto another structure of the memorial. This continually changing sunlight, passing through the image becomes a figurative and literal "beacon" for the spirit and inner conviction of Dr King as he delivered his famous "I have a dream" speech on the Washington Mall. His light and shadow portrait defines one of his most triumphant, eloquent, and personally historic moments. As the sun tracks across the sky, the projected light and shadow image would be received by a structure containing excerpts from his timeless message delivered on that famous day, in an ever-changing pattern of relationship. The "shadow" of his life lives on into the future he never was allowed to see. That would be the daytime experience.

At night, the shadow receiving structure would be illuminated, putting the "portrait" in front of it into a powerful silhouette... This image would be related to the axis of the march/path/entry to the memorial, and become part of the sequence. The "story" begins to unfold.

3...Dr. King's goal was social equality for all, and he gave his life in that pursuit...Again, and without being too specific, I envision that this metal portrait would be located in some form of a meaningful and strongly defined **circular space**. This circular space becomes a place of arrival, intending for the visitor to pause, honor, and experience the life, spirit, and teachings of Dr. King.

Because the circle represents equality, and, as in the round table, all present are equal... the path as mentioned before would be expressed within this circular space as some change in material, and interact with the steel portrait, and continue past the portrait, as "the march would go on," even if Dr King were no longer visible, but his shadow representing the power of our memory of him would be cast as he left his shadow on history, and human society...

The shadow would then become the physical inspiration for all who visit, to continue his work by continuing to be a part of the march, in which he so passionately believed.

4...Dr King's words, like his deeds and sacrifices must also go on as they are an impetus and inspiration to also "continue on the march"...

5...Whether it's Portland or wherever, the timeless values of Dr King's life and his extraordinary sacrifices and words played an integral part in reshaping American civil rights society and beliefs, and his "story," of his life and times and remembered. Dr King remains an essential and

integral part of American history, and the influence of his life and teachings extends far beyond the limit of his mortality.....

Robert Katz
MLK Memorial

THE SITE ON THE BAYSIDE TRAIL

We have had the opportunity to spend considerable time at the site.



Four observations will influence the memorial design:

1. *The openness and infusion of sunlight.* The landscape of Maine is often filled with dense forest or urban congestion. The site on the Bayside Trail is not encumbered by these elements and allows for a sense of airiness and light. Our memorial design will maintain this sense of openness and will be infused with natural sunlight.
2. *The traffic flow.* At any time of day, joggers, bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages, some with dogs or carriages, move through this juncture. Our design proposal will not place obstacles on this path, but will allow pedestrians to move seamlessly through the memorial site. The memorial will create a visual dialogue and engage with the viewer without overshadowing the existing function. It will be a destination and serve as a gateway to the trail.
3. *A refuge.* The site is used as a refuge from the proximity of the busy streets of the city and a quiet repose from the challenges of urban life. Our memorial design will provide greater access and establish more areas for rest, reflection and stillness. The design will also be sensitive to children visiting the site and will incorporate forms and space in a way to encourage exploration and play.

4. *A gathering place.* The topography of the site lends itself to a natural gathering place for performances, music and discussion. Our design enhances this unique characteristic and will encourage a continuum of community gatherings. In particular, we envision numerous school groups visiting the site to be inspired and to gain a greater insight into MLK's life and achievements.

THE MEMORIAL CONCEPT

Written by Robert Katz, Chris Myers Asch and Douglas Quin

As a port city, Portland welcomes the world to Maine's shores. People, goods, and ideas from all over the world come to Portland to create a vibrant, diverse community unlike any other in Maine. Portland prides itself on being a welcoming, inclusive city on the forefront of universal struggles for human rights and social justice. In this public artwork, we build (quite literally) on this rich Portland heritage by transforming the site into an amphitheater with its focal point directed towards a "welcome table," a symbol of equality that will bring people together to learn, reflect, and share experiences.

Utilizing the existing topography of the site, the semicircular amphitheater will echo its existing contours and be constructed with blocks of granite, creating a natural curve of seating areas.



Possible source of granite blocks

This feature of the memorial is inspired by the ancient Greek word for amphitheater ("theatric") meaning a "place for viewing," as well as the Greek origin of the word "democracy," ("democratia") which literally means "rule by

people”, essentially through voting. That powerful act of voting continues to be a cornerstone of western democracy and a fundamental fairness principle for which MLK fought throughout his years as a civil rights leader.



Theatre of Dionysos Eleutheros, Athens

For MLK in particular, and civil rights activists in general, the “welcome table” (also called the “table of brotherhood”) was an ongoing motif used to evoke a model of freedom and equality, an aspirational goal to be enjoyed after the struggles of the movement had been won. The idea of a “welcome table” has its roots in the New Testament as a place where all of God’s children would sit and share equally in the bounty. Enslaved African Americans expressed this hope for heavenly justice in the spiritual, “I’m Gonna Sit at the Welcome Table”:

*All God’s children going to sit together
All God’s children going to sit together
One of these days, hallelujah
All God’s children going to sit together
God’s children gonna sit together one of these days.*

*I’m going to sit at the Welcome Table
I’m going to sit at the Welcome Table
One of these days, hallelujah*

*I’m going to sit at the Welcome Table
Sit at the Welcome Table one of these days.*

During the civil rights movement, activists reshaped the lyrics to express hopes for more earthly rewards that could be achieved through nonviolent direct action:

*I'm gonna sit at the welcome table,
I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days, Hallelujah!
I'm gonna get my civil rights one of these days.*

*I'm gonna sit at the Woolworth counter,
I'm gonna sit at the Woolworth counter one of these days, Hallelujah!
I'm gonna sit at the Woolworth counter one of these days.*

MLK often invoked a table to symbolize equality. Though known for his speeches and protest marches, MLK argued that the point of nonviolent direct action was to force recalcitrant leaders to sit down at the negotiating table. He first vaulted into national prominence as a 26-year-old minister in Montgomery, Alabama, when he led a series of protests demanding an end to racial segregation on city buses. His primary demand to city leaders was to sit down together around a table to negotiate an amicable settlement; when they refused, MLK pursued a boycott that lasted more than a year and ultimately led to the movement's victory in the Supreme Court.

In his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, MLK used the image of an egalitarian table as part of his stirring vision of a welcoming, inclusive America:

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.' I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

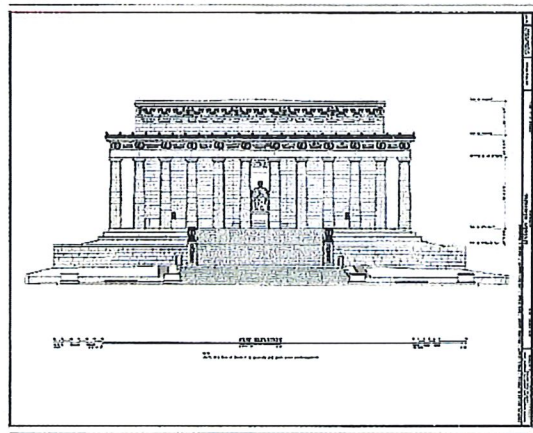
This segment of MLK's speech will be engraved into the granite blocks encircling the amphitheater. This idea symbolized his understanding of the basic equality of all humanity. As he said in his last Christmas sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church:

"One day somebody should remind us that, even though there may be political and ideological differences between us, the Vietnamese are our brothers, the Russians are our brothers, the Chinese are our brothers; and one day we've got to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

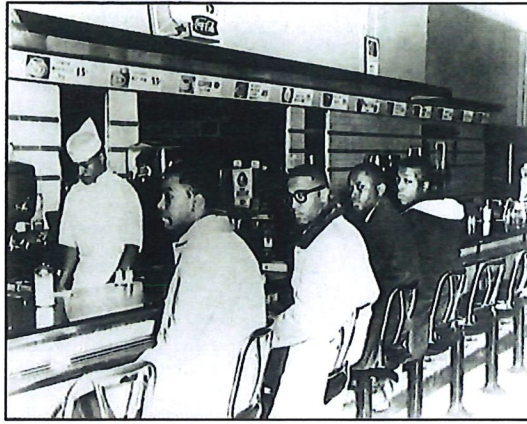
The welcome table that we design will be fabricated from corten steel. On its surface, there will be a topographic pathway that guides us through MLK's journey from his birth in Atlanta in 1929 to his significant engagements with the civil rights movement starting in 1955. The path then follows his route to the

Montgomery bus boycott; the founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference 1957; the Albany movement in 1961; the Birmingham campaign in 1963; the 1963 March on Washington; the St. Augustine movement in 1964; the Selma voting rights movement of 1965; the Chicago open housing movement 1966; his anti-Vietnam War speech at New York's Riverside Church; and the Poor People's Campaign and his assassination in Memphis, 1968. Markers will be placed along this tabletop trail.

In the center of this pathway will be a minimalist, sculptured replica of the Lincoln Memorial sitting on top of the eighteenth step on which MLK gave his most stirring speech to a crowd of 300,000 people.



Our memorial design does not include a representational likeness of MLK because our focus is upon his achievements. However, surrounding the welcome table, there will be thirteen columns that will stand 5'7" tall, the height of MLK himself. Each column represents one of the thirteen years that MLK dedicated himself to the civil rights movement. Additionally, these columns, fabricated with black, polished granite and steel, will symbolize the lunch counter stools on which African American activists staged peaceful demonstrations, seeking recognition of their equality, humanity, and dignity in an unwelcoming and segregated South. These courageous acts then became the impetus for the sit-in movement, providing momentum for MLK's nonviolent campaigns.



The memorial site will be embellished with natural landscaping that will heighten the visual and emotional experience. This will include sustainable gardens of perennial flowers, shrubs, and an array of blossoming trees creating a rich oasis of natural beauty within a commercial and industrial area.

As a complement to the permanent, physical and sculptural memorial, we propose developing a multimedia, application-based (“app”) or a smart phone-friendly website. This technology is conceived as an audio-visual tour companion to the site where visitors can stop at various milestone moments on MLK’s journey from Montgomery to Memphis. This content will be organized thematically and include brief historical media artifacts, including short excerpts of radio and television speeches and interviews with MLK and his circle, as well as news reports covering the civil rights movement—both past and present. By including this media aspect in the memorial, content can be renewed and refreshed with new and topical Quick Response Code information and, as such, reflect the enduring legacy of MLK.

Of equal importance, we propose having young people read passages from MLK’s writings and possibly share some of their own journeys and reflections on the idea and reality of “the welcome table.” The young readers will be drawn from a cross-section of Portland and neighboring communities, including recent immigrants.

Another important consideration for this technological component is to allow people to explore themes and ideas both individually and collectively. The intersection of the physical experience of place and virtual ephemera are key to our idea of making this a living memorial rather than a static monument.

The app would be designed with simplicity and broad accessibility in mind. Smartphones are increasingly ubiquitous as is internet connectivity. Content would be cloud- or server-based and accessed via the internet—both on-site and off. As visitors explore the memorial site and moments in MLK’s life, the app can either

or page when in a given area of the site, or b) function via the Quick Response Code (QR), where a choice can be made to launch the app. Our vision for this component of the design is to provide visitors with mediated moments to enrich their visceral appreciation and experience of the site while prompting inquiry, conversation and connection. Links to more resources will be included for post-site exploration and learning.

CONCLUSION

Professor James Young from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, articulates the relevance of a memorial:

The usual aim in any nation's monuments, is not solely to displace memory, or to remake it in one's own image; it is also to invite the collaboration of the community in acts of remembrance. To the extent that the myths or ideals embedded in a nation's monuments are the people's own, they are given substance and weight by the reification and will appear natural and true; hence, an inescapable partnership grows between a people and its monuments.

It is not to monuments as such that we turn for remembrance, but to ourselves within the reflective space they both occupy and open up.

In these troubled times, when our country remains divided by political, racial and religious differences, the lessons that we learn from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. remains more important than ever. The MLK memorial, in the City of Portland, will ensure that his legacy continues to inspire current and future generations of the people of Maine and beyond.