



ACVB Celebrates the Dream with the Launch of a Civil Rights Site

ATLANTA (Dec. 7, 2009) – Atlanta has an unrivaled legacy as the home to leaders, organizations, events and institutions that helped shape the city’s critical role in the Civil Rights movement. On the third Monday of every January, the nation celebrates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an Atlanta native and the inspiration behind one of the only urban parks in the National Park Service. On Dec. 15, one month before the national holiday in Dr. King’s honor, Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau (ACVB) will launch a Civil Rights site on Atlanta.net that showcases the city’s civil rights history and legacy.

“This significant addition to Atlanta.net will give visitors and residents a new awareness of Atlanta’s Civil Rights story that extends beyond commonly known icons and venues,” said William Pate, president & CEO of ACVB. “Atlanta has more African-American tourism attractions than any other city in the U.S. and this Web site will help them plan their trip to experience it all right here.”

The Civil Rights site will feature an interactive timeline that spans 147 years of Atlanta’s African American history. The history begins in 1862 when Atlanta’s first African-American property owner sold her lot to purchase her husband’s freedom and continues through 2008 when filmmaker and movie mogul Tyler Perry opened his studio in Atlanta on more than 30 acres, becoming the first African-American owned film studio in the nation.

The site will also highlight venues, museums, tours and cultural activities that can only be experienced in Atlanta, a city that has twice been named the top U.S. destination for African-American travelers by the U.S. Travel Association. These include the [Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site](#), Ebenezer Baptist Church, the Auburn Avenue Research Library, the [African-American Panoramic Experience \(APEX\) Museum](#), and in 2012, the Center for Civil and Human Rights. In addition to the attractions that can be explored any time of the year, the Civil Rights site will highlight events occurring throughout Atlanta in January 2010 to commemorate Dr. King.

To experience Atlanta’s Civil Rights legacy first-hand, visit Atlanta.net.

Established in 1913, Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau is a private, nonprofit organization created to favorably impact the Atlanta economy through conventions and tourism.

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Holiday Weekend Activities

The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change will host special events in celebration and appreciation of the civil rights icon during King Week Celebration (Jan. 11-18). The theme of the week of activities is "Keeping the Dream Alive Remembering the Past; Forging towards the Future," with an event centered on Rev. King's teachings and principles occurring each day. The March and Rally will be held on Jan. 18. The March is held on Auburn Avenue from Peachtree Street to Jackson Street. The Rally is held on Auburn Avenue in the King National Park Area. www.mlkmarchaaar.org.

Jan. 1 - Feb. 1: *Let Your Motto Be Resistance: African American Portraits* at The Atlanta History Center – The exhibition explores the history of African American achievement from the mid 19th century to the present through the changing roles of photographic portraiture. The exhibition includes 100 photographs. <http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/>

Jan. 13 - Feb. 7: Avenue X at The Alliance Theatre: Listen as the sizzling sounds of doo-wop and R&B collide on a street corner in 1960's Brooklyn in this revolutionary a cappella musical. <http://www.alliancetheatre.org/>

Jan. 14 at 8 p.m.: *A King Celebration* concert with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra – Robert Spano leads the ASO's 18th annual King Celebration at the MLK International Chapel on the Morehouse College campus. The concert, which honors the legacy of Dr. King in words and music, features the Orchestra with the Morehouse and Spelman College Glee Clubs and special guests, and is broadcast internationally each year on American Public Media. <http://www.atlantasymphony.org/home.aspx>

Jan. 17: Book signing with Dr. Christine King Farris in The King Center Auditorium from 3-5 p.m. – Available for purchase will be tapes in Dr. King's voice, copies of his speeches and books. For more information, contact Communications at 404-526-8944.

Jan. 18 at 10 a.m.: The Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Commemorative Service at Ebenezer Baptist Church - Heritage Sanctuary – The service is the spiritual hallmark of the holiday observance and features tributes to the life and legacy of Dr. King from national and international leaders. www.thekingcenter.org

Jan. 19 at 4 p.m.: 27th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation at Georgia State University – The Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Convocation pays tribute to Dr. King for his work in the areas of social justice and human rights. At this event, there will be a presentation of the Torch of Peace award given to a faculty, staff, undergraduate student, graduate student, alumni and student organization who have demonstrated an outstanding ability to facilitate or promote positive intercultural relations at Georgia State. Additionally, the Hosea Williams Award for Community Activism will be presented to one unsung individual and organization from the community for their contributions to the promotion of human rights. <http://www2.gsu.edu/interculturalrelations>

Atlanta Trolley Tour Line will introduce an Atlanta Black History Tour in 2010. This three hour tour will take you on a journey of the city's black history from founding to present time. The tour will cover Sweet Auburn District, Oakland Cemetery, Downtown, University Center and Southwest Atlanta. www.atlantatrolleytourline.com