



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
FREEDOM CENTER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FREEDOM CENTER TO LAUNCH 27<sup>TH</sup> THREE-STATE WEST COAST YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TOUR WITH 80 YOUTH LEADERS VISITING MORE THAN 30 LOCALITIES EXPLORING AND ORGANIZING AROUND VITAL CURRENT ISSUES INCLUDING WATER RIGHTS, CIVICS EDUCATION, LAW ENFORCEMENT OVERSIGHT AND CHILD POVERTY**

**“TO US, YOU MATTER” CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TOUR ON THE ROAD JUNE 21 THROUGH AUGUST 2 IN CALIFORNIA, WASHINGTON AND OREGON**

Oakland CA, June 5, 2019 --Eighty youth leaders from will spend seven weeks during the summer visiting more than 30 cities, towns, sovereign Indian Nations and cultural/historic sites meeting with elected officials, civil rights leaders, judges, tribal leaders, labor, cultural and community representatives and activists as part of the 2019 “To Us, You Matter” Civic Engagement Tour, the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center has announced. The delegation will spend an intensive summer of study and action, engaging with communities and developing their leadership skills from June 21 through August 2. They will critically analyze social conditions and injustices and work together to identify positive solutions through community organization and political action. Selected stops on the Civic Engagement Tour include San Diego, Bakersfield, Fresno, Sacramento, Oakland and the greater Bay Area, Seattle/Tacoma, For information, visit [www.mlkfreedomcenter.org](http://www.mlkfreedomcenter.org) .

The 80 high school-aged young people on the tour have earned their places by being nominated by leaders and public servants from the communities they represent (including teachers, principals and elected officials). They share a passion for making a difference and a commitment to this rigorous and rewarding summer intensive.

The Civic Engagement Tour results in both deep personal transformations for the participations and lasting benefits to communities in the form of heightened civic participation.

While focusing broadly on the vital importance and urgency civic engagement in our current society, the 2019 Tour will explore four themes in depth: water rights, law enforcement accountability, ending child poverty and the need for civics education and participation. Participants on the tour will meet with communities and leaders

in California, Washington and Oregon to discuss and learn about the impacts of these issues and how people are organizing to affect community-driven change.

### **About the Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center**

Civic engagement at the Martin Luther King Jr Freedom Center brings together individuals and organizations of diverse ages, races and socioeconomic backgrounds, working side-by-side for a healthy democracy.

The Freedom Center brings best practices from our nation's Civil Rights Movement to the forefront in community education, training, and practice, building strong community partnerships with proven results. [www.mlkfreedomcenter.org](http://www.mlkfreedomcenter.org)

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