

Martin Luther King Jr.
— FREEDOM CENTER —

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MEDIA NOTE: Tour participants and Freedom Center staff are available for interviews and coverage of activities during the tour. For specific details and coverage opportunities, see the tour dates and locations at the bottom of this release and contact Scott Horton.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FREEDOM CENTER EMBARKS ON 29TH TO US, YOU MATTER CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TOUR WITH 30 YOUTH LEADERS VISITING 40 LOCALITIES EXPLORING AND ORGANIZING AROUND VITAL CURRENT ISSUES

DELEGATION ON THE ROAD JUNE 26 THROUGH AUGUST 6 IN CALIFORNIA AND WASHINGTON STATE MEETING WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, SOVEREIGN INDIAN NATIONS, LABOR LEADERS, EDUCATORS AND THE PUBLIC PROMOTING PUBLIC SERVICE, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, AND NONVIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE

Oakland CA, June 26, 2021 –Thirty youth leaders from the Oakland-based Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Center will spend six weeks this summer studying and taking action in 40 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 Freedom Center's 2021 *To Us, You Matter Civic Engagement Tour*. The delegation will spend an intensive summer of study and action, engaging with communities and developing their leadership skills from June 26 through August 6. 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 the California counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Sacramento and Yolo, and Pierce and King Counties in Washington State.** For information, visit www.mlkfreedomcenter.org .

The 30 high school-aged young people on the tour 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 Freedom Center is committed to going forward into new learning experiences. We are not headed backwards, but forwards into the work of strengthening our nation’s democracy,” says Freedom Center Executive Director Roy Wilson. “A fair and equitable education system is necessary for democracy.”

Participation in the *To Us, You Matter Civic Engagement Tour* is a transformative experience assisting students to develop a life-long commitment to the common good. In addition to travel, participants carry out multiple in-person classes and individual writing sessions every day. They dialogue with the people of California and Washington about their hopes and dreams for a just future and meet with elected officials and community leaders.

As a result, participants develop critical and analytical thinking skills necessary for college and career, cultivate the ability to make decisions that benefit the common good and contribute to the construction and defense of a stronger democracy.

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

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2021 To Us, You Matter Civic Engagement Tour Schedule

June 26- July 10

Contra Costa County, CA: Pittsburg, Antioch, Richmond, Martinez

July 10- July 24

Santa Clara County and San Mateo County, CA: San Jose, West San Jose, East Palo Alto, Palo Alto

July 24-August 6

Sacramento and Yolo Counties, CA: Sacramento, Davis
King and Pierce Counties, WA: Kent, Tacoma

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