



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Newark Museum of Art Presents First Community Day
of 2021—MLK Jr. Day Celebration:
Breaking Down Barriers
Monday, January 18, 2021, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.**

***Day of Virtual Activities on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Highlight
Civil Rights Leader and His Unforgettable Mission***

Newark, January 11, 2021 – The Newark Museum of Art’s next Community Day takes place on Monday, January 18, 2021, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Subtitled *Breaking Down Barriers* the day-long virtual event includes a full slate of virtual activities to celebrate Dr. King’s life and further his mission – including a musical performance, a workshop on hair art, and a conversation with Bria Goeller about her famous image of Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris.

You and your family won’t want to miss this annual celebration!

“As we saw in 2020 from the Black Lives Matter movement and other expressions of social justice, Dr. King’s message of hope endures,” said Silvia Filippini-Fantoni, Deputy Director of Learning & Engagement at The Newark Museum of Art. “We believe, as Dr. King believed, that it doesn’t take much to change a life. The Newark Museum of Art supports his message and believes that art plays a role in encouraging people to take peaceful action against injustice and inequality. We look forward to hosting the community on January 18 to mark his amazing life.”

Support for the Museum’s Community Day events held throughout the year comes from The Horizon Foundation of New Jersey with additional funding from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

The schedule for *Breaking Down Barriers* includes the following:

Music performance inspired by MLK Jr., Video Drop – 10 a.m.

Recommended for all ages

Start your MLK Jr. Day with this inspiring musical performance, directed by Chinah Blac. Featuring historical and contemporary footage, the continuing fight for equality is explored and celebrated with passion, love, and hope.

Artmaking: Hair Love, with Adebunmi Gbadebo – 10:30 a.m.

Recommended for ages 6 and up

Inspired by the animated short film *Hair Love* (2019), this hands-on workshop will teach you ways to create art that reflects who you are.

Adebunmi Gbadebo is a visual artist who creates sculptures, paintings, prints, and paper using human hair sourced from people of the African diaspora. Rejecting traditional art materials, Gbadebo saw hair as a means to center her people and their histories as central to the narratives in her work.

Artmaking: Create Sneakers that Send a Message! – Noon

Recommended for ages 6 and up

Learn how to transform a pair of sneakers in this fun art-making activity.

Poetry Performance: The Power of Words, Video Drop – 1:30 p.m.

Watch this powerful spoken word performance with Alexis Green exploring freedom and justice, from the height of the Civil Rights Movement to now.

‘I Have a Dream’ Speech, Recited by The Newark Museum of Art Explorers Program, Video Drop – 2 p.m.

See Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s famous speech delivered by our youth program.

Performance: Evolution of African-American Music – 3 p.m.

Recommended for all ages

Take a trip through African-American history via music and performance, showcasing how Dr. King’s dream marches on.

Community Project: Boundary Breaking Women, with Bria Goeller, creator of Ruby and Kamala, 4:30 p.m.

Join us for an interactive community project. Bria Goeller also discusses her now-famous image of Ruby Bridges and Kamala Harris, what it means, and how it came to be created.

MLK Jr. Trivia Game – ongoing

Recommended for ages 6 and up

Enjoy our free MLK Jr.-themed online trivia game! Test your knowledge and learn fascinating facts.

Click here to play: <https://kahoot.it/challenge/009831771>

Programs are on ZOOM and live on social media channels. For more information on any of the day's activities or to learn more, visit <https://www.newarkmuseumart.org/>.

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Founded in 1909, The Newark Museum of Art is the largest art and education institution in New Jersey and one of the most influential museums in the United States. Its renowned global art collections, supported by significant holdings of science, technology and natural history, rank 12th among North America's art museums. The Museum is dedicated to artistic excellence, education and community engagement with an overarching commitment to broadening and diversifying arts participation. As it has for over a century, the Museum responds to the evolving needs and interests of the diverse audiences it serves by providing exhibitions, programming and resources designed to improve and enrich people's lives.

The Museum also encompasses the 1885 Ballantine House mansion, the Victoria Hall of Science, the Alice and Leonard Dreyfuss Planetarium, the MakerSPACE, the Billy Johnson Auditorium, the Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Garden, an authentic 1784 Schoolhouse, and the Newark Fire Museum.

The Newark Museum of Art, a not-for-profit museum of art and science, receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State (a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts), the New Jersey Cultural Trust, the Prudential Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Victoria Foundation, the Estate of Phyllis and Sanford Bolton, the Wallace Foundation, and other corporations, foundations, and individuals. Funds for acquisitions and activities other than operations are provided by members and other contributors.