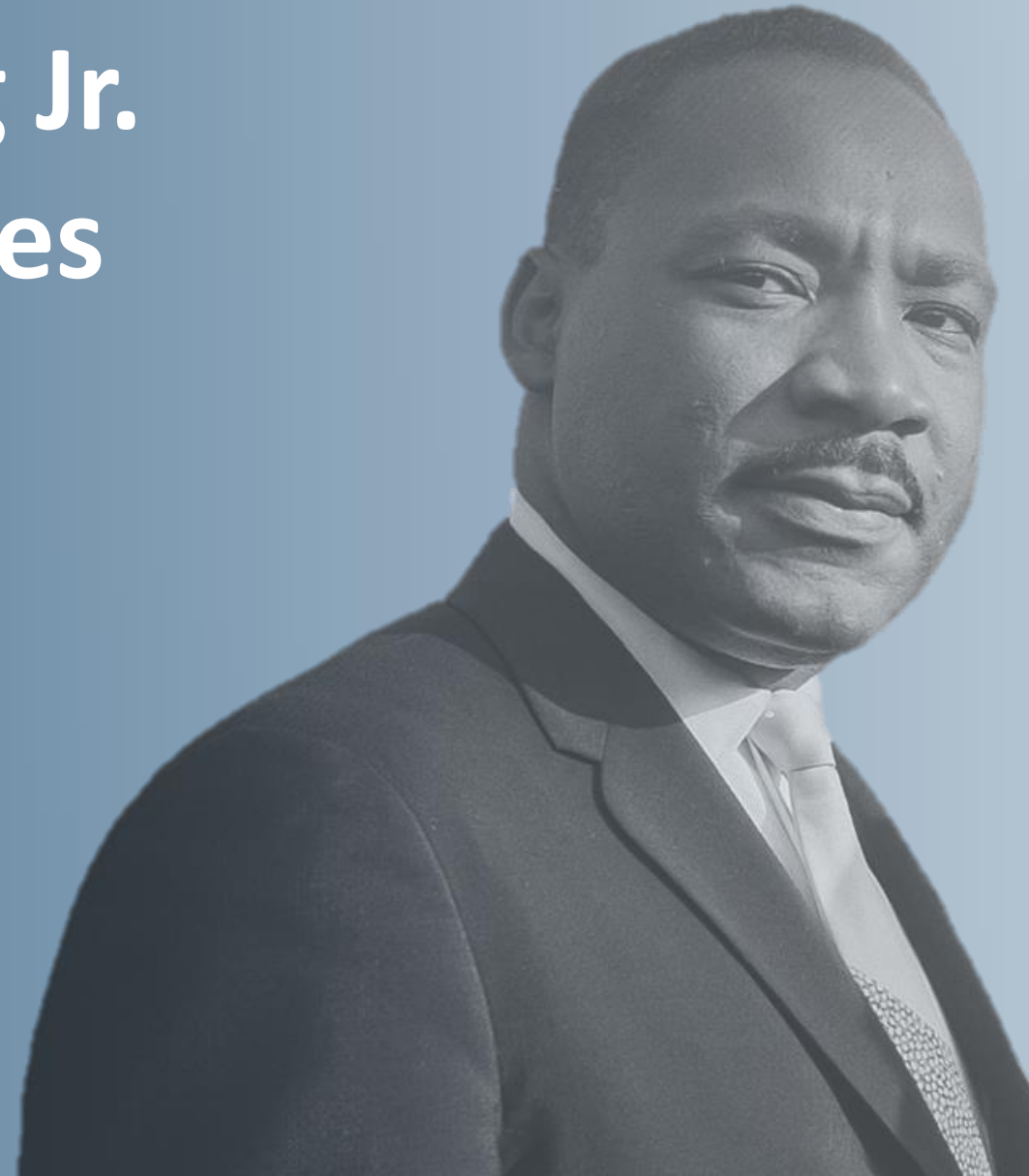
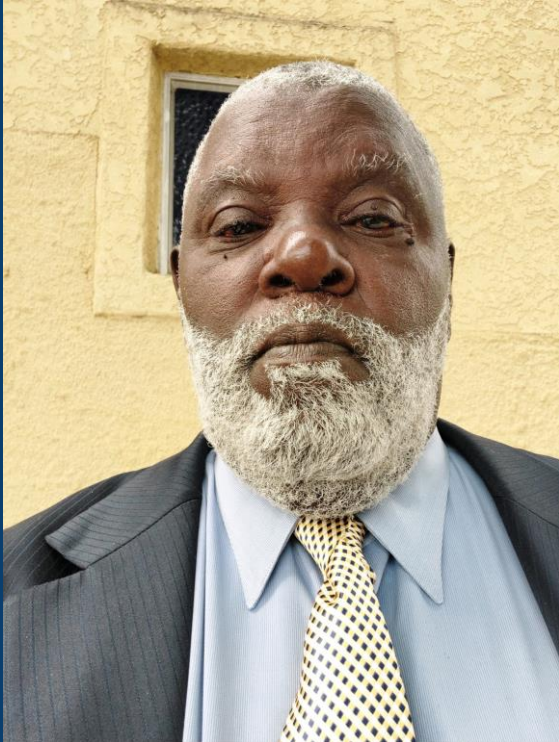


Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Peace Maker Awardees 2024



Peace Maker Keith Lilly



Founder of Developing Future Leaders, an organization that provides mentoring programs to develop young people into productive contributors within society. Keith is a long-standing member of the community in Long Beach and has received awards from the NAACP, City of Long Beach, and 55 Entertainment.

Among Keith's accomplishments are his leadership efforts in supporting children at Silverado Park, Dr. Martin Luther King Park, and Long Beach Polytechnic High School.

Peace Maker Karen Reside



Karen Reside is President of the Long Beach Gray Panthers group, a chapter of the nationwide nonprofit that educates and advocates for older adults. For over 35 years, Karen has worked with nonprofits as staff and a volunteer. She founded the nonprofit Cultural Alliance of Long Beach, where she assisted in creating over 16 nonprofits and taught over 45 free grant writing classes for the community. Karen has been reappointed to the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging for a two-year term in 2023.

Peace Maker Tito Rodriguez



Tito Rodriguez has made a significant impact on thousands of children and families in Long Beach and the Los Angeles area through his nonprofit, Local Hearts Foundation. Providing gifts, clothing, and food, the foundation organizes events such as an annual backpack drive, a Thanksgiving turkey giveaway, and an Easter-themed pancakes and Easter baskets giveaway.

Recognizing the importance of education, Tito, who became a successful music producer, started rewarding kids with straight A's from low-income families with bikes, skateboards, shoes and more. Dressed in a Santa costume, he handed out presents from the trunk of his car, earning the affectionate nickname "Hood Santa" from the kids.

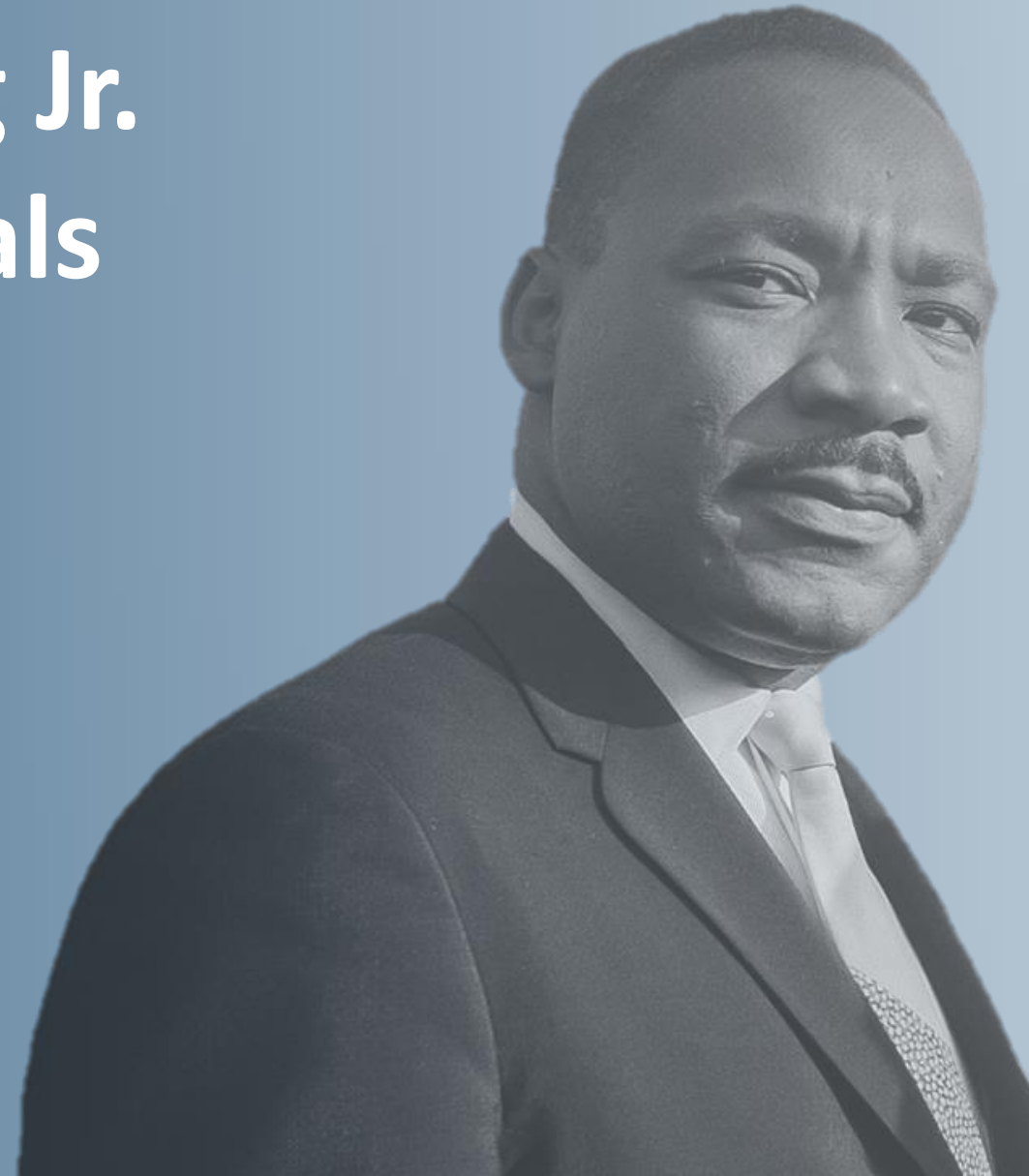
Peace Maker Susana Sngiem, MSW



Susana Sngiem, MSW has served as United Cambodian Community's (UCC's) executive director for over nine years. Susana was born and raised in Long Beach by Khmer refugee parents. She earned her Master's degree in social work from the University of Southern California.

Susana has over 20 years of nonprofit leadership. She is committed to equitable development in the Cambodian community in Long Beach. She has led and partnered in the Cambodia Town Thrives Collaborative, Cambodian Advocacy Collaborative, and Language Access Coalition. She currently serves as the Chair Midtown Business and Property Owners Association and is a commission member of City of Long Beach's Homeless Services Advisory Committee.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade Grand Marshals 2024



Grand Marshal Councilmember Al Austin II



Councilmember Al Austin II has been serving Long Beach's Great Eighth District since 2012, making him the longest-serving councilmember in the city. He is a long-time workforce advocate who has worked tirelessly for better way of life for working families across the state and contributes actively to good governance through several leadership roles as a Labor official and Long Beach City Councilmember.

His record of service reflects an unwavering commitment to creating good jobs, improving infrastructure, neighborhood parks, and small business in District 8 and across the city. Councilmember Austin has been married to his wife Daysha for over 20 years and together they have raised three outstanding sons who are all graduates from Poly High School.

Grand Marshals Chan and Mark Hopson



In 1995, Chan Hopson co-founded the Khmer Parents Association (KPA) with her husband, Mark Hopson, and has served as its volunteer Executive Director for 30 years. KPA is instrumental in empowering low socio-economic status and at-risk children and youth to pursue a higher education.

During the pandemic Chan provided food to more than 4,000 people, provided backpacks, gift cards for school supplies and provided online tutoring to help students, and partnered with Mental Health professionals to help parents learn coping skills to deal with stress and depression.

Grand Marshal Tonya Martin



Forever a proud public servant for over 25 years, Tonya, who is originally from Alabama, moved to Los Angeles in late 1990's to make a difference. She has volunteered and worked throughout the City of Long Beach and Los Angeles County's civic sector, as well as nationwide and globally in areas inclusive to the empowerment of the community, youth, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, racial, and equality advocacy.

Tonya's many accomplishments include her service to the Long Beach Pride in which she was recently elected as the President. In addition, she was honored in 2022 as an inductee into Harvey Milk Promenade Park Equality Plaza for her advocacy of LGBTQ+ rights and issues. Whenever anyone asks Mrs. Martin, "how do you do all that you do?" She always replies, "It's not what I do, it's what is done through me, Amen".

Grand Marshal Griselda Suarez



Griselda Suarez believes that the arts are essential in empowering others to express their thoughts. Throughout her career, she has created programming and training dedicated to facilitating transformation and creating agency for her communities. In 2016, she became the Executive Director of the Arts Council for Long Beach and served as an advisor for the L.A. County Board of Supervisors' Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative council, representing the fourth supervisorial district. She has taught at Cal State Long Beach for the Chicano and Latino Studies department since 2006.

Her poetry and short stories have appeared in Aunt Lute Press, Seal Press, NCOC Press, Acentos Literary Review, Finishing Line Press, and Sinister Wisdom Journal. She currently serves on the City of Long Beach Economic Development Commission.