Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 16–17, 2022
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Featured Exhibition

American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith

Goldstein Gallery
There are guided tours on January 16th and January 17th at 11am and 1pm.

This traveling exhibition explores the history of American government, and how that system has been tested, improved, damaged, and repaired over time. Featuring engaging multimedia experiences, immersive design, and artifacts from the Smithsonian Institution and host organizations, the exhibit will demonstrate that our democracy relies on our active participation in order to form a "more perfect union."

Timed Experiences

Virtual Author Talk featuring Robert Hamilton in conversation with Kristian Weatherspoon

Streaming in Kennedy Theatre
Atlanta History Museum
Sunday, January 16th at noon
50 people maximum

Joining us virtually from his home in Scotland, Hamilton will discuss his book Martin Luther King, Jr. And the Poor People’s Campaign of 1968. Hamilton highlights Dr. King’s commitment to ending poverty and explains why Dr. King’s ideas on this and related issues should be brought to the attention of a wider public who often view him almost exclusively as a civil rights, but not a human rights, leader. Martin Luther King, Jr. And the Poor People’s Campaign of 1968 will be available for purchase.

Author Talk: Deanna M. Gillespie in conversation with Kristian Weatherspoon

Woodruff Auditorium in McElreath Hall
Sunday, January 16th at 2:30pm
200 people maximum

In her book The Citizenship Education Program and Black Women’s Political Culture, Deanna Gillespie traces the history of the Citizenship Education Program (CEP), a grassroots initiative that taught people to read and write in preparation for literacy tests required for voter registration—a profoundly powerful objective in the Jim Crow South. Born in 1957 as a result of discussions between community activist Esau Jenkins, schoolteacher Septima Clark, and Highlander Folk School director Myles Horton, the CEP became a part of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1961. The teachers, mostly Black women, gathered friends and neighbors in living rooms, churches, beauty salons, and community centers.

Virtual Author Talk: Mary Frances Early in conversation with Hank Kilbanoff

Streaming in Kennedy Theatre
Atlanta History Museum
Monday, January 17th at 2pm
50 people maximum

In her new memoir The Quiet Trailblazer, Mary Frances Early details her experiences as the first Black graduate of the University of Georgia and her many years as a trailblazing music educator in Atlanta. Hear from Ms. Early about her conversations with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., her struggles and triumphs, and her reconciliation with the University of Georgia, which named the Mary Frances Early College of Education in her honor. The Quiet Trailblazer will be available for purchase.

Author Talk: Arthur Dunning in conversation with Sheffield Hale

Woodruff Auditorium in McElreath Hall
Monday, January 17th at 4:30pm
200 people maximum

Arthur “Art” N. Dunning came of age in the Black Belt of Alabama during the Jim Crow era. Among many pivotal experiences, he was part of a group of student athletes who helped to integrate Bear Bryant’s University of Alabama football team in 1967. The values instilled in him by his family and those in his close-knit community, together with life experiences through education and from living, working, and traveling abroad over more than forty years as an educator, shaped his approach to leading Albany State University, an HBCU, through its 2016 merger with all-white Darton State College. In his book Unreconciled: Race, History, and Higher Education in the Deep South, Dunning shares the hard but valuable leadership lessons learned when his race and his personal southern history intersected with a university and city that were abruptly forced to acknowledge their own history—and were challenged to envision a different future. Signed copies of Unreconciled will be available for purchase.

Freedom Ride Simulation (recommended ages 8+, parental discretion encouraged)

Woodruff Auditorium in McElreath Hall
Sunday: 9:30am, 10:45am, noon, 3:45pm
Monday: 9:30am, 10:45am, noon, 3:30pm
250 people maximum

Do you have what it takes to be a freedom fighter? The year is 1961. Travel to the Deep South to test new laws banning interstate segregation laws on public transportation in this interactive simulation.
African American Civil War Soldier Experience
(recommended ages 8+, parental discretion encouraged)
Meet at Turning Point exhibition in DuBose Gallery
Atlanta History Museum
9:30am, 10:15am, 11am, 11:45am, 12:30pm, 1:15pm, 2pm,
2:45pm, 3:15 pm
20 people maximum
Military service was an important precursor to the
Civil Rights movement as Black soldiers showed their
willingness to fight for the United States and served
admirably. Take on the life of a real Civil War soldier who
volunteered for the United States Colored Troops in an
interactive simulation.

Storytime
(recommended ages 0-5)
Draper Member's Room in McElreath Hall
9:15am*, 10:30am+, 11:30am*, 12:30pm+, 1:30pm*,
2:30pm, 3:30pm*
Join us for a story for our youngest guests exploring
the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights
movement.
* recommended ages 0-3
+recommended ages 4-7

Ongoing Activities
Pop-up Archives: Explore Black Atlanta
Nicholson Gallery
Atlanta History Museum
The stories of Black Atlanta are preserved at Atlanta
History Center through photographs, oral history, letters,
diaries, and artifacts. This display in Nicholson Gallery
contains historic images of African American life in
Atlanta. It also offers visitors the opportunity to talk
directly with Atlanta History Center staff to learn about
the materials we collect and how everyone can use it to
research their own family history or discover other aspects
of Black Atlanta.

Kids Activity Packs
Packets available for pick-up at the Coca-Cola Café,
Museum Terraces, and McElreath Hall atrium; seating
available throughout the museum

Hospitality Information
Information
The information desk is located in the Allen Atrium at the
main admissions desk.

Food + Drink
Lunch available for purchase from Souper Jenny café;
snacks, juice, and water available for purchase in the
Coca-Cola Café.

Sensory-friendly Space
Classrooms, near Education Lobby (entrance inside
Gatheround: Stories of Atlanta exhibition)
A quiet place with kids’ activity packets and books, along
with restroom access.

Nursing Room
Classrooms, near Education Lobby (entrance inside
Gatheround: Stories of Atlanta exhibition)
A private room for nursing parents, located near the
sensory-friendly space and additional restrooms.

Please see a volunteer or staff member if you need
directions or assistance. We’re here to help!