

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
DURING ANNUAL PARADE ON MONDAY, JANUARY 21, 2019**

Join the **Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA)** in commemorating the life and achievements of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on **Monday, January 21, 2019 at 12pm**. The 19<sup>th</sup> annual **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade** features more than 60 high school and community marching bands, cheer and dance squads, street theater performers, elected officials, civic and religious organizations, military units and equestrian groups. The 2019 honorary grand marshals are **David Thomas**, executive chef and owner of Ida B's Table and winner of Food Network's "Chopped." The parade steps off at the intersection of **Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Eutaw Street**, proceeds south on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and disbands at Baltimore Street. The parade is produced by BOPA and sponsored by Amazon Fulfillment, FOX 45/The CW Baltimore, Radio One: 92Q, Magic 95.9, Spirit 1400, Praise 106.1, and WOLB 1010, and The *Afro-American Newspapers*, with additional support from the City of Baltimore and Lexington Market.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade joins Baltimore business and community members in tribute to the remarkable civil rights activist. Annually, hundreds gather for the parade as festivities fill-up the Midtown neighborhood.

The 2019 parade will excite spectators with performances by Baltimore Terps Youth Cheer, Baltimore Hoop Love, MCSA/ Southwest Seminoles Cheer Dance and Step Team, Overlea Fullerton Cheer, and The RAVENS Roller Skating Club. Known for their precision and showmanship, marching bands including Edmondson-Westside High School Marching Band, Frederick Douglass High School Marching Band, Mervo Drumline, and Paul Laurence Dunbar High School Marching Band "Magnificent Marching Poets" return with dynamic steps and musical notes. Greek-letter organizations Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. showcase rich heritage and tradition. Community-focused organizations such as Baltimore City

Office of Civil Rights & Wage Enforcement, Baltimore Community Meditation Group, Enoch Pratt Free Library, and Greater Baltimore Urban League prompt Dr. King's legacy. Additionally, Baltimore City Fire Department Honor Guard, Carver Vo-Tech High School JROTC and Band, American Legion Federal Post #19 Color Guard, and the Kappa Epsilon Military Sorority, Inc. walk in his honor.

*The Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts (BOPA) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization which serves as Baltimore City's arts council, events center and film office. By producing large-scale events such as Artscape, Baltimore Book Festival and Light City, and providing funding and support to artists, arts programs and organizations across the city, BOPA's goal is to make Baltimore a more vibrant and creative city.*

For more information on **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade**, call 410-752-8632 or visit [www.promotionandarts.org](http://www.promotionandarts.org).

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*Editor's Note: Partial list of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade participants subject to change.*