“This will be the day when we shall bring into full realization the dream of American democracy—a dream yet unfulfilled. A dream of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where men will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few.”

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dec. 11, 1961

Today, we honor and remember Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. by standing together to renew the fight for which he died: the realization of the dream of American democracy and genuine equality. Dr. King died while supporting sanitation workers in Memphis who were striking for decent wages, safe working conditions, a grievance procedure, and union recognition.

Today, we stand together to continue the fight. Public investment in city construction projects presents an enormous opportunity to address the Black jobs crisis, encourage equitable economic development for workers and communities across the New Orleans area, invest in young people’s futures, and reduce rates of violent crime—but only if we unite to collectively hold the leading construction companies and our government responsible for committing to:

1. **Community Monitoring and Oversight** – the creation of a permanent Public Construction Oversight Commission;
2. **Career Ladders** – the utilization of Certified Apprenticeship Programs in all trades;
3. **Saving Wages** – a minimum wage of $15 for all workers on city construction projects; and
4. **Worker Health and Safety** – worker safety committees on city construction sites to ensure clear mechanisms to address basic health and safety standards.

Stand with Dignity, the New Orleans Workers’ Center for Racial Justice, and the Community Evaluation Commission invite you to join us in committing to these principles, because in the words of Dr. King, “Now is the time to make an adequate income a reality for all of God’s children, now is the time for city hall to take a position for that which is just and honest, now is the time…justice rolls down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream. Now is the time.”

In Solidarity,

Colette Tippy
Lead Organizer, Stand with Dignity

Oliver Thomas
Co-Chair, Community Evaluation Commission

Saket Soni
Executive Director, NOWCRJ

Roy Brumfield
Co-Chair, Community Evaluation Commission
# Black Workers Matter – MLK Day Summit

**AGENDA**

Martin Luther King, Jr., Day - January 19, 2015

10:00 Cultural expressions

10:15 Welcome

10:25 Welcome to SUNO

10:30 Opening Prayer

10:35 Overview of the Day

11:00 Break Out Sessions (please select one to attend)

**A) Access to Quality Jobs**

Show Me 15 & Stand with Dignity

Show Me 15 and Stand with Dignity members have been leading the fight in New Orleans for $15 and a union, and access to quality jobs and career ladders, respectively. Come hear about the opportunities available to workers in New Orleans, the history of the Freedom Budget that Dr. King and A. Philip Randolph created for the March on Washington, and our vision for a New Orleans that respects the dignity of all workers and communities. Join the fight to make it happen!

**B) Career Ladders**

Jeremiah Group & IUPAT DC 80

Construction is hard work but many workers in the construction trades make around $20+/hour. You don’t have to go to a trade school before you begin — you can learn while you work in a construction Certified Apprenticeship Program. Come learn more about apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, discuss the challenges to entry, and unite around a plan to solve those challenges.

**C) Big Money and Black Jobs Crisis**

LA Budget Project & One Voice

The City of New Orleans and surrounding region is experiencing an unprecedented economic boom, with billions of dollars of investment in a new Biomedical Corridor; significant infrastructure spending by New Orleans’ Sewage and Water Board; the expansion of the Louis Armstrong International Airport; and the emerging regional petrochemical and light manufacturing boom. This session will explore how state policies could be doing more to create pathways for historically disadvantaged job seekers in New Orleans.

**D) Mass Incarceration and the Black Jobs Crisis**

Micah, BreakOUT, & VOTE

As the city with the highest incarceration rate in the country, the New Orleans prison industrial complex is a major contributor to making New Orleans the city with the second highest rate of income inequality in the country and the exclusion of workers from work. This session will look at the Black Jobs Crisis through the lens of over policing and over incarceration, and its impacts on our community.
E) Women in the Black Jobs Crisis

The statistics focus on Black men, but we know that Black women are facing crises too. Come discuss the effects of unemployment and underemployment of Black women in New Orleans, including the need for quality career opportunities, flexible work hours and family sustaining wages.

F) How Communities of Color are being Played

Explore how communities of color are being played – how corporate greed drives the divisions among communities of color, pitting us against each other in an effort to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. You will leave with a deeper understanding of the historical unity that built power to bring about real change and how we can build that unity today.

11:50 Lunch Break

Please pick up a lunch and rejoin us in the gymnasium. We have a limited number of lunches on hand for free. If you have the financial resources, we encourage you to visit the food trucks outside.

12:20 Cultural Expressions

12:40 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Danny Glover

1:00 Reclaiming the Legacy of Dr. King

Saket Soni (Facilitator)
Danny Glover
Ted Quant
Latoya Lewis
Santos Alvarado
Janell Perry

2:00 Cultural Expressions

2:05 Community Voices and Solutions

Community Evaluation Commission

2:55 Children’s March

3:00 Call to Action: #BlackWorkersMatter

Roy Brumfield
Oliver Thomas

3:45 Closing Ceremony

Williana Washington
Tadlock
Pastor Nelson Dexter
Jazzman Brass Band

The Career Opportunities & Resource Fair will be happening all day in the Gym and the University Center (next door). Please feel free to stop in at your convenience.


KEYNOTE SPEAKER BIO

DANNY GLOVER

Actor, producer and humanitarian Danny Glover has been a commanding presence on screen, stage and television for more than 30 years. As an actor, his film credits range from the blockbuster Lethal Weapon franchise to smaller independent features, some of which Glover also produced. In recent years he has starred in motion pictures including the critically acclaimed Dreamgirls and in the futuristic 2012. In addition to his film work, Glover is highly sought after as a public speaker, delivering inspiring addresses and moving performances at college campuses, union rallies and business conventions.

Glover has gained respect for his wide-reaching community activism and philanthropic efforts, with a particular emphasis on advocacy for economic justice and access to health care and education programs in the United States and Africa. For these efforts Glover received a 2006 DGA Honor and was honored with a 2011 “Pioneer Award” from the National Civil Rights Museum. Internationally Glover has served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program from 1998-2004, focusing on issues of poverty, disease and economic development in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Glover was presented in 2011 with the prestigious Medaille des Arts et des Letters from the French Ministry of Culture and was honored with a Tribute at the Deauville International Film Festival. In 2014 Glover received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the University of San Francisco. Currently Glover serves as UNICEF Ambassador.

In 2005 Glover co-founded NY based Louverture Films, dedicated to the development and production of films of historical relevance, social purpose, commercial value and artistic integrity. Among the films Glover has executive produced at Louverture are: the César-nominated Bamako, Sundance Grand Jury Prize and Oscar and Emmy nominated Trouble The Water, the award winning The Black Power Mixtape 1967-1975, Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner The House I Live In, and the award winning Concerning Violence.

A native of San Francisco, Glover trained at the Black Actors’ Workshop of the American Conservatory Theatre. It was his Broadway debut in Fugard’s Master Harold…and the Boys that brought him to national recognition and led director Robert Benton to cast him in his first leading role in 1984’s Academy Award-nominated Best Picture, Places in the Heart.

Presently Glover has completed roles in the feature films Monster Trucks for Paramount, Rage co-starring Nicolas Cage and the drama Beyond the Lights.
Co-Sponsors & Donors

Ruby Bridges Level – $1,000+ or 40+ people
At the age of 6, Ruby Bridges was the first black child to attend an all-white elementary school in the South, attending William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans. Despite virulent threats and negative consequences for her entire family, she persisted, fighting to integrate the schools and for equal education.

Ruby Lombard Level – $300-$499 or 20+ people
During his senior year at Xavier University in 1960, Rudy Lombard organized sit-ins, an act of civil disobedience, at a white-only lunch counter on Canal Street. Mr. Lombard was the national Vice President of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).

Oretha Castle Haley Level – $500-999 or 30+ people
Oretha Castle Haley was one of Louisiana’s leading civil rights, women’s rights, and human rights activists. She was a founding member, and later President of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). One of the CORE Four, along with Rudy Lombard, she led sit-ins to fight for racial equality in New Orleans in 1960.
Homer Plessy Level – $150-$299 or 10+ people

Homer Plessy, a creole of color, organized with the Comité des Citoyens of New Orleans to challenge racist “separate but equal” laws. In 1892, at the age of 29, Mr. Plessy engaged in civil disobedience by boarding a railroad car for whites and refusing to move—an act to challenge racist laws that took him all the way to the Supreme Court in Plessy v. Ferguson.

Rev. Avery Alexander Level – Break-Out Session Hosts, Logistics, or $50-$149

Rev. Avery Alexander was a prominent civil rights leader from Terrebonne Parish. He traveled across Louisiana participating in voter registration drives before the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, was dragged out of and down the steps of City Hall in New Orleans while fighting for the integration of local government, organized boycotts against local businesses who refused to hire black workers, and participated in civil rights marches with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., including the march from Selma to Montgomery.
“We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity in this nation.”