

DATE: February 07, 2024
TO: Youth Directors/ Church Leaders/Educational Leaders and Organizations
FROM: The MLK, Jr. Oratorical Contest Committee
RE: *Martin Luther King, Jr. ORATORICAL CONTEST*

THEME: *African Americans and the Arts*
WHEN: Sunday, April 14, 2024 @ 3:00p.m.
WHERE: First African Baptist Church, 405 Telfair Street, Dublin, GA

Twelve years ago in 2012, during the celebration of the Dublin Bicentennial, a group of dedicated civic-minded individuals sponsored the *first-ever Oratorical Speech Contest now known as the **MLK, Jr. Oratorical Contest***. This year, we're doing it again!

You are encouraged to sponsor or consider sponsoring a young person in the *MLK, Jr. Oratorical Contest*. It will entail the following:

- EXPOSURE** – Tell Young People about this exciting venture!
- SOLICITATION** – Select and Follow-up with a Young Person to Participate!
- COACHING** – Train or Secure a Trainer/Speech Coach for a young boy or girl!
- TRANSPORTING** – Help a Young Person attend any meetings connected with this venture!
- ENCOURAGING**—Help a Young Person catch a vision of him/herself performing in this way!
- CONTINUING** – Don't give UP even when you feel like you have given OUT!

HERE'S OUR TIMELINE: (*All events held at First A.B.*)

- **Saturday, March 30, 2024 @ 12:30 p.m. MLK, JR. ORATORICAL CONTEST ROUND-UP RALLY AND WORKSHOP**
- **Saturday, March 30, 2024 : ALL APPLICATIONS DUE**
- **Mail to address as given: *MLK, JR. ORATORICAL CONTEST; C/O 1105 EDGEWOOD DR.; DUBLIN, GA 31021-5521***

Attached are the following documents:

- 1) Essay About the Theme
- 2) *Flyer About the Contest*
- 3) *The Application to Enter the Contest*
- 4) *Speech Writing Theme & Guidelines*
- 5) *Speech Evaluation Guidelines*
- 6) Topics and Ideas Relating to the Theme

Thank you in advance for your continued support of our Youth.
(For Overview information, Call: Jerry Davis: 478-697-6817).

Sincerely,

Marilyn Moore

Ms. Marilyn Moore, Committee Chairperson

(For Specific Information, call: 478-275-0967)

2024 Black History Theme and Essay: *African Americans and the Arts*

Association for The Study of African American Life and History Mission Statement: *To promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.*

African American art is infused with African, Caribbean, and the Black American lived experiences. In the fields of visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, culinary and other forms of cultural expression the African American influence has been paramount. African American artists have used art to preserve history and community memory as well as for empowerment.

Artistic and cultural movements such as the New Negro, Black Arts, Black Renaissance, hip-hop, and Afrofuturism, have been led by people of African descent and set the standard for popular trends around the world.

In 2024, we examine the varied history and life of African American arts and artisans. For centuries Western intellectuals denied or minimized the contributions of people of African descent to the arts as well as history, even as their artistry in many genres was mimicked and/or stolen. However, we can still see the unbroken chain of Black art production from antiquity to the present, from Egypt across Africa, from Europe to the New World.

- Prior to the American Revolution, enslaved Africans of the Lowcountry began their more than a three-hundred-year tradition of making sweetgrass baskets, revealing their visual artistry via craft.
- The suffering of those in bondage gave birth to the spirituals, the nation's first contribution to music. Blues musicians such as Robert Johnson, McKinley 'Muddy Waters' Morganfield and Riley "BB" B. King created and nurtured a style of music that became the bedrock for gospel, soul, and other still popular (and evolving) forms of music.
- Black contributions to literature include works by poets like Phillis Wheatley, essays, autobiographies, and novels by writers such as David Walker and Maria Stewart.
- Black aesthetics have also manifested themselves through sculptors like Edmonia Lewis and painters like Henry O. Tanner.
- In the 1920s and 30s, the rise of the Black Renaissance and New Negro Movement brought the Black Arts to an international stage.
- Black members of the armed forces, such as James Reese Europe, and Black expatriate artists such as

Langston Hughes, Josephine Baker, and Lois Mailou Jones brought Black culture and Black American aesthetics internationally and Black culture began its ascent to becoming a dominant cultural movement to the world.

Once known as the *Harlem Renaissance*, today we recognize that cities like Los Angeles, Chicago, and New Orleans also were home to many Black artists. The 1960s continued this thread through the cultural evolution known as the *Black Arts Movement*, where artists covered issues such as pride in one's heritage and established art galleries and museum exhibitions to show their own work, as well as publications such as Black Art. This period brought us artists such as Alvin Ailey, Judith Jamison, Amiri Baraka, Nikki Giovanni, and Sonia Sanchez. The movement would not have been as impactful without the influences from the broader Black world, especially the *Négritude movement* and the writings of Frantz Fanon.

In 1973, in the Bronx, NY Black musicians (i.e. DJ Kool Herc and Coke La Rock) started *a new genre of music called hip-hop*, which is composed of five foundational elements (*DJing, MCing, Graffiti, Break Dancing and Beat Boxing*). Hip-hop performers also used *technological equipment such as turntables, synthesizers, drum machines, and samplers* to make their songs. Since then hip-hop has continued to be a pivotal force in political, social, and cultural spaces and was a medium where issues such as racial violence in the inner city, sexism, economic disinvestment, and others took the forefront.

The term *Afrofuturism* was used approximately thirty years ago in an effort to define cultural and artistic productions (*music, literature, visual arts, etc.*) *that imagine a future for Black people without oppressive systems, and examines how Black history and knowledge intersects with technology and science.*

Afrofuturist elements can be found in the music of **Sun Ra, Rashan Roland Kirk, Janelle Monáe, and Jimi Hendrix**. *Other examples* include sci-fi writer Octavia Butler's novels, Marvel film Black Panther, and artists such as British-Liberian painter Lina Iris Viktor, Kenyan-born sculptor Wangechi Mutu, and Caribbean writers and artists such as Nalo Hopkinson, and Grace Jones.

In celebrating the entire history of African Americans and the arts, *the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) puts into the national spotlight the richness of the past and present with an eye towards what the rest of the twentieth-first century will bring*. ASALH dedicates its 98th Annual Black History Theme to African Americans and the arts



Sponsored by OHSNAA, First A.B. Church, Dublin-Laurens Tourism Council & FVSUNAA

• 2024 MLK, JR. ORATORICAL CONTEST

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2024 - 3:00 P.M.

@ First African Baptist Church

405 Telfair Street; Dublin, GA 31021

• ROUND-UP WORKSHOP- SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2024

12:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

• APPLICATIONS DUE ON OR BY MARCH 30, 2024

Mail to: MLK, Jr. Oratorical Speech Contest;

C/O 1105 Edgewood Dr.;

Dublin, GA 31021-5521

GENERAL THEME: **“African Americans and the Arts”**

THIS CONTEST IS FREE AND OPEN TO ALL IN THESE CATEGORIES

Contestant-Categories & Prizes To Be Given

Categories	Middle School	High School	Senior High /College Freshmen
Grades in School	6 th -8 th	9 th -10 th	11 th – 12 th + 1 st Year College
First Prize	\$500	\$500	\$500
Second Prize	\$300	\$300	\$300
Third Prize	\$100	\$100	\$100
Participation	\$10	\$10	\$10

For Information call: J. Davis 478-697-6817 Or M. Moore 478-275-0967

*SPEECH CONTESTANT APPLICATION

THE ORATORICAL SPEECH CONTEST ~ APRIL 14, 2024@ 3:00 P.M.

(In celebration of the LEGACY of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., winner of the Oratorical Speech Contest which was presented at First African Baptist Church, Dublin, GA on April 17, 1944)

Please type or print

Name of Applicant _____
Last First MI

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Telephone: Home _____; Cell _____

E-mail Address _____

Academic Information

Name of School _____ City: _____ St: _____ Phone: _____

Grade _____ Counselor _____ Anticipated Major _____

** Name of Adult Coach

To Help You Prepare _____ Phone: _____

Father's Name _____

Mother's Name _____

PARENTS' PERMISSION

My child _____, has my permission to participate in the Oratorical Contest. I will be responsible for providing transportation for my child to and from the Contest on Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Telephone No. (____) _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____

* PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO:

MLK, JR. ORATORICAL CONTEST

C/O 1105 Edgewood Dr.

Dublin, GA 31021-5521

DEADLINE: Saturday, March 30, 2024

** Parents, Teachers, Ministers or Other Adults are eligible to Coach any number of Contestants.



Sponsored by OHSNAA, First A.B. Church, Dublin Tourism, & FVSUNAA

GUIDELINES FOR SPEECH EVALUATION

NAME _____

CONTENT (50 PTS.)

INTRODUCTION

(10 POINTS)

- Attention-getting material:
- Relevancy to central idea:
- Transition sentence:

INFORMATION AND ORGANIZATION

(25 POINTS)

- Interesting:
- Developing of central idea:
(supporting material, psychological appeals and length)
- Documentation of sources:
(credibility)
- Issue arrangement:
(organized to meet time limit)
- Transitions:
- Comprehension: (logical arguments):

CONCLUSION

(15 POINTS)

- Summary:
- Clincher:

DELIVERY (50 PTS.)

VOICE

(15 POINTS)

- Natural conversational manner:
- Vocal variety:
- Projection:
- Rate:
- Animation/enthusiasm:
- Intonation:

EYE CONTACT

(15 POINTS)

- Directness:

AUDIENCE APPEAL

(10 POINTS)

BODILY ACTION

(10 POINTS)

- Gestures:
- Facial expression:
- Posture:
- Movement:
- Animation/enthusiasm:

USE OF AIDS (Permitted. Use or Non-use of an aid will not affect overall evaluation but attention should be paid to the following :)

- Relevancy to central idea:
- Handling of aids:
- Appearance of aid, if visual:

TIME: _____

YOUR SCORE: _____

TOTAL: 100 Points

SPEECH LENGTH LIMITATIONS (3-5 Minutes)

At least three (3) minutes but no more than five (5) minutes are allotted for each presentation.

WRITING THE INFORMATIVE/INSPIRATIONAL SPEECH

- **Informative** – This speech serves to provide interesting and useful information to your audience. Some examples of informative speeches:
 - A speech informing others about basketmaking
 - A student talking about her research on hip –hop and breakdancing
 - A travelogue about places that attract black artists and writers
 - A class report on Afrofuturism
 - A student telling about an incident or person influential in changing the negative perception of African American rap and performers
- **Speaking to Inform**—Its goal is to convey information; to educate; to increase knowledge or awareness not to persuade. Your success, to some large degree, hinges on you being able to communicate (a) accurately, (b) clearly, and (c) in a meaningful and interesting way to your audience.

TYPES OF INFORMATIVE SPEECHES:

- **Objects** - things that are visible, tangible, and in stable form that contribute to **the subject of African Americans and the Arts**
- **Processes** - how something is made; how it is done; how it works, etc. The easiest to organize for the speaker and the easier to follow for the audience. Visual aids are probably more important in this type of speech than any other informative type. (painting, drawing, sculpture, poem, etc.)
- **Events** - anything that happens or is regarded as a happening. A particular work of art, a heroic figure or person involved in a specific artistic creation, etc.
- **Concepts** - information about beliefs, values, ideals, etc. related to a particular artistic expression or written creation or video concept. As a result, this type of informative speech is often less commonly developed compared to the other choices.
- **Historical Sites** – information about places, locations, structures, etc. that have great importance nationally, culturally, historically as related to the discussion of **African Americans and the Arts**.

GUIDELINES FOR INFORMATIVE SPEAKING:

- **Don't overestimate what your audience knows about your topic, but don't under-estimate what they know either.** For example, some of us have no idea what *afrofuturism* is! You may reveal that. Yet, don't talk down (underestimate) to your audience but be clear and explain basic concepts or ideas for the average person.
- **Relate your subject directly to the audience** - show them how or why they should be aware. Try to talk about issues or describe locations so they can relate to them; not everyone finds your topic personally exciting or relevant. For example, not everyone follows the historical influences or fallout as a result of discrimination or racism including statistical achievements or heroic displays by a particular person, but anyone can appreciate a person's overall accomplishments in the effort to artistically express it.
- **Don't be too technical** - remember who your audience is; a general interest group not a specialty group.
- **Avoid abstractions** - try to describe items or events in concrete language. Saying things like "it was really cool" or "it was really bad" does little for your audience. Comparing or contrasting one item to another is also a good way to avoid abstractions.
- **Personalize your ideas** - when you can (sometimes we cannot) provide personal examples that relate to your topics. Speakers who have personal experience relevant to their subjects are often more meaningful for their audience.

Topics and Ideas Relating to the Theme: **African Americans and the Arts**

(Following are a listing of topics which may be considered,
however each contestant may use self-generated topics of your choice)

- Basket-Making: A Three-Hundred Year Tradition
- The Artistry of the Sweet-grass Basket
- The Spirituals: Born Out of Bondage
- The Blues: Bedrock for Gospel, Soul and Other Popular Forms of Music
- Focus on the Spirituals—Our Nation's First Contribution to Music
- Black Contributions to Literature and Belles Lettres
- Black Aesthetics Manifested and Displayed Through Sculptors
- Sculptors: Edmonia Lewis and Henry Ossawa Tanner
- The Rise of the Black Renaissance and the New Negro Movement
- Black Expatriate Artists and Their Contributions: Josephine Baker and Lois Mailou Jones
- The Harlem Renaissance
- The Black Arts Movement
- Franz Fanon and the Negritude Movement
- The Five Foundational Elements of Hip-hop
- Hip-hop and Technologicals: Turntables, Synthesizers, Drum Machines and Samplers)
- Hip-Hop: A Pivotal Force in the Political, Social and Cultural Conversation
- Afrofuturism: A Visionary Influence Evident in Music, Literature and Visual Arts
- Afrofuturist Elements Found in the Music of Sun Ra, Rashan Roland Kirk, Jimi Hendrix and Others
- Afrofuturist Elements Displayed in Popular Literature by Black Writers