

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.

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Dr. King's principles.

"Our organization's motto is, 'Working Hard at the Intersection of Arts and Education,' and this gives us an opportunity to live up to, in living color, our motto, our work," Grice said of the event.

"At the center of the production are the Lifetime Achievement Awards," he said. "They identify many unsung heroes

in addition to celebrating people who are known and those whose achievements not so well known, as well as reminding us of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream, and that is to have equality and justice and progress and to do it with character and courage."

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award winners are Margaret Peoples, Deena Pierott, Pedro Anglada Cordeiro, Mercedes Munoz, Tamala

Newsome, Robert King, Karen Barker, Sam Sachs, Major Michael Jones, Adair Family Award, Don Wolfe, Arthur Cox and State Sen. Jackie Winters (posthumously).

The event is also an acknowledgement of local artists, a celebration of children and the opportunity "to extend the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. by recognizing the struggle that is before us and the courage that it requires or is called

upon in each of us to bring justice to our community as best we can," Grice said. "It is our opportunity to acknowledge both the work and the dream of Dr. King, which we put on the stage."

Entertainment on the stage in the main auditorium will include internationally-acclaimed opera singer Angela Brown, the DaNall Daymon & Greater Works Choir, a variety of regional performers, the

American Music Program of Beaumont, Miss., the Portland Interfaith Choir Ensemble, Sebe Kan Jr. Dance Troupe, Ballet Papaloti and more including dance groups and choirs from Portland public schools, including the famed Jefferson Dancers of Jefferson High.

Ken Berry is the long-time executive producer of Portland's annual MLK observance, and deserves credit for its longevity, Grice said.

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