



**December 20, 2017**

Houston Independent School District  
4400 West 18th Street  
Houston, Texas 77092

Dear HISD Principals, Band Directors, and Teachers,

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade Foundation greatly appreciates your continued support of our community and educational initiatives. We're excited to announce that the **40<sup>th</sup> Annual "Original" MLK, Jr. Birthday Parade**, the first-ever celebration in the U.S. (officially licensed by the King Center in Atlanta), will take place on **Monday, January 15, 2018**, beginning in front of **Minute Park** at **10 a.m.**, followed by a post-parade activity, the **second Annual MLK Jr. Taste of Houston Festival**. This special event will feature food, entertainment, and family activities. Both events are a part of a full weekend of special activities and volunteer projects to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

With an expected attendance of nearly 50,000 patrons and families, our community celebration will continue to reflect on the legacy of Dr. King's message of peace, unity, and equality for all. **Therefore, we humbly request the support of your school district by inviting all of your schools' marching bands, ROTC, cheer and dance teams to participate in this year's parade at no cost.** An official registration form is included with this letter to distribute to all HISD schools throughout the district. **Please reply by Thursday, January 11, 2018.**

Our team of administrators will be in touch with your designated contact person to facilitate your participation. For additional questions on this year's celebration, please contact Sylvester Brown directly at 832-741-6649, or e-mail [projectmanager@blackheritagesociety.org](mailto:projectmanager@blackheritagesociety.org).

Once again, thank you for being a proud supporter of our organization, and we look forward to your participation in this year's MLK holiday weekend celebration!

Kindest regards,

**Ovide Duncantell**  
Founder & CEO  
Black Heritage Society  
Black Heritage Society  
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**Sylvester Brown**  
Director of Operations  
Black Heritage Society

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