



BAM hosts the 36th Annual Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Featuring a keynote address by Dr. Imani Perry, musical performances by Nona Hendryx with Craig Harris & Tailgaters Tales and Sing Harlem, and a special video tribute by dancer Kyle Marshall

Free Tribute event to be held Monday, January 17 at 10:30am in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House

BAM (Brooklyn Academy of Music) and The Office of the Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso present New York's largest public celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The 2022 celebration expands to offer a wide variety of programs and events, including film, dance, visual arts presentations, and more

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

The 36th Annual Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Imani Perry, Nona Hendryx with Craig Harris & Tailgaters Tales, and Sing Harlem
BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave)

Jan 17, 2022 at 10:30am

Free (RSVP at [BAM.org](https://www.bam.org) for more information and updates. RSVP does not guarantee entry which is on a first-come, first-seated basis, starting at 8am)

Brooklyn, NY/December 16, 2021—Continuing a tradition in its 36th year that has evolved into the largest such gathering in New York City, BAM hosts the annual ***Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*** on Monday, January 17 at 10:30am in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (Peter Jay Sharp Building, 30 Lafayette Avenue) with activists, musicians, civic leaders, and the public for a communal commemoration and reflection of the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. King. Additional free events for community members of all ages are also scheduled on the BAM campus over the weekend.

"We're thrilled to welcome the community back as we uplift one another and unite in celebration of Dr. King's enduring legacy and its relevance today. Brooklyn's beloved tradition was established a year after Dr. King's birthday was recognized as a national holiday, and 36 years later, his convictions remain an indelible force for equality, dignity, and justice," said BAM Co-Interim President **Coco Killingsworth**. "This year we are expanding our celebration to include more programs and events at a moment when we so deeply need to channel Dr. King's legacy, leadership, and lessons."

The 2022 keynote speech titled "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community" will be delivered by critically-acclaimed author and cultural historian **Dr. Imani Perry** as she encourages us to continue in Dr. King's radical spirit. Perry's work reflects the

deeply complex history of Black thought, art, and imagination. As an educator —both at the university level and in the larger public sphere—her work emphasizes the interplay between history, race, law, and culture and highlights the importance of applying the lessons of modern history to our present struggle, whether to challenge or to celebrate.

Rounding out the timely keynote address will be inspirational performances by Afrofuturist funk-rock icon **Nona Hendryx** with composer-trombonist **Craig Harris & Tailgaters Tales** and soul-stirring performances by Vy Higgensen's award-winning **Sing Harlem** choir. The annual tribute will also include a recorded performance of *King*, a powerful solo piece by acclaimed dancer and choreographer **Kyle Marshall** to the oratory of Dr. King's final speech, "I've Been to the Mountaintop."

This year, BAM expands its beloved annual tribute with a wide variety of free events for community members of all ages and interests. Following the keynote in the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas will present a free screening of **Attica** by Emmy-winning documentarian **Stanley Nelson** and co-director **Traci Curry**, spotlighting the 1971 prison uprising and the urgent need for change. In the Harvey Theater at BAM Strong, Brooklyn-based choreographer **Reggie Wilson** offers a community performance of **POWER**, a propulsive new dance piece as part of its New York City premiere run. And a digital billboard-based group exhibition—"**Salvation: A State of Being**"—by seven Black visual artists draws inspiration from the late trailblazing Black feminist, social critic, and author bell hooks. Additional artists, music, and BAMkids programs will be announced later.

The Opera House tribute, film screening, and community presentation of *POWER* are free and open to the public. Seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. All visitors and staff must present proof of vaccination and ID to attend and masks must be worn at all times. For further information, please call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100 or visit [BAM.org](https://bam.org).

Download high-res images [HERE](#)

Media Advisory: To arrange access to the 36th annual *Brooklyn Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*, please contact Cynthia Tate ctate@bam.org or 718.724.8022.

[Additional free events celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

Visual Art: "Salvation: A State of Being"

Curated by Larry Ossei-Mensah

The BAM signage screen (corner of Flatbush Ave & Lafayette Ave)

Jan 14—21, 2022

Run time: Looped continuously

"Love does not bring an end to difficulties, it gives us the strength to cope with difficulties in a constructive way" —bell hooks, *Salvation: Black People and Love*

"Salvation: A State of Being" is inspired by the late trailblazing Black feminist and author bell hooks and the recurring theme in her work where love is explicitly linked to her understanding of freedom and liberation, specifically in Black culture. The group exhibition explores Black artistry as a form of visual activism against the dehumanization of Black people and as a means to expand and challenge Black imagination. The digital billboard-based project includes selected works by seven Black visionary photographers. *Artists to be announced at a later date.*

Spearheaded by BAM Guest Curator-at-Large **Larry Ossei-Mensah**, the project aims spark civic discourse in Brooklyn around Dr. King's legacy and encourage reflection on the questions: *What is Love? What is next in the journey towards liberation?*

"Salvation: A State of Being" is a follow-up to Ossei-Mensah's 2021 acclaimed tribute "Let Freedom Ring." *The New York Times* described the meditation on freedom as "a dream to show what freedom looks like when it undergirds the lives of Black and Latino people." Visit [BAM.org](https://www.bam.org) for more information.

Film: Attica (2021)

Directed by Stanley Nelson and Traci A. Curry

BAM Rose Cinemas (Peter Jay Sharp Building) 30 Lafayette Ave

Jan 17, 2022 at 1pm

Free

Survivors, observers, and expert government officials recount the 1971 uprising at the Attica Correctional Facility. The violent five-day standoff between mostly Black and Latino inmates and law enforcement gripped America then and highlights the urgent, ongoing need for reform 50 years later. (120min). Visit [BAM.org](https://www.bam.org) for more information.

Dance: POWER

Fist & Heel Performance Group

Choreography by Reggie Wilson

Costume design by Naoko Nagata and Enver Chakartash

Lighting design by Jonathan Belcher

Harvey Theater at BAM Strong (651 Fulton St)

Jan 17, 2022, at 3pm

Free

As BAM honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Reggie Wilson brings his Fist & Heel Performance Group home to Brooklyn for a special community presentation of *POWER*, a revelatory performance of "moving into spirit." In this kinesthetic, propulsive, rhythmic experience connecting American Black and Shaker traditions, Wilson explores the body as a radical tool for illuminating the internal and communal. Wilson imagines the mutual Black-Shaker influence as shaping experimental 19th-century American dance worship. Channeling the refusal of Anglo-Judeo-Christian limitations on the body, Fist & Heel makes that utopian energy manifest, whirling, stamping, and singing it alive. RSVP at [BAM.org](https://www.bam.org). RSVP does not guarantee entry. Given limited capacity, access is on a first-come, first-seated basis.

About the Speaker

Born just nine years after the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, **Dr. Imani Perry** was instilled from an early age with a strong instinct for justice and progressive change. The rich interplay between history, race, law, and culture continues to inform her work as a critically-acclaimed author and the Hughes-Rogers Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University. Perry's work reflects the beautiful and deeply complex history of Black thought, art, and imagination. It is also informed by her background as a legal historian and her understanding of the racial inequality embedded in American law. Her most recent book, *Breathe: A Letter to My Sons*, explores the terror, grace, and beauty of coming of age as a Black person in contemporary America and what it means to parent our children in a persistently unjust world. The book was a finalist for the 2020 Chautauqua Prize and a finalist for the NAACP Image Award for Excellence in Nonfiction. She is also the author of five other

books. Her next book, *South to America: A Journey Below the Mason-Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation*, out in January 2022. Perry's writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *New York Magazine*, and *Harper's*, among other publications. She earned her Ph.D. in American Studies from Harvard University, a JD from Harvard Law School, an LLM from Georgetown University Law Center.

About the Artists

When **Craig Harris** exploded onto the jazz scene in 1976, he brought the entire history of the jazz trombone with him. From the growling gutbucket intensity of early New Orleans jazz to the refined improvisation of the modern era by J.J. Johnson and into the confrontational expressionism of the '60s avant-garde vernacular, Craig approaches music the way a skilled orator utilizes the spoken word.

He has performed with a veritable Who's Who of progressive jazz's most influential figures – including Sun Ra, Cecil Taylor, Sam Rivers, Abdullah Ibrahim, Jaki Byard, Muhal Richard Abrams, David Murray, Henry Threadgill, Lester Bowie, and more. His projects display both a unique sense of concept and a total command of the sweeping expanse of African-American musical expression. Those two qualities have dominated Craig's past 20 years of activity, bringing him far beyond the confines of the jazz world and into the sphere of multimedia and performance art as composer, performer, conceptualist, curator, and artistic director. Projects like, *Souls Within the Veil*, composed to commemorate the centennial of W. E. B. Du Bois'

The Souls of Black Folk. Brown Butterfly, a multimedia work based on the movement of Muhammad Ali with video, dance, and music. Based on James Weldon Johnson's classic collection of poems that refigure inspirational sermons by itinerant Negro preachers, God's Trombones. Harris has led numerous musical groups, including the Tailgater's Tales, Nation of Imagination, and the R&B-ish Cold Sweat.

Revolutionary art-rock artist **Nona Hendryx** is a celebrated vocalist, songwriter, music technologist, experimental theater producer, short films and author, and a creator of AR and VR experiences inspired by Afrofuturism. Hendryx's legendary career spans six decades of sound and style evolution, tackling social issues, love, and politics. Longtime Nona Hendryx fans know her as one of the founding members of the group Labelle, delivering the worldwide hit with *Lady Marmalade (Voulez Vous Coucher Avec Moi C'est Soir?)*. Hendryx emerged as the chief songwriter of socially conscious and illuminating message songs. Nona's solo career includes an impressive lineup of collaborators (Prince, Peter Dinklage, Talking Heads, Laurie Anderson, Terri Lynn Carrington, Esperanza Spalding, Bono, George Clinton, Keith Richards).

Today, Hendryx remains the "Queen of Transformation," creating and writing music for experimental and commercial theatre and film, developing AR, VR, MR, and immersive in-person and digital projects. Hendryx, creates solo multimedia performances for music venues, art galleries, site-specific spaces, and leading performing arts institutions. Hendryx pushes the creative boundaries of music, art, and technology, collaborating with visual artists Theaster Gates, Robert Wilson, Nick Cave, Carrie Mae Weems, Virgil Ortiz, and Francesca Harper. She curated and performed *Nona Hendryx and Disciples of Sun Ra in the Temple of Dendur*, a production she created for The Metropolitan Museum. She also composed music for the revival of *Blue*, a play written by Charles R. Wright. Hendryx made original music for Alice Childress' *Trouble in Mind*. Hendryx is working on multiple projects for 2022, beginning with Young Nerds Of Color, in collaboration with the Underground Railway at Central Square Theatre in Cambridge MA. Hendryx is Ambassador of Artistry in Music at Berklee College of Music Boston where she is developing Dream Machine, a multiplayer, AR/VR venue and game App and experience at Berklee College of Music and Boston Conservatory where she is developing a multiplayer AR/VR game, "Dream Machine." She's also a Resident Artist at Barnard College's Movement Lab.

Kyle Marshall is a choreographer, performer, teacher, and artistic director of Kyle Marshall Choreography (KMC), a dance company that sees the dancing body as a container of history, an igniter of social reform, and a site of celebration. Since its inception in 2014, KMC has performed at venues including BAM Next Wave Festival, Jacob's Pillow Inside/Out, Actors Fund Arts Center, NJPAC, Little Island, and Roulette. Marshall has received choreographic and dance film commissions from the Baryshnikov Arts Center, Dance on the Lawn, Harlem Stage, and THE SHED.

Marshall is a recipient of a 2020 Dance Magazine Harkness Promise Award and 2018 NY Juried "Bessie" Award. As a teacher, he has conducted master classes, creative workshops, set choreography at schools including; ADF, Rutgers University, Ailey/Fordham University, Montclair State University, County Prep High School, and Bloomfield College. He is currently a Caroline Hearst Choreographer-In-Residence at Princeton University and is in residence at the Center for Ballet and Arts at NYU. Additional residencies for KMC include MANA Contemporary, 92nd Street Y, CPR, and Jamaica Performing Arts Center. Kyle dances with the Trisha Brown Dance Company and worked with Doug Elkins Choreography and Tiffany Mills. Kyle graduated from Rutgers University with a BFA in Dance and resides in Jersey City.

Sing Harlem originally the breakout choir for Mama Foundation for the Arts' School of Gospel, Jazz, and R&B Arts, this award-winning choir has flourished under the direction of Ahmaya Knoelle Higginson, serving as both a social impact initiative for young alumni and a commercial choir. They have performed at Lincoln Center, *Saturday Night Live*, and the Grammy Awards—among many others—and accompanied artists including Sting, Arianna Grande, and Madonna. All proceeds benefit the Mama Foundation's music training programs, which are tuition-free to the Harlem community.

Reggie Wilson/Fist & Heel Performance Group is a Brooklyn-based dance company founded in 1989. Drawing from the cultures of Africans in the Americas, in combination with post-modern elements and his personal movement style, Wilson refers to his work as "post-African/Neo-HooDoo Modern dances." An inaugural Doris Duke Artist, Wilson is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and has served as visiting faculty at universities including Yale, Princeton, and Wesleyan. He toured with Ohad Naharin before forming Fist & Heel and has lectured and has taught workshops and community projects throughout the US, Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. Fist & Heel has performed at Dance Theater Workshop, New York Live Arts, BAM, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and Festival Kaay Fecc in Senegal, among other venues. Wilson's previous BAM appearances include *CITIZEN* (2016 NWF), and *Moses(es)* (2013 NWF), *The Good Dance: dakar / brooklyn* (Fall 2009).

Credits

Bloomberg Philanthropies is the Season Sponsor

Leadership support for BAM Access Programs provided by the Jerome L. Greene Foundation

Leadership support for programming in the Howard Gilman Opera House and off-site programs provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation

Leadership support for BAMcafé Live provided by the The Lepercq Charitable Foundation

Leadership support for BAM Film provided by the Ford Foundation

Leadership support for dance at BAM provided by The Harkness Foundation for Dance and The SHS Foundation

Leadership support for BAM Education programs provided by The Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation and The SHS Foundation

Leadership support for BAM Visual Art provided by Toby Devan Lewis

Leadership support for the BAM Hamm Archives and BAM Film, Community, and Education programs provided by The Thompson Family Foundation

Con Edison is the Major Sponsor of Community Programming at BAM

Santander is a Major Sponsor of BAM Education Programs

Major support for BAM Education programs provided by: Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation; Constans Culver Foundation; The FAR Fund; Tiger Baron Foundation; The Emily Davie and Joseph S. Kornfeld Foundation

Leadership support for every season provided by the BAM Board of Trustees, led by Nora Ann Wallace, Chair & Vice Chairs William I. Campbell, Natalia Chefer, and Tim Sebuya

Leadership support for BAM's programming and initiatives provided by: Booth Ferris Foundation; Charina Endowment Fund; Aashish & Dinyar Devitre; The Robert & Mercedes Eichholz Foundation; Jeanne Donovan Fisher; Roberta Garza & Roberto Mendoza; Anne Hubbard & Harvey Schwartz; Leon Levy Foundation; Donald A. Pels Charitable Trust; The Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc.; The Shubert Foundation, Inc.; Axel Stawski & Galia Meiri Stawski; John L. & Eva Usdan; Anonymous

BAM is a recipient of a U.S. Small Business Administration Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, made possible by the leadership of Senator Majority Leader Charles D. Schumer.

The BAM facilities are owned by the City of New York and benefit from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs with support from Mayor Bill de Blasio; Cultural Affairs Commissioner Gonzalo Casals; the New York City Council including Council Speaker Corey Johnson, Majority Leader Laurie A. Cumbo, Finance Committee Chair Daniel Dromm, Cultural Affairs Committee Chair Jimmy Van Bramer, and the Brooklyn Delegation of the Council; and Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams. BAM would also like to thank the Brooklyn Delegations of the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate.

###