

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Poster Exhibition

2015 Rules and Guidelines

Theme:
“The Journey to be Free”

SPONSORED BY:	The Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, Inc., Alexandria Black History Museum, Alexandria Office for the Arts, Alexandria City Public Schools Art Teachers, and the Office of Equity and Cultural Competency.
CONTACT:	Mr. Francis Chase, 703.619.8164
PARTICIPANTS:	Elementary-Level Students from Alexandria City Public Schools
LEVELS:	Grades 2, 3, 4, and 5
SUBMISSION INFORMATION:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please submit unmounted artwork.• Please submit individual posters only.• Paper size: 12” x 18” or 8 ½” x 11”
EXHIBITION DATES:	January 19, 2015 to January 27, 2015, Vola Lawson Lobby City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, VA

SCHEDULE AND CHECK LIST OF DEADLINES

November 21, 2014	Exhibition Rules and Guidelines packets delivered to all Alexandria City Public Elementary Schools
January 6-9, 2015	Poster entries are due to the Alexandria Black History Museum, Tuesday-Friday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (902 Wythe Street).
TEACHER CURATORS:	All participating schools should select entries to best represent their school. No more than 12 entries per school (3 per grade level)
SPELLING GUIDELINES:	We encourage proper spelling.

**PERMISSION
GUIDELINES:**

- In lieu of having individual permission slips signed, please be certain that all entries are cleared in your school's main office file of student permission request forms. If this is not checked, we will assume all of your entries have been cleared for use in the local media.
- It will be the individual teacher's responsibility to sign off on the attached **Artwork Identification Form**.

PROGRAM & VENUE:

The exhibition program is scheduled for **Monday, January 19, 2015, in the Vola Lawson Lobby, City Hall, 301 King Street Alexandria, Virginia, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**

HELPFUL HINTS:

- No more than 12 entries per school (3 per grade level)
- Important to include teacher form with entries
- Confirm accurate contact information for teachers
- Teachers are encouraged to have their students create posters about "**The Journey to be Free: Alexandria's Contrabands and Freedmen Cemetery Memorial.**" Posters will illustrate the journey and arrival of thousands of escaped slaves (Contrabands) seeking freedom in Union-held Alexandria during the Civil War. If a student's personal heritage includes a journey to freedom, this may also be used as their poster's theme. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked hard to achieve civil rights and establish just laws in America, so that individual freedoms were protected for all people of all races and of all backgrounds. This is a third option for the poster's message.
- For more information, please check the Historic Alexandria website: alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory.

RECOGNITION:

All students selected for the exhibition will be recognized at the January 19, 2015 program at City Hall.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

Slave – a person held in bondage, against their will to serve another person or group of people.

Contraband – items or individuals (in this case escaped slaves) that would otherwise be used by opposing forces in a war or battle to aid those forces toward victory. Because Alexandria was occupied by Union troops, it was protected by military rules of war.

Freedmen – men or women who were no longer slaves because of birth to a free mother, by release from an owner, or by purchase. As slaves, men, women, and children could only escape their desperate conditions by running away, and fleeing to states where slavery had been abolished.

History of the DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Poster Exhibition:

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Exhibition started as a contest in 1990. It was created by the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, Inc. (ASPBH), which highlighted the art work of Alexandria City Public School students. The ASPBH is the friends group for the Alexandria Black History Museum. Under the leadership of two memorable society presidents, Harry Burke and Carlton A. Funn, Sr., the contest grew from a small exhibit and program held at the Alexandria Black History Museum, to a larger exhibition held in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall. In addition to the January exhibition, a formal program is held in City Hall honoring the legacy of Dr. King. In 2013, the contest became a Memorial Exhibition honoring the late ASPBH President Carlton A. Funn, Sr. In 2014, the exhibition and program returned to City Hall.

This year's poster exhibition theme is **"The Journey to Be Free."** This theme commemorates and celebrates the lives of the brave African Americans who escaped slavery and sought refuge in Alexandria during the Civil War. These men, women, and children became known as "contrabands" and their labor played an important role in helping the Union achieve victory. The Contraband and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial, located on the corner of South Washington and Church Streets in Alexandria, is the site of the 1864 cemetery established during the Civil War for African Americans. More than 1,700 individuals are known to have been buried at this particular location.

The memorial located on this site today honors those buried there and the history of all of the African American men, women, and children who came to Alexandria to begin new lives as free people. Generations of Americans have sought religious, political, and economic freedom, as well as personal rights, by journeying to this country to make a new life. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked hard to achieve civil rights and establish just laws in America, so that individual freedoms were protected for all people of all races and of all backgrounds.

What is your heritage and history in your personal **"Journey to be Free"** experience?

Martin Luther King, Jr. Exhibition Chairman

Mr. Leroy Baker

Committee Members

Char McCargo Bah, Leroy Baker, Dolores Duncan,, Shenise Foster, Marc D. Funn, Mattie Funn Hopkins, McArthur Myers, Kathleen Pepper, Randy Stephens, Eugene Thompson, and Ethel S. Underwood

Questions may be directed to Mr. Francis Chase, 703.619.8164