

King Memorial Groundbreaking



Bernice King wants her father's memorial in the King historic district in Atlanta, near where Martin Luther King Jr. preached.

Kings oppose museum site

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Two of Martin Luther King Jr.'s children say a proposed civil rights museum should be near their father's grave instead of in the city's tourism hub.

The 2.5-acre site that Coca-Cola Co. offered two weeks ago for the museum is near the Georgia Aquarium, the CNN Center and the future World of Coca-Cola Museum. Some city leaders say the civil rights museum should be less than two miles away near Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King preached, and the King Center, where he and his wife, Coretta Scott King, are buried.

"I would hope that we as a community and a city, if we were going to erect a civil rights museum, it would be in the King historic district," Martin Luther King III said told *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

His sister, Bernice King, noted that the district already contains her father's birth home and other significant civil rights landmarks.

"It just seems appropriate to place something of this magnitude, a civil and human rights museum, in a place where it has more of a historical context," she said.

A King family spokesperson and the King Center spokesperson didn't immediately return calls to their of-

fices seeking additional comment Saturday. The King Center's spokesperson could not be reached by cell phone.

Xernona Clayton, who worked closely with King and traveled with Coretta Scott King on concert tours to raise money for the movement, said the Coca-Cola site is ideal.

"What better place to have the accessibility than a place where you have high traffic and is convenient for all to see the research," Clayton said. "I would share with others the sentimentality attached to Auburn Avenue, but I have not heard where anyone has offered anything on Auburn Avenue."

Coca-Cola spokesperson Ben Deutsch said Saturday that the company had no comment.

When Coca-Cola Chairman and CEO Neville Isdell announced the land donation, he said the idea for a museum came from Mayor Shirley Franklin.

Mayor Shirley Franklin and the city council will decide where the museum will be built.

Franklin said Saturday that she disagreed with the two King children.

"I personally believe the Coke site is the perfect site," she added, because it would boost Atlanta's tourism appeal and promote access to the surrounding attractions.

WASHINGTON (AP) - On a hot August afternoon in 1963, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech to a mostly Black audience from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

On Nov. 13, a half-mile from Lincoln's iconic statue, a diverse group of celebrities, corporate leaders and ordinary Americans will help turn the first shovels of dirt for a memorial honoring the civil rights leader who was slain 38 years ago. It will be the first monument to an African-American on the National Mall.

"He's an American hero, and, beyond that, he's a hero for all sorts of people," said poet and novelist Maya Angelou, who is scheduled to join Oprah Winfrey and others who have been working for more than a decade to help build the monument.

Angelou, 80, said the groundbreaking is even more special because it comes al-

most a year after the death of King's widow. "She never was a person to say 'Why didn't it happen sooner?' That would not be Coretta Scott King," Angelou said of her friend, who died in January at 78.

Following the deaths of Coretta Scott King and civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks, who died in October 2005, efforts to raise the necessary \$100 million to build and maintain the four-acre memorial accelerated.

Donations, mostly from major corporations, had totaled less than \$40 million through August 2005. But as of Nov. 1, donations topped \$65.5 million.

Harry Johnson, president of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, said he hopes to have the site completed by the spring of 2008.

The location is flanked by the Lincoln, Thomas Jefferson and Franklin D. Roosevelt memorials near

the eastern edge of the Potomac River Tidal Basin. From a distance, visitors can see the stairs where King delivered his most famous speech during the March on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963.

The entrance to the memorial will include a central sculpture called "The Mountain of Despair." Its towering split rocks signify the divided America that inspired the nonviolent efforts of King and others to overcome racial and social barriers.

"This gateway was designed to lead visitors to the heart and soul of this living memorial," said Ed Jackson Jr., the project's executive architect.

Among those invited to attend the ceremonial groundbreaking are the Revs. Andrew Young and Jesse Jackson — who were with King on the trip to Memphis that preceded his April 4, 1968, assassination — and former President Bill

Clinton, who signed a resolution approved by Congress authorizing the memorial in 1996.

Backers of the project say corporate support was critical. General Motors provided \$10 million, and clothing manufacturer Tommy Hilfiger contributed \$5 million.

"You could compare it to the assassination of JFK," Hilfiger said, remembering how King's assassination touched his Irish-Catholic family. "It was so significant in our lives as teens and young people. It was earth-shattering." Hilfiger is working with hip-hop impresario Russell Simmons to help raise another \$35 million for the project over the next six months.

Major galas and concerts are planned in New York, Houston and other cities, including a National Dream Dinner at Washington's John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on Nov. 13.

Your Horoscope Says... Nov. 9-Nov. 15

ARIES

Keep all your ducks in a row this week. No mixing work with fun or business with pleasure. Save your affection for the home front and stay focused on the work in front of you on the job. Things are working out perfectly.

Soul Affirmation: This week I find joy in the gifts that life has already given me.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 14

TAURUS

Why not take each perfect moment as it comes? You are struggling to find a solution that time can and will provide. Perform your tasks cheerfully this week and let the future take care of itself.

Soul Affirmation: Worry will only create more worry. I stop all worry.

Lucky Numbers: 32, 50, 51

GEMINI

Your anxiety about an important issue can now be seen as needless. You don't have to worry! Have faith that things are working out perfectly and they will!

Soul Affirmation: I am uplifted by the presence of friends.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 17, 22

CANCER

You can be discreet and cut down on some of the envious comments you are attracting. Or, you can continue to flaunt it since you've got it. Your choice this week. Watch for a pleasant change in a romantic partner's attitude.

Soul Affirmation: The winner is me. I smile for the cameras.

Lucky Numbers: 23, 39, 43

LEO

Center yourself at every opportu-

nity during this busy week and keep your quest for emotional and spiritual balance in the forefront. Make an effort to take your time; that way you'll recognize opportunity from impulse-control problems immediately.

Soul Affirmation: My spirit gives me limitless possibilities.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 20, 31

VIRGO

Lucky! Your natural ability to shine is magnified this week. You'll be garnering positive attention on a project you recently completed. Bask in the glow of public admiration.

Soul Affirmation: This week I forgive myself for everything that has happened.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 13, 29

LIBRA

A celebration is in store and you are the guest of honor. You've achieved something wonderful and you need to take some time to enjoy it. Let yourself enjoy the applause then move onward and upward.

Soul Affirmation: I entertain wild ideas about making money this week.

Lucky Numbers: 19, 24, 36

SCORPIO

Let someone else make a few decisions this week. Take a back seat and enjoy the respite from doing all the driving. You'll enjoy the ride more this week if you just admire the view as it goes by.

Soul Affirmation: I enjoy living in my dream.

Lucky Numbers: 19, 43, 50

SAGITTARIUS

Sometimes you imagine that everyone needs to hear your sensible opinions on all matters of significance. And other weeks, you know that you are

wise and generous enough to listen to others as they share their good ideas. This week is a week for listening. You'll learn much.

Soul Affirmation: I listen with an open heart.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 21, 27

CAPRICORN

Anybody may occasionally have a week when their energy feels low. Your natural good health will see you through a possible down time if you just go with the flow and let yourself relax. Rest if you have the chance, and you'll feel like your wonderful self in no time flat.

Soul Affirmation: I calm my emotions by forgetting about the past.

Lucky Numbers: 16, 28, 35

AQUARIUS

You are the center of attention this week and while you'll be very busy, you'll love every moment. Enjoy your time in the spotlight. You may want to indulge yourself with some emotional theatrics this week. Add up the costs and benefits before acting out. If you can afford it, go for it! If not, count to ten and smile, smile, smile.

Soul Affirmation: All vibes are good, and good for me this week.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 10, 34

PISCES

Stay flexible this week especially where a partner is concerned. While they may be moody, there's no need for you to join them in their attitude unless you really, really want to. Stay positive and go with the good vibrations that surround you.

Soul Affirmation: I exercise to lower tension this week.

Lucky Numbers: 33, 45, 54