

The National Center for Civil and Human Rights presents

# *Let Us March On...*

The March on Washington, 60 years later



DIGITAL PROGRAM

# FEEL THE POWER



# A note from Jill



Dear Friends:

We are delighted to have you join us for our 9th annual Power to Inspire.

This year, we decided to take a different approach from our customary awards dinner. Several months ago, we commissioned a theater artist, Nikki Toombs, to create an immersive experience for our supporters about the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year.

A central mission of our organization is to link the past to the present – to provide our visitors and supporters a way to understand our world today by teaching the history of how we arrived at this moment. Such a grounding allows us to more honestly and accurately assess the overt—and covert—ways discrimination persists today, and how the legacy of our history continues to shape our lives. This understanding can shape what we do now to create a different, and more just, future.

Tonight we ask you to re-live moments from the 1963 March, to tap into the inspiration of that day, which led to the passage of historic civil rights legislation – the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Over the course of the performance, you will very quickly see that the work for civil and human rights is not finished. Far too many people – racial and religious minorities, women, the LGBTQ+ community, low-income people and those with disabilities – continue to face an unlevel playing field.

We hope this celebration of the March inspires you to find ways to expand your civic engagement – by learning about issues, speaking up, joining with others, and making sure everyone can vote without undue obstacles.

We also hope you will be inspired by Myrlie Evers-Williams and her lifetime of advocacy. At age 90, she is still making sure that everyone is treated with respect and dignity. Despite the profound loss Mrs. Evers-Williams and her family suffered, she never stopped pursuing her quest for justice. The same is true for the legendary civil rights women we recognize this evening. Each in her own way has continued to use her voice for fair treatment.

Many thanks for joining us this evening – long-time supporters and new ones. The Center relies on you – for both your financial and moral support. We are, quite literally, unable to accomplish our mission without all of you.

We give special thanks to our leading sponsor, Delta Air Lines, both for helping to underwrite this event, and for its dedication to making sure the leaders of the civil rights movement were able to travel across the United States in the quest for justice.

Help us carry on their legacy, and may we all March `On.

Best,

**Jill Savitt**  
President & CEO,  
National Center for Civil & Human Rights

# 2023 Power to Inspire Chairs



## Ambassador Andrew Young Honorary Chair

Ambassador Andrew Young has built a remarkable legacy as a civil rights leader, elected official, and visionary humanitarian. He began his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement by organizing voter registration drives while he served as pastor in southern Georgia. Ambassador Young worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to train communities in nonviolent organizing strategies while leading the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). His efforts led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

In 1972, Ambassador Young was elected to Congress, becoming the first African-American representative from the Deep South since Reconstruction. President Jimmy Carter appointed him to serve as the nation's first African-American Ambassador to the United Nations in 1977. As Mayor of Atlanta from 1982 to 1990, Ambassador Young was instrumental in developing modern-day Atlanta. He continues to focus on expanding educational opportunities and developing humanitarian initiatives through the Andrew J. Young Foundation. Ambassador Young is the recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the French Legion d'Honneur and has received honorary degrees from more than 100 colleges and universities.

## Our Host Committee

Liz Lapidus & Jeff Levy, Chairs  
Chloe Barzey, Co-chair

Kirk Rich, Co-chair  
Che Watkins, Co-chair

Kent & Diane Alexander  
Astral Health and Beauty  
Susannah Darrow  
Anne Dennington  
David Fentress  
Alice Franklin  
Greg Grizzle  
Brenda Isaac  
Justin King  
Rebekka Kuntschik  
Judy Lampert  
Shanita Miller

Laura Moody  
Josh Newton  
Beth & Gregg Paradies  
Jill Savitt  
Suzanne Shaw & Daniel Biddy  
Beth & Edward Sugarman  
Pam Sugarman & Tom Rosenberg  
Michael von Grey & Hillery Head  
Margaret Whitaker  
Butch Whitfield & Joanna Ellis  
Cristel Williams



# CLIMBING TOWARD A MORE JUST AND EQUITABLE WORLD.

Proud to support the 2023 Power to Inspire Event.



KEEP CLIMBING  
 DELTA 

# The March on Washington

On August 28, 1963, more than 250,000 people gathered for a landmark event that forever shaped American history: a march to the Lincoln Memorial that culminated in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s iconic "I Have a Dream" speech. The extraordinary success of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom paved the way for passage of transformative civil and voting rights legislation.





# THE ARTHUR M. BLANK FAMILY FOUNDATION

is proud to support the National Center  
for Civil and Human Rights as it  
celebrates the *60th* anniversary of the  
historic **March On Washington** and  
provides us with inspiration to continue  
the fight for justice today.



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# 2023 Power to Inspire Honorees



## Myrlie Evers-Williams

As part of our 2023 Power to Inspire Tribute, the Center will honor Mrs. Myrlie Evers-Williams for her lifetime of civil rights advocacy.

Mrs. Evers-Williams and her husband, activist Medgar Evers, opened the first NAACP field office in Mississippi. Their high-profile activism to promote voting rights, equal justice, and economic equality made them targets for racial violence. After several assassination attempts, Medgar Evers was shot and killed by white supremacists in June 1963. His murder was a turning point in the Civil Rights Movement, inspiring activists to continue the struggle for equality despite the threat of racial violence. In the wake of Evers' assassination, a new civil rights motto was born: "After Medgar, no more fear."

After her husband's murder, Mrs. Evers-Williams continued the fight for equality and justice. Between 1995 and 1998, Mrs. Evers-Williams served as chair of the National Board of Directors of the NAACP. She established the Medgar Evers Institute in Jackson, Mississippi. The Evers' daughter, Reena Evers-Everette, serves as the Institute's Executive Director. Mrs. Evers-Williams' work has earned her many tributes, including several honorary doctorates. She was named "Woman of the Year" in 1998 by Ms. magazine and one of the "100 Most Fascinating Black Women of the 20th Century" by Ebony magazine. In 2013, Mrs. Evers-Williams delivered the invocation at President Barack Obama's second inauguration, becoming the first woman and first non-clergy member to perform the prayer.

Mrs. Evers-Williams, now 90 years old, was unable to attend the 1963 March on Washington because of travel delays. Sixty years later, she will have an opportunity to experience some of the songs and speeches of the March.

# 2023 Power to Inspire Honorees



**Frankye Adams-Johnson** is an educator, poet, speaker, and author who grew up in Jackson, Mississippi. She joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and worked closely with Medgar Evers as well as the NAACP and the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO).



**Xernona Clayton Brady** is an American civil rights leader and broadcasting executive. She worked for the National Urban League and Southern Christian Leadership Conference during the civil rights movement. Later, Clayton went into television, where she became the first African American from the southern United States to host a daily primetime talk show.



**Rutha Mae Harris** channeled her civil rights activism through music, saying, "Without the songs of the movement, personally I believe that there wouldn't have been a movement." She, along with Bernice Johnson Reagon, Cordell Reagon, and Charles Nesbett, formed the SNCC Freedom Singers in Albany, Georgia.



**Joan Trumpauer Mulholland** is an American civil rights activist who enrolled at Tougaloo College in Jackson, Mississippi, as its first white student. She served as the local secretary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and later established the Joan Trumpauer Mulholland Foundation.



**Karen Spellman's** work in the civil rights movement began as a high school student in the Greensboro, North Carolina, NAACP youth chapter. She went on to work with SNCC, the Nonviolent Action Group (NAG), and produced the Afro American News Service that provided feature articles documenting the work of SNCC to the national Black press.



**Dr. Georgianne Thomas** is an Adjunct Professor at Atlanta Metropolitan State College. She has worked with the City of Atlanta Municipal Court, as a teacher for Atlanta Public Schools, and as a trainer with the City of Atlanta and Delta Air Lines.



**Maria Varela** is a Mexican American civil rights photographer, community organizer, writer, and teacher. She was active in many civil rights movements, advocating for indigenous communities and protecting cultural heritage within African American, Native American, and Mexican American communities.



# Motivated to Move Forward, Powered by our Past

From the very beginning, Cox's commitment to do the right thing for our people and communities has been at the core of our values. We thrive on what makes us different, empowering our employees and businesses to build a better future for the next generation.

Remarkable people like Erin Mitchell Richeson, head of Cox's Center for Inclusion, are helping us strengthen our culture of belonging.

Cox celebrates the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington alongside the National Center of Civil and Human Rights. Together, we honor the individuals – past and present – working tirelessly to create a more perfect and inclusive union.



Erin Mitchell Richeson  
VP, Center for Inclusion  
Cox Enterprises

COX 125

Learn how we're growing the good and working to build a better future that's even more inclusive at [cox.career/inclusion](https://cox.career/inclusion).

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## BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES TOGETHER

The Home Depot Foundation works to improve the homes and lives of U.S. veterans, support communities impacted by natural disasters and train skilled tradespeople to fill the labor gap.



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## About the Show

Tonight, this special cast will show how the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom was realized. You will meet key organizers and see their collaboration, determination, and joy. You will experience the sermons and music that sustained marchers' spirits. Finally, you will join marchers in Washington, D.C. and witness electrifying speeches and songs that echoed in the hearts of leaders and activists for years to come as they paved the way for passage of transformative civil and voting rights legislation.

### SYNOPSIS

Since 1941, longtime organizers A. Phillip Randolph and Bayard Rustin had envisioned a massive gathering to demand equal access for Black Americans to fair wages, voting rights, and equal education, and to demolish dehumanizing barriers to freedom. Now, in 1963, after decades of meticulous planning, they are ready to execute the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Randolph and Rustin finalize demands and event coordination with a coalition of civil rights heavyweights - Martin Luther King Jr., James Farmer, Anna Arnold Hedgeman, Dorothy Height, John Lewis, Roy Wilkins, and Whitney Young. Hedgeman successfully argues for a tribute to women fighters of freedom to be included in program. The group draws strength from their memories of gospel music of St. Joseph's Baptist Church and its minister, Rev. Abraham Woods, Jr.

And then, the March unfolds.

In front of the Lincoln Memorial, legendary singer Mahalia Jackson takes the crowd of 250,000 to church. Daisy Bates praises the contributions of women civil rights leaders. Marchers hear powerful remarks from Lewis, Rustin, and Randolph, culminating with vDr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Afterwards, organizers reflect on the impact of the March in 2023 and the importance of continuing to march and fight on until the victory for equality is won.

# Cast & Creative Team

## MEET THE CREATIVE TEAM



Nikki Toombs  
Writer/Director



Emorja Roberson  
Music Director



Victor Jackson  
Choreographer



Larsen Kennedy  
Stage Manager

## MEET THE CAST



Maiesha McQueen



Dathan Thigpen



Cedric Pendleton



Cameron Southerland



Shannon Palmer



E. Roger Mitchell



Brad Raymond

## Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts Chorus and Dance Ensemble



### DRAMA

Ashli Holliman  
Liana Dunbar  
Joya Howard  
Layla Mack  
Tyaire Charles

### DANCE

Alyssa Mann  
Jada Hawkins  
Chloe Draper  
Tierra Thomas  
Jazmin Tanks  
Gabrielle Hewitt  
Cydney Lockridge  
Zhane Hayes  
Summer Worthy  
Savannah Azam Nichols  
Amira Lewis  
Kamari Moses  
Nathalia Ingram  
Dmya Bulger  
Chelsea Adams  
Edidison Toby

### CHORUS

#### SOPRANO

Ashli Holliman  
Skye Richardson  
Miracle Jefferson (Spirit)  
Savannah Huff  
Schnaydah Sauver

#### ALTO

Chloe Gilbert  
Kayandra Rope  
Chaney Pooler  
Kaylana Barnes  
Takara Miller

#### TENOR

Malachi Walker  
Malik Diallo  
Mekhi Smith  
Sheldon Robinson  
Markell Davis



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