



# Ifi Heritage Center

Presents

*2nd Annual*

## Rev. Dr. Martin L. King Jr Celebration

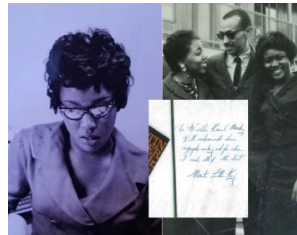
**Tuesday, January 9, 2024, Doors Open @ 5:00p Program Starts: 6:00p-8:00p**

**Get ready**, get your tickets now for another fantastic **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rev. Dr. MLK Jr Celebration**. It will be held in the heart of Wimauma, on the *Campus of Lake Wimauma Convention Center*, in their (*Cafeteria*) Mace Hall, 5316 Center St., Wimauma, FL.

**Ifi** (*pronounced "E-Fay," Culture in Zulu*) **Heritage Center Inc.** is an IRC, Florida-based 501(c)(3), 509(a)(2) certified tax-exempt charitable organization.

**Mission:** Ifi Heritage Center will uplift the under-served and under-represented while empowering the residents of Wimauma and the surrounding communities through authentic history, performing arts, cultural exhibits, education, and community outreach initiatives.

**Our Extraordinary Civil Rights Icon Quest - Mrs. Willie P. Mackey-King** (no relation to Dr. King).



**Mrs. Willie P. Mackey-King** is a remarkable woman who played an instrumental role in the Civil Rights Movement. From 1962 to 1966, she worked for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference alongside the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As a member of his executive staff, she performed various administrative tasks and accompanied Dr. King during his travels. Then, Ms. Mackey worked next to Dr. King and was trusted to organize and type his now-famous "Letter from the Birmingham Jail". Hear first-hand accounts of her time and experience on the frontlines of the SCLC during those turbulent times.

Following the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Mrs. Mackey-King's administrative skills again caught Dr. King's attention. He assigned her to work at the newly established U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). From 1966 to 1997, she dedicated herself to the Commission's mission of combating employment discrimination based on race, religion, sex, and national origin. Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. initially hired her to assist Atty. Donald L. Hollowell and Mrs. Mackey-King were instrumental in opening the first Federal EEOC Field Office.

**Awards:** 2019 Civil Rights Legend - International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies. 2021 African American Living Legend - Montgomery County, Maryland. 2021 Life Story Recorded with the National Women's History Museum. She received the Women Making History Award at the National Women's History Museum in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library in March 2023 for her extraordinary contribution to the Civil Rights Movement in America.

### **Business Man and Community Influencer Mr. Stanley Gray**



The Historic Urban League of Hillsborough County (ULHC) has been in Tampa and Hillsborough since 1922. Under the present leadership of CEO and President Stanley Gray, the ULHC aims to address inequalities faced by African Americans in the area. They collaborate with local businesses, nonprofits, and government partners to establish job training and education programs to improve economic conditions for African Americans and minorities. Instead of handouts, the ULHC provides a hand-up, emphasizing hard work and self-improvement. They offer programs like Project Phoenix, providing pre-apprenticeships with salary support and total wages upon advancement. The ULHC supports students, provides STEM programs, and plans to expand its focus to housing, healthcare, and education funding. They also participate in initiatives examining racial disparities in the criminal justice system and promoting voter engagement. The ULHC strives to raise awareness, combat apathy, and advocate for equitable distribution of resources in lower-income neighborhoods.

### **Solo Saxophonist P. Manzell Bledsoe:**

Manzell discovered and fell in love with music at an early age. Manzell began playing the saxophone around age eleven, inspired by his uncle, a self-taught saxophonist. Hard work and countless hours of study paid off. Before the age of twenty-one, Bledsoe had established himself as a young professional playing on stages across the United States and over six European countries. Manzell received a degree in Jazz Studies/Performance from the prestigious University of North Texas jazz program in 2012, whose jazz program was famed for being the first to offer a degree in 1947. When off-stage, Bledsoe also contributes to the educational growth of the community by teaching, tutoring, and performing. As a Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. member, Manzell had the honor of playing for the National Founders Day celebration in 2019. Manzell has performed at popular Tampa Bay Area venues such as Straz Center for The Performing Arts, the Palladium, the Hard Rock Casino, and Studio@620. Manzell possesses a flare in his performance that draws and encapsulates his audience to his sound. This talent allowed him to open for national recording artists like Mindi Abair, Thundercat, and Devin the Dude. ([www.manzellbledsoe.com](http://www.manzellbledsoe.com))

**Raheem Gordon, known as "Reality"**, who has performed at the Maricopa music festival as well as numerous events and shows with "Dreambucket Media ", brings a soft "Spoken Word" truth to hard realities of social injustice and cultural awareness across various ages. ([reality7@yahoo.com](mailto:reality7@yahoo.com))

For more information, Contact: Irvin Shell at [info@ifi-heritagecenter.org](mailto:info@ifi-heritagecenter.org) or 813-729-1010

**Tickets are available now. Use this Eventbrite link <https://qr.net/H78BjS> for Tickets, or contact us for Donations and Sponsorships.**