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## Myriad Gardens Announces Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Events plus *Oklahoma Southwest Jazz* Exhibit set to Open

Oklahoma City, OK – Myriad Botanical Gardens, in collaboration with the Ralph Ellison Foundation, will honor Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 16 with a day filled with music, crafts, and readings. Additionally, the Gardens will open the exhibition, *Oklahoma: All That Southwest Jazz*, a part of the Oklahoma Museums Association touring exhibition service, produced by the Oklahoma Arts Council.

Visitors are invited to share their vision for a better world on a peace wall in the South Lobby of the Crystal Bridge. Steven Oliven, with Ralph Ellison Foundation, will recite Dr. King's *I Have a Dream* speech at 2:30 p.m. The Sanctuary Choir from the Church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of Truth singers will be onsite singing traditional and contemporary gospel music and more.

### The day's agenda includes:

- 1pm: Poetry Readings by Najah Hylton and Gregory McPherson II from Ralph Ellison Foundation
- 1:30pm: Story Time
- 1:30-2:30pm: Peace Dove Craft
- 2:30pm: Reciting of Martin L. King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech by Steven Oliven from Ralph Ellison Foundation, on the Water Stage or South Lobby, Crystal Bridge (depending on weather)
- 3-4pm: The Sanctuary Choir from the Church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of Truth will perform gospel music on the Water Stage or South Lobby, Crystal Bridge (depending on weather)
- 1-4pm: Guests can add to the Peace Wall in the South Lobby and visit the Sugar Shack and Melodees Soul Food and Creole food trucks in the Circle Drive

Devon Ice Rink will be open extended hours: 11am-11pm.

### ***Oklahoma: All That Southwest Jazz* Exhibit**

A photographic exhibit featuring Oklahoman and southwest jazz artists is opening Martin Luther King Day, January 16, and on exhibit throughout February for Black History Month. This exhibit is part of the Oklahoma Museums Association touring exhibition service and was produced by the Oklahoma Arts Council. The exhibit uses narrative text and historic photographs to trace Oklahoma blues lineage from Count Basie, who began his climb to stardom from Oklahoma City's "Blue Devils," to Yale native Chet Baker's contribution to the art form. Among legendary jazzmen who staged their early careers in Oklahoma are Jimmy Rushing, Charlie Christian, Lester Young, Earl Bostic, and more.

The Myriad Botanical Gardens is one of Oklahoma City's most beloved public spaces, offering its visitors a 15 acre natural escape in the very heart of downtown. A half-acre children's garden, an off-leash dog park, restaurant space,

splash fountains, and paths for walking and jogging provide guests young and old with a place to seek solitude with nature, or seek community and the company of others. Additionally, the Myriad Gardens offers a variety of horticultural education programs for adults and children.

The Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory's unique design has earned attention and praise in the architectural community. It is 224 feet long, 70 feet in diameter, and is covered by 3,028 sections of translucent, double-layered acrylic panels. The Conservatory includes 13,000 square feet of plant display area in two distinct climates: the Tropical Wet Zone, which is at the south end and is watered daily; and the Tropical Dry Zone at the north end which receives water from April through September, followed by drought from November through March. Some 2,000 varieties of plants and a 35-foot waterfall round out the spectacular features of the Conservatory.

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