


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**“Our lives begin to end
the day we become silent
about things that matter.”**

– Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**Amplifying youth voices
through respect, understanding,
and compassion.**

MLK VOICE 4 YOUTH – FINALS – First prize \$2,000

AN EXTRAORDINARY TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

March 6th, 2 PM @ The BABY GRAND, 818 N. MARKET STREET, WILMINGTON 19801
Kaamilah Diabaté, Master of Ceremonies

On Sunday, March 6th, MLK VOICE 4 YOUTH, a statewide, spoken word contest for Delaware teens, will celebrate 7 years encouraging youth to speak up in pursuit of change. Youth, guided by Dr. King’s message of hope and change on Sunday afternoon in Wilmington, will creatively express their views on current issues and share how Dr. King’s legacy speaks to them today. This year’s 7 finalists are:

Olunifemi Anawo, Sussex Central High School
Srijay Chenna, Charter School of Wilmington
Aadi Chinchalkar, Charter School of Wilmington
Tyonna Jervey, Glasgow High School
Ololade Olubowale, Tatnall School
Alexandra Simon, Tower Hill School
Imani Wulff-Cochrane, St. Georges Technical High School

At the finals, contestants will compete for top prize of \$2,000 and new this year, \$500 will go to the winner’s school. Sunday, finalists will present to a panel of 7 judges. They are:

Vernita Dorsey, Senior Vice-President, Director of Community Strategy, WSFS Bank
Lester Fair, 2018 MLK VOICE 4 YOUTH, 2nd Prize Winner

Shannon Griffin, Senior Policy Advocate, ACLU, American Civil Liberties Union, Delaware
Edwin Hernandez-Vargas, Community Relations & Outreach Director, Office of the Lt. Governor
The Rev. Dr. Lawrence M. Livingston, Assist. Professor, Africana Studies, University of Delaware
Senator Sarah McBride, First Senate District
Dr. Keith Pettiford, Gamma Theta Lambda Education Foundation, Inc.

Reserve Judges:

The Rev. Dr. Marta Illueca, Brandywine Collaborative Ministries, the Episcopal Church in Delaware
Luis Santiago, Vice President, Bank of America

2016 MLK VOICE 4 YOUTH winner when she was a sophomore at Howard High School of Technology, Kaamilah Diabaté, will host the finals.

The Christina Cultural Arts Center Drumline and the Choir School of Delaware will also perform while this year's winners are determined.

MLK VOICE 4 YOUTH *is supported by:*

Chemours
The Grand Opera House, Inc.
Christ Church Christiana Hundred
Tom & Betsy Scott
AZTEC Printing & Design
New Castle County, Matt Meyer Executive
The Osbun Family
WSFS Bank

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. & Gamma Theta
Lambda Education Foundation, Inc.
Kenny Family ShopRites of Delaware
The City of Wilmington, Office of the Mayor
The Rotary Club of Wilmington
Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice
The Episcopal Church in Delaware
YWCA Delaware

The MLK VOICE 4 YOUTH finals are free and open to the public. To reserve a seat(s) visit: <https://tinyurl.com/registermlk2022> Doors open to the public at 1:30 PM. For those unable to join us in-person, beginning at 2 PM the **finals will be streamed to the MLK VOICE 4 YOUTH Facebook page**. Anyone who wishes to join our virtual audience should visit: www.facebook.com/mlkvoice4youth.