



### Our Annual Appeal to You, Our Supporters

The work of the Community Coalition on Race is in part to make it possible for people of different races to live together in integrated neighborhoods and to build communities of true inclusion. Thanks to your generosity, we've made significant strides over the past year:

- We hosted the Deconstructing Racism Series which brought people together to grow in their anti-racism journeys
- We completed 5 Wealth Gap Equalizer Loans for first-time homebuyers of color moving to SOMA to support neighborhood integration
- We held monthly Integrated Art Circles that supported cross-race relationship building
- We gave parents and teachers strategies at a Talking to Children about Race workshop
- Plus, we convened hundreds of people to learn about the racial wealth gap at Conversations on Race and become better informed about affordable housing at a Town Hall on Housing, Development, and Impacts in SOMA

We know you believe in the work of the Community Coalition on Race. We are humbled each day to see the ways our community supports this work and engages in it with us. [Help us continue to serve and to follow new pathways to racial equity and inclusion by donating \\$100, \\$250, \\$500 or more here today.](#)

### 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Observance: *Overcoming Silence and Inaction on Racial Justice*

**Monday, January 15th, 2 pm**

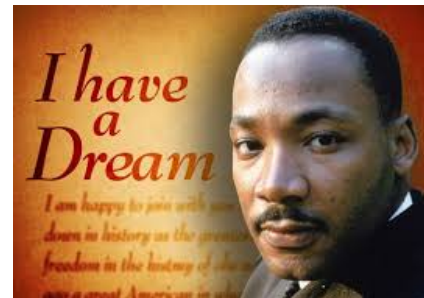
**Columbia High School Auditorium**

**Volunteer Fair at 3:30 pm in the CHS Cafeteria**

Join us for this community-wide, interfaith moment to reflect on Dr. King's legacy and the ways we create an integrated community. This year's program includes the inspiring speaker Pastor Willie Dwayne Francois III, senior pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Pleasantville, NJ, and author of 'Silencing White Noise: Six Practices to Overcome Our Inaction on Race.' The program also includes dance and choral performances, and readings from interfaith leaders.

**The Volunteer Fair** starts right after the service in the CHS cafeteria. Don't miss this opportunity to honor Dr. King's call to service by visiting with dozens of local organizations.

**Luminary Lighting:** All are invited to participate in the Luminary Project—an uplifting and inspirational end to this important day.



### The Luminary Project

Hosted each year since 2013 at sunset on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, we ask people to light up the outside of their homes or businesses with Luminaries, white bags with votive candles inside that can be decorated. The goal is for thousands of homes in SOMA to be lit up as a sign of hope, sanctuary, peace, and solidarity with Dr. King's vision of the Beloved Community. The Luminaries come



four in a pack for a suggested donation of \$10 and it is a fundraiser for the Coalition. **Stay tuned for lists of local businesses where you can buy your luminary kits, and information on getting your whole street or neighborhood involved!**

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## Calling All Local Organizations and Nonprofits to Participate in the Volunteer Fair!

This year marks the return of the Volunteer Fair in the CHS cafeteria immediately following the Observance. This is your chance to connect with community members, to provide information on your work, and to engage some new volunteers! Organizations interested in participating in the Fair should email [the completed form found here](mailto:audrey.rowe@communitycoalitiononrace.org) to Program Director Audrey Rowe at [audrey.rowe@communitycoalitiononrace.org](mailto:audrey.rowe@communitycoalitiononrace.org).

Life's most persistent question is, "What are you doing for others?"

- Martin Luther King Jr.

## Our Integration through the Arts Program is an ECLAP Grantee Again This Year!

The Coalition received funding from the Essex County Division of Cultural Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts to for **Integrated Art Circles 2024**. This project, led by local professional artists, combines art education, individual creative expression, interracial interaction, and community engagement using small group workshops, public exhibits, performances, and community discussion. Check our website in early 2024 for information on registering.



## Opportunity for Local Teaching Artists with Integrated Art Circles 2024!

Integrated Art Circles 2024 offers artists an opportunity to use their art and teaching skills to bring residents together to have fun while learning a new art form and building relationships with other participants of different races and backgrounds. The Community Coalition's Integration through the Arts Committee has limited positions in 2024 for artists to lead these small community groups called Circles for an honorarium. To receive an application and more information, send an email to [SOMACCR.Arts@gmail.com](mailto:SOMACCR.Arts@gmail.com) including your full name, telephone contact and your art discipline.

Integrated Art Circles 2023



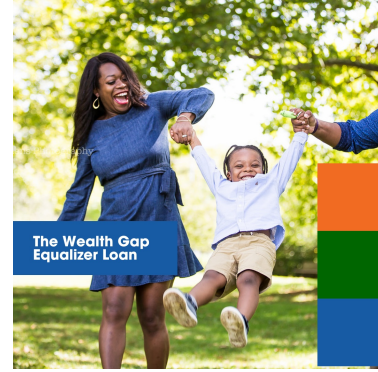
## Statement Against Antisemitism and Islamophobic Bias in SOMA

The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race, whose work is focused on our communities in New Jersey, strongly condemns antisemitism and Islamophobia. [Read the full statement from Board of Trustees here.](#)



## The Wealth Gap Equalizer Loan Is Available

Spread the word about this financial incentive to support integrative moves into SOMA! To address racialized housing inequities, the Community Coalition on Race launched a loan program—the Wealth Gap Equalizer Loan (WGEL)—with the goal of supporting a new generation of Black and non-white Hispanic homebuyers in SOMA. [Learn more here and find how to apply today.](#)



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[www.communitycoalitiononrace.org](http://www.communitycoalitiononrace.org)

DONATE



Visit our website

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