



BLACK HEROES MATTER - DUSABLE MATTERS POWERED BY

Martin's International Foundation

"Bringing Nations Together Through Music and Culture"



Good afternoon Mayor Lightfoot. Before I go any further, I want to ask one of our Coalition members, Minister Eric Sexton, from the Living Word Christian Center to offer a minute of blessing for your continued strength and guidance.



Mayor Lightfoot, I know we have met on several occasions; However, I am Ephraim Martin, President of Martin's International, representing the Black Heroes Matter.

At the age of 18 in 1974, I was the youngest Photojournalist for the world's oldest newspaper the Jamaican Daily Gleaner, and its sister Daily Star newspaper, covering assignments with world leaders from Queen Elizabeth to Fidel Castro at the United Nation in New York 1979.

In August 1980, while covering the Democratic National Convention in NY, I was invited by an Illinois State Representative, the late Hon. Peggy Smith Martin to participate in the Black Media Inc workshop at Chicago State University, where I was given an Award. There I met John Sengstacke the publisher for the Chicago Daily Defender who invited me to join the Defender as a photojournalist.

In my first year, at the Defender, while still working with the Gleaner and Star; Apartheid was at its peak! With the encouragement of friends from various countries Martin's International came into being and established the Chicago Music Awards and the International Reggae and World Music Awards. Among the objectives were the promotion of music as an art form to end Apartheid, the Freedom of Nelson Mandela and as a vehicle of expression for the voiceless peoples in the world.

In 1993 after the freedom of Nelson Mandela, the African/Caribbean International Festival of Life was established with the objective of "Bringing Nations Together Through Music and Culture."



BLACK HEROES MATTER - DUSABLE MATTERS

POWERED BY

Martin's International Foundation

"Bringing Nations Together Through Music and Culture"



In 1995, eager to highlight Chicago's founder, Martin's International hosted its Festival of Life on DuSable's original property- City Front Center on the West Side of Navy Pier, under Lake Shore Drive. This venue was used for major festivals upward of 10,000. Our event attracted 3000 fans mainly Africans-Americans; the then Alderman Burt Natarus called the peaceful event, an invasion of a private community on DuSable's land. It was at that time when Dr. Margaret Burroughs in attendance, asked that we move the event to her DuSable Museum Sunken Garden.

Over the years, at our various events, we have been calling for the injustices to Chicago's founding father to be resolved.

Fast forward to this time, following the brutal death of George Floyd, we the people could take it no longer.

In June of this year the Black Heroes Matter coalition was born to continue the ongoing struggle to give full respect to Chicago's founding father, DuSable.

Today the coalition has grown to more than 80 organizations and businesses; not to mention thousands of concern citizens who are calling for the injustices to Jean Baptiste Point DuSable Chicago's founding father be corrected in the following manner.

1. That the Transportation Committee and the full City Council vote to have Alderman Moore's ordinance for the Outer Lake Shore Drive from Hollywood on the North to 67th Street on the South to be renamed "DuSable Drive".

We cannot wait until April! As you well know, Madam Mayor, Justice Delayed is Justice Denied!

2. We need a full City Holiday in honor of DuSable who founded this great city.

March 4th is a day set aside as a day of observance, which should be upgraded to a full holiday. And, if that time is not feasible, the first Saturday in July of each year is proposed in order to reduce the city financial burden. And (3)

- 3 We want a major Monument for DuSable, no less than 25 feet.

The site selected by our coalition, is at the entrance to Grant Park located on the East Side of S. Michigan Avenue on Ida B. Wells Drive. It is the most visible and public friendly location to welcome visitors to DuSable's city.

In the event for good reason that location is not available, the next choice is in front of the Buckingham Fountain at Ida B. Well Drive and Columbus Drive.



BLACK HEROES MATTER - DUSABLE MATTERS

POWERED BY

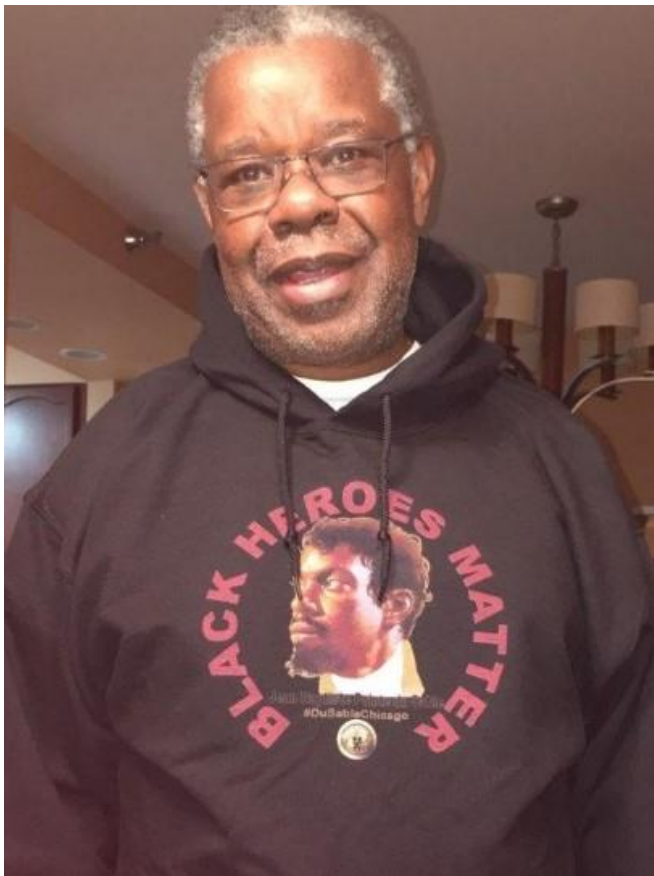
Martin's International Foundation

"Bringing Nations Together Through Music and Culture"



Mayor Lightfoot, we are pleased to know that you have now established a committee to address Arts and Monuments in Chicago, one of the cities with the most outstanding monuments and artworks; Except there is none for this Caribbean man who founded this great city, Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable.

Before this new committee starts considering candidates to be credited, we respectfully ask that you officially confirm and make the monument of DuSable, first!



Black Heroes Matter coalition have secured the Sculptors, with the proper credentials to build the monument, which will take approximately one year.

Our objective is to have the Monument completed by the end of December 2021 or by no later than the spring of 2022 for unveiling in the summer of 2022.

Let us not reinvent the wheel for this Monument.

In the last few days, we have conducted a survey among our coalition members, and they are saying, we can no further compromise on the Outer Lake Shore Drive, and for us to push to have a vote in the next Council meeting, no later than January 2021.

Mayor Lightfoot, we sincerely thank you for the extraordinary job you have been doing for the people of Chicago under the most difficult circumstances.

We wish you all of God Blessings, as I now introduce our next speaker Justice Shelvin L. M. Hall, Ret., Illinois Appellate Court, and Black Heroes Matter, Chairperson for our Government and Diplomat Committee.

(Shelvin: ; follow by Atty. Daphanie Pierre Camilien, President Haitian American Lawyers Association, BHM chairperson on

Education Committee (Daphanie introduce Tremell Williams, President of Projectborn ELITEMIND, LLC., Chairperson on Entertainment/Youth Committee,(Tremell introduce Elsie Hernandez, President Haitian American Museum of Chicago (HAMOC), Co-Chair Education Committee.

Ephraim Martin
President, Martin's International Foundation "Bringing Nations Together Through Music and Culture"