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### KST partners with local organizations for sixth annual East Liberty Celebrates MLK Day, focuses on resilience

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Kelly Strayhorn Theater is proud to present the sixth annual **East Liberty Celebrates MLK Day** on Monday, January 19, 2015 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Kelly Strayhorn Theater. Open to the community, the event is pay-what-you-can and includes family-friendly activities and inspiring performances.

In this time fraught with protests and conversations, Kelly Strayhorn Theater looks to the theme of resilience to characterize its sixth annual East Liberty Celebrates MLK Day. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. himself said, "There is no gain without struggle," reminding us that advances in civil rights are incomplete without hard work and determination. Resilience furthermore resonates with KST as we continue our centennial season as the premier center of arts and entertainment in East Liberty.

KST aims to not only highlight the legacy of MLK's work, but also to underscore the value and strength young individuals share as community mobilizers and innovative performers.

"Now in its sixth year, KST's MLK Day event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Dr. King's legacy, and the perfect time to come together and reflect on the recent protests and national conversations surrounding equality and justice," says Janera Solomon, executive director of KST. "This event will also kick off the second part of KST's centennial season as we continue to celebrate the theater's dedication to serving the community."

MLK Day also marks the end of **Capsule 15206**, KST's time capsule project. Since the centennial celebration this past October, KST has collected stories, pictures, crafts and more from people in the community. Before KST buries Capsule 15206, attendees will have one more opportunity to submit their memories of the theater and neighborhood into the time capsule.

#### Activities and Performances

Kelly Strayhorn Theater partners with organizations from around the city to provide interactive and educational activities at East Liberty Celebrates MLK. Beginning at 12 noon, guests can visit activity tables from Repair the World Pittsburgh, Assemble, Union Project, Fair Housing Partnership of Pittsburgh, Reading Is FUNDamental, Center for Victims, Pittsburgh Cares, and the YMCA Westinghouse Lighthouse Project.

At 2 p.m., performances will begin onstage as KST features Soundwaves Steelband, the YMCA Westinghouse Lighthouse Project, 1Hood, Dreams of Hope, Hope Academy, Trevor C. Dance Collective, and emcee Darrell Kinsel. Soundwaves Steelband will perform music from legends Stevie Wonder and Fela Kuti, and will also collaborate with 1Hood in a unique hip hop performance.



Illustration by Chelsea Kowalik



### About the Kelly Strayhorn Theater

As the last of nine theaters from the 1950s heyday of East Liberty, the Kelly Strayhorn Theater uses the arts as a catalyst for continuing community revitalization. The theater, in its 12th season, continues to play a key role in the transformation of Pittsburgh's East Liberty neighborhood. An intimate, professionally equipped, 349-seat multiple-use performance venue, the theater demonstrates its commitment to Pittsburgh artists and audiences. The KST is a favorite venue of emerging local artists, regional artists and arts organizations who take risks and present new work. Noted Pittsburghers Gene Kelly and Billy Strayhorn, the namesakes, are among the 80 area artists honored on the theater's Gallery of Stars. The building, opening in 1914, is the former Regent Theatre, which served the East End as a movie house for eight decades.

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