



The Franklin Institute
Science Museum

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**FRANKLIN INSTITUTE HONORS LIFE & LEGACY OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
79TH Birthday Celebration to Include
Intermezzo Choir Ministry & Dr. Molefi Asante**

Philadelphia, PA — January 10, 2008 — The Franklin Institute plans a series of events in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Music, lectures, family and volunteer events will be featured, beginning **Saturday, January 19** with a special performance by the **Intermezzo Choir Ministry at 5PM**, followed by a presentation from Temple University's acclaimed Professor in the Department of African American Studies, **Dr. Molefi Asante at 7PM**. In connection with The Franklin's current "Identity" exhibition, Asante will preview his upcoming photo-essay book entitled, Black Identity in Philadelphia. On **Monday, January 21**, visitors can kick off the traditional day of service at The Franklin Institute. Admission is half price with a canned food donation for Philabundance, and families can enjoy a special scavenger hunt, as well as musical performances by children's recording artist Daria.

Temple University's well-known Dr. Molefi Kete Asante will give audience members a preview of his yet-to-be released photo-essay book, Black Identity in Philadelphia. Widely published and the founding editor of the Journal of Black Studies, Asante was recently recognized as one of the ten most widely cited African Americans.

The twenty-three exceptional voices of the Intermezzo Choir Ministry will kick off the weekend with an inspirational tribute to Dr. King. Noted for its unique arrangements and distinct musical style, the Philly choir's repertoire includes anthems, traditional and contemporary gospels, spirituals, and hymns.

Also complementing the "Identity" exhibition, The Franklin salutes *African Americans in Science* with "A Celebration of Excellence," on view throughout the museum from January 19th through February. Sponsored by The Philadelphia Tribune and PECO, this program focuses on 20 individuals who have made significant

contributions to science and technology. From heart surgery pioneer, **Dr. Daniel Hale Williams**, to present-day surgeon and researcher, **Dr. Charles Bridges**. *African Americans in Science* covers a broad spectrum, highlighting leaders in not only science and medicine, but engineering, transportation and architecture as well.

The celebration continues on **Monday, January 21** with events designed to carry on the legacy of service in honor of Dr. King:

- **11AM-3PM** - Participate in a scavenger hunt focusing on African-American scientists throughout the museum.
- **11AM** –Atrium – Children’s concert with internationally recognized folksinger, **Daria**, performing her version of Dr. King’s “*I HAVE A DREAM,*” with unusual instruments such as guiros, shekeres, washboards, didgeridoos, rainsticks and pow-wow drums.
- **Be inspired** – Listen to the powerful words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as he said it himself 45 years ago. **Saturday, Sunday and Monday** in the Atrium. One of history’s most famous speeches, “**I Have a Dream,**” Will be featured throughout the weekend.
- Students from The Franklin’s **FACTS** program will be on hand as part of their day of service. They are part of a special program to bring “Science Alive,” and are also featured in *African Americans in Science*.
- The Franklin is partnering with *Philabundance* to collect canned goods for the needy. Visitors who bring a canned food donation will receive half off the price of admission *on Monday only*.

Admission information:

- Bring in The Franklin Institute/MLK ad and receive a special “Buy one ticket, get one free!” discount. Saturday, 1/19 and Sunday 1/20 only.
- Special events on Saturday, 1/19, are free and open to the public, but registration is required. Make your reservation by calling **215.448.1254**.

For more details, please log on to www.fi.edu.

Founded in honor of America’s 1st scientist, Benjamin Franklin, The Franklin Institute is one of America’s oldest and premier centers of science education and development in the country. The newest exhibit, “Identity: An Exhibition of You,” explores the physical, psychological and social elements that make you tick. Developed by The Franklin Institute, the exhibit is on view through April 20, 2008. **COMING FEBRUARY ’08 – STAR WARS!!!**