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PRESS RELEASE

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1st MLK Oratory Competition to be Held in February

The City of Shreveport on Saturday, Feb. 18, will host an oratory competition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the final visit that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. made to our area.

Sponsored by the Mahogany Ensemble Theatre, the first Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Oratory Competition and Young Leadership Award will honor Dr. King's legacy and the rich Civil Rights heritage in Northwest Louisiana. It also will provide a venue to showcase the emerging leadership of talented youth in the region.

The theme for the oratory presentation is "Fulfilling the Dream" and it's open to all students in grades 3-5 (elementary division); 6-8 (junior division); and 9-12 (senior division). The Youth Leadership Award is open to young adults between 16 and 21.

"Mahogany Ensemble Theatre is committed to the development of youth on and off the stage," Angelique Feaster Evans, founding artistic director, said. "The oratory competition will provide students an opportunity to learn more about Dr. King and our own area Freedom Fighters and their impact on the local civil rights movement."

The deadline to enter the competition is Monday, Jan. 30. Applications are available online at www.mahoganyensembletheatre.org or at any branch of the Shreve Memorial Library, which is partnering with City to host the event.

"This competition is open to everybody and we want it to be diverse and inclusive because Dr. King's message resonated across lines of ethnicity and race," Mayor Cedric Glover said Monday in announcing the competition.

For additional information, please contact Angelique Feaster Evans at (318) 382-2841.

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