

# COW PALACE

Dear Educators,

We invite your students to share their gifts and talents with the community by participating in the second annual Cow Palace program celebrating the impact and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Step Into the Light."

This event is inspired by Dr. King's visit to the Cow Palace in 1964, when he spoke at the Republican National Convention and the photograph taken of him during his speech.



George Conklin, who took the photograph, reflects on the famous image here:

<https://www.bates.edu/news/2015/01/15/photographing-mlk-in-1964-george-conklin-53-focused-on-the-final-frames/>

At the convention, Dr. King spoke in defense of the Rumford Fair Housing Act and the Civil Rights Act. You can read about his visit here: <https://underscoresf.com/heres-why-mlk-visited-san-francisco-in-1964/>

To celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday in 2024, we are once again inviting high school students in Bay Area counties to also "step into the light." Using their gifts and talents in art, writing, poetry and more, students will share their voice inspired by the words of Dr. King. Their work will be evaluated by local professionals, and prizes will be awarded at the "Step Into the Light" exhibit and reception to be held on January 11, 2024 at the Cow Palace.

Entries open **November 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2023** and will close on **January 3, 2024**. Students will drop off their work to the Cow Palace on **January 4, 2024**, or submit online, depending on their entry category. Please share the enclosed information with your students and encourage them to use this opportunity to express their voice in a creative and impactful way.

Kind regards,

Allison Keaney, PhD  
Chief Executive Officer  
Cow Palace, 1-A District Agricultural Association

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