



NEWS FROM:

Cultural Arts & Marketing Division, Office of the City Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 9, 2009

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Renowned Author to Speak at Oakland Celebrates the Dream

Oakland, Calif. (January 9, 2009) – In honor of Dr. King’s upcoming 80th birthday, the City of Oakland will host the sixth annual **Oakland Celebrates the Dream Opening Ceremony** on Thursday, January 15, 2009. To celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the free event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Frank Ogawa Plaza, 14th Street and Broadway in downtown Oakland. In addition to inspiring remarks by renowned author Angela Glover Blackwell, this event will include live entertainment and a resource fair on other Oakland community celebrations honoring Dr. King.

PolicyLink CEO Angela Glover Blackwell founded the organization in 1999 to advance economic and social equity in America. As a national authority on poverty issues, Blackwell recently contributed a chapter to “Ending Poverty in America: How to Restore the American Dream,” an anthology edited by former Sen. John Edwards. In addition to authoring several other books, she is a frequent media guest with appearances on ABC’s “Nightline,” “NOW with Bill Moyers” and National Public Radio. Blackwell has been published in the opinion pages of “The New York Times,” the “Los Angeles Times” and the “San Francisco Chronicle.”

Before founding PolicyLink, Blackwell served as senior vice president at The Rockefeller Foundation overseeing the Domestic and Cultural divisions. She founded the Urban Strategies Council in 1987 and received national recognition for pioneering a community building approach to social change. For a decade beginning in 1977, Blackwell served as a partner with Public Advocates where she developed innovative non-litigation strategies in the areas of employment, education, health and consumer affairs. Blackwell earned a bachelor’s degree from Howard University and a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

Entertainment during the event will include musical performances by the Oakland School for the Arts Drum Corps and the school’s Concert Choir. The Oakland Public Theater will present a special performance of excerpts from speeches made by both Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and President-elect Barack Obama that highlight America’s Civil Rights movement over the last four decades.

For the past six years, the Oakland Celebrates the Dream Opening Ceremony has been generously supported by AT&T with an exclusive grant to raise awareness of important community celebrations in Oakland. Oakland Celebrates The Dream Opening Ceremony is produced by the City of Oakland. In the event of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved to the auditorium in the Elihu M. Harris State Building, 1515 Clay Street.

For additional information, visit www.oaklandnet.com/celebrations or call (510) 444-CITY.

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