



Cal Poly Pomona

College of Education  
and Integrative Studies

Afrofuturism Lightning Talk Presentation

# Martin Luther King Jr. Monument Restoration

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# Problem

- Despite his national and international importance, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., (MLK) Monument at CPP is largely unknown and neglected.
- Some interesting facts about the MLK Monument:
  - The placement of the MLK Monument happened under the Presidency of Hugh O. La Bounty, 1977-1991
  - Black Student Union (BSU) placed the MLK Monument outside of Building #6, 1989-1991
  - The decision was made to seek the renovation of the MLK Monument in 2024

# Solution

- Strengthen campus understanding and build interest in renovating this important monument.
- The writing on the monument:
  - In Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
  - Jan 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968
  - **“If A Man Hasn’t Found Something He Will Die For, He Isn’t Fit To Live.”**



# Process in Solving the Problem

Ways to advocate for and assist with restoration:

- Engage in ongoing discussions with the current Black Student Union (BSU) President and Vice President on the future restoration of the monument.
- Partner with Sally Romero in the University Library to seek information on the history of the placement of the monument.
- Coordinate with the Black Resource Center's (BRC) Director to discuss their input on the ways to improve or restore the monument.
- Collaborate with Associated Students, Incorporated (ASI) on the restoration of the MLK Monument and host an event focused on MLK's legacy and the importance of the restoration.

# Gratitude and Next Steps

- We aim to have the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Monument fully restored within a year.
- This project honors the legacy of Dr. King and reinforces our commitment to preserving the rich history and cultural heritage of our campus community.
- Thank you for your support and dedication to this important initiative.
  - Reach out with questions and get involved by emailing me at: [dljordan@cpp.edu](mailto:dljordan@cpp.edu)

## Problem

- "... the historical legacy of Martin Luther King is one of boundaries and his efforts to tear down the walls of racial segregation and inequality" (Alderman, 2002, p. 608)
- Despite national and international importance, the MLK monument at CPP is largely unknown and neglected.
- Interesting facts about the MLK Monument:
  - Placement of the MLK Monument happened under the Presidency of Hugh O. La Bounty, 1977-1991
  - B.S.U. (Black Student Union) placed the MLK Monument outside of Building #6, 1989 - 1991
  - In 2024, the decision was made to seek renovation of the MLK Monument



## Gratitude

\*Thank you for your support and dedication to this important initiative! Reach out to get involved: [dljordan@cpp.edu](mailto:dljordan@cpp.edu)

## Solution

- Monuments to civil rights leaders can also be used as pedagogical tools to challenge dominant historical narratives that often erase contributions of marginalized communities bolstering individual and collective critical consciousness (Demoiny, 2022; Flint, 2021).
- Spatial justice, spatial citizenship, and decolonization spatial theories are critical for student outcomes (e.g., academic achievement, improved mental health, social and emotional learning, leadership development) (Delgado & Stefancic, 2017; Sobel, 2004; Smith, 1999)
- Culturally responsive approaches to teaching and learning promotes critical geography and spatial justice perspectives particularly among underrepresented groups (Gay, 2000; Schlemper et al., 2023)
- Grassroots activism is *learning-by-doing* (Valdivia, 2022)
- The writing on the monument:

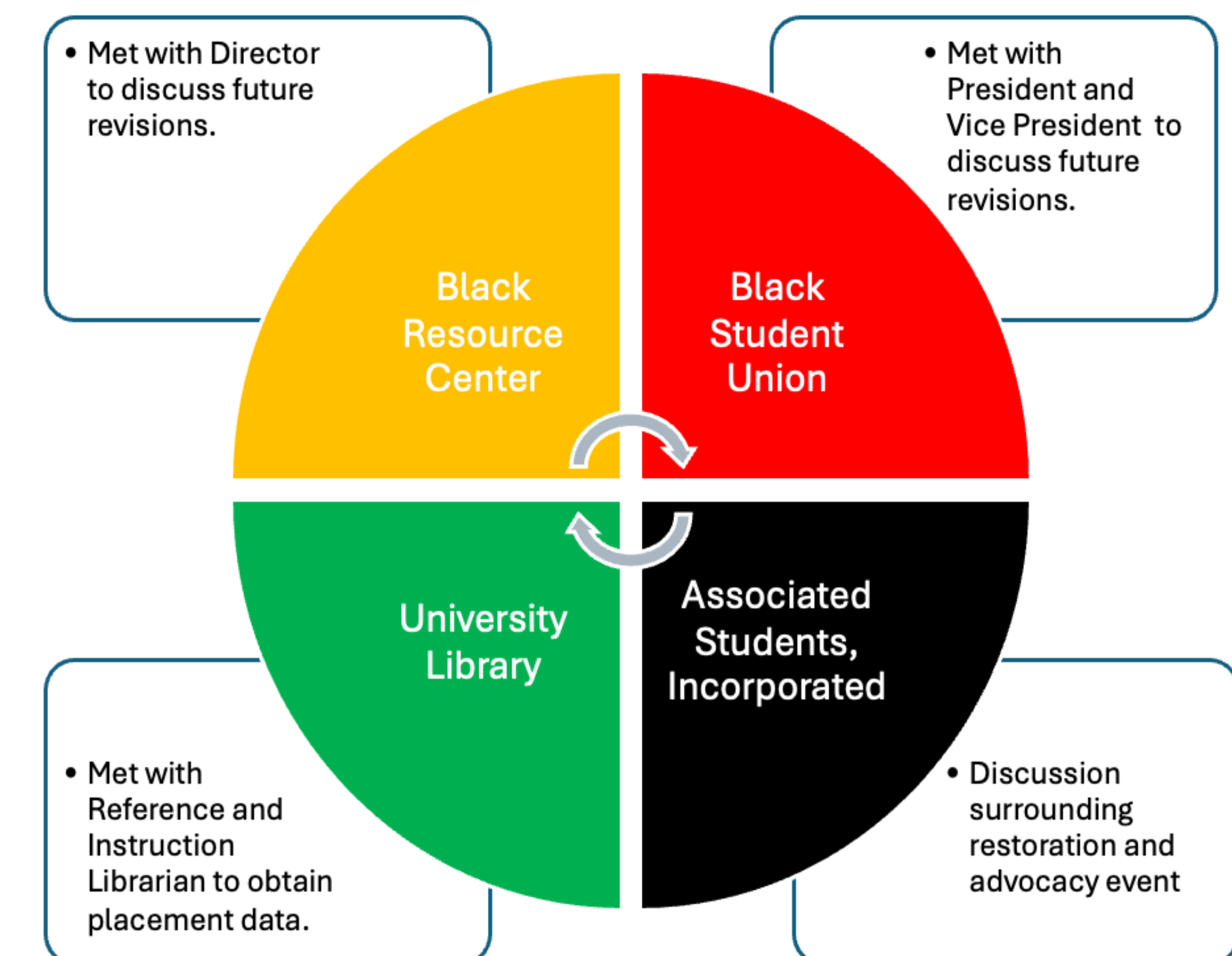
In Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
**Jan 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968**  
**"If A Man Hasn't Found Something He Will Die For,  
He Isn't Fit To Live."**

## Next Steps





- The goal is to have the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. monument fully restored in one (1) year.
- This project honors the legacy of Dr. King and reinforces our collective commitment to preserving the rich history and cultural heritage of our campus community.

## Process in Solving the Problem

- Universities have a responsibility to "... consider the value of higher education in terms of the opportunities it provides to help [all] students find deeply meaningful moments" (Bernstein, 2018, p. 1).
- Ongoing Action Steps



## Critical Reflective Questions

	<b>Students</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How does restoring this monument connect to histories you've learned in the classroom?</li> <li>How can your involvement in this project contribute to a more just and equitable society?</li> </ul>
	<b>Faculty</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can the restoration project be integrated into curriculum to enhance students' understanding of history and social justice?</li> <li>What opportunities does this project present for interdisciplinary collaboration and research?</li> </ul>
	<b>Administrators</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can CPP support students, faculty, and staff involved in the restoration project?</li> <li>How can CPP build partnerships with external organizations to maximize the project's potential?</li> </ul>
	<b>Community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How can the monument be used as a platform for education, dialogue, and social change?</li> <li>How can your involvement in this project contribute to a more just and equitable society?</li> </ul>