

June 19, 1968

Mr. Frank Roughton  
Institute of Communicative Arts  
of the Methodist Church  
1279 Oxford Road, N. E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30306

Dear Mr. Roughton:

I have received from Mayor Ivan Allen your letter addressed to him of June 17th regarding your suggestion for a symphonic drama on the struggle of the Negro in America, with construction for same of an amphitheatre, as a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This has been brought to my attention in my capacity as chairman of our Aldermanic King Memorial Committee.

At the outset, I would like to express appreciation for your interest in this matter and to tell you that I feel your idea is most appropriate and would be extremely meaningful. Actually, one of Mrs. King's suggestions for incorporation in the memorial we are planning was along this line.

As you have probably learned from the various news media, our committee - and subsequently the Board of Aldermen - has taken a position supporting a living, productive memorial as in contrast to something like a statue or a street naming; and we have called on the federal government to assist in the development of a national memorial with several working facilities in the area of Dr. King's birthplace and mother church around Auburn Avenue and Boulevard. We also have an ordinance before our Zoning Committee referred to it by the Board of Aldermen at its meeting Monday which would call for designation of this area as an "historic district", which is our first step in order to preserve the character of some of the neighborhood and to protect it from other developments until we are in a position to make actual acquisition. It is my opinion that in the near future we will probably work

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toward the establishment of a prestige national board of trustees, as suggested by Mrs. King, which board would probably have the responsibility of deciding on specific facilities to be incorporated in the development.

At the next meeting of our committee I will bring your communication to their attention and will keep you advised as to our progress.

Sincerely,



Sam Massell, Jr.

SMJr:nd

cc: Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Hon. Ivan Allen, Jr. ✓  
(Attn: Mr. Dan Sweat)