



Remembering the Poor People's Campaign

The National Museum of African American History and Culture is commemorating the 50th anniversary year of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination with a special exhibition honoring the civil rights leader's final, ambitious dream: the Poor People's Campaign, a historic effort to advance economic justice by bringing economically disadvantaged people to Washington, D.C.

In 1968, only a month after Dr. King's death, 3,000 people set up a protest camp on the National Mall, today the site of NMAAHC, where they stayed for six weeks to demand that lawmakers address equal access to economic opportunities. The campaign was the vision of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Dr. King, who said shortly before his death, "If a man doesn't have a job or an income, he has neither life nor liberty nor the possibility for the pursuit of happiness. He merely exists."

Entitled *City of Hope: Resurrection City and the 1968 Poor People's Campaign*, the exhibition opened at the National Museum of American History last December and will run through December 2018.

City of Hope features artifacts from the Museum's permanent collection, as well as objects from the National Museum of American History, the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum, and the Ralph Rinzler Folklife Collection at the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. The exhibit highlights a series of newly discovered photographs, film footage, audio

recordings, oral histories with campaign participants and organizers, and an array of protest signs, political buttons, and tents from Resurrection City, the tent-city encampment along the National Mall that demonstrators occupied during the campaign.

In addition to celebrating the life and vision of Dr. King, *City of Hope* brings Americans together around a history of social issues that affect us all and inspire a national dialogue on poverty, social change, and economic opportunity — and how individuals can make a difference

within their local communities.

Please join our email list or keep an eye on our website to learn more about a robust schedule of events at the Museum centered on *City of Hope*. Visit nmaahc.si.edu to stay up to date.

