



DEDICATION AND CELEBRATION

PUBLIC FOUNDATION
GREATER ART
DES MOINES

A MONUMENTAL JOURNEY

BY KERRY JAMES MARSHALL



Artist Kerry James Marshall with a model of
A MONUMENTAL JOURNEY
Photo courtesy of Kerry James Marshall Studio, 2016



Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation proudly dedicates A MONUMENTAL JOURNEY by internationally acclaimed artist Kerry James Marshall. A growing community of people shares the legacy of the NBA founders for the continuation of the “monumental journey” towards racial justice and equality. Together, we serve as stewards of this remarkable public art project.

Initiated by the Iowa National Bar Association, the public art project, A MONUMENTAL JOURNEY, honors the courage and legacy of African-American lawyers who founded the National Bar Association (“NBA”) in Des Moines in 1925. Black American attorneys had long sought to address discrimination in their profession, and in 1924, the Iowa Colored Bar Association convened, followed by the founding of the NBA. These pioneering efforts were directed by Iowa lawyers S. Joe Brown, Charles P. Howard, James B. Morris, Gertrude E. Durden Rush and George Henry Woodson who were joined by their colleagues George Cornelius Adams, Jesse Nathaniel Baker, Wendell E. Green, William H. Haynes and Cornelius Francis Stradford from Chicago, Illinois and Charles H. Calloway and L. Amasa Knox from Kansas City, Missouri. All of these founders led this and other efforts to advance justice, uphold the honor of the legal profession, and protect the civil and political rights of all American citizens.

The sculpture is inspired by the “talking drums” that use a nuanced musical language for communication in traditional African cultures. The black earthen bricks reflect the material often employed by African builders and are a reminder that Americans of African descent constructed much of the historical architecture of the United States. Each hand-made, hand-laid brick recalls the labor of these workers, many of whom were victims of racism.

The upper drum is off-center atop the bottom drum, giving the sculpture a precarious tension that suggests a struggle to maintain balance and equilibrium. The sculpture reminds us that the quest for equality and perfect balance is not yet achieved. The legacy of the founders of the NBA is the continuation of the “monumental journey” towards human dignity and justice for the disenfranchised and politically oppressed people of the world.

ON THE COVER

Kerry James Marshall (American, born 1955)

A MONUMENTAL JOURNEY 2018

Manganese Ironspot brick, steel, granite

Commissioned by Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation;

Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation Collection, 2018.1

Photo by M. Jessica Rowe, 9 July 2018

DEDICATION AND CELEBRATION

A MONUMENTAL JOURNEY

THURSDAY, 12 JULY 2018

Hansen Triangle, Northeast corner of Grand and 2nd Avenues, Des Moines, Iowa

PROGRAM

10:30–11 AM LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

African Drum and Chants by IMA Kulture

11–11:45 AM PERFORMANCES & REMARKS

M. Jessica Rowe

Director | Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation

Tim Hickman

MC for the Dedication

President | Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation

Simon Estes

Internationally Renowned Opera Singer

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

Juan R. Thomas, ESQ.

President | National Bar Association (“NBA”)

Introduction by The Honorable Odell G. McGhee II | District Associate Judge

The Honorable Arthenia Joyner

NBA Past President and Civil Rights Activist

Introduction by The Honorable Helen Miller

Iowa House of Representative, 9th District

MarKaus with King Wylde | Hip Hop musician with guitarist/vocalist

“Stand Up For Something”

NOON FORMAL PROGRAM CLOSES & IMA KULTURE RESUMES

6 PM ARTIST LECTURE **Kerry James Marshall**

“Arrivals”

Sheslow Auditorium | Old Main, Drake University

2507 University Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50311

Performed by acclaimed opera star and Iowa native Simon Estes,
“Lift Every Voice and Sing” is often referred to as the “Black/African-American
National Anthem.” The song was written as a poem by James Weldon Johnson
(1871–1938) in 1900 and set to music by his brother John Rosamond Johnson
(1873–1954) in 1905.

Performed by MarKaus with King Wylde, “Stand Up For Something” was
released in 2017 from the soundtrack of the film “Marshall.” The song was
written by rapper/poet Common (born 1971) and songwriter Diana Warren
(born 1956).

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

STAND UP FOR SOMETHING

You can have all the money in your hands
All the possessions anyone can ever have
But it’s all worthless treasure, true worth is only measured
Not by what you got, but what you got in your heart
You can have, you can have everything
What does it, what does it mean?

It all means nothing
If you don’t stand up for something
You can’t just talk the talk
You got to walk that walk, yes you do
It all means nothing
If you don’t stand up for something
And I stand up for you
And I stand up for you, yes I will, yes I will.

You do the best that, do the best that you can do
Then you can look in the mirror
Proud of who’s looking back at you
Define the life you’re living
Not by what you take or what you’re givin’
And if you bet on love there’s no way you’ll ever lose
Take a stand, make a stand for what’s right
It’s always worth, always worth the fight.

It all means nothing
If you don’t stand up for something
You can’t just talk the talk
You got to walk that walk, yes you do
It all means nothing
If you don’t stand up for something
And I stand up for you
Stand for respect, dignity
If that’s all you got, then you got all you need
And without that, you don’t have a thing, oh, no, no.

Rise up, love, lift your hands
I stand with you ‘cause I understand.

Ain’t here to judge, just to take a stand
The greater plan’s the Creator’s plan
Let’s all rise like the day began
Reach out and touch with the Savior’s hand
On rock, we stand like this native land
Let the ways of love be the ways of man.

And it all means nothing
If you don’t stand for something
You can’t just talk the talk
You got to walk that walk, yes you do
It all means nothing
If you don’t stand up for something
And I stand up for you (stand up, stand for you)
I stand up for you (stand up)
And I stand up for you (stand up, stand for you)
Stand up for you, yes I will, yes I will (stand up).

DONORS

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Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation places art in public spaces through public and private collaborations.

VISION

Greater Des Moines Public Art Foundation engages, inspires, and enriches the lives of citizens and visitors in our community. The Foundation is recognized for increasing cultural awareness by establishing a world class destination for public art.

More information about this and other public art projects at
dsmpublicartfoundation.org