



# BLACK HEROES MATTER - DUSABLE MATTERS POWERED BY



*Martin's International Foundation*

*"Bringing Nations Together Through Music and Culture"*



BREAKING NEWS!

For Immediate release

## **DuSable Holiday, Street & Monument Now! Martin's Intl & 50+ Coalition of Organizations demanding. Under the banner of Black Heroes Matter**

(Chicago, August 2020):

"Give DuSable a Holiday, Street and Monument" were the words echoed from Martin's International President, Ephraim Martin and some fifty coalition of organizations, along with Alderman David Moore on Saturday, July 4th in a kick-off march and rally campaign for Chicago's Founding Farther, Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, the Black man from the Caribbean, country of Haiti.

Under the banner of "Black Heroes Matter" the rally and march, headed by former Photo-Journalist Entrepreneur/Activist, Ephraim Martin, President of Martin's International Foundation, started at the Pioneer Court/ Chicago's popular Magnificent Mile, 401 North Michigan Avenue and concluded at the Grant Park Band Shell with a joint Black Lives/Black Skaters rally of some 5000 people protesters; some calling for the Defunding of the Police and more; while Martin continue his coalition's demand for a City Holiday, a Monument and for Lakeshore Drive to be renamed "Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable Drive. . . .

In addition to the three honors for DuSable, Mr. Martin and the supporting organizations proposed an eight - point plan to end Systemic Racism, which they want to be added to the elected officials' conversations on discrimination, policing and more, . Read the full 8 points proposal; see the list of coalition partners; support the Gofundme, and petition campaign at [www.Blackheroesmatter.org](http://www.Blackheroesmatter.org); or click the follow links: GoFundMe <https://gf.me/u/ynryrk> or petition <http://chnng.it/DLhPnQDfzv>.

"This city's first permanent resident and settler, Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, a Black man founded Chicago in 1779 and his business was located at what is now called the Pioneer Court, between Michigan Avenue and the Lake Michigan. Lake Shore Drive and Columbus Drive, both run north-south through the territory where DuSable first arrived, settled and set-up a prosperous fur trading post and farm. The land which is now known as Chicago.

Chicagoans will be most happy when the full stretch of Lake Shore Drive from 5700 N. Hollywood to Marquette Drive and Jeffery Drive to the south, as earlier proposed by former Alderman and now Cook Country Board President Toni Preckwinkle, and last year by Alderman David Moore and others in the Chicago City Council, is named DuSable Drive!

"There is no way we should have gone 240 years without a City Holiday, a main Street, and a major Monument in honor of the father of this great city, called Chicago! There are others who had little or nothing to do with the founding of this city, who are enjoying the honor of this sweet home Chicago! Yes! It is only because of the color of his black Haitian skin, that Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable has yet to receive his full reward in history!"

So, to Madam Mayor Lightfoot and the Chicago City Council, we are waiting on you, but not for long, to come through for Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable!" Mr. Martin concluded.



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Speaking at the rally also, 17th Ward Alderman David Moore said he is pressing the issue to fully honor DuSable in city council.

“There’s no way we can continue to say Chicago is one of the greatest cities when we cannot recognize the man fully who founded Chicago,” Moore said.

The Alderman noted Mayor Lori Lightfoot is not opposed to the idea to honor DuSable with a monument, street and holiday and said he is optimistic.

Multiple Chicago Music Awards Poet winner, Blaq Ice, and Caribbean culture and carnival dance groups, Team Jamaica and Team Bad were among the performers. Rev. Thomas Savage of the Friendship Baptist Church of Chicago acknowledged the more than forty organizations in support of DuSable’s honors.

As a reminder, to guarantee a Monument no less than 25th feet and to achieve our objectives for Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable, there is a GoFundMe and a petition drive online that needs your support. Please visit [www.martinsinternational.com](http://www.martinsinternational.com) and click the DuSable links or to support the major Monument for DuSable, please click this GoFundMe page <https://gf.me/u/ynryrk> , also sign the petition <http://chnng.it/DLhPnQDfny>. to support the Holiday and Street for the Founding Father.

Among the other elected officials and organizations in support of the project are: Hon. Toni Preckwinkle, President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, Hon. Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Cook county circuit Court, Alderman David Moore, Alderwoman Pat Dowell, Alderman Walter Burnett and several other members of the city Council. Along with, the Haitian-American Lawyers Association, WVON 1690 AM Radio, Star Planet TV, Deon Lopez, The Caribbean Association of Midwest America, Clyde Banks-UNIA, Mr. Olivier Kamazi, Ali Crawford-Team BAD, African Global Chamber of Commerce, The State of the African Diaspora, Patricia Gordon- Team Jamaica, Bantu Inc Organization, Vernon Lloyd- Music Box Foundation, Eric Sexton-Dominion Music Group, Blaq Ice-P.O.E.T., Ghana National Council, and Eric Blome -Figurative Art Studio LLC, who displayed a dramatic eight-foot, blue statue of DuSable’s Head that was used in the rally. Plus Harris Business Enterprise/Love, Truth and Peace Foundation, , Projectborn Elitemind LLC., The State of the African Diaspora, AFRICA-USA Today Magazine, Stanmorr Sports Inc., African Diaspora Sixth Region Association of Illinois, Boyce Sound Prod. 25th Century Radio, Creative Tea Café/Tea FDS, and others.

For more information to become a Monument and/or other sponsor, contact: Black Heroes Matter at [www.blackheroesmatter.org](http://www.blackheroesmatter.org) , email [Bheroesmatter@gmail.com](mailto:Bheroesmatter@gmail.com) , or call 877/973-4423. For press inquiries contact Valerie Hill at (312) 513-4695 or [Vhill17211@yahoo.com](mailto:Vhill17211@yahoo.com). Social media @DuSableChicago ##DuSableChicago, #DuSable, #blackheroesmatter, #martinsinternational, #dusableholiday, #duSablemonument, #dusabledrive, #howaboutthat.

ABOUT EPHRAIM MARTIN: Since 1982, using music as an art form and a vehicle of expression for the voiceless peoples of the world, for an end to apartheid, the freedom of Nelson Mandela and for freedom and democracy in the world, to the fight to end systemic racism. The former photojournalist and now reggae/world music special events organizer/activist, Ephraim Martin - Martin’s International CEO has been in the forefront of the movement for more than 38 years to bring forth equitable change to the Black and other communities of the diaspora. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDPj8oFcFBY>