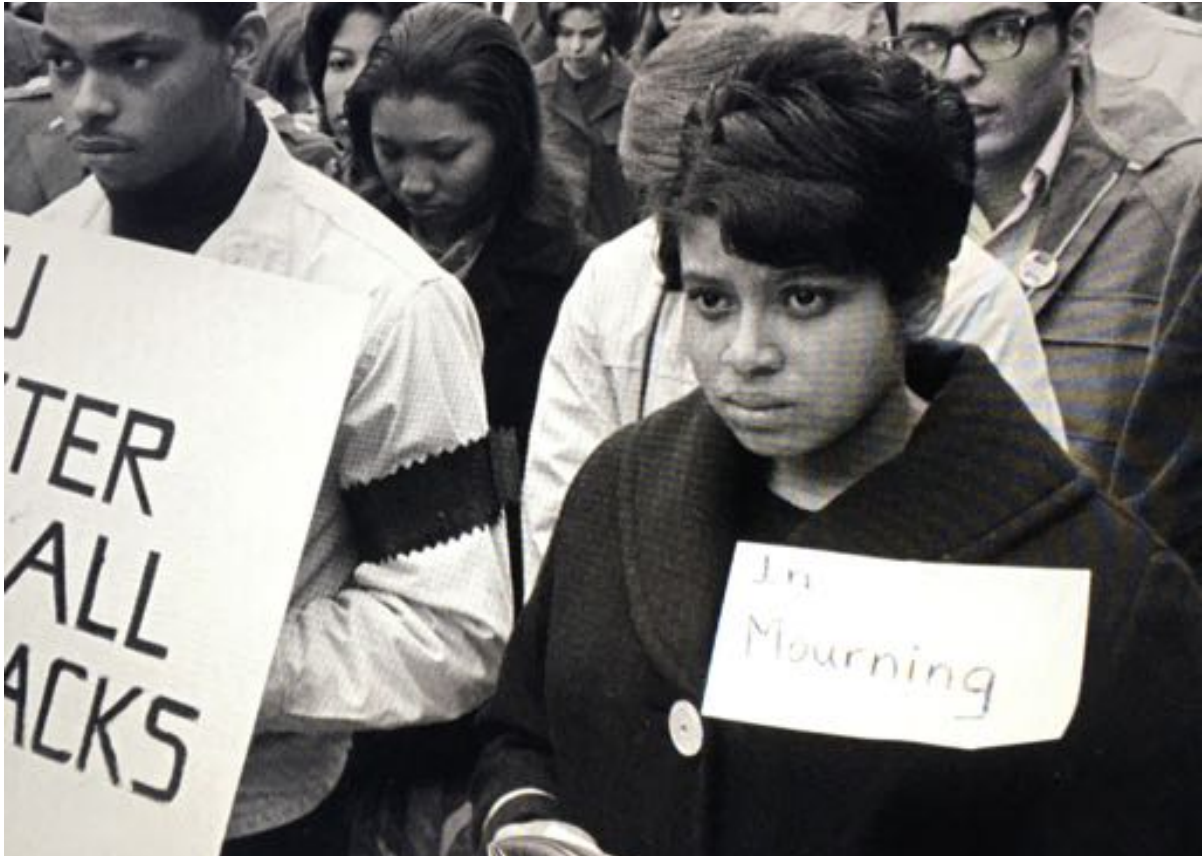


THE DRUM MAJOR PROJECT

Armbands of Hope



Armband workshop design by Angela Davis Johnson

Concept by and created in collaboration with Rachel Parish

Inspired by the incomparable Charles Black and all the heroes of the civil rights movement.



Armbands of Hope Workshop

PROJECT OVERVIEW: LESSONS FROM THE PAST

Between the days of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination on April 4 and his funeral on April 9, 1968, the nation experienced the greatest social upheaval since the Civil War. Fury filled riots broke out in over 100 cities, dozens of people were killed, thousands injured and millions of dollars of damage occurred. The city of Atlanta stood in sharp contrast. As thousands of mourners poured into the city, the city stood steady. In the midst of incalculable loss, family members, city leaders, community leaders, students and volunteers joined together to literally live out Dr. King's legacy of courageous nonviolence. This time was marked by countless expressions of unity and grace from all sectors of the city.

On the day of his funeral, throughout the course of the three and a half mile procession from Ebenezer Baptist Church to Morehouse College, over a thousand civilians volunteered to protect the 100,000 mourners who came to memorialize him. From children to freedom fighters, everyone acted with one accord to use their skills to maintain peace at that tumultuous time. It was the ingenuity of a home economics teacher that led her students to make armbands for each volunteer marshal in 1968.

Today, as we approach the 50th anniversary of this moment, our society is facing tremendous political discord, racial and gender discrimination and economic and environmental injustice. There are profound lessons to learn by looking back at how the everyday people of the civil rights era were able to channel their grief into creating positive actions to hold their city together.

Participation in the the Drum Major Project invites Atlantans to simultaneously engage with our inspiring civil rights legacy and the violent costs of political action. We firmly believe the social and political context of our country at this moment requires a reflection of how legacies of civil rights struggles and racial violence inform who we are today. Through participation in the Drum Major Project, we seek to bring people together to reflect, grieve, and celebrate our past and present, in the hopes of nurturing, in some small way, a Beloved Community of the future.

ACTIVITY:

During this activity we will create our own armbands which serve as symbols of remembrance and markers for strength, perseverance, and unity. Through making these armbands, we will hold ourselves accountable for showing up to improve our own communities. You are invited to wear this armband on April 9th 2018, on the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's funeral, and to join us as we retrace the funeral procession path from Ebenezer Baptist Church to Morehouse College. Stepping off at 11:30 am, this March for Humanity is a call for us to walk in solidarity toward a just future, in witness to the past.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

On February 4th, 1968, from the pulpit of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Dr. Martin Luther King preached his Drum Major Instinct sermon. This was his last major sermon; he was assassinated only two months later. His wife Coretta Scott King requested that this sermon be played at his funeral service. In a foreshadowing of his own death, Dr. King reflected on what he wanted to be said about him after he died – he spoke his legacy as he would wish to be remembered, and in so doing, defined with eloquent simplicity, a personal and communal moral vision for the entire world.

As you follow the steps of the armband making activity, use these materials for your reflection and discussion.

1) Listen to or read the Drum Major Instinct sermon

Text:

http://kingencyclopedia.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/documentsentry/doc_the_drum_major_instinct/

Recorded sound: <https://>

www.youtube.com/watch?v=BcuifZJdyaY

Excerpt included at the end of this document.

2) When you listen to Dr. King's sermon, the message of the following quote emerges as an undergirding legacy and challenge to us:

"I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity."

As you work together to create your own personal armbands, discuss:

How does this particular statement speak to you, individually and collectively, 50 years on?

3) Dr. King's legacy includes a personal invitation to each of us to be the change we want to see in the world. We can make this change through simple acts of kindness as well as dedicated efforts to bring about lasting social change. Either way, it always begins with individuals and communities.

Continue making your armbands and develop your discussion to include these questions:

- Who is one person in your community that see working, in small or large ways, to bring about the beloved community?
- What is one change you would like to see happen within your community?
- What is one way you can begin to bring about that change?

ACTIVITY GUIDE

Supplies*

- 12 x 12 in.* grey fabric [lycra, stretchy t-shirt material]
- 24 in. light color ribbon
- small hot glue gun
- hot glue sticks
- needle
- thread
- Scissors

*links to suggested purchase locations found on last page

* make square larger and smaller according to upper arm size



Steps

- 1) Take two pieces of ribbon.
- 2) On one piece, write with a permanent marker an issue that concerns you about your neighborhood, community, nation, or the world.
- 3) Share your thoughts with the person next to you.
- 4) On the second ribbon, write one action you can take to towards making a change to that social issue. No matter how small or big.
- 5) Share your solution with the person next to you.
- 6) Put your ribbons aside.



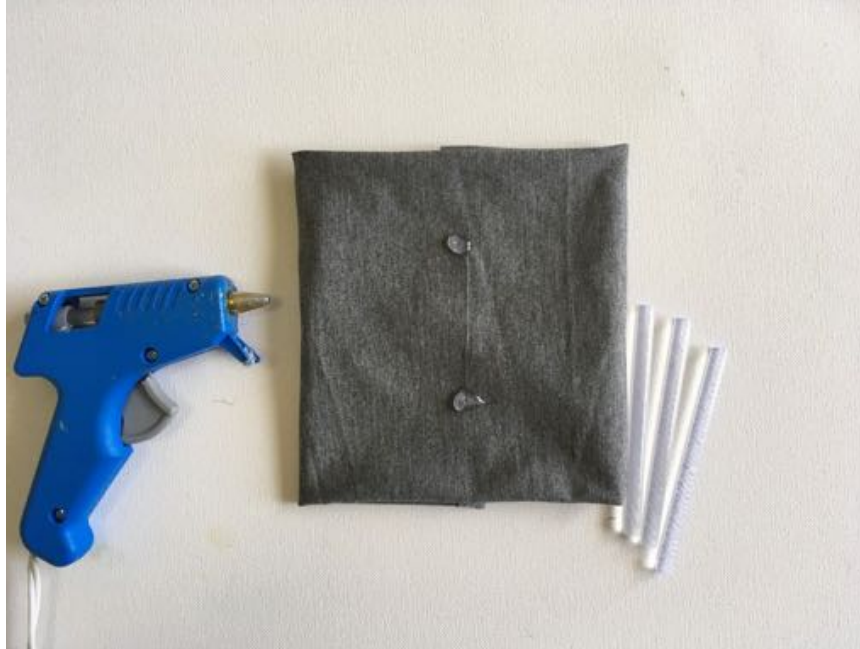
- 7) Take both edges of square fabric and fold it to the center to make a rectangle shape. Hot glue or sew the center edges together, making a seam. This rectangle will be open on both ends.



- 8) Fold side A to center. Next, tuck side B about an inch to make the edge neat. Then fold it to the center to create a middle seam. See photo. Secure the seam with glue or needle stitches.



- 9) Flip armband over. Place two hot glue dots on smooth side to attach the ribbons.



10) Turn armband over and secure the ribbons with four lines of hot glue.



11) Tie the ribbons in place.



- 12) On April 9, 2018, wear your armband. Join us at 11:30am at Ebenezer Baptist church to walk to Morehouse in a March for Humanity commemorating the life of Dr. King and celebrating the power of working together toward a brighter future.



Links to purchase supplies

For a group of six participants average cost for supplies: \$27.24

A yard of fabric- \$7.00

<https://www.fabricsworldusa.com/product/details/1575.html>

small hot glue gun x 2 - \$5.34

<https://www.walmart.com/ip/AdTech-Lo-Temp-Mini-Glue-Gun-Low-Temp-Compact-Tool-for-Crafting-School-Projects-and-DIY-Item-0450/105168885>

hot glue sticks- \$4.97

<https://www.walmart.com/ip/Gorilla-Hot-Glue-Sticks-4-30-Count-Mini-Size/51984998>

Ribbon- \$2.21

https://www.walmart.com/ip/Threadart-Grosgrain-Ribbon-7-8-Width-10-yd-Roll-25-Colors/55142514?action=product_interest&action_type=title&beacon_version=1.0.2&bucket_id=irsbucketdefault&client_guid=28fc472d-018e-41b2-36d9-aa45cb466596&config_id=2&customer_id_enc&findingMethod=p13n&guid=28fc472d-018e-41b2-36d9-aa45cb466596&item_id=55142514&parent_anchor_item_id=17404682&parent_item_id=17404682&placement_id=irs-2-m2&reporter=recommendations&source=new_site&strategy=PWVUB&visitor_id=fG0U3GOouMkXHUVdISkF6w

needle - \$3.24

<https://www.walmart.com/ip/SINGER-45-HAND-NEEDLES/19398726>

thread- \$3.28

https://www.walmart.com/ip/Gutermann-Sew-All-Polyester-Thread-547yd-Color-278/24627075?action=product_interest&action_type=title&beacon_version=1.0.2&bucket_id=irsbucketdefault&client_guid=405a8720-e317-4397-3de2-7964c32be5f2&config_id=2&customer_id_enc&findingMethod=p13n&guid=405a8720-e317-4397-3de2-7964c32be5f2&item_id=24627075&parent_anchor_item_id=24627058&parent_item_id=24627058&placement_id=irs-2-m2&reporter=recommendations&source=new_site&strategy=PWVAV&visitor_id=fG0U3GOouMkXHUVdISkF6w

scissors- \$1.20

<https://www.walmart.com/ip/Sparco-8-Bent-Multipurpose-Scissors/43605208>

Excerpt from Drum Major Instinct Sermon, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, Feb 4, 1968

Every now and then I guess we all think realistically (*Yes, sir*) about that day when we will be victimized with what is life's final common denominator—that something that we call death. We all think about it. And every now and then I think about my own death and I think about my own funeral. And I don't think of it in a morbid sense. And every now and then I ask myself, "What is it that I would want said?" And I leave the word to you this morning.

If any of you are around when I have to meet my day, I don't want a long funeral. And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy, tell them not to talk too long. (*Yes*) And every now and then I wonder what I want them to say. Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize—that isn't important. Tell them not to mention that I have three or four hundred other awards—that's not important. Tell them not to mention where I went to school. (*Yes*) I'd like somebody to mention that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others. (*Yes*)

I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to love somebody. I want you to say that day that I tried to be right on the war question. (*Amen*) I want you to be able to say that day that I did try to feed the hungry. (*Yes*) And I want you to be able to say that day that I did try in my life to clothe those who were naked. (*Yes*)

I want you to say on that day that I did try in my life to visit those who were in prison. (*Lord*) I want you to say that I tried to love and serve humanity. (*Yes*)

Yes, if you want to say that I was a drum major, say that I was a drum major for justice. (*Amen*) Say that I was a drum major for peace. (*Yes*) I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter. (*Yes*) I won't have any money to leave behind. I won't have the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind. (*Amen*) And that's all I want to say.

If I can help somebody as I pass along,
If I can cheer somebody with a word or song,
If I can show somebody he's traveling wrong,
Then my living will not be in vain.
If I can do my duty as a Christian ought,
If I can bring salvation to a world once wrought,
If I can spread the message as the master taught,
Then my living will not be in vain.

Yes, Jesus, I want to be on your right or your left side, (*Yes*) not for any selfish reason. I want to be on your right or your left side, not in terms of some political kingdom or ambition. But I just want to be there in love and in justice and in truth and in commitment to others, so that we can make of this old world a new world.