



MLK Board Update – August, 2026

Strategic Plan

We have received the final deliverables from Dr. LaDrina Wilson. However, with summer camp and vacations, we have not had enough feedback from staff in order to present you with all objectives, actions and timelines.

I will be meeting with the team in August to finalize the plan for your approval in October.

Banquet Room

You may recall that earlier this year, the board approved a \$50,000 investment from our cash pool to increase usage of the Ida Robinson Banquet Room.

Although delayed by a lack of interest in the weekend positions, we are now well staffed and seeing an increase in usage without full implementation of our planned marketing efforts.

Staff will meet at the end of August to review actual and projected revenue in order to discuss potential modifications if necessary.

History Display

The long-awaited King Center history display will begin installation on August 17th in our lobby. Once complete, the team will determine the scale of “reveal” is appropriate. I will look to the board for input on this issue as well.

Soul of the City

SAVE THE DATE: SEPT 5th, 2026! We welcome board members to attend and participate. Here are options:

Promote the event. Please tell all you know about one of Rock Island's biggest FREE family festivals.

- Franklin Field
- Saturday, September 5
- 10 AM to 6 PM

Join our parade. If you would like to be in the parade, please let me know so that we can arrange for a golf cart. Participants will meet at 9:30am in the parking lot of Frances Willard Elementary School (2503 – 9th Street) to begin at 10am. We will provide candy to give to the onlookers.

Attend the festivities. Activities at Franklin Field will start after the parade approximately at 11:30 am. We have planned for food, live entertainment, information vendors, kids' activities, the Rib Festival and more.

Celebrate Carlos Jimenez and Destiney Hearn

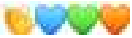
Congratulations to our very own Carlos Jimenez! 

Carlos is being honored by the Greater Quad Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce with the Ganas Award for his dedication to youth and commitment to education.

We're proud to have Carlos as part of the MLK Center family and excited to see him receive this well-deserved recognition.

Congratulations to our own Destiney Hearn on being named to the Quad Cities Regional Business Journal's Forty Under 40 Class of 2026.

As the MLK Center's Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, Destiney works every day to support youth, strengthen our community, and make a positive impact. We're proud to have her on our team and thrilled to see her recognized for her leadership.

Help us congratulate Destiney on this well-deserved honor! 

King's Café

We have seen great attendance in our pilot King's Café. In fact, we extended the event to the end of August in response to numerous requests!

In September, the team will debrief to plan for 2027.