



**The Kokomo Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Memorial Commission  
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**FOR RELEASE:** August 18, 2021  
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## **HAVE SOME CREATIVE FUN WITH THE MLK COMMISSION AT FIRST FRIDAY DOWNTOWN**

**KOKOMO, IN** – The Kokomo Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission will sponsor an interactive artist demonstration for youth at the September First Friday “Artsapalooza” Art Festival on Friday, September 3. The event will take place from 5:30-9 p.m. at the Arts Alley at 220 N. Main Street and will feature renowned local artist JC Barnett, III.

“We are thrilled to partner with the Kokomo Downtown Association in the first ever Arts Festival to our city, said Darlene Poulard, MLK coordinator of the event. “Art is the one thing that transcends differences as a form of communication.”

JC Barnett, III, will lead a youth-inspired painting demonstration at the event where youth participants will actively participate and interact with a professional artist. Barnett is known for his watercolor works in portraying important figures in Black history and others. “I wanted to speak on these important individuals from the standpoint of what I see of them, versus what the world sees of them,” he said. “I take pride in thinking differently.” He said his love of art was passed down from his grandmother and began when he was a young boy. His works can be viewed by searching Wear That Hat Artworks on Facebook.

The Kokomo Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Commission began in Kokomo in 2011. Its goal was to build a memorial in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to honor his legacy of peace, freedom and equality. After the completion of the memorial plaza in 2016, the group shifted its focus to higher education and community improvement activities. The group established a higher education scholarship fund that presents area high school students education awards who qualify for the grants at Howard County high schools. Learn more about the scholarships by visiting [www.kokomomlkmemorial.org](http://www.kokomomlkmemorial.org).

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