



Andrew Luy Art
4913 Middleton Lane NW
Huntsville, AL 35816

August 6, 2025

City of Winter Park
401 South Park Ave
Winter Park, FL 32789

Subject: Response to Feedback on the MLK Sculpture at MLK Park

Dear City of Winter Park,

In light of recent media coverage and public comments regarding the sculpture of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at MLK Park, I want to acknowledge the feedback and offer context about the artwork and the collaborative process behind its creation.

This sculpture was never intended to be a hyper-realistic replica of Dr. King. It was conceived through an in-depth, iterative process guided by a committee of Winter Park residents, civic leaders, and cultural stakeholders—individuals deeply committed to honoring Dr. King's and former residents' legacy with care, thoughtfulness, and meaning. Together, we focused not only on physical likeness but on capturing the *spirit*, *message*, and *enduring presence* of a leader whose impact continues to ripple through time.

What made this public artwork unique was how committee input was provided in real time and immediately integrated into the sculpture as it evolved. One such change involved enlarging Dr. King's shoes—not for anatomical realism, but because a committee member remarked, "he had big shoes to fill," and we felt that symbolism should be made visible. Since the sculpture stands 11 feet in the air, it was also suggested that his head be slightly enlarged to maintain visual clarity and connection from the corner of Morse and Denning. Additionally, we adjusted the girth of his left arm to emphasize the weight and power of the book he holds, symbolizing knowledge, faith, and the ideals that guided his leadership.

While we could have used 3D scanning or digital modelling to produce a highly accurate, photographic likeness, the stakeholders emphasized a different goal: to create a sculpture with love, care, and remembrance, not just precision. The final work reflects that intent.

We chose to depict Dr. King in a stylized, larger-than-life scale, using simplified forms to emphasize strength, gesture, and approachability. His outstretched right arm is meant to convey calm authority and welcome.

Collaborating with many voices was one of this project's greatest strengths. With input from the committee, the design evolved through e-mails, phone calls, and video sessions. While it's natural that interpretations will vary, *The Ripple* reflects that rich, inclusive process—a shared vision shaped by community, not just a single artist.

The Unity Corner was created not only to honor Dr. King, but also to acknowledge the resilience of those families who once lived where this installation now stands. The input of current and former residents was highly weighed throughout the process and helped shape both the spirit and the substance of the memorial.

Public art invites conversation and critique—and I embrace that dialogue. At the same time, I stand by the intent and integrity of this piece. It was created with deep respect, intention, and in partnership with the community. Since its unveiling, the work has been celebrated by many for honoring Dr. King's warmth, accessibility, and vision.

Though not everyone may see themselves reflected in a single interpretation, *The Ripple* was never meant to be an installation of one person's making. It represents a shared effort to honor a man whose dream continues to inspire us all—and a community whose history and future remain deeply connected.

Sincerely,

Andrew Luy
Artist & Sculptor