

## MLK Film Festival

January 13, 2009

LTheatre

### Theme:

Celebrating the Life and Work of Dr. Martin Luther King, jr.  
"The Dream Realized" Where Do We Go From Here?

As the nation moves to inaugurate its first African American President, we can use this opportunity to teach of the struggles and dreams of those that came before, and the challenges that still remain. No single person's life exemplified that struggle more than that of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King jr. The films selected for this years program highlights an issue that resonated clearly throughout the recent presidential election.....gender inequality. All are welcome. A brief discussion will follow each film, moderated by Tara Hickman, Educational Associate, LaGuardia Wagner Archives and Terry Parker, Library Media Resources Center, with refreshments at the conclusion of the program.



### 1:15-2:35 Chisholm '72

1972 was an extraordinary year. Richard Nixon was president, running for his second, ill-fated term. The voting age had just changed from 21 to 18, and millions of new voters were expected at the polls. The Vietnam War was in full swing, as were anti-war protests, a burgeoning women's movement, and the rise of the Black Panther Party. Into the center of this maelstrom - shocking the conventional political wisdom - stepped Shirley Chisholm, a determined, rather prim and unapologetically liberal black woman with a powerful message: Exercise the full measure of your citizenship and vote. Featuring stirring archival footage, period music, interviews with supporters, opponents and observers, and Chisholm's own commentary - then and now - "CHISHOLM '72" is a remarkable recollection of a campaign that broke new ground in politics, and truly reached out to 'the people.'

### 3:00-3:55pm Sisters of '77

Twenty thousand people from across the U.S. gathered in Houston, Texas on a historic weekend in November 1977 for the first federally funded National Women's Conference, aiming to end discrimination against women and promote their equal rights. In the crowd were former first ladies Betty Ford and Lady Bird Johnson, current first lady Rosalyn Carter and women of all ages, ethnicities and political backgrounds. Combining footage of the conference with interviews-both then and now-with influential women's leaders such as Barbara Jordan, Bella Abzug, Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, Eleanor Smeal, Ann Richards and Coretta Scott King, SISTERS OF '77 is a fascinating look at that pivotal weekend in 1977, an event that not only changed the lives of the women who attended, but the lives of Americans everywhere.

### Sponsored by:

2009 MLK Planning Committee  
LaGuardia Wagner Archives  
Library Media Resources Center  
Student Government Association