

VISIONARY MONUMENTS

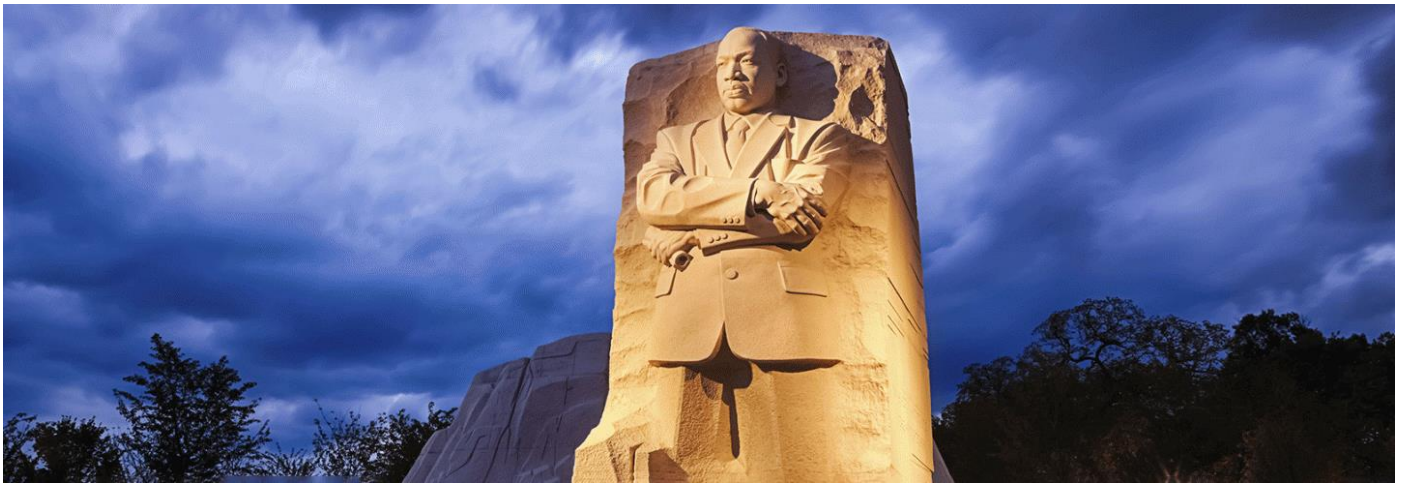
VISION, VALUES, AND LEGACY

This session explores the Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorials in Washington D.C. as a way of thinking about **vision, values, and legacy**. Novelist William Faulkner once wrote,



“The past is never dead. It’s not even past.” Memorials, which ostensibly commemorate the past but are just as concerned with setting expectations for future generations, illustrate and prove Faulkner’s contention. Our tour follows two timelines simultaneously, that of the historical figures and that of the monuments. We explore the vision Jefferson laid out for the nation in the Declaration of Independence in 1776, then how Lincoln extended the call for equality in the Gettysburg Address in 1863 and conclude with King’s dream of an even more

expansive vision in 1963. In terms of legacy, we look at the construction of the memorials to Lincoln (1922), Jefferson (1942), and King (2011), and consider how contemporary feelings and values shaped the form these monuments took.



Some of our major discussion points include:

- What it means to “bear true faith and allegiance” to the Constitution, as the Federal Oath of Office requires;
- A method for shaping projects or initiatives even when we may disagree with their overall direction;
- Strategies to ground change in already-accepted ideas, gaining greater buy-in for the proposed new direction;
- The vision and the legacy that each participant hopes to leave behind.

This walking tour is ideal at 3 to 3.5 hours and covers roughly 1.5 miles (which can be shorted to .5 miles with the use of a bus).

