



Photo Credit: Dee Dwyer/WAMU

Dorothy Height Mural

3211 Martin Luther King Avenue SE



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Photo Credit: Kaliq Crosby

The mural at 3211 Martin Luther King Avenue SE memorializes Dorothy Irene Height (1912 – 2010), one of the most influential women in the modern civil rights movement. She was president of the National Council of Negro Women from 1958 to 1990, a key organizer of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and sometimes included as one of the Big Six leaders of the civil rights movement in the United States - the only woman included on the list. She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton in 1994.

Height's early career included working in New York City for the Department of Welfare and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA). She came to DC to be Executive Director of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA between 1939 and 1944 before returning to the YWCA's national office in New York City to work on interracial relations. Other civil rights work includes developing leadership and ecumenical education programs and becoming an active member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. She was the driving force behind a campaign to erect the statue of Mary McLeod Bethune in DC's Lincoln Park, the first statue dedicated to a woman or Black American on federal land. She lived in DC's Southwest neighborhood from 1983 until her death in 2010.

The Congress Heights mural depicts Height in one of her signature hats and was dedicated in January 2019. It is the result of a collaboration between Destination Congress Heights Main Street Program, Congress Heights Community Partnership, and Congress Heights Community Training & Development Corporation. Wendell Quann, Project Director for Destination Congress Heights, described the mural as a way "to promote a sense of identity, belonging, welcoming, and openness which strengthens our community identification." The mural was designed by Montu Mitchell and painted by muralist Kaliq Crosby.