

Boston's Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial efforts get \$750,000 funding boost



KING BOSTON

King Boston has named five finalists in the competition to design the Boston Common memorial.

By [Andy Rosen](#)

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Efforts to memorialize the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King in Boston got a significant financial boost Monday, as the Boston Foundation and Boston University marked Monday's holiday by announcing a combined \$750,000 in support.

The foundation, an influential charitable group, said it is contributing \$500,000 to the King Boston project, whose plans include a memorial to the Kings on Boston Common, commemorating the couple's time in the city where they met and fell in love.

Boston University, where King earned his doctorate in theology in 1955, said Monday that it will donate \$250,000 to King Boston. University president Robert A. Brown announced the donation at a joint Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration with city officials on the BU campus.

He said the money, which comes from alumni and other university donors, will help “ensure that his legacy remains vibrant and relevant to our city.”

“We hope and expect that this will see the project through to completion, and that future generations of Bostonians and visitors will appreciate Martin Luther King’s extraordinary legacy, and what his years in Boston meant to him, to Mrs. King, and to all of us.”

King Boston has now raised about \$5.6 million, including the gifts announced Monday, according to Paul English, the Boston technology executive who is founder and cochairman of the effort.

English said in an interview that the organization now has enough money to create the Boston Common memorial and that the group hopes to soon announce a final design for the project.

[But King Boston](#) is hoping to raise a total of about \$12 million to support other projects, including the creation of a new King Center for Economic Justice in Roxbury, which will take on issues of inequality in Boston.