



18 February 2026.

On the early morning of Tuesday, 17 February 2026 our staff discovered the etched glass with the photo of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. giving his famous speech in Washington, D.C. shattered by an act of needless vandalism. It is an integral part of the Memorial to Dr. King we so treasure at the Yerba Buena Gardens in downtown San Francisco.

The tribute to and recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the large Memorial and Waterfall draws visitors from far and wide. They come to the site to pay their respects and reflect for hours sitting below the falls. I have had numerous conversations with people of all ages and backgrounds who come to find solace and energy from reading the quotations from his many years of public service and service to humankind.

I am saddened, angry, disappointed, and at a loss to explain this act of vandalism, especially as we celebrate Black History Month. It is also disheartening to report that our precious Memorial has seen this type of vandalism and graffiti each of the last few years, especially in February. It is uncalled for and we as the stewards of this property and the Memorial will do better in avoiding these acts by safeguarding it for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

Not only is the 4' x 4' square specially etched glass a total loss. It will be difficult to replace, as it had survived thirty-three years and work of this quality is hard to find. If there are community members who have knowledge of this type of glass work and are willing to help logistically and financially, we humbly ask for your assistance.

The Memorial is open 24/7 for all Garden visitors to walk through, and we look forward to replacing the vandalized glass as soon as we possibly can. Thank you for your continued support of the Memorial to a man who spoke of understanding, tolerance, overcoming ignorance, and overall valuing being human.

In Sadness and in Hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Ghose", is positioned above the typed name.

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