Forty years after his death, a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been constructed on the National Mall, symbolically located on a direct line between the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials. An imposing “stone of hope” sculpture, a sweeping inscription wall and a granite “mountain of despair” convey the message of freedom, opportunity and justice. Carefully integrated lighting elements express the spirit of this metaphorical message and create a powerful visitor experience. The stringent operating mandates of the National Park Service and the desire to achieve nighttime harmony with the adjacent memorials were important technical considerations.

“The challenge of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial was to make a powerful presentation of a man and his ideas without detracting from or competing with the adjacent and visible Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials and the Washington Monument. We receive this award as recognition of our success in meeting the challenge.”

—David Mintz