



BEVERLY J. MARTIN

Beverly J. Martin

(1935-1993)

Educator and community leader in Ithaca NY.

***Learning about Beverly J. Martin
means learning about building a community of
Black educators & children who love learning.***

Beverly J. Martin, a native of Ithaca, New York, was an educator, community leader, and inspiration to everyone who knew her. As a child, in the 1940's she attended Central Elementary School (renamed Beverly J. Martin Elementary School in 1991).

She graduated from Ithaca High School in 1953, where she was elected class president. After receiving her college education at Cornell University, she served the Ithaca City School District as a teacher for several decades, including six years at Central Elementary School teaching fifth grade.

Ms. Martin's classroom offered a home for a science activity program at the school, which was the inspiration for what would become the Sciencenter. Described to be very lively and with a great sense of humor, her warmth led the children to call her "Mama Bear."

In 1968 she was named Central Elementary School's principal, becoming Ithaca's first Black school administrator. Well known for recruiting and mentoring many of Ithaca's great leaders, Beverly J. Martin's legacy lives on.

Artwork: Maryam Adib @Smarf.Art

Materials developed as part of the Black Consciousness Curriculum

