

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: African American Veterans Monument
Location: Buffalo & Erie County Military & Naval Park
Site Address: One Naval Park Cove Buffalo
State: NY Zip Code: 14202
Minor Civil Division(s): City of Buffalo
County: Erie
Project Proponent Property Interest (own, lease, easement or other): lease

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL

Name: Warren Galloway Title: Chairman
Business Address: P.O. Box 231 Buffalo
State: NY Zip Code: 14202
Telephone Number: _____ Cell Number: 716-207-6324
Fax Number: _____
E-Mail Address: gallo_23@hotmail.com

PROJECT POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Mark Boyd Title: Chief of Staff
Organization/Firm: New York State Assembly, 141st District
Business Address: 425 Michigan Ave., Suite 107 Buffalo
State: NY Zip Code: 14203
Telephone Number: 716-897-9714 Cell Number: 716-812-3490
Fax Number: 716-897-1154
E-Mail Address: boydm@nyassemblygov

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Please attach material which responds to the following five items in the order that they are presented.

1. In a brief paragraph, describe the project and its purpose, how and when it will be accomplished, and why it is important.

In 2014, The Erie County Chapter of the Links, Inc. commissioned a project to record the names of all deceased Western New York African American Veterans. The project was introduced to the community on 2016. Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes committed to convening a committee to plan the construction of New York State's and the country's first Monument to honor all of the wars that US African American soldiers fought in. African Americans have served in all 12 of the country's major conflicts, beginning with the Revolutionary War in 1775. A disenfranchised group, African American Veterans fought for the ideals of our country since its inception, despite facing unequal representation, disrespect and disregard for their basic civil rights.

The design of the African American Veterans Monument (AAVM) is a matrix, serving as both a timeline and map of longitudinal coordinates. Each of the 12 black concrete pillars that will be 10 feet tall, and 3 feet wide, are placed in a chronological sequence, corresponding to the dates that each of the country's 12 military conflicts took place. The matrix's longitudinal coordinates represent the location where the war began. The spacing between the pillars represents peace times between each war. The tops of the 12 black concrete pillars will illuminate via solar-powered LED lights, signifying the candles that families would put in their windows as a beacon to guide a soldier home. The light emanating from the top of each pillar will continuously glow as an eternal reminder of the commitments made by African American Veterans. A groundbreaking ceremony is tentatively scheduled for November 9, 2018, with project/construction completion expected before Veterans Day November 11, 2019. The AAVM will extend the current footprint of The Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park on Buffalo's waterfront.

2. Referring to the Niagara River Greenway Plan, clearly document and describe how the proposed project will advance the Niagara River Greenway vision including the goals, principles, and criteria that define that vision.

The AAVM project will embody the vision and principles identified by the Niagara River Greenway Commission.

Principles

Excellence

The AAVM looks to raise the consciousness of visitors by providing individuals both young and old with the opportunity to learn about African American cultural history. The AAVM will have a significant impact on visitors to Canalside, the waterfront and the Erie Basin Marina. It will provide patrons with the opportunity to learn more about the sacrifices and contributions made by African Americans amid extremely challenging times including slavery, segregation and more all to benefit the greater good of the American people. Only a small percentage of our stories are known publicly, this interactive exhibit will provide visitors with an audio tour with background on each conflict and personal accounts from African American soldiers and/or their respective families.

Sustainability

The AAVM project will promote sustainability by utilizing solar energy to power LED lighting at the top of each of the twelve columns. We are also taking steps to start an endowment fund to address future maintenance efforts and have begun outreach to volunteer veteran and support groups to assist.

Accessibility

The Buffalo & Erie County Military & Naval Park serves 100,000 (paid) visitors annually. As the largest regional attraction, Canalside welcomes over 1 million people annually combined from all of their events and activities. The AAVM will be on the expanded Naval Park grounds outside along the Erie Canal Trail that weaves around all of the other memorials and monuments. Due to the nature of the AAVM being outside, visitors will have 24 hour access 12 months a year for viewing pleasure.

Public Well-Being

The AAVM will be one of the largest monuments located at the Buffalo & Erie County Military & Naval Park. It is our hope that it will promote walking and accessibility as the Naval Park's newest attraction. Located between the Erie Basin Marina and Canalside, supporting amenities are available.

Authenticity

Accuracy is paramount. Historical background information regarding the conflicts and excerpts from soldiers and their families will be conducted via research and verified using information available through the U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Department of Defense. Those conducting research include historians and professors from local academia: University at Buffalo, SUNY Buffalo State, and Canisius College. This content will be submitted for inclusion and usage for an audio tour to be purchased via admission for the Naval Park. An RFP for the audio tour vendor must still be conducted.

Celebration

The AAVM will celebrate all veterans but specifically highlight African American contributions to the U.S. armed forces through multiple generations that have often gone overlooked throughout American history. It presents learning opportunities for the old and young alike. Simultaneously, the AAVM supports, recognizes and celebrates the contributions of all U.S. veterans from all five branches of armed service.

Partnerships

The AAVM's biggest partner is the Buffalo & Erie County Military & Naval Park. We continue to educate and organize the local membership of AmVet Posts, American Legion, and VFW Posts along with the general public. AAVM Committee members have attended and spoken at multiple public events, hosted breakfasts, participated in local radio and television talk shows promoting the AAVM and the Naval Park. Volunteer groups have reached out to get involved including employee groups from some of our corporate sponsors, JROTCs, the Veterans 5K Race, Three 2 Go Music Alliance & Taylor Made Jazz and numerous others. Additional partnership opportunities being pursued include cultural tourist attractions such as the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Commission and the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor Commission.

Community Based

In August 2010, the Board of Directors of the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) authorized the development of a Canalside Cultural Master Plan that would integrate cultural projects, as well as refine the use of public spaces and special features, into Canalside. This cultural plan, recommended by the community-based Cultural Steering Advisory Group, was approved. The Canalside Cultural Master Plan identified opportunities for attractions, entertainment, waterside and special events programming which maximize the use of the indoor and outdoor public spaces to attract additional investment and visitors to Canalside.

The AAVM will qualify as a cultural attraction via expanded grounds and an extended lease between the Buffalo & Erie County Military & Naval Park and the City of Buffalo. The AAVM project has received the necessary approvals from the City of Buffalo Arts Commission, City of Buffalo Department of Public Works, DASNY (Dormitory Authority of the State of NY), and support from local elected officials, veterans and community groups. We have been in communication with the National Parks Department and the Department of the Interior regarding efforts to obtain national monument/landmark status.

Goals

Improve Access

The AAVM will continue to partner with the Buffalo & Erie County Military & Naval Park. It is expected to be an attraction and bring more visitors to Canalside and the Naval Park, from both near and far. Both are committed to all U.S. standard regulatory codes and also using principles of Universal Access and Universal Design when constructing the monument, including ADA compliance. While access to the monument is free and open to the general public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, the multi-media audio tour portion is available to all Naval Park patrons who have paid a general admission fee. The monument is expected to enhance shoreline trails via added attraction along the Erie Canal Trail pathway that connects all of the existing monuments currently onsite at the Naval Park.

Make Connections

The AAVM will serve as an additional link connecting the Erie Basin Marina, the Buffalo & Erie County Military & Naval Park, and Canalside. It will be another addition along Erie Canal Trail. It will provide academic and historical insight and significance (social studies) and cultural tourism for visitors and patrons alike.

Celebrate History and Heritage

The goal of AAVM is to educate Naval Park patrons and the general public by highlighting and celebrating the cultural contributions and sacrifices made by African Americans in the Armed Forces since the Revolutionary War of 1776. We believe that by listening to the audio tours, people will learn about acts of valor and bravery from new heroes unbeknownst to them, such as William Tillman, whose story can be found here: <https://www.marad.dot.gov/education/k-12/salute-to-african-american-mariners/a-story-of-high-seas-heroism-william-tillman/>.

3. Define the budget for the proposed project and include costs for the following:

Planning	\$ <u>303,130</u>
Construction	\$ <u>852,100</u>
Acquisition	\$ <u>0</u>
Administration	\$ <u>218,346</u>
Operation and Maintenance / Year	\$ <u>?</u>
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ <u>1,310,076</u>

Identify all sources of funding and the amount of funding expected from each source. Identify and quantify funds that are already on hand or have been allocated for the proposed project. Explain how the project will be operated and maintained.

The AAVM is a great example of a public private partnership. The Buffalo & Erie County Military & Naval Park is serving as AAVM's partner and fiduciary agent. The City of Buffalo will bid out the project and provide project oversight and management.

First Name	Last Name	Institution	Amount	Type of Funding
Crystal	Peoples-Stokes	NYS Assembly, 141st District	\$5,000.00	Legislative Initiative
Guy	Newell	UAW Region 9 Veterans Committee	\$5,000.00	Written Commitment
Karen	Sargent	Key Bank Employee Committee	\$5,000.00	Check - #150292275
Darius	Pridgen	Buffalo Common Council President	\$10,000.00	City of Buffalo Budget Appropriation
Barbara	Miller-Williams	Erie County Legislator, 1 st District	\$10,000.00	Erie County Budget Appropriation
Hadley	Horrigan	Catholic Health Systems	\$50,000.00	Corporate Donation
Mark	Poloncarz	Erie County Executive	\$100,000.00	Erie County Capital Budget Appropriation
Paul	Tokasz	M&T Bank Charitable Foundation	\$100,000.00	Corporate Donation
Jack	McNeill	Delaware North	\$100,000.00	Corporate Donation
Chris	Jacobs	NYS Senator, 60th District	\$200,000.00	SAM Capital
Crystal	Peoples-Stokes	NYS Assembly, 141st District	\$600,000.00	SAM Capital

We are seeking financial assistance through the Niagara Greenway Commission with all of the following:

1. Complete the capital construction of the monument - \$200,000.00.
2. Fund the development of the audio tour component - \$150,000.00.

3. Establish an endowment fund for long term upkeep of the monument grounds - \$50,000.00.
4. Describe the measures taken at the local level to gain community and government support for this project (hearings, petitions, public surveys, resolutions of support or other methods). If this project has been cited or described in a local planning document or some equivalent thereof, attach copies of that documentation highlighting the sections that are relevant to the proposed project. Describe the role of municipal agencies, stakeholder groups, consultants, volunteers or others who will be involved in the proposed project.



BYRON W. BROWN
MAYOR

CITY OF BUFFALO
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS & STREETS
DIVISION OF PARKS & RECREATION



STEVEN J. STEPNIAK
COMMISSIONER

ANDREW R. RABB
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

November 2, 2017

Senior Grant Administrator
DASNY
515 Broadway
Albany, New York 12207-2964

Re: *State and Municipal Facilities Program ("SAM") Grant for African American Veteran's Monument*

To whom it may concern,

The City of Buffalo supports the concept plan for the African American Veterans Monument to be constructed along the Erie Street promenade.

While it is true that the existing agreement between the Naval Park Committee, Inc. and the City of Buffalo is set to expire at the end of 2018, I point out that the Naval Park and the City are on track to extend the agreement with certain areas of operations such as overall compensation, insurance, risk management, maintenance items and the like being currently under discussion. Also being considered is an expansion of the Naval Park grounds to include the portion of the Erie Street right of way that is the proposed location for the African American Veterans Monument.

In any event, the improvements to be undertaken pursuant to any grant will be located within City of Buffalo right of way which will remain fully operational as a public municipal promenade regardless of whether or not the City's agreement extension with the Naval Park is made.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew R. Rabb".

Andrew R. Rabb

Our strategy to gain community and government support includes continuing to engage, educate, increase awareness and organize the local membership of AmVet Posts, American Legion, and VFW Posts along with the general public. We continue to engage membership of the Pan Hellenic Council (black greek fraternities and sororities); Masons, Eastern Stars and Shriners; the NAACP Buffalo branch; local churches and many more. AAVM Committee members have attended and spoken at multiple public events, hosted breakfasts, participated in local radio and tv talk shows promoting the AAVM and the Naval Park. We've manned information tables at numerous festivals and community events to engage residents and increase awareness. Volunteer groups believe in our project and have reached out to get involved including employee groups from some of our corporate sponsors, JROTCs, the Veterans 5K Race, Three 2 Go Music Alliance & Taylor Made Jazz among numerous others.

5. Describe and document the environmental setting and existing conditions at the proposed project site. If you are not the owner of the property include a letter(s) or resolution(s) evidencing support for the project by the owner. Provide photographs, conceptual plans and drawings that show the site as it presently exists and how the site will change with the addition of the proposed project. Describe how your project will comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The existence of wetlands, significant upland and aquatic habitats, and plant or animal species that are classified as rare, threatened, or endangered should be noted. Explain how such natural resources will be protected and/or enhanced. Cite any relevant project-related studies.

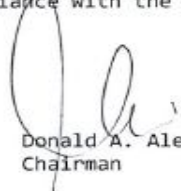
To: African American Veterans Memorial Committee
C/o Jonathan Casey
Solid 716 LLC
150 Chandler St
Buffalo, NY 14207
jonathan@solid716.com
August 22, 2017

Please let this memorialize the discussion the Naval Park's Facilities, Landscaping, Master Plan and Exhibits Committee had Wednesday, 7/26/17, with Warren Galloway and Jonathan Casey regarding the proposal for an African American Veterans Memorial at the Naval Park.

In accordance with the Park's monument Policy, copy attached, the procedures outlined set forth the steps necessary to obtain Naval Park approval.

Mr. Galloway asked for assurances regarding placement, specifically that the Monument would be located in the "Erie Street Right of Way." While the Facilities and Landscape Committee believes that the Erie Street Right-of-Way would be an excellent location for the Memorial, that right-of-way is not under the control of the Naval Park and not presently within the legal description of the Naval Park lease. The Naval Park is making a request to the City of Buffalo to include that right-of-way into the Park's lease description and has been given reasonable assurances that departmental approval will follow. Final approval however, will be required from the Buffalo Common Council.

You may be assured that the Naval Park will do all that it can to have the right of way included into the Naval Park's lease description, but at this time must understand that the Naval Park does not have the authority to commit to that location for the Memorial pending final approval from the City of Buffalo and compliance with the Naval Park's Monument Policy.

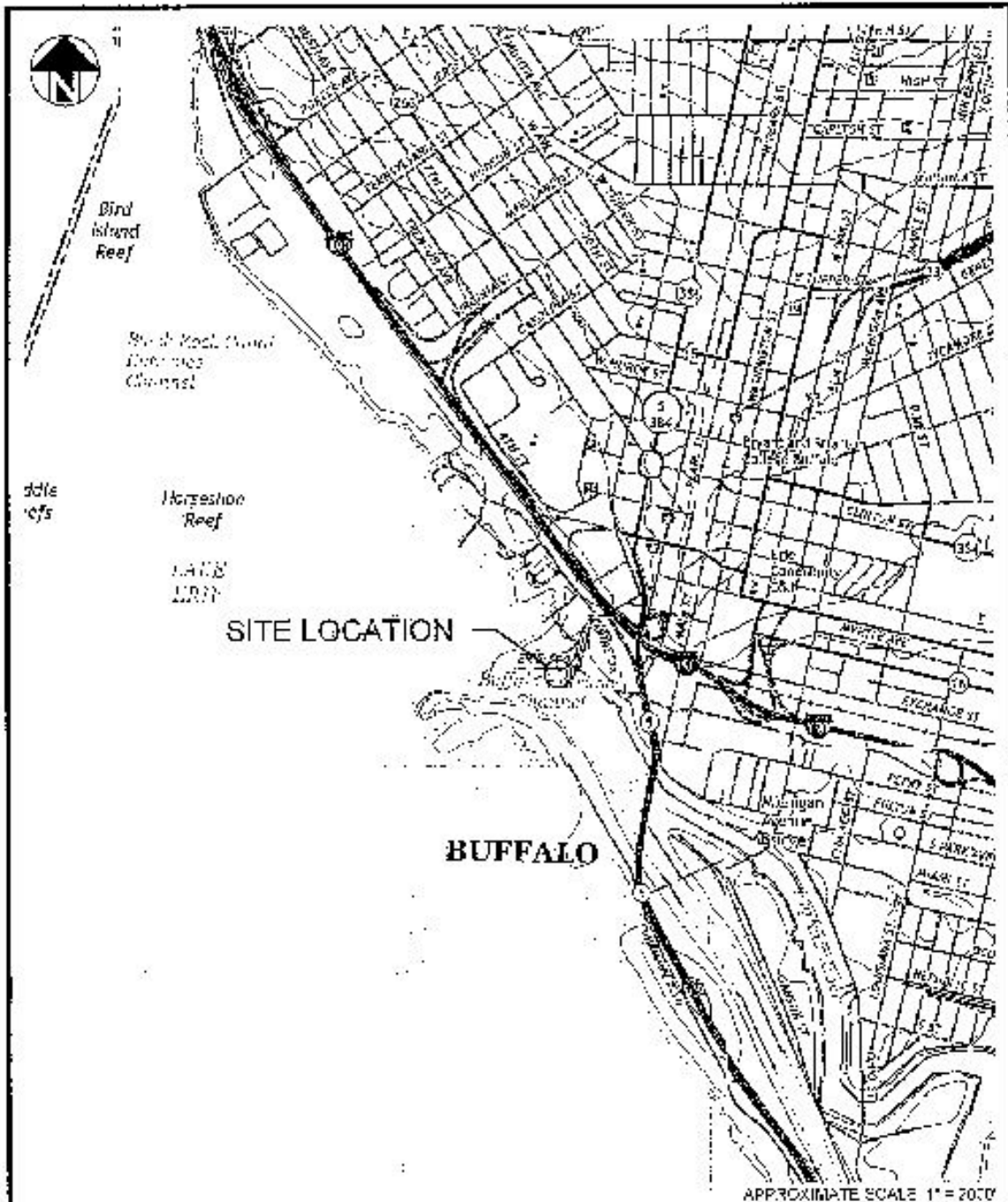


Donald A. Alessi,
Chairman

CC: Warren Galloway, African American Veterans Memorial Committee
Kenneth Swanekemp, FLME Committee Chair
Andy Rabb, FLME Committee Member
Brian Roche, Executive Director

AAVM WV AFRICAN AMERICAN Veterans Monument





NOTE:
 1. Base map image based on a combination of 7.5 Minute Series USGS maps of Buffalo NW, Buffalo NE, Buffalo SW and Buffalo NE, NY.

PFR JAKY 2018

McMahon & Mann Consulting Engineers, P.C. <small>249 JACOB STREET, SUITE 102 BUFFALO, NY 14202</small>	AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS MONUMENT PARK ERIC COUNTY NEW YORK	SITE LOCATION MAP
		DWG. NO. 17038-201
		FIGURE 1

