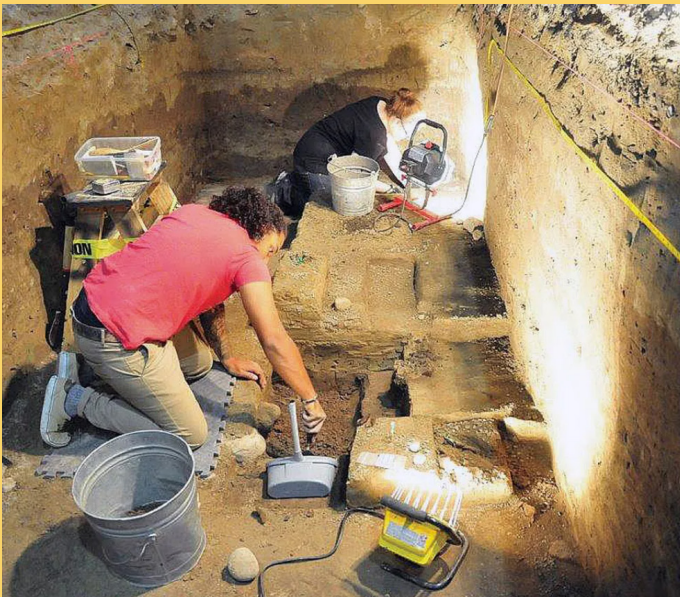


# Unearthing Our Legacy Together

Sharing the History of the Harlem African Burial Ground and Planning for the Future



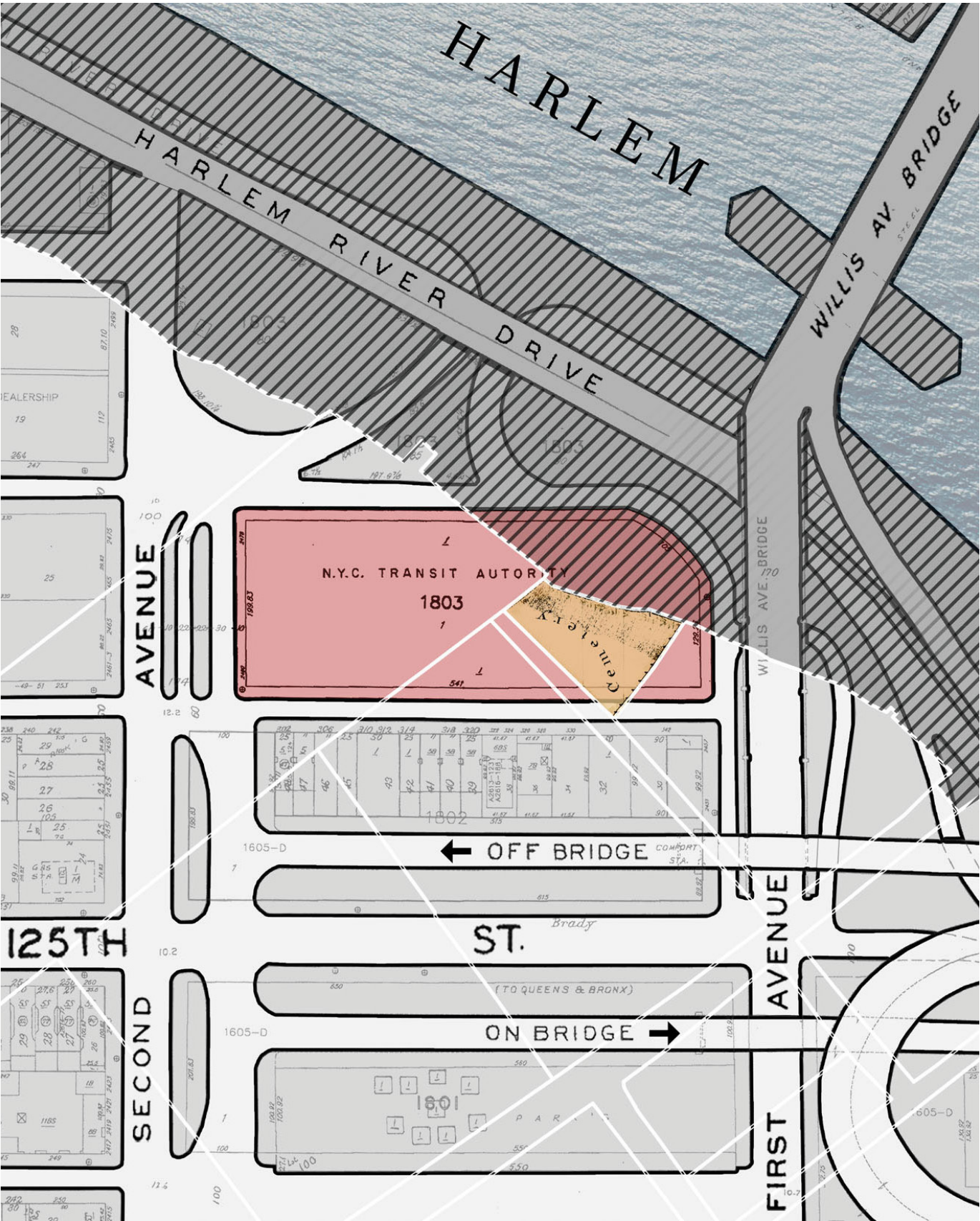
For two centuries, the Harlem African Burial Ground was a place where New Yorkers of African descent were laid to rest. Over time, the history of this site was lost—erased by the subsequent redevelopment of the site. The Harlem African Burial Ground project seeks to right this wrong, by honoring and memorializing this historic site with a new outdoor memorial and indoor cultural education center while also addressing affordable housing and jobs needs in the East Harlem community.

This report highlights the engagement and archaeology work done in the years since its rediscovery, as we continue to understand and share the history of the site and prepare for the next phase of the project.

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The historical site of the Harlem African Burial Ground (in orange) amidst the current geography of Harlem, under the decommissioned MTA bus depot.

# Letter from NYCEDC President & CEO Andrew Kimball

Dear Fellow New Yorkers,

As New York City’s economic development arm, EDC takes great pride in collaborating with communities on projects that often include housing, job creation, and open space. What is unique and special about our engagement in East Harlem has been our partnership with the Harlem African Burial Ground Initiative.

Both enslaved and free New Yorkers of African descent were buried at the Harlem African Burial Ground from the mid-1600s to the mid-1800s. Ultimately, through numerous uses — including most recently, the site of the decommissioned 126th Street Bus Depot in East Harlem between 1st and 2nd Avenues — this historic and sacred footprint was erased and nearly forgotten.

But in 2015, with the tireless work of the Harlem African Burial Ground Initiative and its members, NYCEDC commissioned archaeologists to unearth that history and reverse its erasure. Today, after several years of excavation and preservation, engagement with the Harlem community and commemoration of this sacred site, I’m honored to share this report on NYCEDC’s work in partnership with the East Harlem and greater Harlem communities.

We bring together the findings from the methodology and the initial findings from our excavations, as well as the spirit and depth of the community engagements that have all contributed to a shared vision for this sacred site. This vision will include a public outdoor memorial and cultural education center to honor its past and integrate it with its future — new affordable housing, commercial space and community facilities.

On behalf of our team at NYCEDC, I invite you to share in the rich pathway of this project and join us in celebrating the rediscovery, restoration and reimagining of the Harlem African Burial Ground.

Sincerely,

**Andrew Kimball**  
President & CEO  
New York City Economic Development Corporation





The Harlem African Burial Ground Initiative (from left to right) Sharon Wilkins, Manhattan Deputy Borough Historian emerita, Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Singletary, former pastor of the Elmendorf Reformed Church, Melissa Mark-Viverito, former NYC Speaker and Council Member for Council District 8 and Melinda Velez, former staffer for Melissa Mark-Viverito.

# Letter from the Harlem African Burial Ground Initiative (HABGI)

Dear New Yorkers,

This statement is written on behalf of all persons who have thoughtfully considered the importance, social, cultural, educational, and moral significance of examining facts pertaining to the rediscovery and reclaiming of a significant historic site in Harlem, the Harlem African Burial Ground. This burial ground, as is the case with many such structures, locally and nationally, was disrupted, forgotten, and lost to modern memory—ignoring its historic and cultural significance.

For close to two decades, a group of experienced professionals have steadfastly worked to reverse this dislocation and bring the history, cultural, and sacred significance of this site back to modern memory. This group known as the Harlem African Burial Ground Initiative (formerly the Harlem African Burial Ground Task Force), has engaged in a process of recovery with the assistance of the New York City Economic Development Corporation, archaeologists, and technical staff of AKRF, Inc. A progressive process of historical research, education, dialogue, collaboration, and outreach has informed the acquisition of necessary information to plan for a way forward that would enhance prospects for the construction of an outdoor memorial and a multi-faceted indoor cultural education center.

Both the sustained effort of the Harlem African Burial Ground Initiative and all who are committed to recovering, promoting, and sharing the true history of Harlem and the skilled, unpaid arduous labor of free and enslaved Africans will accurately and reverently be acknowledged and shared. This work comes at a time when all people who respect and cherish truth along with the promises and policies crafted by the founders of our nation will embrace the recovery and recognition of the Harlem African Burial Ground and its potential to support Harlem and New York City as beacons of light and promise for all to observe, benefit, and enjoy.

In Solidarity,

**The Harlem African Burial Ground Initiative**

Dr. Reverend Patricia A. Singletary  
Melissa Mark-Viverito  
Melinda Velez  
Sharon Wilkins

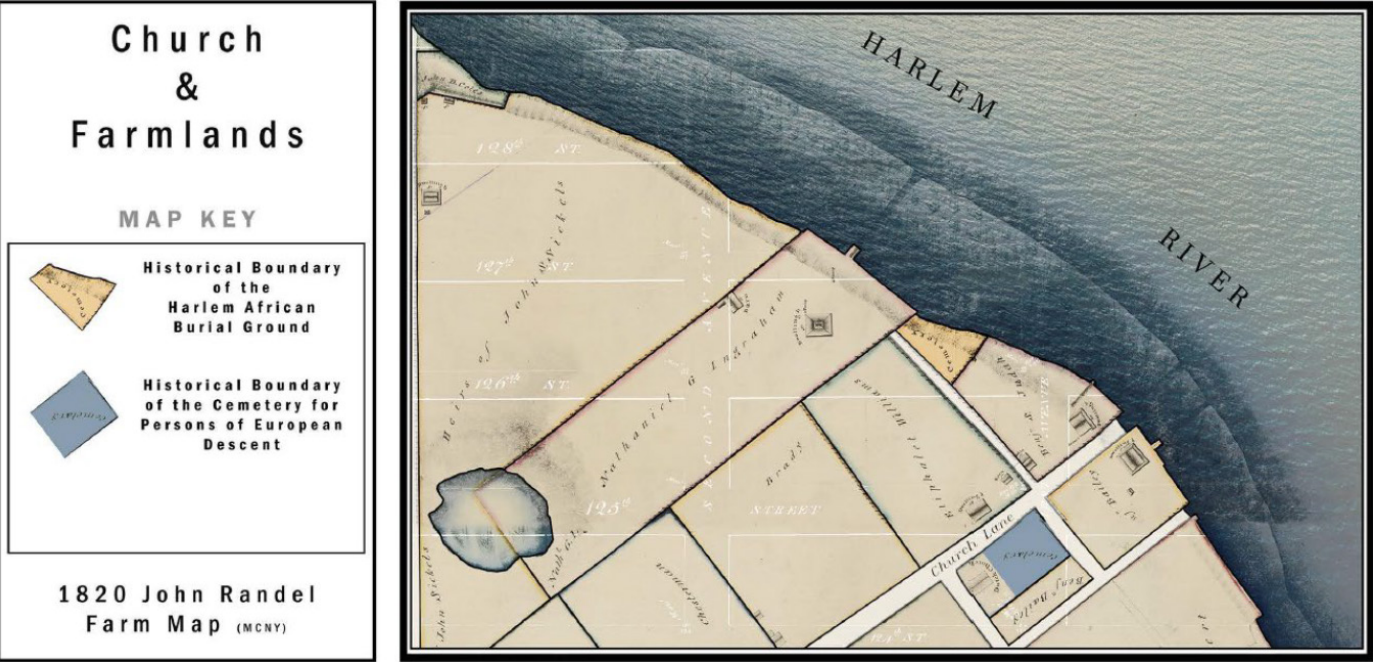


# Introduction

The Harlem African Burial Ground (Burial Ground) is a testament to the earliest chapters of New York City's history and to the lives of the African men, women, and children whose labor and presence shaped it. Dating back to the seventeenth century, this cemetery was used as a resting place for free and enslaved people of African descent whose contributions to the building of the city were foundational but often unacknowledged. It is a powerful link to Harlem's past.

As Harlem evolved from farmland into a neighborhood central to the city's cultural and economic life, the

Burial Ground experienced severe disturbance as the neighborhood continued to develop. Disregarded as a sacred site, soil from the Burial Ground was used as infill for the Harlem River in the early 19th century. Subsequent development including the construction of a movie theatre, a beer garden, and later a trolley barn further disturbed the site and desecrated the resting places of those at the Burial Ground. The site remained largely unrecognized after its tenure as an active cemetery, even as Harlem itself became one of the most significant centers of Black life, arts, and culture in the United States.



The Harlem African Burial Ground is located in East Harlem on East 126th Street between First and Second Avenues. Its historic boundary sits within a full city block currently occupied by an MTA bus depot that was decommissioned in 2015. (1820 John Randel Farm Map, Source: Museum of the City of New York).



Illustration of the Low Dutch Reformed Church in East Harlem, predecessor of today's Elmendorf Reformed Church.

Since the City assumed ownership of the site, New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) has been working alongside the Harlem African Burial Ground Initiative (HABGI) to reclaim and recognize the historically and culturally significant Harlem African Burial Ground. The project's goal is to honor the lives and contributions of enslaved and free African nation-builders, as well as the Indigenous people who inhabited Manhattan before the arrival of Europeans. This project seeks to right a historical wrong and bring these stories to the forefront of public memory through an outdoor memorial and indoor cultural education center as part of a mixed-use development that will bring hundreds of affordable housing units to East Harlem.

Long overlooked, African burial grounds across the United States are beginning to receive proper recognition. Groups such as the African Burial Ground Memorial Foundation are leading the effort to promote the educational and cultural significance of African burial grounds, with the goal of developing educational materials that center these sacred sites in local and national contexts.

For the past two years, archaeology at the Burial Ground and a community engagement effort spanning Harlem have been essential to recovering this history and spreading it far and wide. The engagement done at the Harlem African Burial Ground is an effort to reverse the site's historical erasure and render a site that was once made invisible into a neighborhood treasure and a cultural landmark—a space of remembrance, healing, and inspiration for future generations.



2024 Archaeology work.





# Project History

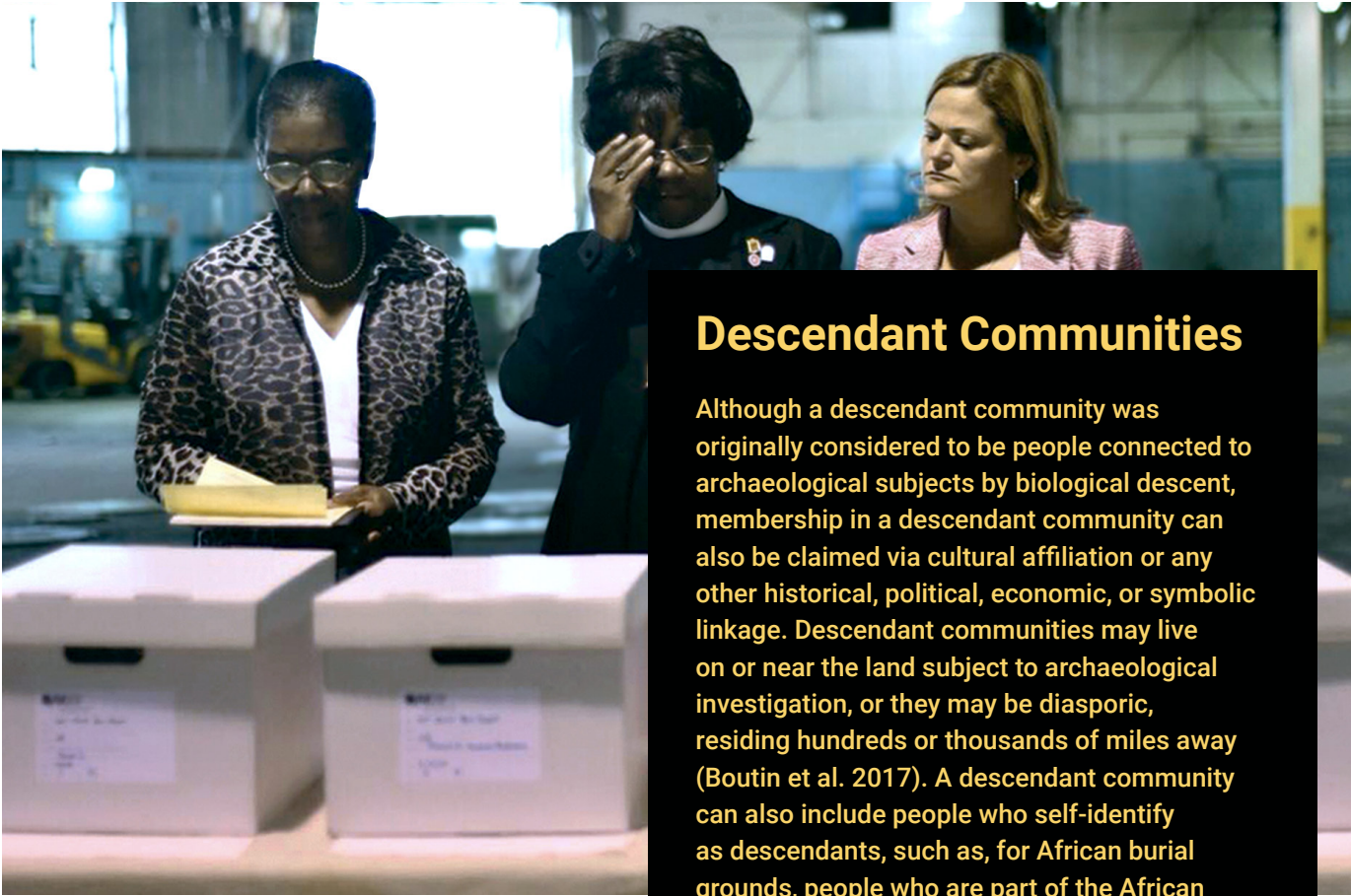


# The Rediscovery



Modern-day Elmendorf Reformed Church located on 171 E 121st in Harlem.

In 2009, a group of community leaders founded the Harlem African Burial Ground Task Force, co-chaired by Melissa Mark-Viverito, then-Council Member for District 8, and Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Singletary, Pastor of the Elmendorf Reformed Church, the descendant church of the Burial Ground. The mission of the Task Force was to advocate for and guide remembrance, honoring, and memorialization of the Harlem African Burial Ground. The successor of this group, the HABGI, led by Ms. Mark-Viverito, Rev. Dr. Singletary, Manhattan Deputy Borough Historian Sharon Wilkins, and Melinda Velez, was established in 2023 and is a key representative of the descendant community for the Burial Ground, which also includes the descendant church. The descendant community of the Burial Ground, represented in part by the HABGI, has a leadership role regarding the following aspects: establishing a preferred course of action for the respectful examination, and reburial of human remains discovered through archaeological work; supporting ongoing historical research; and supporting the design, location, and implementation of the future memorial and cultural education center.



Members of the Harlem African Burial Ground Initiative blessing the human remains uncovered during the 2015 archaeology investigation.

## Descendant Communities

Although a descendant community was originally considered to be people connected to archaeological subjects by biological descent, membership in a descendant community can also be claimed via cultural affiliation or any other historical, political, economic, or symbolic linkage. Descendant communities may live on or near the land subject to archaeological investigation, or they may be diasporic, residing hundreds or thousands of miles away (Boutin et al. 2017). A descendant community can also include people who self-identify as descendants, such as, for African burial grounds, people who are part of the African diaspora or whose ancestors were victims of the transatlantic slave trade.

## Site History (1600-1917)

1600	Mid-1660's	1825	1869	1885	1917
The Village of Nieuw Haarlem is chartered by Dutch Settlers on indigenous land.	Original wooden building of Low Dutch Reformed Church of Harlem, predecessor of today's Elmendorf Reformed Church, erected at what is now First Avenue and East 127th Street, with its African Burial Ground consecrated shortly thereafter.	After a few relocations, in response to growth of village, church moves to final location at Third Avenue and East 121st Street.	Prompted by northward city expansion, church leaders relocated the remains of white Europeans to Woodlawn, Bronx. However, the segregated African Burial Ground was abandoned and displaced as the area was leveled and parts of Harlem River shoreline were filled in.	Sulzer family opens Sulzer's Harlem River Park, a beer garden and casino, on site of now-forgotten African Burial Ground.	At onset of US entry into World War One, Sulzer family sells casino complex to City, which converts it into barracks for 15th New York National Guard Infantry Regiment, an all-black unit.



# Creating a Shared Vision

In 2015, a group of elected officials, City agencies, and community stakeholders—including what is now the HABGI—convened to develop goals for a future mixed-use project at the Burial Ground. From 2015 to 2016, this group led a process to create a plan for the site.

The mixed-use project, which received land-use approval in 2017, will include a public outdoor memorial to be located on the entire historical footprint of the Harlem African Burial Ground. It will also include several buildings built in phases, all of which will sit outside the historic boundary of the burial ground, that will address the housing and economic needs of the East Harlem community. This includes an indoor cultural education center that will provide public programming related to the outdoor memorial, mixed-income housing, commercial space, and an additional community facility.



East Harlem Neighborhood Plan Engagement in 2015.  
Photo credit: WXY with Hester Street Collaborative

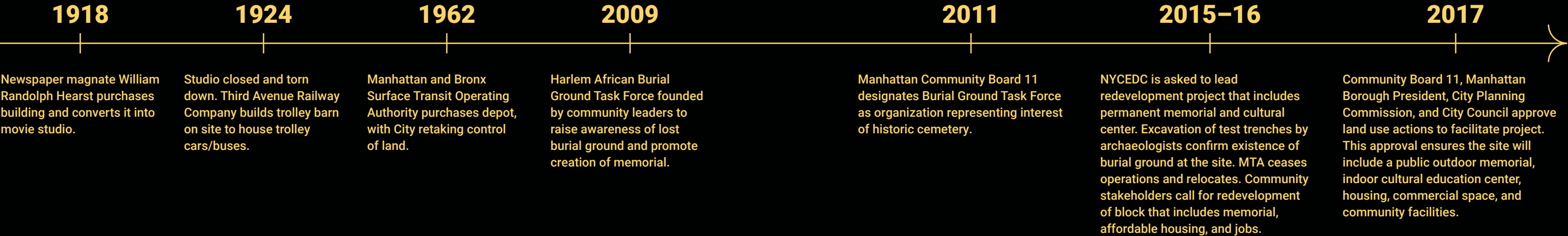


East Harlem Neighborhood Plan Engagement in 2015.  
Photo credit: WXY with Hester Street Collaborative



“Reclaiming History, Reinvesting in East Harlem” Panel at La Marqueta in 2019.

## Site History (1918-2017)





# Present Day



Harlem neighborhood landscape.

## East Harlem Today

East Harlem is a section of Upper Manhattan with over 100,000 residents (Source: U.S. 2020 Census) that has become known for its cultural diversity and vibrancy. Over the years, it has become home to New York City’s African, Caribbean, and Latin American diaspora communities. While the Harlem African Burial Ground is in East Harlem, its legacy and impact span across all of Harlem. The Burial Ground is more than a historical site; it is a sacred space that ties Harlem’s contemporary identity to its earliest roots. The memorial and cultural education center will ensure that this space is recognized, inviting remembrance of those who came before and reflection on how their legacy informs Harlem’s future. The Burial Ground underscores Harlem’s enduring role as a home for Black diasporic culture, resilience, and leadership.



Vendor setting up at Harlem Week.



East Harlem neighborhood landscape (103rd and Lexington).





Site of the Harlem African Burial Ground, currently occupied by the decommissioned 126th Street Bus Depot.



The Davis Center at the Harlem Meer in Central Park.  
*Photo credits: Central Park Conservancy*



Elmendorf Reformed Church.



125th Street Library.  
*Photo credits: Joshua Huston*



Illustrative rendering of the Manhattan Greenway Harlem River, currently under construction.



La Marqueta.



East Harlem is a section of Upper Manhattan that is known for its cultural diversity and vibrancy. Over the years, it has become home to New York City's African, Caribbean, and Latin American diaspora communities. Included in this map are just some of East Harlem's cultural and historic landmarks.





## **The History Beneath Our Feet: Engagement and Archaeology**



# The Archaeology Process

In 2015, a team of archaeologists excavated four small trenches that uncovered over 140 human bones or bone fragments of a minimum of two people, likely of African descent. Following that investigation, the archaeology team recommended additional excavation to determine the full extent of human remains across the site.

An in-depth archaeological process kicked off in March 2024, building on work done nearly a decade prior which reaffirmed the burial ground's presence at this location.

This most recent archaeological process aims to recover and analyze the human remains and artifacts throughout the site, uncovering the history and ensuring their safe storage during the future project stages. This work has three phases:

**Planning:** Overseen by Landmarks Preservation Commission, with support from NYCEDC, and with close collaboration with the HABGI and descendant community, the goal of this phase was to establish a protocol that ensured respectful examination and reburial of human remains and artifacts discovered during excavation.

**Fieldwork:** Starting in June 2024, AKRF Inc. led the archaeological fieldwork. The team was tasked with uncovering and documenting the human remains and artifacts discovered during excavation. The fieldwork concluded in September 2025. To honor this milestone, a closing ceremony was held to honor the ancestors uncovered during this work. At the request of the HABGI, the ancestors and artifacts uncovered during this investigation are currently stored at AKRF's climate-controlled laboratory space in New York City where they will undergo analysis.

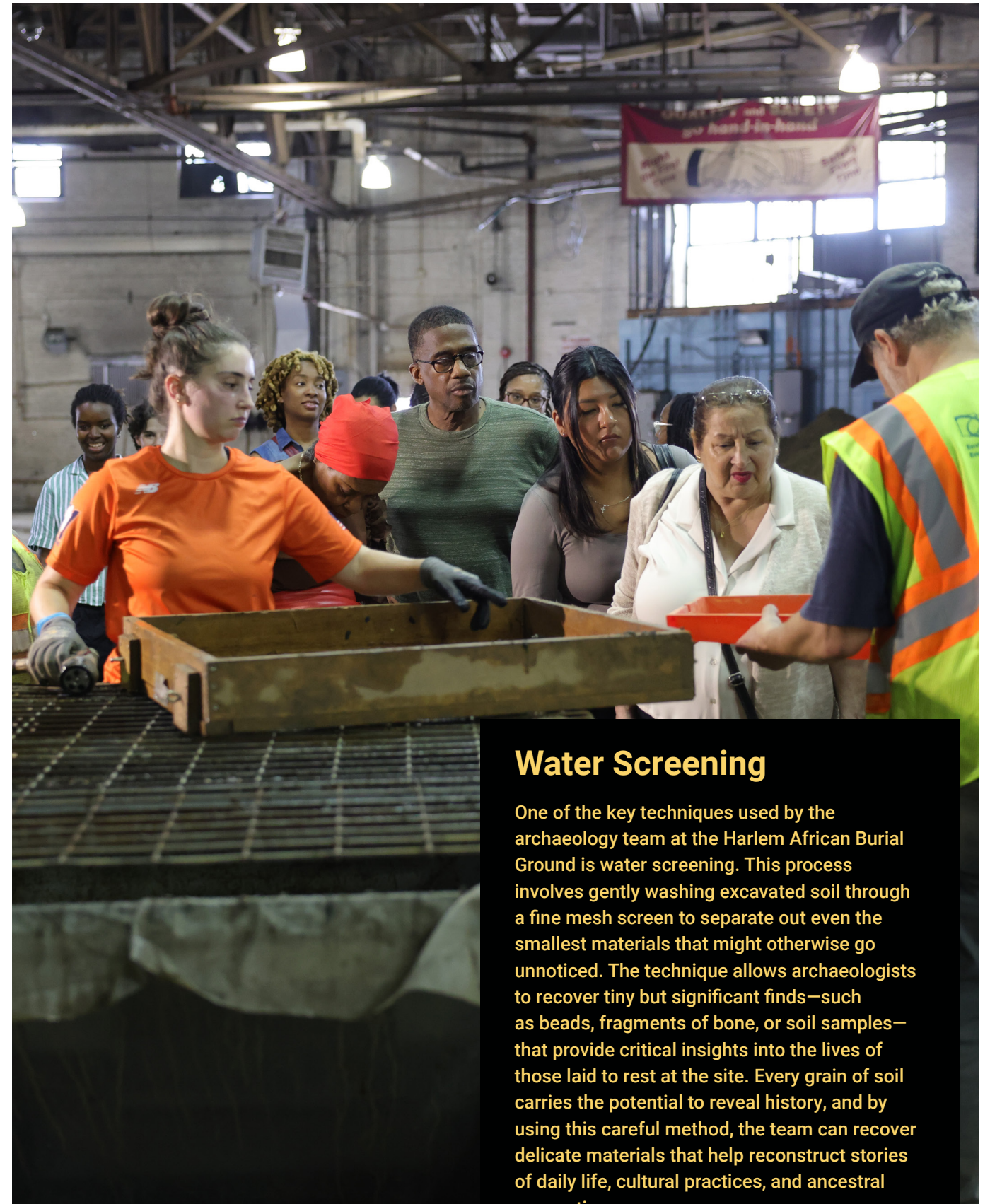
Through the hand excavation and careful screening of thousands of cubic feet of soil, the field team recovered

several hundred disarticulated and commingled human bones and bone fragments and many artifacts. Some of the artifacts recovered during this phase were identified as originating from a period prior to European colonization. In response, the project team has engaged with Indigenous Nations to help ensure this history is included in the site, helping make visible the many layers of history beneath urban development in this City. The team encountered these remains across a several-thousand-square-foot area located along the former cemetery's northern and eastern edges, an area that was once the Harlem River's lower-lying coastline.

**Lab analysis and reporting:** Two bioarcheologists, Dr. Rachel Watkins and Dr. Aja Lans, are supporting the AKRF team. Both have expertise in the study of human remains of African descent. Their addition to the team ensures the human remains uncovered from the site are analyzed with cultural sensitivity. Analysis of the human remains is expected to begin in early 2026. A report of the archaeological findings will be made public following the completion of analysis.



2015 archaeology investigation.



## Water Screening

One of the key techniques used by the archaeology team at the Harlem African Burial Ground is water screening. This process involves gently washing excavated soil through a fine mesh screen to separate out even the smallest materials that might otherwise go unnoticed. The technique allows archaeologists to recover tiny but significant finds—such as beads, fragments of bone, or soil samples—that provide critical insights into the lives of those laid to rest at the site. Every grain of soil carries the potential to reveal history, and by using this careful method, the team can recover delicate materials that help reconstruct stories of daily life, cultural practices, and ancestral connections.

2024 archaeology work.



# Building a Community-led Legacy

Concurrent to the archaeological fieldwork, the City and the HABGI launched an 18-month engagement effort facilitated by Bridge Philanthropic Consulting (BPC). The theme of the engagement was: The History Beneath Our Feet: Unearthing Our Legacy. The theme underscored the sacred aspect of delving into Harlem’s history, with a particular focus on the Burial Ground. It demonstrated that everyday places are repositories of deep historical significance, emphasizing the necessity of uncovering and preserving this heritage.

Through panel discussions, presentations, and workshops, each event instilled a sense of reverence and respect to foster a communal appreciation and understanding of the Burial Ground and Harlem’s historical significance. The engagement effort allowed the project team to expand the reach of this work, build

awareness of the project and the history of the site, and learn from the community. The feedback and stories shared will help guide the future of this project.



Claudette Brady of Save Harlem Now leading an East Harlem Walking Tour in August 2025.

## Engagement by the Numbers

1,000+

Engaged community members

20+

Hosted in-person and online events

1,500+

Followers reached on the @harlemafricanburialground Instagram

25

Community Partners & collaborators

Our outreach spanned throughout East Harlem and the broader Harlem community, connecting with a range of groups who have unique and diverse perspectives on the Burial Ground and what it means for the community.

### This included:

#### Community-Based Organizations and Institutions:

Collaborating with major Harlem institutions like the Museum of the City of New York, the Schomburg Center, and City College expanded the project’s reach, provided insights into their perspectives on the Burial Ground, and identified ways the project could be integrated within Harlem’s organizations and cultural resources.

#### Intergenerational engagement:

Focusing on both Harlem’s youth and its elders acknowledges the importance of connecting future generations to the history of the burial ground, alongside preserving the knowledge and wisdom of community elders. Partnerships with the Union Settlement and workshops at senior centers like A. Phillip Randolph and Beatrice Lewis allowed us to reach a range of voices across ages.

#### Faith-Based Organizations:

Harlem’s faith communities have long been at the heart of civic life, serving as hubs for advocacy, culture, and empowerment. This project engaged religious organizations to anchor the project in spiritual meaning and collective history.

#### Harlem Businesses and Associations – Arts & Culture:

Harlem’s cultural and economic vitality make its businesses and cultural associations key partners. Sharing information during events like Harlem Week and working with groups like the Harlem Tourism Board and Harlem Community Development Corporation connected the Burial Ground project to conversations about Harlem’s future, connecting preservation to cultural and economic development.



HABG Faith-based Convening at The Interchurch Center in October 2024.



# Key Themes and Principles

## Takeaways from the Community

Conversations with community members, organizations, and faith-based institutions focused on understanding the current perception of the Burial Ground, and what people hope to see on this site in the future. Six core themes emerged from this engagement. These takeaways will be carried forward into the next stages of the project, as the City identifies an operator team to program the Cultural Education Center, and a development team to build it.

1

### The Burial Ground is Sacred

**What we heard:**

Community members overwhelmingly affirmed that the Harlem African Burial Ground is not simply an historic site, but a resting place that embodies dignity, memory, and healing. Preservation must balance reverence with access for cultural practice and reflection.

**Takeaway:**

Future site design could emphasize dignity and reflection, incorporating spaces for remembrance, cultural ceremonies, and healing practices, while welcoming the broader public for shared experiences.

2

### Education is a Driving Force

**What we heard:**

Teachers, students, and cultural leaders emphasized the urgency of making the Harlem African Burial Ground a teaching resource. Storytelling, oral histories, school curricula, guided tours, and digital platforms were all identified as critical pathways for connecting Harlem’s past with future generations.

**Takeaway:**

The Burial Ground can be developed as a teaching resource, ensuring Harlem’s history is widely accessible. Partnerships with schools and CBOs that serve students could be expanded throughout different project stages.

3

### Representation and Inclusion are Essential

**What we heard:**

Keeping descendant and community voices at the center of the project and its decision-making is critical, with a particular emphasis on African, Indigenous, and Latino perspectives.

**Takeaway:**

Descendant and community voices, especially those with ties to the East Harlem community, are critical for shaping the future of the site and should be part of any future decision making and stewardship.

4

### Partnerships Multiply Impact

**What we heard:**

Collaborations with community-based organizations, faith institutions, and cultural partners expanded the project’s reach, and it is important to maintain these partnerships.

**Takeaway:**

The partnerships cultivated through this effort should be continued as they are vital for long-term programming and stewardship. Collaborations with schools, faith communities, and cultural organizations can be expanded and formalized, building a long-term network for exhibitions, events, and stewardship.

5

### Trust is Built Through Transparency

**What we heard:**

Open communication—through plain-language materials, public forums, and consistent updates—strengthened trust. All event participants reported that they felt more informed about the Burial Ground because of engagement efforts.

**Takeaway:**

Regular public updates, newsletters, forums, and accessible materials can embed community engagement and transparency as a standard practice—through project design, implementation, and operation—sustaining trust and accountability.

6

### The Site Bridges Generations

**What we heard:**

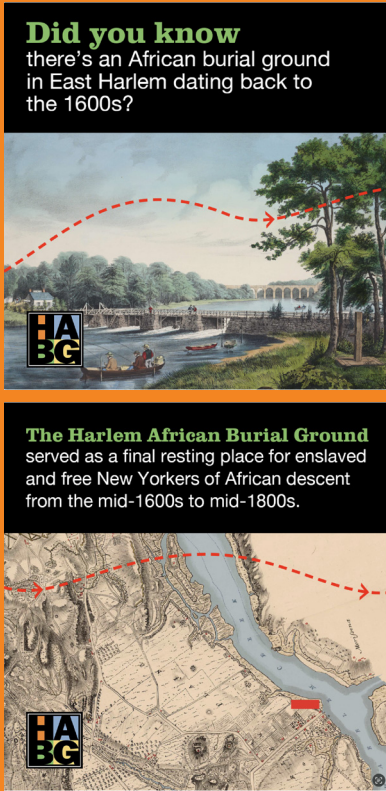
Elders and youth alike see the Burial Ground as a source of identity, resilience, and cultural pride. Oral histories and intergenerational storytelling contributions during the project underscored the site’s unique ability to connect across age and experience.

**Takeaway:**

Programs at the future Cultural Education Center will continue to bring together youth and elders—through oral histories, mentorship, storytelling, and artistic collaboration, ensuring that the Burial Ground unites Harlem across generations.



# Engagement Highlights



Harlem African Burial Ground Social Media.



Members of the engagement team sharing information on the Burial Ground at Harlem Week in August 2024.



Media engagements with outlets PIX11 News and WHCR 90.3FM amplified the project's reach, bringing the story of the HABG to a broader audience and strengthening community awareness.



NYCEDC President and CEO Andrew Kimball speaking to news outlet, PIX11 at the HABG Commemoration Ceremony on June 21, 2024.



NYCEDC staff, on site at the Harlem African Burial Ground and welcoming a Ghanaian Royal Delegation, led by His Royal Majesty Buipe Wura Jinapor II, the Paramount Chief of the Buipe Traditional Area and Vice President of the National House of Chiefs of Ghana, together with Dr. Tengol Kplemani, who visited on behalf of His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana.



Community members attending the HABG Citywide Convening of NYC African Burial Grounds in June 2025 hosted by the NYCEDC and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.



The HABG team participating in the City College of New York's Place, Memory, and Culture Incubator panel discussion.





Panelists and moderators from the HABG Citywide Convening of NYC African Burial Grounds in June 2025 hosted by the NYCEDC and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.



BPC staff member Nailah Ricco-Brown leading a Family History & Legacy workshop at the A. Phillip Randolph Seniors Center in December 2024.



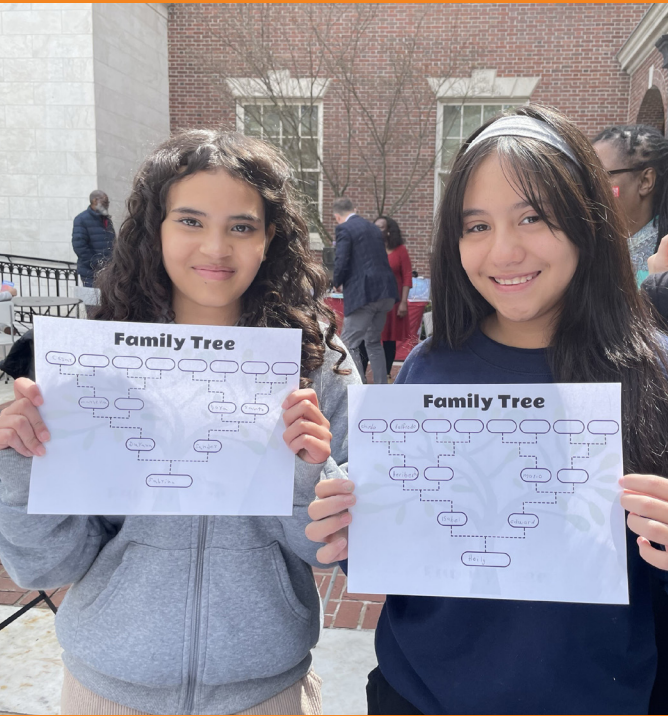
Community members participating in a Black History Month Workshop at the NYCHA Robert A. Taft Houses in February 2025.



From left to right: Adam Meagher, NYCEDC SVP, Sharon Wilkins, Manhattan Deputy Borough Historian emerita, Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Singletary, former pastor of the Elmhurst Reformed Church, Melissa Mark-Viverito, former NYC Council Member for District 8, and Saradine Pierre, NYCEDC Project Manager at the City & State's inaugural Arts & Culture Power 100 event in October 2024.



Youth from P.S. 138 after participating in a Family History & Legacy workshop in May 2025.



Youth showing their completed family trees at the HABG table during CB 11's Earth Day Conference in April 2024.





Antoinette Montague performing at the HABG's Closing Ceremony to celebrate the end of archaeology at the bus depot in September 2025.



Community dance line led by performer AC Lincoln during the closing ceremony in September 2025.



Engagement team guiding community members through Family History & Legacy activity at the Museum of the City of New York in February 2024.



NYCHA Family Days across East Harlem allowed for attendees to learn more about the Harlem African Burial Ground.



HABGI founding member Sharon Wilkins presenting with Peggy King Jorde at the Museum of the City of New York in February 2024.



NYCEDC and BPC staff welcoming community members at the HABG Citywide Convening of NYC African Burial Grounds in June 2025 hosted by NYCEDC and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.





## **What's Next: Restoration and Reimagining**



# What's Next

As this phase of engagement and archaeology comes to an end, the focus is now on assembling the right development team to design and build the memorial and mixed-use development—creating a physical space to honor the legacy of the Burial Ground and those who were laid to rest here.

The City will solicit proposals from cultural and community groups who are interested in operating the

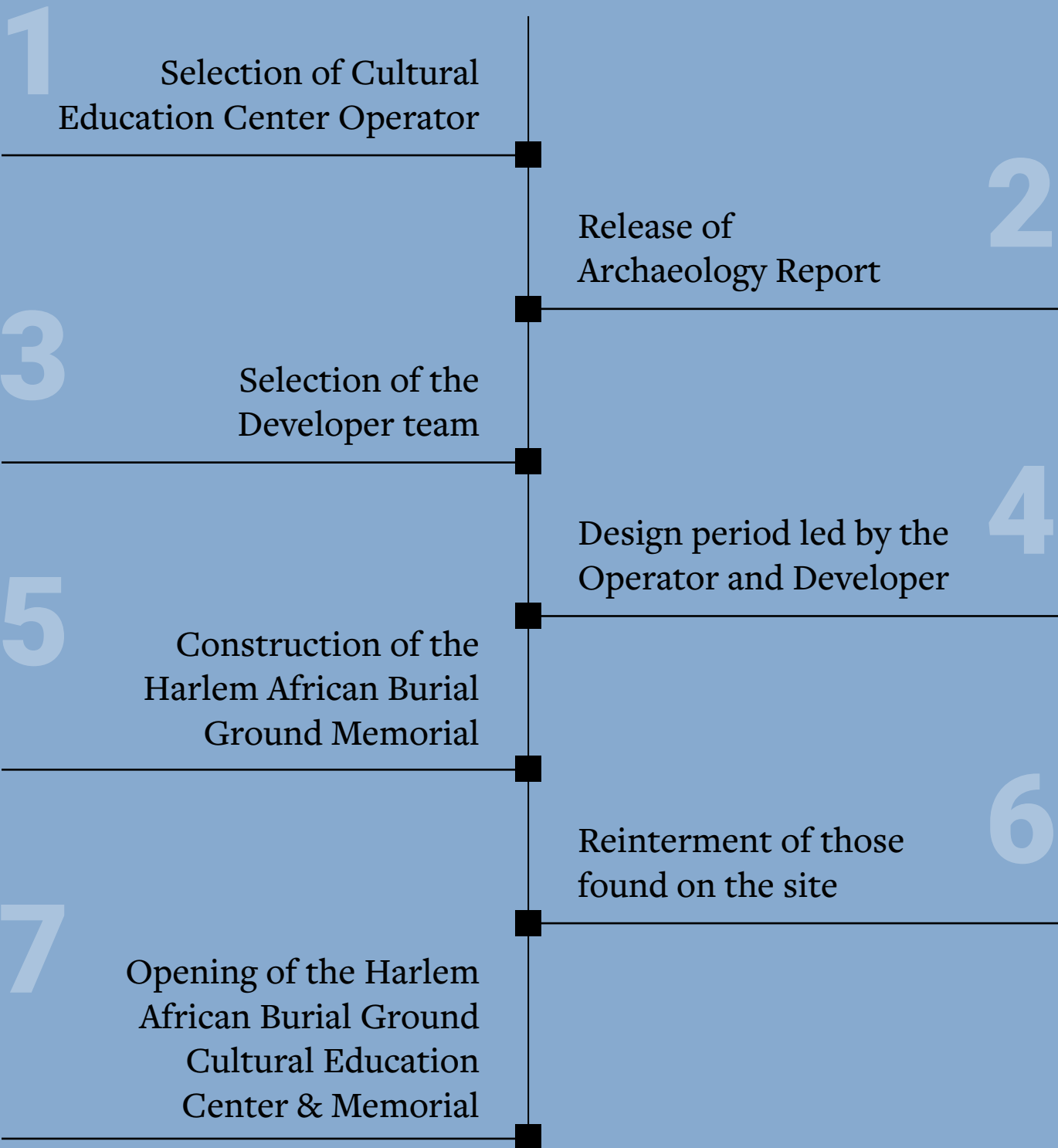
cultural education center. The City plans to select this partner in 2026, and will work closely with them, the HABGI, and other community members on developing a shared vision for the design and programming of the cultural education center and memorial.

Following the selection of the operator, the City will search for a developer team who will be responsible for managing the build-out of the mixed-use program.



HABGI founding member, Sharon Wilkins at the podium with Councilmember Diana Ayala and NYCEDC Executive Vice President, Jennifer Sun behind her from the HABG Closing Ceremony in September 2025.

## Upcoming Milestones





This team will work closely with NYCEDC, the cultural education center operator, and the HABGI to bring the vision of the site to life. After a period for design and continued community outreach, the existing bus depot will be demolished in order to begin construction. As the memorial nears completion, the human remains uncovered throughout all phases of archaeological work will be reinterred on site.

The Harlem African Burial Ground will not be defined solely as a historic site to be preserved. It will stand as a living cultural landmark that tells the story of Harlem’s past, present, and future. It will be a space that:

- Honors the lives and contributions of Harlem’s enslaved and free African ancestors with dignity
- Educates youth and adults using Harlem’s history, culture, and the community’s lived experiences

- Nurtures resilience, reflection, and unity
- Allows partnerships, cultural practices, and intergenerational connections to thrive

The last 18 months of engagement have been built upon the many years of advocacy from the HABGI to build a strong foundation that will uplift this project into its next stages. An enduring site of Harlem’s cultural heritage and present community, the Harlem African Burial Ground is a neighborhood treasure that is poised to serve as a source of inspiration for generations to come.



Rev. Dr. Patricia Singletary blessing human remains from Sept 2025 Closing Ceremony.

Stay Involved

Please visit [edc.nyc/habg](https://edc.nyc/habg) to sign up for project updates and follow the HABGI on Instagram: [@harlemafricanburialground](https://www.instagram.com/harlemafricanburialground)

“The discovery of Harlem African Burial Ground in Upper Manhattan (HABG) and similar sacred sites throughout New York City continue to shatter the misconception that slavery was exclusively a southern institution. Burial grounds in Lower Manhattan, Inwood, Flatbush, East New York, Van Cortlandt Park and others, transform and expand our collective knowledge and understanding of our history. The critical impact and role that enslaved people of African descent have played in the establishment of New York City as the world’s leading economic and cultural center from its very inception is undeniable. As Harlem and other historic black communities continue to transform and face displacement, it is incumbent upon us to preserve these sacred historic sites for future generations and tell the stories of those who came before us who did not have the freedom to do so.”

- Rodney Léon  
Architect of the African Burial Ground National Monument



# Appendix

**Appendix A - Stakeholder Overview**

**Institutional Partnerships**

- Museum of the City of New York
- The City College of New York – Place, Memory and Culture Incubator
- NYPL Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
- NYCHA Resident Associations - Robert A. Taft Houses, Robert F. Wagner Houses, East River Houses
- Harlem Arts Alliance
- Harlem Tourism Board
- Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce

**Elected Officials and Community Boards**

- Council member Diana Ayala
- Council member Yusef Salaam
- Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine
- NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams
- State Assemblymember Edward Gibbs
- State Senator José Serrano
- State Senator Cordell Cleare
- U.S. Representative Adriano Espaillat
- U.S. Representative Charles Rangel
- Manhattan Community Board 11
- Manhattan Community Board 10

**Community-Based Organizations**

- The Interchurch Center
- Save Harlem Now!
- Union Settlement
- Uptown Grand Central

**Appendix B - Discovering Your History - Family Keepsake Journal (EN)**

**Appendix C - Discovering Your History - Family Keepsake Journal (ES)**

**Appendix D - HABG Family History Workshop Youth Curriculum**

Appendix contents can be accessed via the  
HABG project website at [edc.nyc/habg](https://edc.nyc/habg)



**Special Thank you to:**

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