National Park Service
US Department of the Interior

African Burial Ground National Monument

Join us at one of these Open Houses

to share your ideas on different future visions at the African Burial Ground. Drop by and informally meet our planning team, learn about the preliminary alternatives and tell us your comments.

NOVEMBER
Monday, November 30, 2009
2:00pm to 7:00pm
Brooklyn College
Student Center
2nd Floor
Campus Road at East 27th Street
Brooklyn, NY

DECEMBER
Tuesday, December 1, 2009
11:00am to 2:00pm
Ted Weiss Federal Building
290 Broadway, 7th Floor
Lower Manhattan

Wednesday, December 2, 2009
2:00pm to 7:00pm
Schomburg Center
For Research in Black Culture
515 Malcolm X Blvd. (Lenox Ave)
New York, New York

Thursday, December 3, 2009
2:00pm to 7:00pm
House of the Lord Church
415 Atlantic Avenue
Brooklyn, New York

For information on public transportation and driving directions to each of these sites please go to page 11.

Dear Friend of the African Burial Ground National Monument,

My sincerest thanks to all of you who attended our open houses in June, provided comments online or in writing, and for your continued input as we plan the future of the African Burial Ground National Monument. We are grateful for the time you are devoting to the development of a vision for this sacred site.

We are at a stage in the planning process where new visions for the African Burial Ground are coming into focus. In this newsletter, we present two of those visions, called "preliminary alternatives," for managing the site's resources and the visitor experience. These preliminary alternatives help us explore different ways the park could be managed. Once fully developed, one of these alternatives could be selected as the National Park Service's "preferred" alternative or a new one could emerge that combines the two or other ideas.

Before we take the next step, we need to hear from you. This fall, we invite you to join us at open houses in Harlem, Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan where you will be able to explore, discuss, and comment on the preliminary alternatives. If you cannot attend an open house, see Getting Involved in this newsletter for other ways to make your voice heard. Either way, your ideas will go a long way in helping us choose a direction that best achieves our shared goals.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you that we are fast approaching the opening of our new Visitor Center early next year. Please check *www.nps.gov/afbg* for the announcement as we hope you will be among the first visitors we welcome through the doors.

Thanks again for your recent, and anticipated, participation.

Tara D. Morrison, Superintendent

The African Burial Ground General Management Plan:

Imagine you are standing at the African Burial Ground in 20 years. What do see, feel and experience? These questions about the future of the African Burial Ground National Monument are being explored right now and we want you to be part of creating that vision. Over the last year, the African Burial Ground National Monument began its journey to develop a General Management Plan (GMP). A GMP lays out a vision for where the site wants to be and guides decision making to get there over the next 20 years. All units of the national park system are required to have a GMP that addresses resource protection, visitor use, facilities and boundary.

In this newsletter, you'll find information about what's been happening with the GMP process and recent activities and events at the National Monument. Descriptions and photos from these inspiring and educational programs are included on the Happenings at the African Burial Ground National Monument page. Over the last six months, we've been collecting your suggestions and comments to help us create a vision for what kind of place we want African Burial Ground to be in the future. A summary of these thoughts can be found under the What We Heard and Learned section. We've also been working with scholars, historians and other experts to confirm the site's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values and primary interpretive themes. These pieces of the National Monument's Foundation Statement are detailed in the Foundation for Planning section. Highlighted in this newsletter are the GMP Preliminary Alternatives. We are asking you to make your voice heard by sharing your thoughts on these different options for how the park should be managed over the next 20 years. Check out the many ways to stay involved in the GMP process on page 10.

A SIGNIFICANT REDISCOVERY—
An Untold Story

Located in Lower Manhattan, the African Burial Ground contains the remains of an estimated 15,000 Africans who were banned from being buried within the New York City limits in the 17th and 18th centuries. The previously forgotten site underscores the neglected history of slavery and the contributions made by Africans in New York to the building of early America. The African Burial Ground was unearthed in 1991 during pre-construction testing for a federal office building at Broadway and Duane Streets. The site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1993. In 2006, Presidential Proclamation established the African Burial Ground National Monument as a unit of the National Park system. The Presidential Proclamation included a requirement that a General Management Plan be prepared for the African Burial Ground National Monument.

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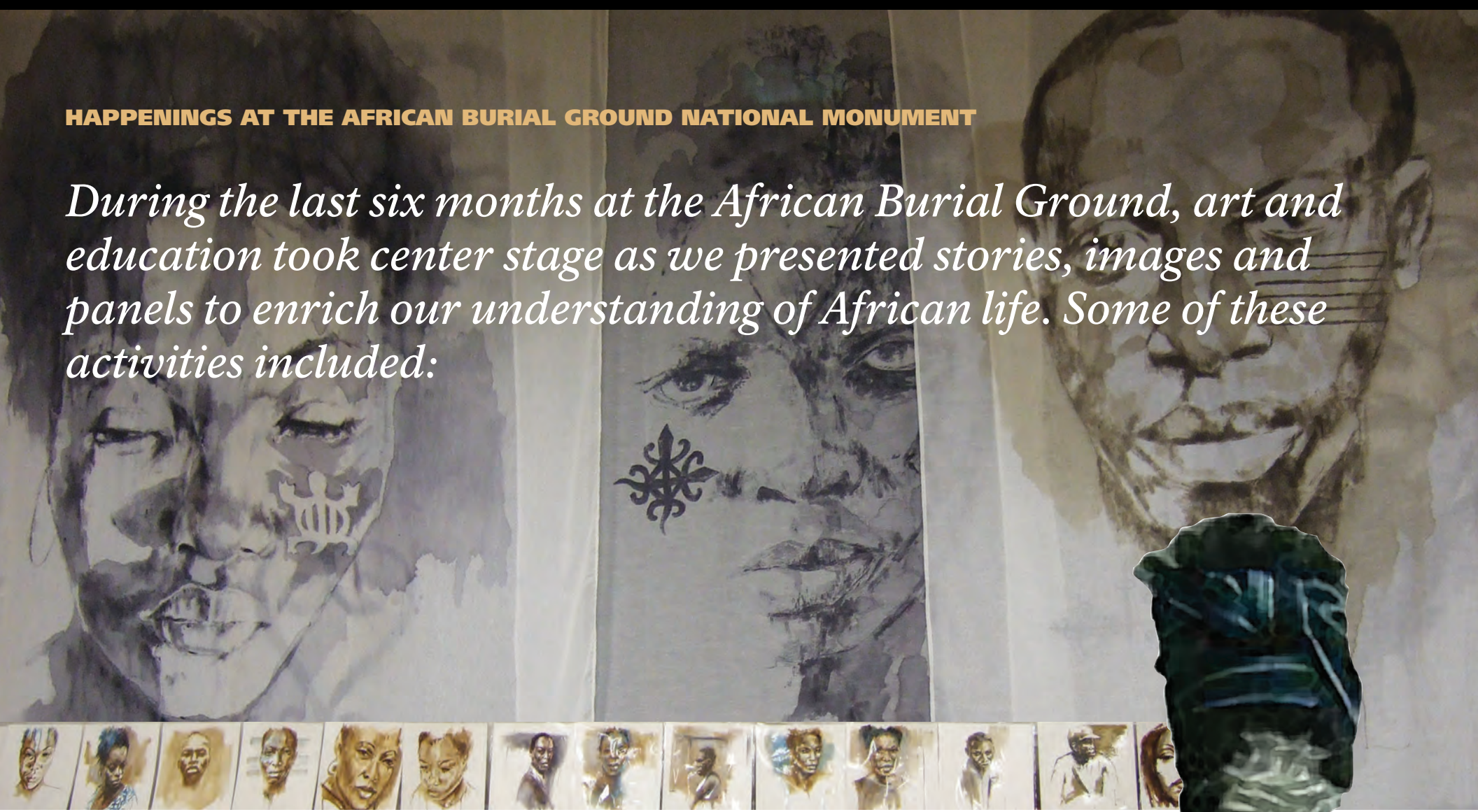


HAPPENINGS AT THE AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND NATIONAL MONUMENT

During the last six months at the African Burial Ground, art and education took center stage as we presented stories, images and panels to enrich our understanding of African life. Some of these activities included:

African Images

If you walked by the memorial in September and October, you might have noticed large sketches displayed in the windows. This installation was a part of "Memory and the Captive Passage", a special art project focused on the spiritual nature of the Africans, their traditions and how their way of life sustained them in America and, for some, their home in New York City. The portrait images of Africans, shown above, were created with ink on sheer curtains by French artist Patrick Singh. "Memory and the Captive Passage" was a collaborative project of the West Harlem Art Fund, Inc. and the African Burial Ground National Monument.

Summer Teachers' Institute

In July, educators from New York City, New Jersey and other nearby communities participated in Lessons from the African Burial Ground, a three-day curriculum intensive workshop, the National Monument's first teachers' institute. Classroom teachers were introduced to the site through a variety of disciplines which confirmed that the Burial Ground not only fits into, but also enhances statewide performance standards.

Presenters such as Mark Mack detailed the harsh lives of early African New Yorkers. He also revealed anthropological accounts of cultural retentions that survived throughout these tribulations. The daily Q&A panel was a highlight for scholarly presenters, encouraged that the site's rich history would be funneled into classrooms with such care and purpose. Afternoon workshops enforced the African Burial Ground's relevance to city standards and curriculum design. Overall, the Summer Teachers' Institute was a learning experience for all.

Digital Diaries

In early September, The Renaissance University for Community Education (TRUCE,) a youth development program at the Harlem Children's Zone, WNET and the National Monument joined forces to document visitor experience at the African Burial Ground. After participants toured the site, TRUCE's film crew, comprised of teenaged women, recorded visitors' responses on everything from the site's architecture to unexpected emotional reaction to the memorial. This collaboration, entitled "African Burial Ground Digital Diaries," was made possible through a grant from the National Park Foundation and shot entirely on-site at 290 Broadway.

The resulting six video stories were posted to WNET's website as a part of the launch of Ken Burns' highly-anticipated television program "The National Parks: America's Best Idea". The African Burial Ground was featured at *http://www.thirteen.org/localparks/african-burial-ground-digital-diaries* as part of "Untold Stories," a means of highlighting Americans' involvement in the creation and protection of national parks.

Art Panel

September 20th marked the beginning of the National Parks of New York Harbor week. During this week, ten national parks in New York City held special events to celebrate the debut of Ken Burns' six-part television documentary which highlighted national parks throughout the United States. Just one of the ways in which the African Burial Ground National Monument participated was by hosting an artist panel entitled, "Honoring the Ancestors: Artists Reflections." On Thursday, September 24th, we were honored to feature a variety of artists and architects who have contributed to the African Burial Ground. Charles Lilly, Tomie Arai, Rodney Leon, Vickie Frémont (puppet featured on the right), and Patrick Singh described the genesis and evolution of their works created to honor the African Burial Ground and the African Diaspora.

What We Heard and Learned

Over the spring and summer, many of you graciously shared your ideas, thoughts and inspirations for the future of the African Burial Ground with us as we launched the beginning of the GMP. To help us record these important contributions from both New York residents and interested folks far away, we added a new section to the National Monument's website entitled General Management Planning. The first newsletter, comment form and additional information are available there.

On June 9th, 10th and 11th the National Monument staff hosted Open Houses in Brooklyn, Harlem and Lower Manhattan. Superintendent Tara Morrison, rangers, volunteers and planning team members were on hand to share information and answer questions on the GMP process and other exciting up-coming events, such as the opening of the new visitor center in early 2010. Many of you had a chance to preview "Our Spirit", a video segment which will be featured in the new visitor's center as well as look at posters with information on the new visitor center and the GMP process. The same posters displayed at the Open Houses are available on the website under Virtual Open House.

The highlight of the Open Houses was hearing from you. We appreciate the thoughtfulness and passion for the African Burial Ground that was displayed through your video comments, conversations with staff and the court reporter and in writing on the forms we provided. All ideas and suggestions that were received at the Open Houses, by mail, on-line or fax are equally valuable to us.

Looking ahead to the next 20 years, we asked you to reflect on the big questions that the GMP will tackle. Following is a summary of what you shared with us including responses to our questions as well as your other ideas and thoughts. While there are some differing opinions and ideas, the planning team will consider all comments with an eye towards feasibility and the fulfillment of its mission to preserve and protect the National Monument for current and future generations. A complete listing of responses is available on our website at: *www.nps.gov/afbg/parkmgmt/heard-and-learned-spring-2009.htm.*

Protection and Preservation

- *How can the National Park Service better preserve and protect the African Burial Ground?*
- *How should the NPS best work with others to ensure protection of the entire African Burial Ground?*

Your Ideas for future protection and preservation of the National Monument were broad and inclusive; they ranged from practical on-the-ground measures such as the installation of cameras and fencing to marking and placing signs throughout the entire National Historic Landmark area (NHL). Some of you expressed concern about any new development in the NHL.

Other ideas included increasing public awareness locally, nationally and internationally about the existence of the Monument and its history, *"The best way to preserve and protect is to spread the word internationally about the African Burial Ground… "* another commented that *"The only way in my estimation you can protect something like this is to continue to talk about it, continue to share information, demanding that it become a part of school curriculum."* Others cautioned that any additional or future efforts at protection be balanced and mindful that this is a historic and "sacred" site.

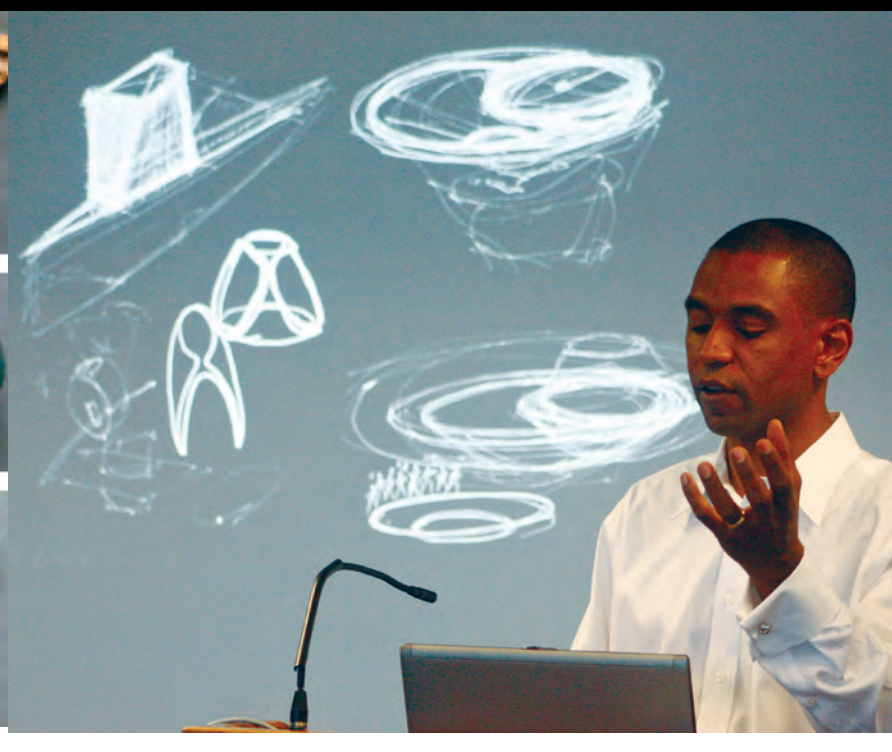
Current and Future Programming and Facilities

- *What do you think about our current programs?*
- *What suggestions do you have for future programs and visitor experiences?*
- *Recognizing that the new visitor center will soon open and be in operation for some period, do you believe that the NPS should consider developing a different facility in the future?*

While most of you had positive things to say about current programming, there also was anticipation for the opening of the visitor center and for more and varied interpretive and educational experiences. Regarding the visitor center, some expressed concerns that the size may not be adequate, but most want to see and experience this facility first before advocating for additional space.

Regarding exhibits and programming, some wanted to know more about what the day-to-day lives of those buried in the African Burial Ground were like: What did they wear? What did the children play with? What did they eat? What kind of work did they do? What kinds of things did they own? What traditions were they able to hold on to and practice? One idea was *"Educational program and visitor experiences should include "hands-on" workshops that give attendees a more realistic view of the value of the deceased… How they made clothing, jewelry, ethnic foods, and honored their God(s)."*

Another sentiment expressed was access to the information that the forensic research has revealed, including what future



advancements in DNA testing could reveal in regards to the origins of those buried at the ABG; this was a desire for many who had their own DNA tested or who were doing genealogical research on themselves and their families.

Some stressed the arts—poetry, music, dance, drama, film, and the fine arts—and the need to have youth use their creativity to help enliven the themes associated with the National Monument; another suggestion was historic reenactments.

Additional ideas included interactive, on-line and virtual programming; travelling programs and exhibits; and relevant books, CDs and videos.

Accessibility and Outreach

- *How can we make the African Burial Ground accessible and meaningful to a student in Nigeria or a grandmother in Paris?*
- *Do you have suggestions on how we can raise public awareness that the burial ground extends beyond the National Monument?*

The web, including virtual tours, on-line libraries, digitized resources and social networking sites were suggested. Most responders want to see the web as a major vehicle to bring people across the globe to the National Monument. Additional ideas included local access channels, radio, and local and regional print media.

Many commented that outreach efforts locally, nationally and internationally need to be increased. *"I live 2 blocks away and was on the community board for decades and really know very little about the site. Outreach hasn't been working for the local area."*

There was a suggestion to physically mark and sign the entire NHL area to help inform those who live and work in, and visit the area about the National Monument and the extent of the National Historic Landmark boundary; *"…in terms of providing information to the public re: the site, it might be interesting to have signs/plaques throughout demarcating the full area/i.e. beyond the monument itself that designates the full area of the historic burial ground…"*

Suggestions also included going beyond schools to libraries, adult education and senior centers, local and regional neighborhoods, faith-based institutions, chambers of commerce and tourism-based organizations. A few suggested having high-profile African American entertainers participate in an event or a public service announcement to bring attention to the site.

Other ideas to access the Monument's history and programs included books, CDs and DVDs for various age groups and traveling exhibits.

Partnerships

- *Which local, national and global communities, organizations, businesses and civic groups do you think the National Monument should partner with?*
- *What types of partnerships—educational, philanthropic, tourism, etc-should the NPS pursue?*

Partnerships are integral to the success of NPS sites all over the country; they help to foster protection, preservation and understanding of the natural and cultural resources that have been designated as nationally significant. We asked for your ideas on who the National Monument should partner with and the list you generated was rich! Your ideas spanned everything from educational institutions to Hollywood.

Suggestions for academic partnering included local schools to universities, boards of education and African American fraternities and sororities.

Your suggestions for partnering with other institutions and organizations included other sites of conscience, museums, libraries, churches and tourism-related organizations. Some stressed the importance of partnering with established African American institutions such as the NAACP, the National Urban League and Pan-African organizations.

Other suggestions fell under an international umbrella such the United Nations and the World Health Organization. Philanthropic institutions and foundations funded by large corporations were also suggested, as well as philanthropic organizations with celebrity spokespersons or "socially conscious celebrities".

Educational program and visitor experiences should include "hands-on" workshops that give attendees a more realistic view of the value of the deceased… How they made clothing, jewelry, ethnic foods, and honored their God(s)."

Foundation for Planning

A first step in the general management planning effort is the development of a Foundation Statement. This Statement reflects the site's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values as well as primary interpretive themes. It helps keep the site's management focused on what is most important about the place and the reasons for establishment as a national monument.

The draft Foundation Statement was developed by a team of archeologists, historians, ethnographers, interpretive specialists and planners from the National Park Service and institutions with a history of involvement at the African Burial Ground. The team used the *Draft Management Recommendations for the African Burial Ground* report prepared in 2005 as a starting point for this draft Foundation Statement. Many of you familiar with the 2005 report will recognize the similarities. Now, we would like your help in finalizing the purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values and interpretive themes for the site.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Purpose

The purpose statement is a specific reason why Congress and/or the president established the site as a unit of the national park system. The purpose statement provides the most fundamental criteria against which the appropriateness of all planning recommendations, operational decisions, and actions are tested.

The **purpose** of the African Burial Ground National Monument is to:

Preserve and protect the nearly 15,000 square feet of land and its associated resources—including those interred and re-interred, the memorial and collections and archives—on the corner of Duane and Elk Streets in Lower Manhattan. This parcel is part of the larger seven-acre National Historic Landmark commemorating the area which—from approximately 1690 to 1790—served as the final resting place for free and enslaved Africans.

Encourage and foster
Encourage and foster opportunities for research, public understanding and appreciation, dialogue, education and interpretation of:

- the culture, heritage, legacy and contributions of Africans and Americans of African descent to New York City and our Nation;
- Africans and Americans of African descent as integral and fundamental to American History;
- related resources and sites in New York City, including the National Historic Landmark.

Provide a place for quiet contemplation, commemoration and ceremony to honor the spirit and legacy of Africans and Americans of African descent, both free and enslaved, to our Nation and the greater global community.

SIGNIFICANCE

Guided by legislation and the knowledge acquired through management, research, and civic engagement, statements of significance define what is most important about the site's resources and values. The purpose and significance statements are used to guide planning and management decisions to ensure that the resources and values that Congress and the president wanted preserved are the first priority.

Significance Statement I: The African Burial Ground in Lower Manhattan is among the oldest, and is the largest known urban burial site of enslaved and free Africans in the United States. The site is one of the most significant archeological discoveries in the twentieth century—with an estimated 15,000 burials—and challenges the public perception that there was very little or no chattel slavery in the north.

Significance Statement II: The Burial Ground attests to the extent of slavery in New York City, one of the most important northern cities—geopolitically, culturally and financially—in the eventual formation of the Nation. The site highlights and explores the considerable contributions—physically and culturally—of Africans and Americans of African descent in this influential city from the seventeenth to the eighteenth centuries.

Significance Statement III: Skeletal remains and associated archeological artifacts demonstrate the extent to which Africans struggled to maintain and adapt traditional African cultural and ceremonial practices even under threat of physical and other forms of harm. These adapted practices continue in African American communities today. Bio-skeletal studies reveal the harsh labor regime and environmental conditions that Africans endured, and the high rates of infant and child mortality, as demonstrated by the preponderance of graves of persons under age sixteen.

Significance Statement IV: The African Burial Ground National Monument is a site where the history and implications of the African Diaspora can be studied, contemplated and discussed; it is a site that redefines and makes accessible to all the history and contributions of Africans in the building of the Americas. The National Monument is an active place of commemoration, contemplation, ceremony and celebration of the defiance, courage, endurance and flourishing of an oppressed people beyond all odds. As a final resting place for thousands of free and enslaved Africans, the National Monument is a place for the continued reclamation of both lost individual stories and the rich and compelling history of a people.

FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

The National Park Service works to ensure that those resources and values that are fundamental to maintaining the site's significance are preserved for public enjoyment. Understanding the fundamental resources and values that support each significance statement will provide managers and their staff with a focus on what is truly most important about each park. If the fundamental resources and values are degraded, then the significance of what is most important about the site may be jeopardized.

The Fundamental Resources are:

- The memorial and its associated cultural landscape;
- The buried human remains and archeological resources, and the human remains and archeological resources that are part of the collections excavated from the site;
- The archives documenting the archeological excavation and subsequent research;
- The archives documenting the public efforts to protect the site, including the journey of the human remains from Howard University in Washington, DC to New York and the re-interment ceremony at the Memorial in 2003.
- The Memorial and its associated cultural landscape;
- The buried human remains and archeological resources, and the human remains and archeological resources that are part of the collections excavated from the site;
- The archives documenting the archeological excavation and subsequent research;
- The archives documenting the public efforts to protect the site, including the journey of the human remains from Howard University in Washington, DC to New York and the reinterment ceremony in 2003.

The Fundamental Values are:

- The possibility and opportunity to experience and contemplate the sacredness and solemnity of the African Burial Ground as well as to discover, celebrate and honor those whose remains rest there.

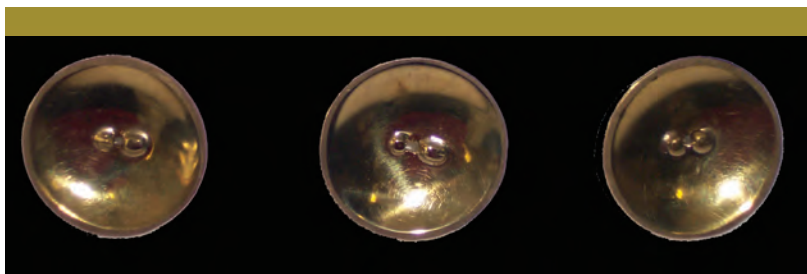
OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES AND VALUES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND NATIONAL MONUMENT

Many resources and values are determined to be important in their own right even though they are not related to the site's purpose and significance. These resources are particularly important to park management and planning and will be considered during the GMP process.

- Collections and archives not directly from the excavation of the site, such as reproductions
- The National Historic Landmark District

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Primary interpretive themes describe what needs to be interpreted to provide visitors with opportunities to understand and appreciate the purpose and significance of the site. The themes describe the key stories and concepts related to the site's significance. The development of primary interpretive themes provides the foundation on which the site's educational and interpretive program are based. Derived from the Purpose and Significance Statements, themes inspire connections to the tangible and intangible resources of the site and link universal human experiences that transcend time and culture.



Theme 1
Rediscovery of the Burials Reshapes History

Rediscovery of the African Burial Ground demands that history be retold and forever altered by a more complete understanding of the African Diaspora, the scope of efforts to enslave Africans, the nature of resistance to dehumanization, and the roles played by Africans and Americans of African descent in building New York City, the nation, and shaping their respective cultures.

Theme 2
The Struggle for Human Rights

The African Burial Ground demonstrates how individuals, singly and collectively, can create lives that transcend the inhumanity of forced immigration and enslavement, the burdens of the harshest labor, and the repression of cherished cultural and societal practices.

Theme 3
Treatment of Sacred Sites—Sankofa and Scholarship

Guided by the spirit of Sankofa, a West African Akan concept and symbol that exhorts us to "learn from the past to prepare the future", efforts to preserve, study and commemorate the African Burial Ground have triggered a vigorous activism and dialogue on the treatment of sacred sites, ancestral remains, and sites of conscience in New York City and around the globe.

Preliminary Alternatives

There are many different ways to preserve the African Burial Ground and tell its stories. In this newsletter, these various options are called preliminary alternatives. These alternatives lay out ideas for how we'll protect the Burial Ground, offer different kinds of education experiences, and explore ways we can collaborate with others to make the future vision a reality.

Guided by the ideas and suggestions we received from you earlier this year, the planning team crafted two preliminary alternatives, each exploring a different possible future for the National Monument. Each preliminary alternative starts with a different concept that focuses the site's management in one direction or another. Under each preliminary alternative are various ideas for what should be accomplished in the future to achieve these concepts. Many of your suggestions are reflected in these statements.

After we've received your ideas and comments on the preliminary alternatives, the alternatives may change or stay the same. These preliminary alternatives will then be fully described with possible actions for the National Monument to undertake in the future. Next, the alternatives will be analyzed for impacts to the social, cultural and natural environments in the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. At that time, a "best" or "preferred" alternative will be identified. This preferred alternative could be similar to one of the alternatives or it could be a combination of ideas selected from the various alternatives.

As you review the chart, you'll notice **Alternative A: Continuation of Current Management Practices** (also known as no-action). This alternative reflects the work of the National Monument today. In addition, there are actions common to both preliminary alternatives B and C. For ease of reading, we've included these same actions for both alternatives in *italics.*

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS

Your ideas and suggestions for enhancing the alternatives are important to us. As you read through the chart, we'd like you to consider the following questions:

Do these alternatives adequately protect the African Burial Ground NM and its resources—the memorial, collections, archives and associated archeological resources and human remains?

Will people interested in the African Burial Ground have multiple ways to learn and experience the site's resources and stories?

Which alternative maximizes partnership opportunities to help the National Monument carry out its purpose?

Are there any important ideas missing from the preliminary alternatives?

ALTERNATIVE	CONCEPT STATEMENT	RESOURCE PROTECTION
ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION	The African Burial Ground National Monument (NM) continues it's interpretive, educational and outreach activities which focus on the African Burial Ground, the Memorial and the visitor center. The NM maintains its existing partnerships for protection of its resources and collections and educational programming.	The National Monument continues to be preserved, protected and maintained in good condition. Collections and archives continue to be preserved and maintained in good condition and AFBG NM continues to work with partners to provide access to collections through existing agreements with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and Howard University. Human remains and associated archeological resources within the NM continue to be preserved and protected in their current locations and under current conditions.
ALTERNATIVE B: The African Burial Ground Promotes Memory and Science	The African Burial Ground National Monument (NM) forges regional interpretive partnerships with other African American sites in the New York city region and offers increased programming focused on scientific and archeological information obtained from the Burial Ground. The NM encourages continued research for increased understanding of the multi-faceted story of enslaved and free Africans and their descendants in the history of New York City. The NM broadens its programs to reach younger audiences and partners with others to provide increased understanding of the history of African American contributions in the New York city region. ***Special focus:*** *science and archeological Discovery labs and workshops* *Sphere of influence: local and regional* *Partnerships: academic, local and regional African American sites*	*The National Monument is preserved, protected and maintained in good condition.* *A Collections Management Plan is prepared and explores future options for consolidation.* *The NM advocates for the protection of human remains and associated archeological resources throughout the remainder of the African Burial Ground not under NPS jurisdiction.* *A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NYC Landmarks commission is pursued regarding the treatment of possible future discoveries of human remains within the NHL and making NPS an active participant in landmark commission decisions within the NHL.*
ALTERNATIVE C: The African Burial Ground—the International	The African Burial Ground National Monument (NM) as a primary site of conscience, partners with similar national and international sites and organizations to increase public awareness and understanding of past and present practices of enslavement and oppression and the effects these practices had and continue to have on individuals and societies. The NM broadens its programs to provide increased understanding of the historical and contemporary impacts of slavery and oppression and partners with other sites of conscience with similar objectives. ***Special focus:*** *sites of conscience; universal stories of struggle and triumph* *Sphere of influence: national and international* *Partnerships: national and international academic institutions, sites of conscience, and human rights organizations*	*The National Monument is preserved, protected and maintained in good condition.* *A Collections Management Plan is prepared and explores future options for consolidation.* *The NM advocates for the protection of human remains and associated archeological resources throughout the remainder of the African Burial Ground not under NPS jurisdiction.* *A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NYC Landmarks commission is pursued regarding the treatment of possible future discoveries of human remains within the NHL and making NPS an active participant in landmark commission decisions within the NHL.* Collections are shared between similar sites of conscience.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE	OPERATIONS and FACILITIES	PARTNERSHIPS and OUTREACH	BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT
The Visitor Center continues to provide information and orientation, exhibits, and special programs using interpreters, volunteers and various media. Visitors continue to be provided with opportunities for self-led, volunteer-led and ranger led tours of the NM. The NM continues to conduct limited on-site and off-site educational programs for schools and community groups. Limited special events are conducted at the NM and at off-site locations.	Staffing and operations continue at current level. Current administrative and visitor service facilities continue in operation.	Formal partnerships with the African Burial Ground Foundation, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Story Corps, Howard University, Eastern National and NPNH Conservancy continue.	A boundary adjustment is not pursued.
Visitors obtain information about the site, including tours, programs and special events through expanded use of media and partnerships. *The Visitor Center provides information and orientation, exhibits, and special programs using interpreters, volunteers and various media.* *The NM works with NYC and others through signage and wayside exhibits to interpret the entire African Burial Ground National Historic Landmark.* *Expanded programs and exhibits promote public understanding of the culture and contributions of the generations of Africans and Americans of African descent to New York City, the region and the Nation.* *The NM engages diverse and under-served communities through outreach and traveling programs and exhibits.* The NM collaborates with colleges and universities in the region to provide hands-on archeology experiences and workshops where students and adults learn about archeological research and discovery. Visitors understand the scientific methods by which the lives of those interred at the NM have been revealed and how historical research and science continues to contribute to our knowledge of enslaved people in NYC and the region. The NM collaborates with other units of the national park system and NYC region related sites to widen the visitor experience and understanding of slavery in the North. Tours, exhibits and shared programming, including walking, subway and driving tours are developed	*Staffing is adequate to fulfill administrative, maintenance and visitor services functions.* *As the current visitor center approaches its life cycle, the NM explores new space for administrative and visitor services functions in the NHL district that require less security procedures and enhance the visitor experience.* A Discovery archeology/science lab is developed in the NHL district for students.	*Partnerships beneficial to the operations of the NM, improved visitor experiences and education are pursued.* The NM pursues community, tourism and educational partnerships in the NYC region. The NM pursues partnerships with academic institutions to develop student and adult archeology and science programs. The NM coordinates with others in the region to designate a system of related African American sites and proposed walking / subway / driving tours in the NYC region.	*The NM would need a boundary adjustment if the long-term needs of NPS administrative and visitor facilities could be better met in another location and purchase is pursued.* The NM would need a boundary adjustment if archeology/science lab facilities are purchased
Visitors obtain information about the site, including tours, programs and special events through expanded use of media and partnerships. *The Visitor Center provides information and orientation, exhibits, and special programs using interpreters, volunteers and various media.* *The NM works with NYC and others through signage and wayside exhibits to interpret the entire African Burial Ground National Historic Landmark.* *Expanded programs and exhibits promote public understanding of the culture and contributions of the generations of Africans and Americans of African descent to New York City, the region and the Nation.* *The NM engages diverse and under-served communities through outreach and traveling programs and exhibits.* Visitors learn of other national and international sites of conscience, and explore issues of enslavement and oppression, past and present, in the national and international context. The NM partners with other units of the national park system and international sites of conscience to develop programs and exhibits. Visitors understand the causes and human, social and economic impacts of slavery and oppression. The NM collaborates with academic institutions and the Descendant Community to develop programs, workshops and materials.	*Staffing is adequate to fulfill administrative, maintenance and visitor services functions.* *As the current visitor center approaches its life cycle, the NM explores new space for administrative and visitor services functions in the NHL district that require less security procedures and enhance the visitor experience.*	*Partnerships beneficial to the operations of the NM, improved visitor experiences and education are pursued.* The NM works with NPNH and other units of the national park system and seeks to partner with national and international organizations and institutions to foster research and programming opportunities which focus on universal stories of enslavement, oppression, defiance, the struggle for individual freedom and equality. The NM explores international designations and affiliations such as an International Site of Conscience and World Heritage Site.	*The NM would need a boundary adjustment if the long-term needs of NPS administrative and visitor facilities could be better met in another location and purchase is pursued.*

Planning Process

General management planning offers an open, structured decision-making process that encourages and considers ideas and comments from many different people and groups. One of the goals for this GMP is to create, build and nurture long-lasting relationships among those organizations, agencies and individuals interested in the National Monument and its future.

The heart of the GMP is the alternatives that provide different management options for the African Burial Ground. Your ideas, expectations and concerns about the future of the site are important to us and carefully considered in decision-making. In order to create the best possible future for the National Monument, these ideas and comments are matched with scholarly and scientific information and analysis. The GMP must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This means that impacts to the social, cultural and natural environments at the site and surrounding areas will be taken into consideration.

All of the ideas, options and impacts for the future of the park are presented in a written document that will be available for you to read and make comments on. After all comments are received and considered, together, we will choose the best future for the site. A summary of the planning process, time frame and ways for you to participate is provided in the following chart:

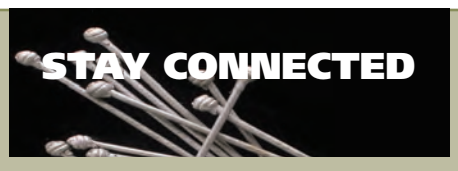
PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Estimated Time Frame	Planning Activity	Ways to Be Involved
Spring 2009	**Scoping—** identify concerns, expectations, and comments related to the site with the public, government agencies and other stakeholders.	Review newsletter and send us your ideas and concerns. Attend an Open House, learn about the project and voice your ideas and concerns.
Fall/Winter 2009	**Develop and Present Preliminary Alternatives —** Outline different possible futures for the park and provide opportunities for review and comment by public, partners, government agencies and other stakeholders.	Review newsletter and send us your ideas and concerns. Attend an Open House and comment on the preliminary alternatives.
Spring/Summer 2010	**Prepare and Distribute a Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Assessment—** Review and comment by public, partners, government agencies and other stakeholders.	Attend an Open House and voice your ideas and concerns. Review the *Draft GMP/EA* and provide written comments.
Fall 2010	***Revise plan and* Issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**	The plan is finalized and a FONSI is signed by the Northeast Regional Director of NPS.
Winter 2010	**Implement the Approved Plan—** Implement plan as funding allows.	Work with African Burial Ground to implement the plan.

GETTING INVOLVED NOW WITH THE GMP

We look forward to hearing from you about the information presented in this newsletter, especially the foundation statement and preliminary alternatives. Suggestions and comments will be collected by one of the following ways:

- Drop by at one of the four Open Houses on November 30 thru December 3 to learn more about the GMP. Talk with one of the planning team members, fill out a comment form or tell us your thoughts by video.
- Go on-line to *http://www.nps.gov/afbg* and fill out a comment form from the General Management Planning page.
- Call the National Monument office at 212. 637.2019 ` and request a comment form that can be mailed or faxed back.



The African Burial Ground National Monument website is the best place to stay connected with the GMP and future events. Check out the General Management Planning section for updated and expanded information on GMP activities. Want to know when something new has been added? Join the electronic mailing list. Sign up on the website to receive e-blasts. The National Monument is also on Twitter! You can follow us at www.twitter.com/AFBurialGrndNPS

We appreciate your interest in the GMP and suggest keeping involved by:

Attending Open Houses and other African Burial Ground events.

Sharing your ideas, questions and comments.

Encouraging your neighbors and friends to visit the African Burial Ground and to also become involved.

OPEN HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DIRECTIONS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30th • 2pm - 7pm
Brooklyn College Student Center, 2nd Floor
Campus Road at East 27th Street, Brooklyn, NY
Tel: 718.951.5842

BY SUBWAY:
#2 or #5 Train to Flatbush Avenue. Exit to Flatbush and Nostrand. Walk one block on Hillel Street towards the clock tower and you'll see the Campus Road Entrance (Gate). Guard will direct you to Student Center.

BY BUS:
B6 or B11 on Avenue J to Bedford Avenue and Campus Road
B8 on 18th Avenue to Flatbush Avenue at Foster Avenue
B41 on Flatbush Avenue to Nostrand Avenue
B44 on Nostrand Avenue to Flatbush Avenue
B49 on Ocean Avenue to Avenue H
Q35 (Green Line Bus) to Flatbush Avenue at Nostrand Avenue

LIRR—Take LIRR to Atlantic Avenue and transfer to either the 2 or 5 trains or you can go upstairs and take the B41 bus to Nostrand Avenue. at Hoyt and State Street. Walk Up Hoyt Street two blocks to Atlantic Avenue. Turn left on Atlantic Avenue.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1st • 11am - 2pm
Ted Weiss Federal Building
290 Broadway, 7th Floor, Lower Manhattan
Tel: 212.637.2019
Please bring passport or photo ID for entry. All visitors must show identification and go through standard security procedures.

BY SUBWAY:
A, C, E Trains to Chambers Street. Exit on Church Street and walk to Chambers Street and turn right. Walk to Broadway (about two blocks) and turn left. Walk up Broadway to Duane Street and 290 will be on your right on the corner of Duane and Broadway.

#2,#3 TRAINS TO PARK PLACE. Exit on to Broadway. Walk up Broadway about four blocks to Duane Street and to 290 will be on your right on corner of Duane and Broadway.

BY BUS:
M1 or M6 to Broadway and Chambers Street. Walk back one block to 290 Broadway on the right.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2nd • 2pm - 7pm
Schomburg Center For Research in Black Culture
515 Malcolm X Blvd (Lenox Ave), New York, New York
Tel: 212.491.2200

BY SUBWAY:
2,3 Train to 135th Street. Exit and Schomburg Center will be large brick building on corner with trees in front.

B, C Trains to 135th Street. Exit onto W. 135th Street and walk on W 135th Street 3 blocks to Malcolm X Blvd (Lenox Ave). Schomburg Center will be on the left at corner.

BY BUS:
M7 or M102 Bus to Malcolm X Blvd (Lenox Ave) and get off at W 135th Street.
BX33 bus to W. 135th and Malcolm X Blvd (Lenox Ave).

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3 • 2pm - 7pm
House of the Lord Church
415 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, New York
Tel: 718.596.1991

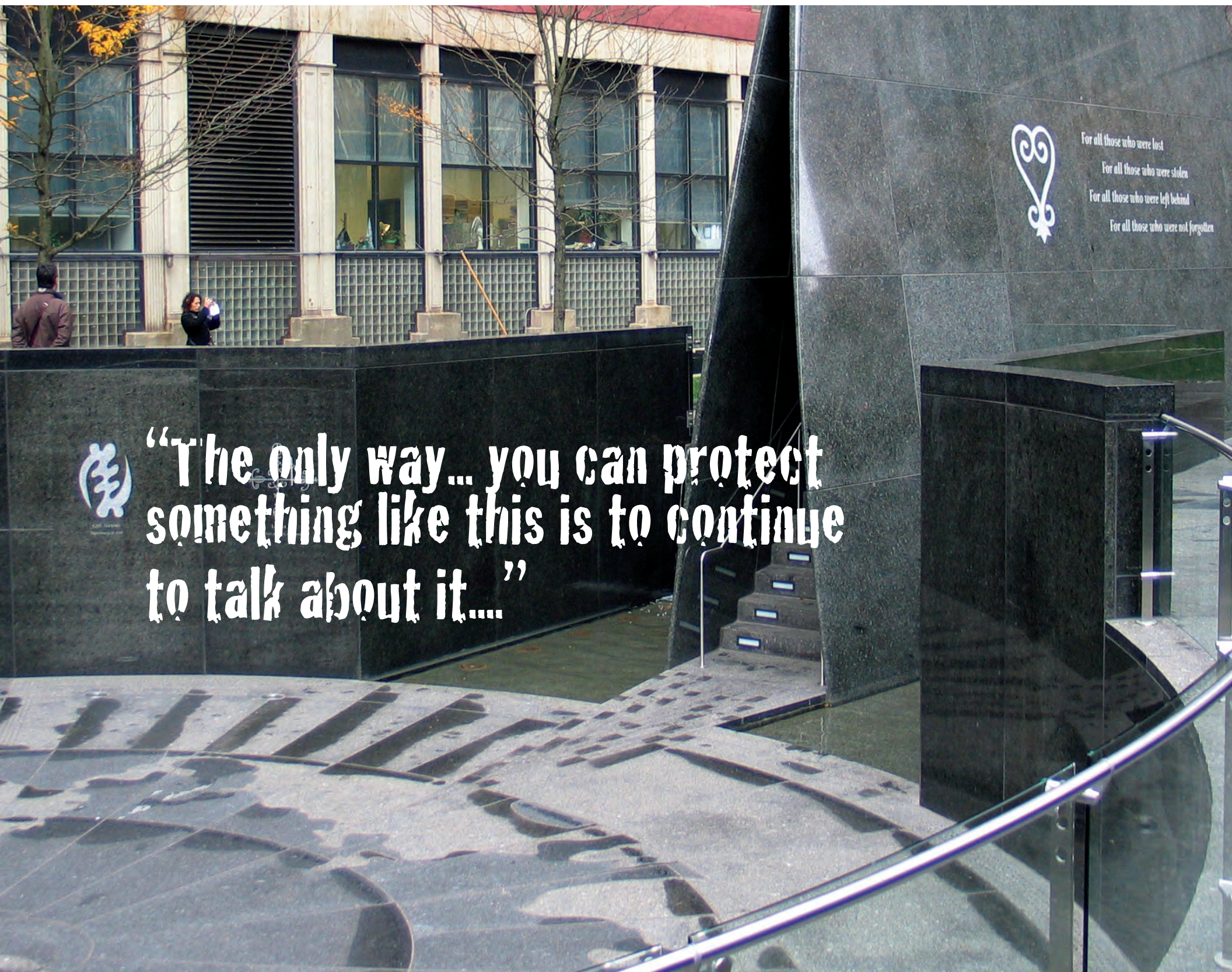
BY SUBWAY:
A, C, G TrainsTo Hoyt Schemmerhorn. Exit and walk toward Atlantic Avenue, Turn left on Atlantic Avenue and walk two blocks to church, located between Bond and Nevins Street.

BY BUS:
Take B63 bus up Atlantic Avenue and get off at Bond Street.
The church is on Atlantic Avenue between Bond and Nevins Street.

The National Park Service and the African Burial Grounds National Monument are grateful for the many excellent photographs taken by Jerome Stephens, Alyce Emory and Mindi Rambo.

US Department of the Interior
National Park Service
African Burial Ground National Monument
290 Broadway, 1st Floor
New York, NY 10007

This newsletter is a publication of the National Park Service, African Burial Ground National Monument. For additional information please contact Superintendent,
African Burial Ground National Monument,
290 Broadway, 1st Floor, New York, NY 10007;
by email at afbg_gmp@nps.gov;
or call 212.637.2019. Visit us on the web at
www.nps.gov/afbg



"The only way... you can protect something like this is to continue to talk about it...."