

# TUCSON BUFFALO SOLDIER MEMORIAL PLAZA

Quincie Douglas Center · 1575 East 36th Street · Tucson, Arizona

An Interpretive Guide to the  
History, Legacy, and Memorial



The Tucson Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza at the  
Quincie Douglas Center - 2026

**Published by the**

Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter  
9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association  
Research, prepared and written by Jon Covington





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# REMARKS

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## Recognizing 5th Anniversary of the Tucson Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza

On behalf of the Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter (GSAAC) of the 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association, it gives us great pleasure to recognize the 5th Anniversary of the Tucson Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza. Recognizing this important anniversary, we honor the memory of thousands of brave African American soldiers whose service and sacrifice helped shape the American Southwest — and the nation itself. This memorial plaza is recognized for several notable distinctions:

### 01

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It is the first voter-approved Buffalo Soldiers memorial in the nation. When the citizens of Tucson approved Proposition 407 in November 2018, they affirmed that the story of the Buffalo Soldiers belongs not only in history books, but in the public spaces where communities gather, reflect, and learn.

### 02

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This memorial is the only Buffalo Soldier Memorial of its type in the state of Arizona.

### 03

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The GSAAC is the only chapter in 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association to have a Buffalo Soldier Memorial.

This memorial would not exist without the steadfast collaboration of many partners who shared a common vision. We acknowledge with gratitude the residents of Tucson, The Mayor's office, City of Tucson Ward 5, along with Parks and Recreation. Together, these organizations transformed an aspiration into the enduring monument you see before you today.

— *The Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter  
9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association*



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*As Mayor of the City of Tucson and on behalf of Tucsonans, we proudly recognize the Fifth Anniversary of the Tucson Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza and Museum. This memorial honors the courage, sacrifice, and enduring legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers and the generations of African American servicemembers who helped shape our nation's history.*

*I want to extend deep appreciation to the community leaders of the Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter (GSAAC) of the 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association, who worked in partnership with Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres to bring this vision to life. Council Member Fimbres' longstanding commitment to veterans, working families, and the neighborhoods of Ward 5 helped make this important tribute possible. The memorial's home in Ward 5 also reflects the deep roots, enduring contributions, and rich history of Tucson's Black community.*

*In the years since this memorial was established, I helped lead in the creation and passage of our ¡Somos Uno! Cultural Heritage Strategy, recognizing that our city's strength is rooted in the many histories, cultures, and communities that shape who we are. The Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza embodies that vision by affirming Black history as an essential part of Tucson's cultural heritage and creating a space where remembrance, belonging, and community connection can grow for generations. As we commemorate this milestone, we remember not only the service of these heroes, but also the ongoing responsibility to preserve their stories, uplift Black history and culture, and ensure Black futures.*

*Tucson Mayor Regina Romero*

*Ward 5 is proud to recognize the fifth anniversary of the Tucson Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Plaza. We are especially honored to be home to Arizona's only Buffalo Soldiers memorial of its kind. Located in the South Park neighborhood, the memorial is a source of civic pride for our community.*

*It honors individuals whose service, sacrifice, and contributions played a significant role in Arizona's history, yet whose stories were too often overlooked or underrepresented in traditional historical accounts.*

*The history represented in this space tells a powerful story of the Black soldiers whose service, sacrifice, and dedication helped shape our nation during the 1800s and beyond. From the granite monument that highlights the story of the Buffalo Soldiers in Arizona to the surrounding interpretive panels that showcase the history of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments, the first Black graduates of West Point, and the Buffalo Soldiers' contributions to the National Park System, the memorial offers visitors an opportunity to learn about an important chapter of our nation's history.*

*Thoughtfully designed to complement the resources available at Quincie Douglas Center and Library, the plaza serves as both a place of reflection and a source of education for our community. Ward 5 remains committed to honoring and preserving this remarkable memorial and the vision of those who helped bring it to life, including former Council Member Richard Fimbres.*



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*We will continue seeking opportunities to expand awareness of this legacy and ensure that future generations understand and appreciate this important piece of history. This commitment is especially meaningful as the United States commemorates its 250th birthday, providing an opportunity to reflect on the many individuals and communities whose contributions helped shape our nation.*

*Councilmember Selina Barajas,  
Ward 5, City of Tucson*

*The Quincie Douglas Center is proud to celebrate five years of the Tucson Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza and Museum, located right here at the center. For many years, the center has provided vital social services and recreational programs to the Tucson community. Over the past five years, we have also had the privilege of showcasing the rich history of the Buffalo Soldiers.*

*This achievement would not have been possible without the vision and support of the Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter (GSAAC), Council Member Richard Fimbres, Tucson voters through Proposition 407, and the many generous donations from our community.*

*The Quincie Douglas Center is honored to be the home of such important and inspiring history.*

*Mr. Jerry Neely,  
Director, Quincie Douglas  
Neighborhood Center*

*On behalf of the 9th & 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association, it is a profound honor to recognize and salute the Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter on the Fifth Anniversary of their distinguished Buffalo Soldier Statue and Memorial Plaza.*

*This anniversary reaffirms our shared commitment to ensuring that the remarkable history of the Buffalo Soldiers is never forgotten. Their bravery, courage, sacrifice, and unwavering fighting spirit remain enduring pillars of the American story. This monument stands as a lasting tribute to their service and as a source of education and inspiration for all who visit.*

*The National Association proudly salutes our Chapter for the vision, dedication, and perseverance required to create a memorial of such meaning and dignity. Your work continues to inspire, uplift, and illuminate the extraordinary accomplishments of the Buffalo Soldiers and their contributions around the world. Congratulations Tucsonans and Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter on this outstanding and historic achievement.*

*Nina Amos  
National President,  
9th & 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association*



# ADDRESSING A NEED

## A Buffalo Soldier Memorial? The First Idea

The idea of creating a Buffalo Soldier memorial started well before the GSAAC's involvement and action to make a Buffalo Soldier memorial a reality. There were past attempts to create a memorial most notably by the Western Buffalo Soldier Association Inc., who later changed its name to the Arizona Buffalo Soldier Association.

On October 12, 2007 the Western Buffalo Soldier Association, Inc. held a banquet and fund raiser to create a Buffalo Soldier Memorial in Tucson. Although this was the organization's fourth banquet, this marked the first attempt to create a memorial honoring the Buffalo Soldiers. The dinner featured the well-known sculptor Ed Dwight, Jr. who was a former USAF Captain and the first African American to be selected to NASA's Astronaut Training Program.

The plan for the memorial, to be located adjacent to the Quincie Douglas Library, was to have Mr. Dwight create a monument (60' x 100' feet). However, the cost of creating such a memorial was estimated to be "one-million dollars," and the funding was never achieved, and the Western Buffalo Soldier Association dissolved. There were a few other attempts to create a proper memorial for the Buffalo Soldiers during the early 2000s, but none came to fruition.

Fast forward to 2014, the troopers of the Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter, 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association, worked with Ward 5 Office and Tucson City Council member Richard Fimbres and the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation to establish a memorial dedicated to the contributions of some of America's greatest heroes, the Buffalo Soldiers. Of course, at the time there were no monuments, memorials or museums in the Tucson area representative of contributions Black Americans made in settling Southern Arizona and the West.

As with the memorial championed by the Western Buffalo Soldier Association, Inc., this Buffalo Soldier memorial would also be located at the Quincie Douglas Library/Neighborhood Center. The neighborhood surrounding the memorial, South Park, is one of five historically Black neighborhoods in Tucson.





# THE TIMELINE

## From Vision to Reality — The Project Timeline



**2015**

Initial pursuit of public funding with Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres

**2015**

Pima County bond program inclusion (not approved by voters)



**2018**

Proposition 407 approved by Tucson voters (November)



**2019**

Wheat Design Group hired for planning and design

**2019**

Tucson Marble and Granite awarded monument contract



**2020**

Plans finalized; M. Anderson Construction hired as general contractor

**2020**

Groundbreaking ceremony (October 29)



**2021**

Grand dedication ceremony (May 3)





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## The Vision (2015)

Every monument begins as an idea — a conviction that something important deserves to be remembered. For the Tucson Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza, that conviction was carried by the members of the Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter (GSAAC) of the 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association, together with Tucson Ward 5 City Council Member Richard Fimbres.

In 2015, these partners began pursuing public funding for a Buffalo Soldiers memorial in Tucson. At the time, there were no monuments anywhere in the city that recognized or honored the contributions of Black Americans in the defense of the nation.

The absence was glaring — especially in a region where Buffalo Soldiers had served, fought, and died for decades. The memorial partners provided the organizational energy and community connections that would prove essential to the project's success.

The memorial was originally slated for inclusion in the Pima County bond program in 2015, but it was not approved by voters. It was a setback, but not a defeat. The supporters of the project regrouped, refined their approach, and continued to build community support.  
Securing Funding (2018)

Council Member Richard Fimbres continued to champion the project, lobbying tirelessly for its inclusion in a new bond program. His persistence paid off when the Buffalo Soldier memorial was included in the "Tucson Delivers Great Parks + Strong Connections" bond program, designated as Proposition 407.

In November 2018, the citizens of Tucson went to the polls and approved Proposition 407 — making the Tucson Buffalo Soldier Memorial the first voter-approved Buffalo Soldiers memorial project in the nation.

The significance of this moment cannot be overstated. The voters of Tucson — the entire community, not just one organization or one elected official — had spoken. They affirmed that the story of the Buffalo Soldiers was worth telling, worth preserving, and worth investing in.





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## THE PROJECT

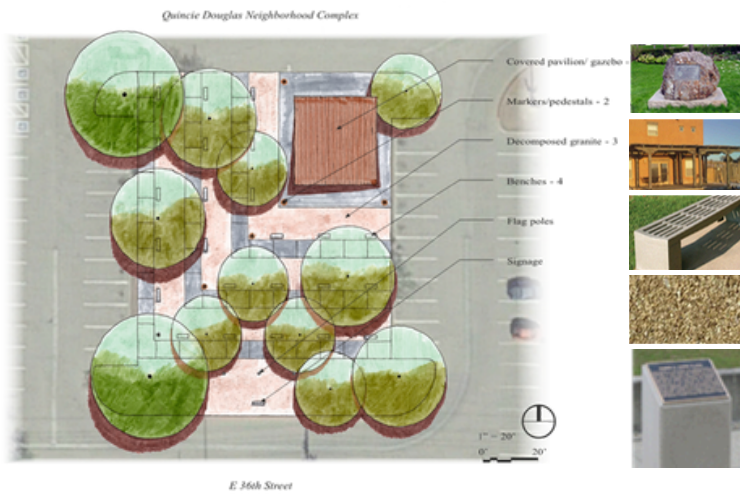
### **Building the Memorial: A Community Achievement**

### **Design and Planning (2016 - 2019)**

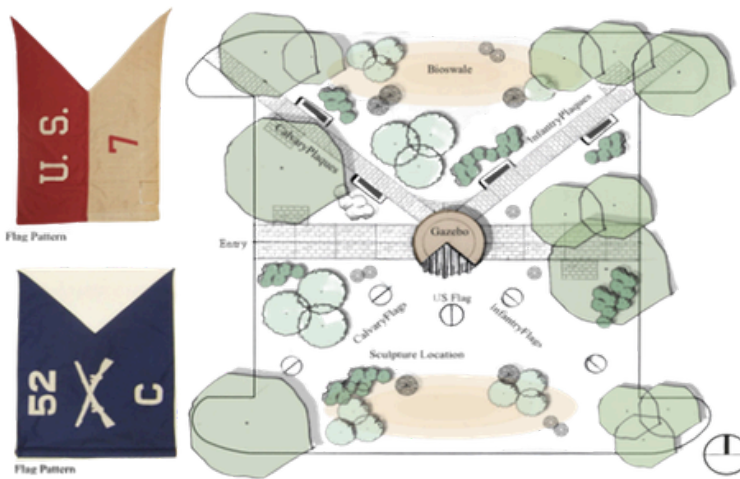
In May 2016, GSAAC memorial committee contacted Brad Kindler of the Univ. of AZ College of Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture (CAPLA) to see if they would be interested in supporting the Tucson Community Buffalo Soldier Memorial project with design ideas. The CAPLA leadership approved the request to create memorial design plans. The chapter provided the students of the CAPLA with the proposed planning document, and they provided three design layouts for the memorial. CAPLA determined the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial would serve as a site for public education and African American history for Tucsonans. The historic nature of the memorial and its relationship to the Quincie Douglas Library would create the potential for frequent visitors.

Utilizing original documentation, site visits, and design strategies we have developed conceptual layouts for the memorial. A concept is an adaptable representation of potential layout and elements. We paid special attention to connectivity, circulation, memorial aesthetics, and visibility. Constraints dealing with the site for the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial presented several circumstances that will affect layout and design. The map above shows some of the existing site opportunities and constraints that we are taking into account in drafting our ideas. Specifically, access and circulation through the site for visitors is of primary concern, as well as visibility, sun direction, and noise mitigation. Then student designers Brad Kindler, Yuheng Zhang, Dan Zedick presented three design concepts:

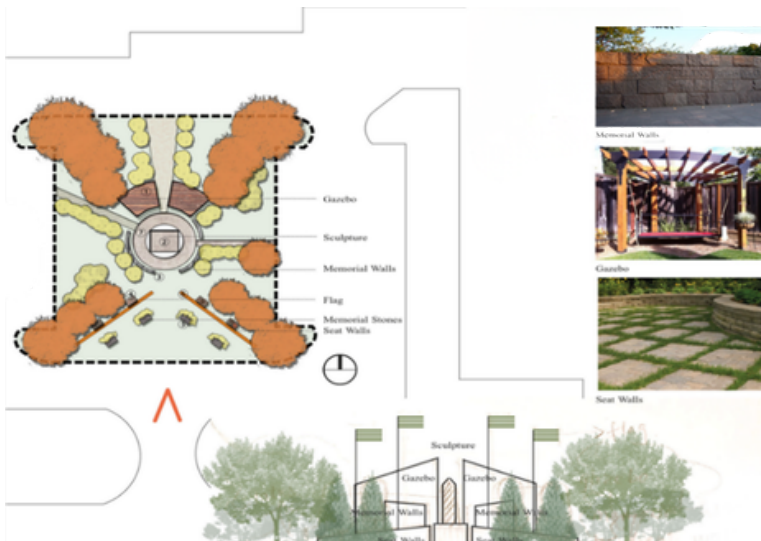




The “Memorial” Concept: This concept arranged the space from the northeastern corner, where the central gazebo pavilion is situated, radiation out into the wider site. From the gazebo there are paths intersected with seating as well as educational memorial elements. The goal is to create a unique, secluded, solemn space by shielding 36th Street to the south and creating a dense comfortable interior where visitors can relax, learn and share in this common space.



The “Flag” Concept: Flag Landscape” traces the outline of the historic military flags that may have been carried by the Buffalo Soldiers. A rectangle with a triangle removed from one end, the form is projected onto the memorial site by utilizing two paths that enter the memorial from the northeast and northwest. This pattern is subtly repeated on the south of the property with the placement of flag poles. A central American flag and four radiating Cavalry and Infantry flags pay respect to the four Buffalo Soldier Regiments represented in the Memorial.



The “Enforce” Concept: This concept incorporates elements of enclosures and education. The arrangement of the elements in addition to vegetation produces a solemn atmosphere of reflection.



## A Change in the Planning Process

During a South Park Neighborhood Association meeting in July 2019, the Ward 5 Office informed the attendees that in order to complete the proposed Buffalo Soldier Memorial in the space in front of the administrative offices, the existing Native American totem pole obelisk would have to be moved. Sara O'Neill, neighborhood association's president, informed the Ward 5 Office and the GSAAC memorial committee that the obelisk had a major historical significance to the South Park neighborhood and should not be moved.

In late December, GSAAC members met with Jerry Neely at the Quincie Douglas Center. He suggested that the memorial be moved closer to the administrative center and utilized the plaza area adjacent to the center. This was well received by GSAAC membership.

## Wheat Design Group

With funding secured, the City of Tucson hired Wheat Design Group (WDG) to begin planning and design of the memorial plaza. WDG brought expertise in public space design, working closely with the GSAAC and community stakeholders to create a memorial that would be both historically rigorous and deeply moving. Tucson Marble and Granite was awarded the contract to design and fabricate the granite memorial monument — the centerpiece of the plaza.

In a powerful demonstration of community ownership, the GSAAC membership voted to fund the memorial monument with a sizable donation from its treasury, supplemented by contributions from individual members and fundraising efforts. This was not a project imposed from above; it was a project built from the ground up, by the community it would serve.

## Construction (2020)

The project team finalized plans for the Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Plaza, and M. Anderson Construction was hired as the general contractor. Despite the unprecedented challenges of 2020, and the pandemic, the project moved forward. On October 29, 2020, a groundbreaking ceremony marked the official start of construction — a moment of celebration for everyone who had worked for years to bring the project to this point.





# ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

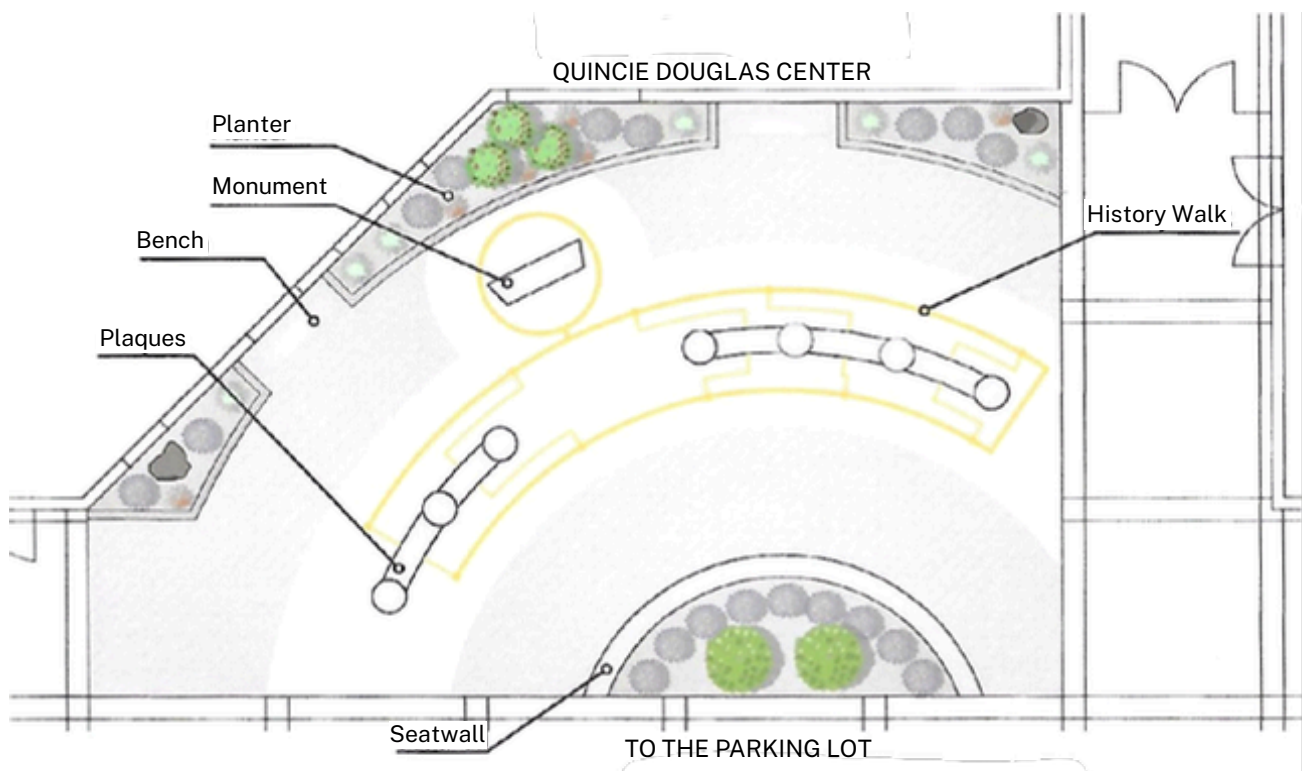
## The Memorial Plaza

A Story Told Through Architecture, Sculpture, Landscaping, and Words

### Design Philosophy

The Tucson Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza was designed to do more than commemorate — it was designed to teach. Every element of the plaza tells a story through architecture, sculpture, landscaping, and words, educating and inspiring visitors about the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Located at the Quincie Douglas Center, 1575 East 36th Street, in the heart of one of Tucson's oldest historical Black neighborhoods, the plaza occupies a place of deep cultural significance. The design by Wheat Design Group (WDG) creates an inviting, contemplative space that encourages visitors to linger, read, reflect, and learn.



*The Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza — designed by Wheat Design Group to educate and inspire through architecture, sculpture, and landscape.*



## The Granite Monument

The centerpiece of the memorial plaza is a granite monument crafted from North American Pink granite — a material chosen for its warmth, durability, and dignity. The monument is trapezoid-shaped, a distinctive geometric form that lends itself to telling the Buffalo Soldiers' history on multiple faces, allowing visitors to walk around the monument and discover new information on each side. The monument consists of three carefully designed pieces:

**The Foundation Base** provides structural stability for the monument, anchoring it firmly to the earth — a fitting metaphor for the foundational role the Buffalo Soldiers played in the history of the American Southwest.

**The Middle Granite Piece** is the heart of the monument's interpretive program. Its four faces present: a short Buffalo Soldiers historical overview on the front; identification of the four Army units known as the Buffalo Soldiers on the back; a map showing Arizona locations where these soldiers served on one side; and identification of the Buffalo Soldiers who earned the Medal of Honor in the Arizona Territory on the other side.

**The Top Granite Block** carries the name of the memorial — "Tucson Community Buffalo Soldiers Memorial" — and displays the GSAAC and 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry National Association logos on each side. On the back of the top piece, visitors will find a significant quote of Frederick Douglass

## Six Historical Information Pedestals

Surrounding the central monument, six interpretive pedestals provide detailed historical information about the Buffalo Soldiers. Each pedestal covers a different aspect of the Buffalo Soldiers' story, creating a comprehensive narrative experience for visitors who take the time to read each one. Together, the pedestals and the monument form a complete interpretive program — a museum without walls.





## Plaza Features

The memorial plaza was designed for both contemplation and community gathering. Key features include:

- **Sail shade structures** providing protection from the Arizona sun, ensuring the plaza is comfortable for visitors throughout the year
- **A seat wall** for seating, informal gathering, encouraging visitors to stay, read, and reflect
- **Benches** positioned throughout the plaza for individual contemplation
- **Native vegetation** appropriate to the Sonoran Desert, creating a landscape that connects the memorial to its Arizona setting

The overall design creates a space that is at once dignified and welcoming — a place where history comes alive and communities come together.

## Symbols and Meaning

Every element of the memorial carries meaning. A description key within the memorial identifies the regiments and divisions of the Negro troops who served. Throughout the plaza, symbols convey the Buffalo Soldiers' story: the buffalo, representing the name given by the Plains Indians and worn with pride; the cavalry cross sabers, symbol of the mounted regiments; and the infantry crossed rifles, symbol of the foot soldiers who marched across the frontier.

These symbols are woven into the monument, the pedestals, and the landscape itself — ensuring that every visitor, whether they read every word or simply absorb the visual language of the plaza, comes away with an understanding of who the Buffalo Soldiers were and what they achieved.





# INSCRIPTIONS

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## Inscriptions and Words of Honor

Memorials speak in many languages — through stone, through form, through the arrangement of space and light. But it is words, carved into granite and set in bronze, that give a memorial its voice. The inscriptions on the Tucson Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza are not mere decoration; they are permanent witnesses to history, ensuring that the stories of the Buffalo Soldiers are preserved for as long as the stone endures.

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*"Once let black man get upon his person the brass letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship."*

— *Frederick Douglass*

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This inscription appears on the back of the top granite block of the monument, and is a most powerful statement. Frederick Douglass — born into slavery, self-educated, escaped to freedom, and he rose to become one of the most powerful orators and writers of the nineteenth century — spoke these words to honor the courage and patriotism of Black Americans who fought for a nation that did not yet grant them full citizenship. The quote captures the central paradox of the Buffalo Soldiers' service: they defended a country that denied them the rights they were fighting to protect. And yet they served — with honor, with distinction, and with an unwavering belief that their service would eventually bend the arc of the nation toward justice.

The six interpretive pedestals and story panels surrounding the monument carry an additional comprehensive narrative of the Buffalo Soldiers' history. These panels cover the formation of the regiments, their service on the frontier, their contributions to major conflicts, the Medal of Honor recipients from Arizona, and the enduring significance of their legacy. Each panel was carefully researched and written to be both historically accurate and accessible to visitors of all ages and backgrounds. The monument itself bears the name "Tucson Community Buffalo Soldiers Memorial" — a title that emphasizes the word *Community*. This memorial belongs to the people of Tucson. It was approved by their votes, built with their support, and stands in their neighborhood as a permanent reminder of the role Black Americans played in building and defending the Southwest.

There is power in inscribed words that transcends the moment of their writing. Unlike spoken words, which fade into memory, inscriptions endure. They stand through seasons and years, through generations and centuries. The words on this memorial will be read by visitors who have not yet been born, in a future we cannot yet imagine. In this way, the inscriptions serve their highest purpose: they ensure that the story of the Buffalo Soldiers will never be forgotten — that their courage, their sacrifice, and their contribution to the American story will be told and retold for as long as this monument stands.



# COMMUNITY

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## **Quincie Douglas: A Community Pillar** **The Woman Behind the Name**

The Tucson Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza stands at the Quincie Douglas Center — and the choice of location is no coincidence. To understand why this memorial was placed here, one must understand the woman whose name graces this building, and the community she served with such fierce devotion. Quincie Douglas was born in 1905 in Oklahoma.

In the early 1930s, she came to Tucson with a family she worked for as a domestic. She settled in the South Park neighborhood — one of the oldest historically Black neighborhoods in Tucson — and quickly became a beloved figure in the community. For decades, Quincie Douglas was a tireless activist, advocating for the rights and well-being of her neighbors in South Park and across Tucson's African American community. She pushed back against segregation and fought for equality in a city where, as in much of America, the promise of equal rights remained unfulfilled for Black residents. In 1964, after retiring, Quincie Douglas suffered a stroke that limited her mobility. Doctors told her she would never walk again. A lesser person might have accepted that verdict. Quincie Douglas did not. She not only resolved to walk again — she did walk, for the rest of her life — but she channeled her experience into a mission to help others facing similar challenges.

In 1965, she received \$24,000 from the Tucson Committee for Economic Opportunity and founded L.I.F.T.S. — Low Income Free Transportation Service — a pioneering program that provided transportation for people with disabilities and limited mobility. When the program first began, Quincie Douglas acted as dispatcher right from her own home, coordinating rides for those who needed them. The City of Tucson took over the program six years later, renaming it the "Special Needs Transportation Service" and eventually "Van Tran." Today, the program is known as "Sun Van," Tucson's paratransit system — a service that traces its origins directly to one woman's refusal to accept limitations.

Quincie Douglas died in 1986 at the age of seventy-eight. Both the Quincie Douglas Library and the Quincie Douglas Recreation Center are named in her honor. Her grandson, Richard Quinro Davis, created a bronze sculpture of Quincie Douglas and Margaret Campbell — Arizona's first African American novelist — which is displayed in the Quincie Douglas Library. The Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza was deliberately located at the Quincie Douglas Center because the surrounding South Park neighborhood is one of the oldest historically Black neighborhoods in Tucson. The memorial honors not only the soldiers who served, but the community that has preserved the spirit of resilience, service, and dignity that the Buffalo Soldiers embodied.

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*"The idea of taking care of your community is the lasting impact."*

*— Richard Quinro Davis, grandson of Quincie Douglas*

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## LEGACY

### Dedication (2021)

The memorial was completed in just under six months — a remarkable pace that reflected the urgency and commitment of everyone involved. On May 3, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., the Tucson Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza was dedicated in a grand ceremony attended by City of Tucson Ward 5 Council Member Richard Fimbres, GSAAC members, community leaders, veterans, descendants of Buffalo Soldiers, and members of the public. It was a day of pride, remembrance, and profound fulfillment.

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*"This is a great accomplishment for our community. Tucson will be the first in the nation to have a voter-approved Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Project. The good citizens of Tucson approved Proposition 407, and this project was completed in record time."*

— Council Member Richard Fimbres, City of Tucson Ward 5

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### We Can, We Will, We Are — So Others Can Learn

These seven words — We Can, We Will, We Are — So Others Can Learn — are the guiding principle of this memorial project. They speak to both the past and the future: to the soldiers who proved what they could do, who willed themselves to “excellence” in the face of every obstacle, who were — and remain — a testament to the power of service and sacrifice. And they speak to the purpose of this memorial: so others can learn.

The legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers is not confined to the pages of history books or the glass cases of museums. It is a living legacy — one that continues to shape the nation they served. Their insistence on serving with distinction, even when their country denied them the most basic rights of citizenship, helped dismantle the intellectual and moral foundations of segregation. Their courage on the battlefield paved the way for Executive Order 9981 and the integration of the United States military. Their example inspired generations of African Americans — in the military and beyond — to demand the full measure of equality that the Constitution promised.

Here in Tucson, this memorial ensures that residents and visitors alike understand the critical role Black/African Americans played in settling and defending the Southwest. The Buffalo Soldiers were not footnotes in Arizona's history; they were central to it. They built the roads, strung the telegraph lines, guarded the mail routes, and defended the communities that would become the cities and towns of modern Arizona.



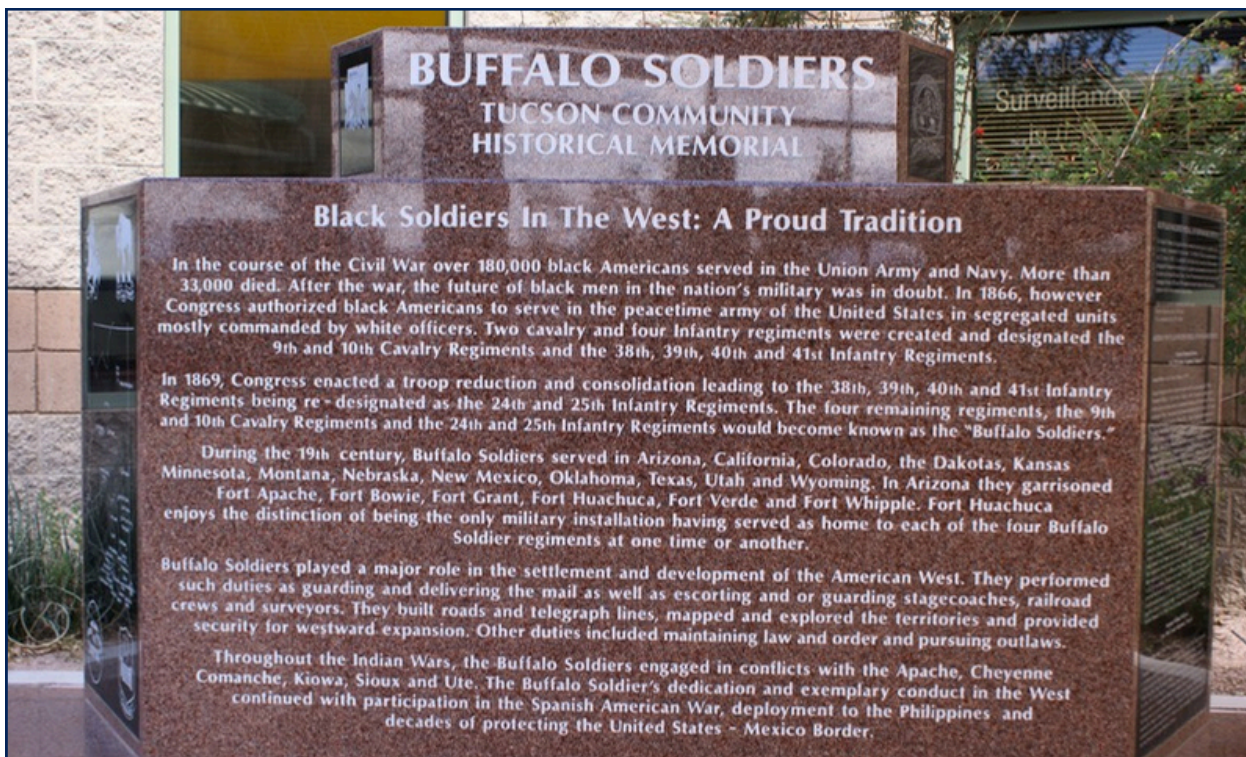
This memorial tells their story where they served — in the landscape they knew, in the community that remembers them.

We invite you to carry this story forward. Share it with your families. Bring your children and grandchildren to this plaza. Tell them about the men who rode through the Arizona desert against great odds in support of a growing nation and never once broke faith with their duty. Tell them about those Black soldiers who earned the Medal of Honor, Corporal Isaiah Mays, who crawled two miles to save his comrades.

About Sergeant Benjamin Brown, who fought until his body would no longer obey his will. About William McBryar, who used his sharp shooting skills to save lives during a fierce pursuit of Native Americans fighting for their ancestral way of life and lands.

This memorial is not just stone and words. It is a place of learning, of reflection, and of community gathering. It is a living tribute to men who believed in the promise of America — and who, through their service, brought that promise closer to fulfillment for all Americans.

## **We Can. We Will. We Are. So Others Can Learn.**





# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Tucson Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza exists because of the vision, generosity, and determination of many individuals and organizations. We gratefully acknowledge the following partners whose contributions made this memorial possible.

## Project Partners

- City of Tucson, Ward 5 — Former Councilmember Richard Fimbres, whose tireless advocacy and leadership were indispensable to the project from its earliest days
- Tucson Parks and Recreation – Mr. Jerry Neely, Mr. Tom Fisher, Mr. Brent Dennis, Ms. Sierra Boyer, Ms. Diane Sands, and Ms. Jorga Riggenbach
- Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter (GSAAC), 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association — the organizational heart of this project, whose members provided the vision, funding, and unwavering dedication that brought the memorial to life

## Design and Construction

- Wheat Design Group (WDG) — Plaza Design
- Tucson Marble and Granite — Monument Design and Fabrication
- M. Anderson Construction — General Contractor

## Funding

- The citizens of Tucson who approved Proposition 407, making this the first voter-approved Buffalo Soldiers memorial in the nation
- The GSAAC treasury, members, and fundraising efforts that funded the granite memorial monument
- City of Tucson Parks and Recreation — Tucson Delivers Parks + Connections Bond Program





## Special Recognition

We honor the soldiers who served — their courage, sacrifice, and dedication to duty made this nation stronger. We honor the families and descendants of Buffalo Soldiers who carry forward their legacy with pride and purpose. And we thank the Tucson community for embracing this project and ensuring that these stories are never forgotten.

We also honor those members who have left us in the years following the dedication of this memorial. Your presence will be missed, but your memories of dedication to this history remain strong:

Trooper Clarence Brown  
Trooper Morgan Maxwell  
Trooper Les Morris  
Trooper (General) Julius Parker

Trooper John Powers  
Trooper Gloria Smith  
Trooper Bill Spalding  
Trooper Harry Warrior

For more information, contact:

**Buffalo Soldiers 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Association**  
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9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry Association  
Tucson, Arizona





## PHOTO GALLERY



On July 28, at the Ward 5 Council Office, CM Richard Fimbres honored the contributions of the African American Buffalo Soldiers by reading a City of Tucson proclamation signed by Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, declaring July 28, 2014, Buffalo Soldier Resolution day.



*In July 2017, Councilmember Fimbres received an arts grant from the Arts Foundation, for a student artist project. With the funding, Councilmember Fimbres commissioned three murals to be painted by the students from Ward 5, one of which was the Buffalo Soldiers located at the Quincie Douglas Neighborhood Center.*



*In late December, GSAAC members met with Jerry Neely at the Quincie Douglas Center. He suggested that the memorial be moved closer to the administrative center and utilized the plaza area adjacent to the center. This was well received by GSAAC membership.*



In August, the members of the GSAAC made a down payment of \$38,000 to the Tucson Mable and Granite company for the memorial granite monument. The check presentation ceremony took place at the proposed site (Quincie Douglas Plaza) of the Buffalo Soldier Memorial.



Renovation of the existing plaza area started the week of October 12. A ground-breaking ceremony took place Thursday, October 29, at memorial site, Quincie Douglas Neighborhood Center.



## THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE



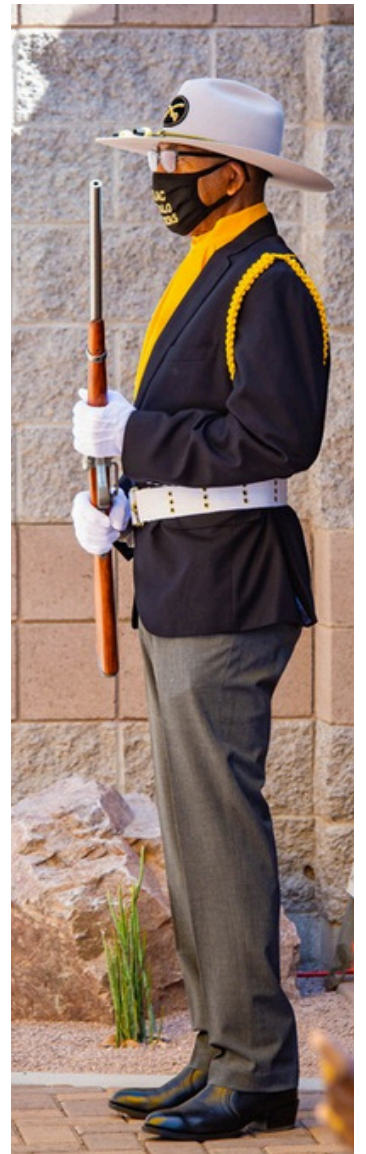
## THE FINISHING TOUCHES





# THE DEDICATION AND OPENING OF THE TUCSON BUFFALO SOLDIER MEMORIAL PLAZA









# CREDITS

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On behalf of the African American Museum of Southern Arizona, we are deeply honored to congratulate the Greater Southern Arizona Area Chapter of the 9th and 10th Horse Cavalry Association on the construction and preservation of the Tucson Buffalo Soldier Memorial Plaza.

This plaza stands as a symbol of history, perseverance, and community pride. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Troopers of the GSAAC, whose commitment transformed a dream into the lasting monument we honor today.

May this memorial continue to educate, inspire, and remind future generations of the extraordinary legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers.

As a partner and collaborator, we are humbled and honored to have assisted with editing and designing this booklet and with providing the time and effort to video tape the statements made by our community.

Beverly Elliott – Co-Founder | Executive Director

Bob Elliott – Co-Founder | Board Chair

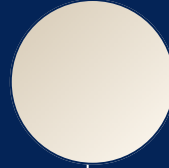
Nikieia Johnson – Museum Director

Josh Wallace – Museum Digital and Media Specialist

Gloria Hernandez – Museum | Consultant | Graphic Designer

Joshua Forte – UA Museum | Intern





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## Buffalo Soldiers Booklet

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