



Culture & Entertainment | Commercial & Residential | Neighborhood Planning

# 126th Street African Burial Ground Memorial and Mixed-Use Project

Location:  
Manhattan

Project Status:  
Ongoing

Bringing a new memorial and cultural center to honor the historic Harlem African Burial Ground, along with affordable housing and jobs for the East Harlem community.

## The Vision

The 126th Street Harlem African Burial Ground Memorial and Mixed-Use Project is a unique opportunity to preserve an essential piece of the city's history, while simultaneously addressing needs expressed by the East Harlem community. The 2.7-acre site formerly occupied by the MTA's 126th Street Bus Depot includes a 0.4-acre area in its southeastern section that was once an African burial ground. Both free and enslaved New Yorkers of African descent were buried on this site over a period spanning more than two centuries.



## Reclaiming History, Reinvesting in East Harlem

Today, NYCEDC is collaborating with the Task Force to work towards the creation of the Memorial. In May 2019, the Task Force celebrated the opening of "Reclaiming History, Reinvesting in East Harlem", a free exhibition at the [La Marqueta public market](#) in East Harlem. The opening featured a panel discussion moderated by Sharon Wilkins, Manhattan Deputy Borough Historian and Harlem African Burial Ground Task Force member. [Read more on the opening event here.](#)

The exhibition showcases the history of the Harlem African Burial Ground dating back to the 17th century and the planned creation of a permanent memorial and cultural center as part of the mixed-use redevelopment of the former MTA 126th Street Bus Depot. The exhibition will remain open to the public at La Marqueta through the summer during normal business hours.