



## Charles Young / Buffalo Soldiers Digital History Experience

**Launch Date:** July 28, 2026 (Buffalo Soldiers Day)

**Location:** Brigadier General Charles Young Playground (“Harlem Field of Dreams”), Harlem, NYC

### Lead Organization

This initiative will be **led by the Buffalo Soldiers Association of West Point**, under the leadership of **Dr. Aundrea Matthews**.

The project is developed in collaboration with:

- **BlackFacts Educational Foundation** - digital platform, content curation, multilingual delivery
- NYC Parks / NYPD and City stakeholders

- Community, military, and historical partners connected to Harlem, West Point, and the 369th legacy

This structure ensures **historical legitimacy, institutional credibility, and long-term stewardship** of Buffalo Soldiers history in Harlem.

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## Project Overview

The Charles Young / Buffalo Soldiers Digital History Experience transforms a newly renovated, high-traffic community space into an **always-available outdoor learning environment**. Using **QR codes, interpretive posters, and mobile-first digital storytelling**, visitors can instantly access curated content about:

- **Charles Young**, one of the most distinguished military leaders in U.S. history
- The **Buffalo Soldiers**, whose service shaped the nation
- Harlem's globally significant **369th Regiment**

The approach prioritizes accessibility, durability, and scalability-favoring QR-enabled storytelling over costly physical kiosks.

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## Why This Matters

- Honors Black military excellence in a prominent Harlem landmark
  - Activates the park with purpose-driven educational content
  - Serves youth, families, veterans, and visitors alike
  - Aligns with New York City's Black Studies curriculum and language-access priorities
  - Creates visible pathways to civic engagement, military service, and higher education
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## Program Design

### 1. Physical Experience (On-Site)

- Weather-resistant posters or plaques placed throughout the playground
- Life-size or large-format images of historic Black military figures
- Clear, accessible text with prominent QR codes
- Optional rotating bulletin board for events, lectures, and youth programs

### 2. Digital Experience (Mobile-First)

Each QR code links to a curated digital hub powered by **BlackFacts.com**, featuring:

- Short historical profiles and timelines
- Kid-friendly explainer content
- Short-form videos and audio narration
- AI-assisted multilingual text and video
- Expandable sections for:
  - Veterans’ stories and oral histories
  - West Point and Buffalo Soldiers legacy
  - Harlem’s role in global Black military history

No app download is required - content is instantly accessible on any smartphone.

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### Language Access & Accessibility (NYC-Compliant)

All content will support **New York City’s mandated and recommended languages**, ensuring full compliance with NYC language-access standards and broad community reach.

#### Supported languages (in addition to English):

- Arabic - العربية
- Bengali - বাংলা
- Chinese (Traditional) - 繁體中文
- French - Français
- Haitian Creole - Kreyòl Ayisyen
- Italian - Italiano
- Korean - 한국어
- Polish - Polski
- Russian - Русский
- Spanish - Español
- Urdu - اردو
- Yiddish - ייִדיש

Additional accessibility features include:

- Captions and transcripts for all video content
  - Audio narration options
  - Readable layouts designed for intergenerational audiences
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### Timeline (High Level)

- **Winter-Spring:** Content selection, stakeholder review, and approvals
- **Late Spring:** Design, translation, and digital preparation

- **Early Summer:** Printing, installation coordination, and testing
  - **July 28:** Public launch aligned with **Buffalo Soldiers Day**
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## Integration & Future Growth

This initiative is designed as a **scalable model**:

- Can integrate with future programming at the nearby **369th Armory**
- Can support lectures, youth pipelines, ROTC engagement, and community events
- Can be replicated in other NYC parks, civic spaces, or transit locations