

## Buffalo Soldiers National Museum Prepares for a Landmark Year and Secures \$1.5 Million Kinder Foundation Gift



(For additional photos, [click here](#) and to access video footage, [click here](#))

**HOUSTON, TX – March 18, 2025** – The [Buffalo Soldiers National Museum \(BSNM\)](#) is set to embark on a transformational year of growth, preservation, and community engagement. With a \$1.5 million gift from Kinder Foundation, a Juneteenth commemorative event, and upcoming renovations, BSNM continues to lead the nation in preserving and sharing Black military experiences and history.

Kinder Foundation's \$1.5 million commitment to BSNM's *Ready & Forward Campaign* will support critical renovations, expanded accessibility, innovative exhibitions, and this year's Juneteenth event, ensuring a world-class visitor experience for years to come. Since October 2022, Kinder Foundation's total investment in BSNM has been \$3.5 million, advancing the museum toward its \$13 million capital campaign goal.

"As we preserve history, we are also shaping the future," said Desmond Bertrand-Pitts, CEO of BSNM. "This investment reinforces our mission to educate, inspire, and honor the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers and the broader contributions of Black servicemen and women throughout history."

"The Buffalo Soldiers National Museum continues to elevate how it educates and engages the community," said Nancy Kinder, president and CEO, Kinder Foundation. "We are proud to support the museum during this transformative time and look forward to it serving as a Houston landmark for generations to come."

In alignment with its mission of exploring and displaying the stories and contributions of African Americans in the military, BSNM will host Juneteenth@160 (June 19-21, 2025), a three-day commemoration celebrating the 160th anniversary of emancipation and the pivotal role of the United States Colored Troops (USCT) and the Buffalo Soldiers in securing freedom. Key highlights of this free event include:

- Contemporary Art Exhibition & Keynote Address will be held on June 19, 2025, from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the University Museum at Texas Southern University
- Living History Encampment featuring reenactments, military drills, family activities, and a Black and veteran-owned marketplace will be held on June 20-21, 2025, from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum
- Call to Action Closing Celebration, which will focus on education, advocacy, and storytelling, will be held on June 21, 2025, from 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. at the Eldorado Ballroom

This year, BSNM has also been honored with the prestigious Good Brick Award from Preservation Houston for its commitment to historic preservation and the adaptive reuse of the Houston Light Guard Armory, built in 1925. During the Armory's centennial year, BSNM will undergo major renovations beginning in the fall, safeguarding Black military history for future generations. To facilitate these upgrades, BSNM will temporarily close from August 2025 through late Spring 2026 while continuing engagement through offsite exhibitions, digital programs, and collaborations with Houston's cultural institutions.

"Our impact extends far beyond our walls," Bertrand-Pitts added. "Through the generosity of our supporters, we will continue to educate and engage, even during this period of transformation."

As part of its continued growth, BSNM is launching the *Marching Forward Together* Annual Fund Campaign in March 2025, with a goal of raising \$25,000 to support exhibitions, educational programs, and preservation efforts. This initiative will engage individual donors, veterans, and educators, ensuring that BSNM remains a vital cultural resource for years to come.

Looking ahead, BSNM is committed to expanding living history programs, enhancing collections, and increasing accessibility to deepen community learning and preserve Black military history. With a reimagined visitor experience, innovative exhibitions, and robust archival preservation, the museum will continue to honor and share this rich legacy with future generations.

For more information on Juneteenth@160, community partnerships, or sponsorship opportunities, visit [buffalosoldiersmuseum.org/juneteenth160](https://buffalosoldiersmuseum.org/juneteenth160). To schedule interviews, contact Ashley Small at [ashley@medley-inc.com](mailto:ashley@medley-inc.com) or 281-827-3419.