



# HARLEM AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND

TASK FORCE

## FACT SHEET

FEBRUARY 2017

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### ABOUT

Guided by its Executive Committee, the Harlem African Burial Ground Task Force, founded in 2009, is a group of concerned citizens who are working with the Elmendorf Reformed Church to preserve and memorialize its historically and culturally significant African Burial Ground. In 1660, when the village of New Harlem was incorporated, the Low Dutch Reformed Church of Harlem erected a church building at the corner of 1st Avenue and 126th Street. A quarter acre of church property was set aside as a segregated cemetery, known as the Negro Burying or Harlem African Burial Ground. This was an active cemetery from the mid-17th to the mid-19th century.

### OBJECTIVES

- Reclaim, preserve, and recognize this sacred cemetery.
- Obtain historic designation for the Harlem African Burial Ground.
- Celebrate indigenous people who inhabited this area prior to the arrival of Europeans.
- Honor the memory of Harlem's colony builders, enslaved and free Africans who were major contributors to the growth and success of New York's economy, infrastructure and society.
- Support the development of a memorial and cultural center where the history of this sacred site and of Harlem can be shared and explored with the public.



### LEARN MORE

Please visit our website at: [www.habgtaskforce.org](http://www.habgtaskforce.org)

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- Or contact the Elmendorf Reformed Church at (212) 534-5856