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AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE



GUIDE TO BUFFALO



FREEDOM'S FOOTSTEPS

FROM THE EDITOR

I have a strong connection to Buffalo, having grown up here. As a journalist I've also traveled the country and I know how vibrant and unique this city is.

Look at Black Buffalo through the lens focused on these pages and you will see a rich tapestry with history, culture, defiance, resilience, artistic expression, and passion for our beloved community. Creatives here are creating. You feel it, hear it, and see it. There's an appreciation, and celebration, of culture that takes root, blooms and flourishes. Artists showcase compelling new narratives—unapologetically. Their work connects to the rich stories of the past, and sheds light on today's African American experience. Follow the “Freedom's Footsteps” guide outlined here. See trailblazing figures who came before us. Discover the artists, musicians, chefs, poets, photographers, filmmakers and others who are writing the next chapter of our own story now.

— **Sandy White**



African American Cultural Center Dancers
Photo by the Challenger News

ON OUR COVER

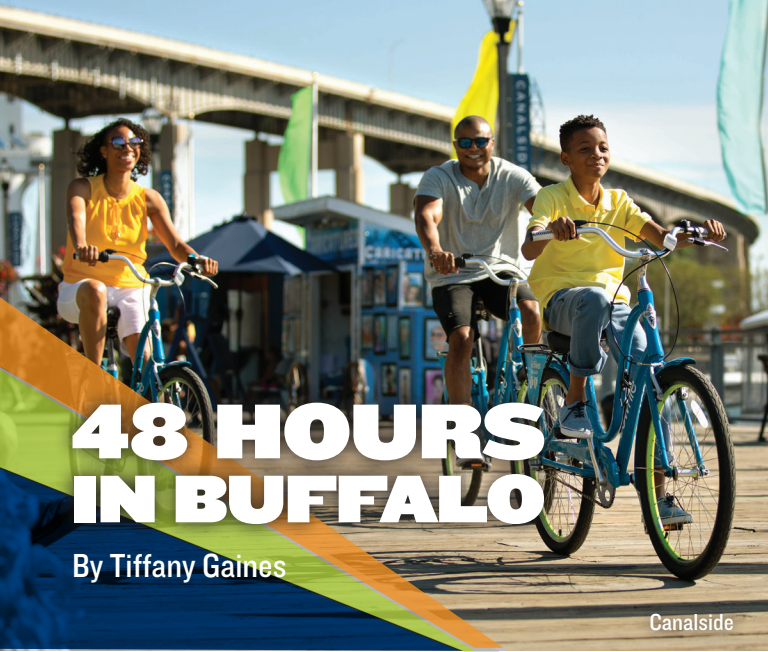
The Buffalo Juneteenth celebration beautifully honors the rich cultural heritage of the African American community, bringing history to life through music, dance, art, and storytelling. Gracing the cover is Janee Brown, a dedicated member of the JAMA Company who began her journey in dance at just 7-years-old and has been a vital part of the African American Cultural Center for the past 20 years.

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Table of Contents

48 Hours in Buffalo.....	4
Exploring the Corridor	8
Following in Their Footsteps	12
5/14 Remembrance Memorial	16
All the Right Notes.....	18
Remembering Buffalo’s First Juneteenth Festival.....	22
Painting the Town.....	24
Finding Your Roots	27
Shop Black-Owned Buffalo.....	28
Dinner and a Show	30
City of Good Eats	32
Calling All Creatives	36
Meet the Bills Chefs.....	38
Five to Try	40
Black Buffalo Listings.....	47



48 HOURS IN BUFFALO

By Tiffany Gaines

Canalside



As a New York City native, I love when friends and family come to visit. I always take them to my familiar favorites, showing them the places that showcase Buffalo's vibrant history and culture and make this city feel like home.

We start off by fueling up for adventure at [Unapologetic Coffee](#), 899 Main St. The sustainability-minded, Black women-owned coffee shop has a friendly atmosphere of coffee, culture, and community. We head to Elmwood Village next for some art, starting with the [Burchfield Penney Art Center](#), 1300 Elmwood Ave. I'm a curator there, so it's only right I bring loved ones to see the diverse exhibitions and artists



Buffalo AKG Art Museum

on view. I love sharing my own personal account of the museum dedicated to Charles E. Burchfield and the art of Buffalo and the region. [Roux Soup Bar and Cafe](#) at the museum is an added bonus for a delicious, affordable soup and sandwich.

We make our way across the street to the [Buffalo AKG Art Museum](#), 1285 Elmwood Ave. A stroll through the newly opened Gundlach building and historic campus is a memorable way to experience the museum's renowned international fine art collection. We then discover a monumental work of public art on the other side of the city, the [Freedom Wall](#) at the corner of Michigan Avenue and East Ferry Street. The collection of portraits by four talented local artists celebrates the legacies of local and national African American trailblazers. Then, we head to the [Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor](#) to learn about some of the groundbreaking historical figures who lived, worked and performed in that neighborhood.

We wrap up the day with dinner and drinks, stopping at a popular downtown favorite of mine, [Flaming Fish](#), 535 Main St. The menu includes a fun assortment of herb-crusted fish, seafood tacos, jambalaya and desert, like peach cobbler bread pudding.

To kick off day two, we start at [Golden Cup Coffee](#), 1323 Jefferson Ave., another Black-owned coffee shop with grits that taste like they're straight from Grandma's kitchen. It's surrounded by Black Buffalo landmarks, including the [Challenger Community News office](#), [Apollo Media Center](#) and [Frank E. Merriweather Library Jr. Library](#) at Jefferson and East Utica Streets.



Buffalo's Outer Harbor



Niagara Falls
Underground Railroad
Heritage Center

From there we head down the street to **Zawadi Books**, 1382 Jefferson Ave. Zawadi, which is Swahili for “a gift,” has been a community staple for nearly 50 years. I love visiting the city’s many independent bookstores, so I also bring my family downtown to **Fitz Books and Waffles**, 1462 Main St. Fitz has an incredible collection of local history and art books, so I’m always finding new reading material for my library.

Traveling back east, we hang out at **Martin Luther King Jr. Park**, where exciting events, such as jazz festivals, concerts, and the annual Juneteenth parade, take place throughout the summer. **Manna @ Main Street**, 1786 Main St., is our nearby stop for lunch, and it doesn’t disappoint with a robust menu of food for the soul.

A drive to Niagara Falls brings us to the **Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center**, 825 Depot Ave. West, which recounts the intricate network of people who facilitated freedom for those escaping the horrors of slavery. By preserving and sharing these important accounts, the center reminds us how much history exists in our backyards.

Next, we visit the Buffalo waterfront to enjoy some outdoor fun at **Canalside**, which includes a ride on the **Buffalo Heritage Carousel**.



Heading to Delaware Avenue, we wind down the day with dinner and drinks at **Deco Lounge**, 69 Delaware Ave. The stylish bar and lounge has a lovely array of small plates and cocktails, and if we're lucky, we'll catch some music with our dinner.

As our 48 hours end, I'm grateful to have spent time with my family and shown them the places that make me feel most at home. I'm already planning our itinerary for the next time they're in town.





EXPLORING THE CORRIDOR

Discover Extraordinary Stories in
This Historic Neighborhood

By Terry Alford

Executive Director, Michigan Street
African American Heritage Corridor



The Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor

shares the stories of a neighborhood that changed the course of our country's history. Along and near this street, freedom fighters built a church that became a refuge on the Underground Railroad. Jazz musicians hung out and made music that inspired America. And leaders forged civil rights actions that would lead to the founding of the NAACP.

This corridor includes four historic museums and landmarks centered around the intersection of Michigan and Broadway. Discover their stories on your next visit here.



The Michigan Street Baptist Church

511 Michigan Ave., michiganstreetbaptistchurch.org, was built in 1845 and became a legendary stop on the Underground Railroad. Frederick Douglass and Booker T. Washington visited the church, which after extensive restoration, is now open to the public. Visit and learn its stories of courage, perseverance, and human rights advocacy.



Lillie Wiley-Upshaw of
Michigan Street
Baptist Church



The Colored Musicians Club Museum

The Colored Musicians Club and Jazz Museum

145 Broadway, thecoloredmusiciansclub.com, is one of the nation's oldest operating Black-owned clubs. In 1917, Buffalo's Black musicians chartered the Colored Musicians Club Union, Local 533. The following year, members formed the social club, which bought this building on Broadway in the 1930s. It became a popular after-hours gathering place for local and nationally touring musicians. Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, John Coltrane, and Billie Holiday all came here after performing at segregated white clubs. The club, recently expanded and renovated, has live music throughout the week and an interactive museum on its first floor.

The WUFO Black Radio History Collective

at 143 Broadway, wufoblackradiohistorycollective.org, features historic radio equipment and exhibits about the accomplished people who were part of WUFO 1080 AM, which started broadcasting November 2, 1962. The station has been dedicated to the stories of its community and the sounds of rhythm and blues, soul, and gospel music. It has long served as a platform for Black voices, activism, and culture, helping to mobilize the community during the civil rights movement and beyond.



The Nash House Museum

The Nash House Museum

36 Nash St., nashhousemuseum.com. In 1892, the Rev. J. Edward Nash (1868-1957), became pastor of the Michigan Street Baptist Church, a post he held for 61 years. He was a local and national civil rights activist and one of the most respected ministers in Buffalo's African American community. Nash was a founding member of the Buffalo Urban League and the local branch of the NAACP. The Nash House Museum, the former home of the Nash family, shares the impact of his work and exhibits his artifacts and archives.



Sheila L. Brown Owner and CEO of WUFO 1080AM and Power 96.5 FM



FOLLOWING IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS

Explore Where
Our History Happened



Dr. Eva M. Doyle at the
Frank E. Merrweather Jr. Library

If anyone knows where to experience Western New York's extraordinary Black history, it's Dr. Eva M. Doyle. Doyle, a retired Buffalo Public Schools teacher and historian, is the author of 11 books and has written the Buffalo Criterion's "Eye on History" column for 45 years, where she uncovered previously unknown stories of Black trailblazers, activists and freedom seekers.

Here are Dr. Doyle's recommendations for the best places to go to follow in the footsteps of the history makers who have shaped our region.



African American
Veterans Monument

1790s: Arrival of Black Pioneer Joseph “Black Joe” Hodge

Start your journey along Buffalo’s waterfront, where pioneer Joseph Hodge, believed to be one of the first, if not the first, non-native settlers in the Buffalo area, lived some 230 years ago. Near where Interstate 190 passes the [Explore and More Children’s Museum](#), imagine instead a sparsely settled area and the cabin of Joseph “Black Joe” Hodge, who operated a trading post and what may have been Buffalo’s first bar.

Mid-1800s: Buffalo Niagara Region Becomes Final Stop on the Underground Railroad

Retrace the journeys of thousands of freedom seekers who crossed through our region on their way to start new lives in Canada at several local Underground Railroad heritage sites. See where they hid from bounty hunters and law enforcement at the [Michigan Street Baptist Church](#), then relive the harrowing moments when they crossed the Niagara River at [Freedom Park](#) at the foot of Ferry Street. A small museum, historical signage, a Harriet Tubman mural, the [Lillion Batchelor Meditative Garden](#) and a “Freedom Walk” honor the freedom seekers that crossed there.



Foot of Ferry Street
Niagara River

Discover more tales of heroism 25 miles downstream at the [Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center](#). Through state-of-the-art exhibits, this museum recounts the extraordinary stories of freedom seekers who crossed to Canada just downstream of the falls and the abolitionist employees at the long-closed Cataract Hotel who risked it all to assist them. Then head to the shores of Lewiston to see the [Freedom Crossing Monument](#), a sculpture that depicts a family in a rowboat embarking on the final stretch of a journey from that point to a new life in Canada.

Take the time to uncover the story of William Wells Brown, an escaped slave who lived in Buffalo for nine years and became an abolitionist, a hero of the Underground Railroad, a lecturer, and our country's first African-American novelist. Discover more about his life and legacy at his portrait on the [Freedom Wall](#) and at a historic marker at the [First Shiloh Baptist Church](#) on Pine Street, where his home once stood.

1891: Activist Mary Talbert Moves to Buffalo

Explore the life and extraordinary legacy of Mary Burnett Talbert, a prominent civil and human rights advocate, anti-lynching activist, suffragist, preservationist, and educator. You can see a historical marker at the site of Talbert's former home at [511 Michigan Avenue](#). View the Spingarn Medal that the NAACP awarded her in 1922, on display at [The Buffalo History Museum](#), and pay your respects at her final resting place inside Buffalo's [Forest Lawn Cemetery](#).

1901: James Benjamin Parker Attempts to Thwart McKinley's Assassin

The eyes of the world turned to Buffalo in 1901 when anarchist Leon Czolgosz fatally shot President William McKinley as he greeted guests at the Pan-American Exposition's Temple of Music. Standing behind Czolgosz was James Benjamin Parker, an African American who dislodged the assassin's weapon and helped authorities apprehend him. Discover where Parker acted valiantly at a commemorative boulder on [Fordham Drive](#), and see the weapon on display at [The Buffalo History Museum](#).

1925: Frank E. Merriweather Starts Publishing the Buffalo Criterion Newspaper

The [Frank E. Merriweather Jr. Library](#) is a vibrant gathering space in the heart of Buffalo's East Side. African American architect Robert Traynham Coles, FAIA, modeled its circular rooms after African villages. The library is named after Frank E. Merriweather Jr., the first publisher of the Buffalo Criterion weekly newspaper that has served the city's Black community since 1925.



Veterans and Heroes of the World Wars

On the edge of downtown, remember the life and death of a wartime hero at [Jesse Clipper Square](#). The small memorial at Michigan Avenue and William Street honors the life of Private Jesse Clipper, a founding member of Buffalo's [Colored Musicians Club](#) who was fatally injured while fighting in France during World War I.

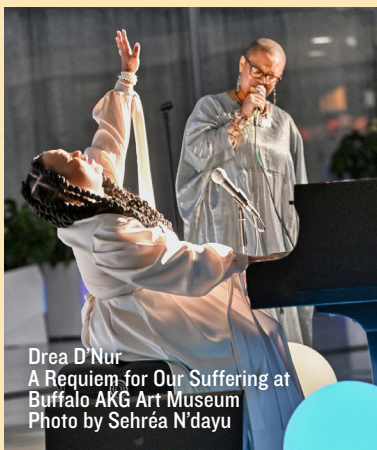
5/14

REMEMBRANCE MEMORIAL



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

The tragedy on May 14, 2022, profoundly impacted Buffalo, especially its close-knit Black community. The racially motivated mass shooting at Tops Market on Jefferson Avenue claimed the lives of 10 community residents, injured others, and sent shock waves throughout the city. The devastating event spurred national discussions around the issues of racism and violence. Ultimately, the supermarket reopened with enhanced security measures, memorials to the victims, and initiatives to support the mental and emotional well-being of the community. The conversation continues around addressing deeper social and economic inequities, gun violence and policy change, all central in Buffalo's efforts to heal and move forward.



Drea D’Nur
A Requiem for Our Suffering at
Buffalo AKG Art Museum
Photo by Sehréa N’dayu

BUFFALO HONORS THEIR LIVES

- Roberta A. Drury – age 32
- Margus D. Morrison – age 52
- Andre Mackneil – age 53
- Aaron Salter Jr. – age 55
- Geraldine Talley – age 62
- Celestine Chaney – age 65
- Heyward Patterson – age 67
- Katherine Massey – age 72
- Pearl Young – age 77
- Ruth Whitfield – age 86



5/14 Tops Honor Space at
1275 Jefferson Ave.





George Caldwell
at PAUSA Art House



ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

Experience the Sounds of the City at These Free Summer Festivals

Every summer, music lovers pack our city's parks, landmarks and public squares for a slate of festivals that celebrate the sound of Buffalo.

These festivals pay tribute to the venues, singers, instrumentalists and legends who have fine-tuned our scene through the generations. This is the city, after all, where musical prodigies Rick James and Grover Washington, Jr. launched their careers. Where Aretha Franklin lived as a young girl and worshiped at Friendship Baptist Church. Where nationally touring icons like Miles Davis and Dizzy Gillespie jammed late into the night at the historic Colored Musicians Club. Where storied venues like the Pine Grill and the Little Harlem Hotel kept Buffalo abuzz every weekend. And where hip-hop artists Westside Gunn, Conway the Machine, Mach-Hommy and Benny the Butcher launched the Griselda Records label now known nationwide. Pull up a chair, tap your feet and celebrate the sound of Buffalo at these summer festivals:

JUNE

Juneteenth Festival of Buffalo

The Buffalo Juneteenth Festival is a joyful celebration filled with music and culture. Bring your lawn chairs and shades and sit back and enjoy the incredible lineup of performers making it a truly unforgettable experience. From jazz, rhythm and blues and gospel to traditional African drumming and contemporary music genres, the festival offers something for everyone to enjoy. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of the African American community. (buffalojuneteenth.com)

JULY

Pappy Martin Legacy Masten Jazz Festival

Some of the most celebrated names in jazz gather in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park each summer to remember a Buffalo musician who dedicated his life to his craft. Over his decades-long career, the late James “Pappy” Martin founded Buffalo’s Love Supreme School of Music and performed with some of the biggest names in jazz. His daughter, Dawn Martin Berry-Walker, keeps his legacy alive, organizing the two-weekend festival he started three decades ago. (pmljazz.com)

Queen City Jazz Festival

It’s only fitting that the Colored Musicians Club hosts the Queen City Jazz Festival, which celebrates the CMC’s more than century-long legacy in our city. Join the club on the last Saturday of July for a variety of locally and nationally touring acts in the heart of downtown, near the storied venue that has hosted jazz through the generations. (thecoloredmusiciansclub.com)

AUGUST

Pine Grill Jazz Reunion and Music Festival

At the corner of Jefferson and East Ferry Streets once stood a small bar that packed the house every weekend with larger-than-life talent. The Pine Grill may be long gone, but the festival, presented by the African American Cultural Center, has helped carry on its musical legacy for more than 35 years. Head over to Martin Luther King Jr. Park on the first two weekends of August for a full slate of jazz – and to hear a story or two about the legendary venue. (aaccbuffalo.org/pine-grill-jazz-reunion)



Pappy Martin Legacy
Masten Jazz Festival

Funk Fest and Friday Night Live!

Not far from where a young James Johnson – later known as Rick James – grew up, a free neighborhood festival during the last weekend of August continues to celebrate his extraordinary contributions to music. Buffalo Funk Fest Weekend features a Friday Night Live block party with vendors and delicious eats along Jefferson Avenue, a “funk and roll” roller skating event in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and the popular Buffalo Funk Fest musical concert showcasing local and national musical talent.



Buffalo Funk Fest

Beau Fleuve Music and Arts Festival

Beau Fleuve caps off the summer season with an action-packed event during the last Sunday of August at Buffalo’s Central Terminal. This festival boasts perhaps the most diverse lineup of any festival in Buffalo, with the sounds of rhythm and blues, jazz, country, gospel, rock n’ roll, brass, neo-soul, and hip-hop filling the grounds surrounding the iconic former train station. Griselda Records’ Benny the Butcher, who now tours nationally after getting his start in Buffalo, has even headlined Beau Fleuve in past years. (beaufleuvmusicarts.com).



Pine Grill Jazz Reunion



Remembering Buffalo's First JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL



Buffalo's First Juneteenth Festival, 1976 (courtesy of the Buffalo History Museum)

Judson Price still remembers the joy he felt when he saw thousands of community members fill Jefferson Avenue for Buffalo's first Juneteenth Festival in 1976.

There was "enthusiasm galore" and the city had never seen anything like it, said Price, one of the founding members of the festival's first organizing committee. Block after block of Jefferson featured vendors and entertainment stages filled with jazz, art, street theater, dance, and poetry slams. More than one dozen drill teams, bugle corps, and marching units promenaded down the street in the first Juneteenth Parade.

"Everybody came out feeling free and safe and happy and excited. That's the way it's been for all these years," Price said. "We never had anything like it before, something that we did ourselves that has taken off."

Buffalo was one of the first cities in the Northern United States to create a Juneteenth Festival, an event that continues to thrive today in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park during the third weekend of June. Scheduling Buffalo's first Juneteenth a few weeks before the nation's bicentennial in 1976 was by design. The festival's first program featured an excerpt from an 1852 speech by orator Frederick Douglass, who criticized the Fourth of July as a day that reminded enslaved people of "the gross injustice and cruelty to which he was a constant victim."

A coalition of Black leaders and community organizers convened to create an alternative event that celebrated the freedom of African Americans. The committee members settled on Juneteenth, which was not widely celebrated then, after learning more about its historical significance as the day when Union soldiers set the final enslaved people free in Galveston, Texas, in 1865.

The spirit of the first Juneteenth that brought the city together in 1976 – of hope, of healing, and of understanding – lives on in the city today, said Price. For him and the other surviving co-founders, Juneteenth provides a window into history that's necessary for moving forward.

**Courtesy of The Buffalo History
Museum. Original Story:**



PAINTING THE TOWN

Explore Our City's Heritage Through Public Art

Across Buffalo, artists have splashed colorful murals on buildings along nearly every major street, transforming formerly vacant walls into vibrant public art. Black artists of local and national renown have created many of these works through the efforts of the Buffalo AKG Art Museum's Public Art Initiative, and the Western New York Urban Arts Collective, a not-for-profit formed to support inclusion among BIPOC artists.

Explore these murals in Buffalo that depict Black history makers and trailblazers from our past, and illustrate contemporary figures who continue to shape our city today.

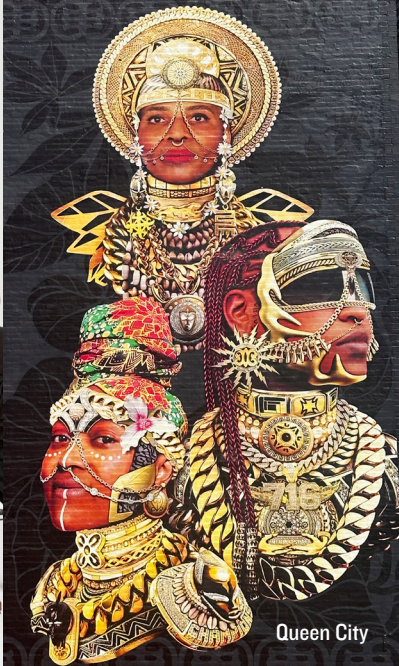


Love Black, 712 Main Street

Downtown, a once-blank brick wall now features the silhouettes of two Black children facing each other. Each carries a simple message: “Love Black boys even when they become men,” and “Love Black girls even when they become women.” Muralist Edreys Wajed, in collaboration with James “Yames” Moffitt, created the artwork in 2020 following the murder of George Floyd.

The Freedom Wall, Michigan Avenue and East Ferry Street

Discover large, colorful portraits of 28 Black leaders gazing out at passing motorists along Michigan Avenue and East Ferry Street. Four muralists – John Baker, Edreys Wajed, Chuck Tingley, and Julia Bottoms – transformed a concrete barrier into the Freedom Wall with portraits of past and present local and national civil rights activists.



Queen City, 1412 Main Street

Canadian-born artist Adeyemi Adegbesan composed the mural Queen City, 2022, with collage images of Emmy-winning Buffalo Poet Laureate Emeritus Jillian Hanesworth; artist, musician, actor Curtis Lovell and Annette Daniels Taylor, poet, author and actor. They were adorned with objects of symbolic futuristic weight for people of the Black diaspora, such as cowrie shells and traditional masks.



The Freedom Wall



John Brent Mural

John Brent Mural, 300 Parkside Avenue

Near the Buffalo's Zoo historic entrance gates at 300 Parkside Avenue, you can find a colorful tribute to the man who created them: John Brent, Buffalo's first African American architect. The zoo's entrance court, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is one of his last intact designs: the perfect spot for a mural by James Cooper III that honors his legacy.

John Lewis Mural, 385 Paderewski Drive

Stop by this tribute to the legendary Congressman who marched from Selma and had a connection to Buffalo. Artist Edreys Wajed drew inspiration from Lewis' visit to Buffalo early in his life.

Community Hues, 119 Broadway

In the heart of the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor is a powerful, colorful mural depicting unity. Muralist Tyshaun Tyson said seeing community groups collectively work towards empowering youth citywide and in the Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor was his source of inspiration.

King of Wings Mural, Jefferson and Carlton Streets

At the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Carlton Street stands a mural that pays tribute to John Young, the owner of Young's Wings and Things, who opened his first restaurant on this site in 1961. Young's decision to serve whole wings dipped in mumbo sauce helped to start a phenomenon that put Buffalo on the world's culinary map.



Discover Buffalo's genealogical resources

Black Achievers Museum

FINDING YOUR ROOTS

The roots of Buffalo's Black community run deep, with some of its earliest ancestors arriving long before Buffalo became a city in 1832. Each generation left behind stories and legacies that have been captured and recorded through the hard work of organizations across our city, from the **Buffalo Black Achievers Museum**, **Afro-American Historical Association of the Niagara Frontier** and the **Uncrowned Queens Institute to the Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African American Diaspora**. Explore the abundance of genealogical resources in our city that can help you find – or rediscover your roots using the QR code above.



SHOP BLACK-OWNED BUFFALO

Doris Records

A new wave of Black-owned businesses has opened in Buffalo in recent years, joining a list of tried and true merchants who have thrived in this city for generations. Discover their stories and shop for everything from classic records to Air Jordans, Gucci purses and West African woven baskets at stores all around Buffalo.

Doris Records

286 E. Ferry St., 716-883-2410

Browse for rare vinyl finds at Doris Records, Buffalo's oldest record store and a mainstay on the city's East Side since 1962. The storied shop was a favorite hangout for a young James Johnson, later known as Rick James, who once lived in an apartment building next door.

Zawadi Books

1382 Jefferson Ave., [facebook.com/zawadibooksbflo](https://www.facebook.com/zawadibooksbflo)

Discover a family-owned bookstore generations in the making at Zawadi Books. Meet owners Sharon and Kenneth Holley, a couple dedicated to educating, inspiring and empowering readers through their amazing collection of books and literature that are by and about people of African descent.



Scan the QR code to check out more Black-owned businesses for even more shopping options.

Saibo African Imports

81 Allen St., 716-541-8610

For more than 25 years, this small shop in the heart of Allentown has offered a wide variety of African merchandise, from African Black soap to shea butter, traditional clothing and woven baskets. Stop in and say hello to owner Saibo Kebbeh, who first came to the United States from The Gambia in 1987.

Premier Cigars

1327 Jefferson Ave., premiercigarlounge.com

Grab a friend, sit back and relax after shopping at Premier Cigars, Buffalo's first minority and woman-owned cigar shop. The store, which carries rare cigars sourced from as far away as Ecuador, also features a comfortable lounge where you can enjoy your purchase.

The Cellar

446 Elmwood Ave., thecellarbuffalo.com

Step just below sidewalk level in the heart of Buffalo's Elmwood Village and enter another tier of sneaker shopping in Buffalo. You're sure to find the perfect new pair at The Cellar, which features dozens of premium brands lining its walls and a "daily drop" of new footwear on its website.

Ms. Eye Candy Boutique

85 Allen St.

Need a new outfit for your next night out? Pop into Ms. Eye Candy Boutique, where owner Siobhan Taylor will guide you through her collection of women's apparel and accessories she has personally selected. Finding the perfect style is a passion project for Taylor, who started selling at pop-ups around Buffalo before opening her own brick-and-mortar store.

MMW Style Studio

1371 Main St., 716-812-0937, mmwstylestudio.com

MMW Style Studio is a trendy women's boutique. Stop by or call owner Nia Badger, local fashionista, for your own personal makeover appointment. She will set you up for any occasion with accessories and jewelry, sunglasses, handbags and more.

Living Proof Buffalo

110 Genesee St., livingproof.store

Discover the new kid on the block in downtown Buffalo – and within the city's shopping scene – at Living Proof Buffalo. Browse for new and pre-owned authentic streetwear, from Supreme T-shirts to Gucci handbags and Air Jordans. Living Proof also regularly hosts events to showcase up-and-coming local design talent.



DINNER AND A SHOW

Shea's Buffalo Theatre, photo by Grant Taylor

Discover Buffalo's dynamic Black-owned theater options, vibrant music venues and growing restaurant scene with these suggested pairings for dinner and a show:

PAIRING ONE

Poize Restaurant and Lounge, Niagara Street and Hertel Avenue
facebook.com/poizelounge.org

This popular dinner club and lounge in Buffalo's Black Rock neighborhood finds reasons to celebrate nearly every night of operation. Come for fan favorites like Cajun wings, smothered pork chops, the oxtail dinner and fried ocean perch, then stay for entertainment provided by some of Buffalo's best DJs.

Ujima Company Inc. Theatre, 429 Plymouth Ave.,
ujimacoinc.org

Spend an evening with Ujima, the oldest professional repertory theater company in Western New York. Ujima has a long history of award-winning productions from the all-encompassing spectrum of traditional and contemporary American theater.



Ujima Theatre

PAIRING TWO

PhatCatz of WNY, Inc., 965 Kensington Ave.,
facebook.com/phatcatzofwnyinc

Order up a meal of fried catfish or haddock, fried chicken, homemade mac and cheese and collard greens at this popular comfort and soul food favorite on Buffalo's East Side.

Paul Robeson Theatre, 350 Masten Ave.,
paulrobesontheatre.org

Drop in for a show at the Paul Robeson Theatre, a dynamic company that has been staging productions at the African American Cultural Center for more than half a century. Since its founding in 1968, the Paul Robeson has nurtured and showcased the talents of African American playwrights, producers, directors, actors and stage technicians from throughout Buffalo and Western New York.

PAIRING THREE

Loud House Buffalo, 1735 Hertel Avenue.
loudhousebuffalo.com

Loud House Buffalo is a popular restaurant and bar. Its vibrant atmosphere and menu feature a mix of comfort food, bar classics, and local favorites. Whether you're craving Buffalo's famous wings or just looking for a place to relax with friends, it offers a memorable experience.

PAUSA Art House, 19 Wadsworth St.,
pauaarthouse.com/

Catch live jazz inside this cozy Allentown venue, which hosts a wide variety of music shows and artistic exhibitions from local, national and international artists. Relax, grab a glass of wine, order some tapas and enjoy an intimate show at PAUSA, which Cuban-born violinist Lazara Martinez co-founded in 2013.

CITY OF GOOD EATS

Buffalo is becoming known as one of America's top food cities, with visitors coming from around the world to sample our wings, beef on weck, and other regional specialties. In recent years, a new generation of Black chefs and restaurateurs have built on this foundation and enhanced our city's culinary reputation. Plan a full day of eating around the city with our suggestions below.



Bratts Hill



Nine Eleven Tavern



Brothers Restaurant

BREAKFAST

Start your day with an order of chicken and waffles, salmon croquettes or steak and eggs at **Ms. Goodies** (1836 Bailey Ave., [facebook.com/ms.goodiesjunkyarddog](https://www.facebook.com/ms.goodiesjunkyarddog)). This longtime diner on the East Side also serves food throughout the day, including a Sunday brunch,

and specializes in the “junkyard dog” fried fish, French fries, and cole-slaw wrapped in a tortilla shell.

Order up a seafood omelet, or a haddock breakfast complete with eggs, grits and toast at **Brothers Restaurant** (475 Ellicott St., 716brothers.com). Buffalo brothers Romone Anderson and Ronnie Dubose keep their popular downtown restaurant humming from morning until night with soul food favorites and other unique specialties like peach cobbler cheesecake, stuffed meatloaf and smothered turkey wings.



Oak Room

LUNCH

Feast on BBQ specialties like “burnt ends” — the charred tips of a brisket that produce some of the richest flavors of the barbecue world — alongside fixtures like apple-kale slaw and perfectly moist cornbread at **La Verdad Cafe** (115 Gold St., laverdad.com).

At **Manna @ Main Street** (1786 Main St., [facebook.com/mannaculinarygroup](https://www.facebook.com/mannaculinarygroup)), enjoy a delicious bowl of shrimp and grits, chicken and waffles or the Juneteenth special. Check the daily dishes which include oxtails, fried oysters and cold glasses of homemade mint tea.

For a vegan alternative, try the impossible nyah vegan steak hoagie or the “carrot tuna,” a popular chip dip made with carrots at **Sunshine Vegan Eats**, (893 Jefferson Ave., sunshineveganeats.com). Owner and chef Nikki Searles has developed a loyal following since transforming her passion for healthy eating into a brick-and-mortar restaurant several years ago.

SNACK

Dig into a variety of confectionery wonders like sweet potato tarts, and pink lemonade, funfetti and orange creamsicle cupcakes at **Cake Crazy Bakery** (2525 William St., cakecrazybakery.com). Buffalo native Shetice Williams, who studied at the Culinary Institute of America and worked in restaurants all over the country, takes pride in every sweet treat she bakes.

Stop by **D.A. Taste** (864 Seneca St.) to sample some of the most unusual tacos you’ve ever eaten. The restaurant has carved out a niche with taco flavors like its “slice of taco” (cup and char pepperoni, marinara sauce and smoked garlic aioli) and its “burnt belly” (burnt pork ends, smoked queso mac and cheese, fresh red cabbage and BBQ sauce drizzle).

HAPPY HOUR

Unwind after a long day with an apple martini, a whiskey ginger, or green tea shots, at the **Oak Room** (1435 Main St., theoakroom.com). This cozy bar and restaurant offers happy hour specials on select days throughout the week.

DINNER

Enjoy soul food staples like fried ribs, creamy mac and cheese and collard greens at **Park Vue Restaurant**, (34 S. Crossman St., parkvuesoulfood.com). Neighborhood residents and co-owners Harrita West and Schenita Williams have transformed their passion for cooking into a popular soul food restaurant located just steps from Schiller Park on Buffalo's East Side.

Spice up your day with authentic Jamaican flavors at **Bratts Hill**, (719 Seneca St., brattshill.com). Chef Darian Bryan, raised on his mother's cooking in Jamaica, has cooked for NFL players, been featured on CBS News' The Dish, is a Food Network winner, and has been mentioned in The New York Times. Enjoy fast-casual staples like oxtail and jerk chicken for lunch, and upscale dinner creations. Pair every bite with rare Jamaican rums or inventive tropical cocktails, and experience a warm, welcoming taste of the islands right here in Western New York.



Chef Darian Bryan
of Bratts Hill

A photograph of a Black woman and a Black man sitting on a grey couch outdoors. The woman on the left has short curly hair, wears glasses, and a colorful patterned cardigan over a white top. The man on the right wears a dark hat and a dark jacket, resting his chin on his hand. The background shows a wooden fence and greenery.

Alexa and
Edreys Wajed

CALLING ALL CREATIVES

In recent years, a renewed energy has begun to course through Buffalo's streets and neighborhoods. A rising generation of Black artists and poets has opened new studios, created dynamic gathering places and invited the rest of the city to join them in their journey. Whether you're a longtime artist or just beginning to discover your creative side, check out these open studios, paint nights, open mic events, and poetry slams on your next visit to Buffalo.

BRUSH WITH CREATIVITY

Learn from two of Buffalo's leading artists, Edreys and Alexa Wajed, at their studio inside the Tri-Main Center, **Eat Off Art** (2495 Main St. Suite 441, eatoffart.com). On one Saturday morning each month, the couple and their son, Emeka, host "Come Make Art," an opportunity for aspiring artists to create inside the Wajeds' studio and receive supplies and guidance from them. The \$25 fee covers everything except canvases.

Join a "Paint and Chill" night at **Princessa's Studio & Art Gallery** (1322 Hertel Ave., princessasartgallery.com) led by Princessa S. Williams. Her studio space, which she fills with her paintings, provides the perfect backdrop for the variety of themed paint nights. Or book a Paint Party for your friends and colleagues at **Paint the Town** (74 Allen St., paintthetown716.com), a studio space in Allentown owned by artist Jarael Adams.

SPOKEN WORD CIRCUIT

Bring your old and new poems – whether on notebooks, napkins, smartphones or envelopes – to open mic poetry nights each Tuesday from 7 to 9 pm at **Em Tea Coffee Cup Cafe** (80 Oakgrove Ave.). This Hamlin Park coffeehouse has become a hub for creatives to test out their newest work in a supportive, judgment-free setting. Keep your eye out for upcoming open mic nights sponsored by Wordism (buffalowordism.com), which hosts events for seasoned and first-time poets alike at venues around the city. And be sure to also follow Pure Ink Poetry (pureinkpoetry.com), which plans monthly poetry slams at gathering places across Buffalo.



BUFFALO HIP-HOP: EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

By Schondra Aytch

Buffalo hip-hop has hit its stride. On any given weekend, you could discover a rap performance or impressive DJ set at Rec Room on Chippewa. Hi-Tech Studios on West Tupper is known for its monthly Friday Night Ciphers featuring some of the city's best lyricists. And when it gets warm, expect to enjoy a high-energy festival season, from the annual Beau Fleuve Celebration to the star-studded Drumwork Fest in August to the Robby Takac-led Music Is Art Fest on Buffalo's Outer Harbor.



Scan the QR code to learn
more local hip-hop history.



Muhammad
School of Music



MEET THE BILLS CHEFS

Longtime Friends Became Tailgating Legends
By Michelle Kearns

An intrepid game day move to wear their goofy chef hats into the stadium brought two old friends closer together and led to local fame as two of the craziest Bills boosters in a city full of them. For Richard Peterson and Derrick Norman, the serendipitous decision changed their lives soon after a TV camera broadcast Peterson and his “Who we with?” hat. Standing next to him was Norman wearing the reply: “The Bills.”

The rest is history — 20+ years long — that led to their current stature: Everyone knows them as the Bills Chefs. They get recognized by strangers at the grocery store, serve up a tailgate rib feast with a secret sauce for 200 in the stadium lot on the mornings before home games, have a billboard-photo by one of the entry gates, and starred in a Pepsi commercial.

Peterson and Norman couldn't have predicted any of this. They were friendly but not close after their years on the Seneca Vocational High School football and track teams. It wasn't until they went to a few Bills games together buying high-priced, last-minute tickets from scalpers that they decided on season tickets.

For both men, known to many by their nicknames Chefs Poo and Norm, the experience has been a lesson in community and becoming a little more extroverted.

"I'm kind of a quiet person. Now it's just kind of like, 'Oh, OK, I didn't think I had that in me.' I'm more outgoing," said Peterson, who builds and repairs bus shelters for the Niagara Frontier Transit Authority. "It's kind of opened me up a little bit more to get out and experience things."

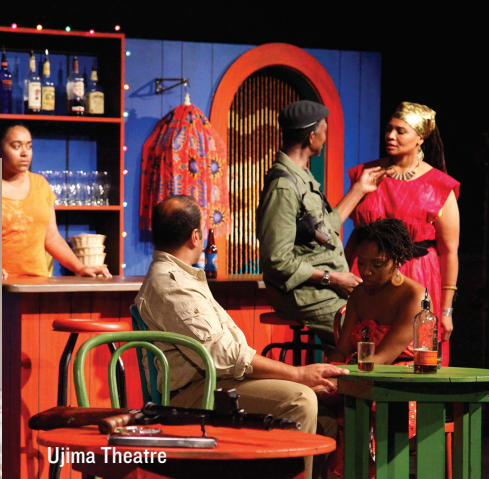
As their fame has grown, their roles as celebrity members of the Buffalo Bills community have been a lot of fun and, perhaps, life changing.

Peterson also learned something about the fans in his hometown. "All the people that we've met and the places that we've been, the opportunities that were bestowed upon us, it just shows that Buffalo really is the 'City of Good Neighbors,' he said. ... We hear it all the time. Now we just really experienced it. They're calling us 'The Chefs.' They want our autographs. I'm just amazed," he said. "The Buffalo fans are just rabid fans. They like to have a good time. You never know what's going to happen."

PRE-GAME SHOPPING TIP:

Sport a brand new Bills cap during your tailgate after visiting the flagship store of **New Era**, 160 Delaware Ave., which has been headquartered in Buffalo for more than a century and supplies headwear for a variety of major league, minor league and college teams. Follow the store's Instagram @newerabuffalo for upcoming releases and exclusive merchandise.





Five to Try: Stephen McKinley Henderson

Tony-nominated stage, television and movie actor Stephen McKinley Henderson shares his five favorite places he enjoys taking visitors around Buffalo.

1. Buffalo's theater scene: The Road Less Traveled Theatre, Ujima Theatre, and the Irish Classical Theatre Company's productions are filled with the best local artists, and are often joined by nationally known performers. And of course, Shea's Buffalo Performing Arts Center should not be missed. It is an architectural delight.

2. Brothers Restaurant and Bar: This downtown restaurant on Ellicott Street is great for everyday meals. And their Chef's Room is perfect for special memories with a group or just two for romance. It's always friendly, and fancy, when the time is right. From barbecue to seafood, you cannot go wrong. (475 Ellicott St., 716brothers.com)

3. Kenmore Fish Market: Now, there is a Buffalo fish fry tradition that is observed everyday and particularly on Fridays. My absolute favorite is this market on Delaware Avenue. You can buy fresh fish daily and have it fried or broiled. Family owned and operated. (3279 Delaware Ave., facebook.com/kenmorefish)

4. Colored Musicians Club and Jazz Museum: No jazz lover should miss the chance to stand in this interactive, historical landmark and preservation site. (145 Broadway, thecoloredmusiciansclub.com)

5. Forest Lawn Cemetery: There are moments when one needs a place to be still and know that "this too shall pass," whatever this is. This beautiful, peaceful cemetery features Sunday Trolley Tours that reveal surprises about Buffalo's national historic legacy. (1990 Main St., forest-lawn.com)



Park Vue Soul Food, owned by mother-daughter duo Harrita West and Schenita Williams

Five to Try: Esther Annan, LMSW

Program officer at the Oishei Foundation and native of Ghana, Esther Annan shares her five favorite places to eat in Buffalo.

1. Yalley's African Restaurant: It's the best home cooking outside my mother and sister's kitchen. You will find the seven traditional meals on the menu, and Patrick Agyapong (co-owner) is very welcoming and caters to all cultures. (290 Kenmore Ave., yalleys.com).

2. Golden Cup: The best coffee in town, and the only place I take it with 2 X 2. Mr. and Mrs. Stitts are great people and show love to everyone, so the people show them love in abundance. (1323 Jefferson Ave., goldencupcoffee.com)

3. Park Vue Soul Food Bar & Restaurant: A hidden secret. It's soul food for the soul, and you will always find patrons with a good vibe and mixed generations of Black love. (34 S. Crossman St., parkvuesoulfood.com)

4. Central Park Grill: It's a low key and relaxed space to chill without a lot of noise. It's friendly, welcoming and their wings from the pit - ooh, la la. (2519 Main St., facebook.com/centralparkgrill)

5. The Oakk Room: It's been a long week, and I can always count on owners Dennis and Curtis to greet me with love, good music, food and a good spirit. There is always rest for the weary at the Oakk Room. (1435 Main St., theoakkroom.com)



Five to Try: Will Holton

National recording artist, saxophonist-musician Will Holton, who performs at venues throughout Buffalo, shares his five favorite places to play and relax.

- 1. The Rose Bar and Grille:** This restaurant features one of the best happy hour experiences you can have. On Thursdays they have karaoke, and on Saturdays, you'll enjoy live music. (199 Scott St., bargrillrose.com)
- 2. Jazzboline Restaurant:** Live music on Wednesday nights and at Sunday brunch, you'll enjoy traditional and contemporary jazz. The atmosphere is upscale, from the table settings to the decor. You'll love it. (5010 Main St., jazzboline.com)
- 3. Soho Buffalo:** In between May and October, Soho boasts one of the best rooftop vibes in the downtown area. Soho features live bands every Thursday alongside delicious wings, sliders, fresh cut French fries and other American classics. (64 Chippewa St., sohobuffalo.com)
- 4. Salvatore's Chandelier Bar:** Between Wednesday and Sunday nights, you can find some of the best talent from any music genre throughout Western New York performing while you dine or enjoy spirits. In addition to delicious food and drinks at a reasonable price, the service is service is second to none. (6461 Transit Rd., Depew, NY, salvatoreshospitality.com)
- 5. Perla Seafood** For the seafood lover, look no further than their delicious oysters and shrimp paired with live music every Friday and Saturday. (6461 Transit Rd., Depew, NY, salvatoreshospitality.com)



Friday Night Live
Photo by The Challenger News

Five to Try: Marnetta Malcom

Founder of Buffalo Funk Fest, Marnetta Malcom shares her five favorite ways to enjoy summer in the city:

- 1. Jefferson Avenue Friday Night Live:** We kick off the summer every Friday right in the heart of the community on Jefferson with an evening filled with dancing, food vendors and fun for the entire family.
- 2. Healing by the Water:** Another favorite of mine happens every Thursday evening in Freedom Park (1170 Niagara St.) and features live entertainment by Buffalo's favorite local bands, food and vendors.
- 3. Arthur's Pub:** If you like live music and you love to dance, don't miss this pub on Sundays. In addition to local bands, many national artists have been known to just show up while in Buffalo on tour. (596 Genesee St.)
- 4. The Pine Grill Reunion:** The month of August is packed with entertainment that includes this festival on the first two Sundays in August in Martin Luther King Jr. Park. This event is so popular that folks get there at 5 a.m. to reserve their spot on the big lawn. You'll dance, reminisce, and get some of the best soul food in the many tents that fill the park.
- 5. Buffalo Funk Fest:** This festival is one big party. It features dancing all day long with the best DJ's, vendors and food in the city and local and national musicians paying tribute to Rick James.



QUEEN CITY CREATIVES

Pictured are just a few of our Queen City Creatives. We look forward to welcoming you into our beloved community, where creativity thrives, and ideas come to life. Together, we honor our shared history and walk in the footsteps of those who paved the way to freedom. Join us in celebrating the past, embracing the present, and shaping a future filled with possibility.





Can't Miss Events

Kuleta Pamoja Farmers Market

June-September

Enjoy food trucks, entertainment, and multiple vendors at this seasonal market.

Johnnie B. Wiley Sports Pavillion, 1100 Jefferson Ave.,
johnniebwiley.org/kp/, 716-885-8500

Gospel Fest July

The annual Gospel Fest brings a day of worship, community, and praise to Western New York. The event, which takes place in Martin Luther King Jr. Park, promises to be a spiritually uplifting celebration for all ages.

East Side Garden Walk July

Discover the creativity of talented green thumbs across the East Side during this popular community event. Walk or bike from garden to garden and meet some of the friendliest homeowners in the city.

Taking It to the Streets August

A free event at Martin Luther King Jr. Park featuring a wholesome and vibrant activity for young and old. Enjoy musical performances from local and national recording artists, alongside other entertainment.

Mrs. Frances Nash's Garden

Basket Food Market October

The Frances Nash Market, a community wellness initiative on Buffalo's East Side, honors the legacy of Frances Nash, wife of Rev. J. Edward Nash, through its dedication to health, history, and community. It not only provides fresh, healthy food options but also embodies the values that Frances Nash held dear—community, wellness, and education. 136 Broadway, buffalo.org/garden.basket

Kwanzaa Buffalo December

Kwanzaa is more than just a holiday—it's an annual celebration of family, culture, and community. From December 26 to January 1, neighborhoods come alive with drumming, dance, spoken word performances, and educational activities at community cultural institutions. This popular celebration draws people of all ages, uniting the young and old in honoring the Nguzo Saba, the seven guiding principles that define this meaningful tradition and express the richness of African and African American culture.

BLACK BUFFALO LISTINGS

Houses of Worship

Baptist

Antioch Baptist

1327 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo
716-895-0198

Calvary Baptist

1184 Genesee Street, Buffalo
716-895-3642

First Shiloh Baptist

15 Pine Street, Buffalo
716-847-6555

Friendship Baptist

402 Clinton Street, Buffalo
716-847-1020

Humboldt Parkway Baptist

790 Humboldt Parkway, Buffalo
716-896-4363

Macedonia Baptist

237 E. North Street, Buffalo
716-886-3489

Macedonia Baptist

237 E. North Street, Buffalo
716-886-3489

Mt. Olive Baptist

701 E. Delevan Avenue, Buffalo
716-895-7494

New Hope Baptist

2090 Genesee Street, Buffalo
716-883-0821

New Zion Baptist

318 High Street, Buffalo
716-883-2250

St. John Baptist

184 Goodell Street, Buffalo
716-852-4504

True Bethel Baptist

907 E. Ferry Street, Buffalo
716-895-8222

True Bethel Baptist

472 Swan Street, Buffalo
716-895-8222

Apostolic

Greater Emmanuel Temple Church

3189 Main Street, Buffalo
716-882-2700

Greater Refuge Temple Church

943 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo
716-886-2199

AME & AME Zion

Bethel AME

1525 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo
716-886-1650

Centennial AME Zion

127 Doat Street, Buffalo
716-370-8185

Delaine-Waring AME

680 Swan Street, Buffalo
716-842-6747

Durham Memorial AME Zion

174 E. Eagle Street, Buffalo
716-856-4943

St. Luke AME Zion

314 E. Ferry Street, Buffalo
716-883-0961

Walls Memorial AME Zion

455 Glenwood Avenue, Buffalo
716-886-6527

Lutheran**The Lutheran Church of Our Savior-Missouri Synod**

26 Brunswick Boulevard, Buffalo
716-885-1108

Non-Denominational**New Mount Ararat****Temple of Prayer**

971 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo
716-885-7755

Seventh Day Adventist

300 Adams Street, Buffalo
716-853-9055

Church of God in Christ

Holy Temple C.O.G.I.C.
572 Clinton Street, Buffalo
716-855-2031

Pentecostal Temple

618 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo
716-852-5502

Ethiopian/Eritrean Orthodox**Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Buffalo Medhanealem**

700 Tonawanda Street, Buffalo
716-994-5593

Unity In Christ Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church

1551 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo
716-883-7729

Catholic**St. Martin De Porres**

555 Northampton Street, Buffalo
716-883-7729

Episcopal**St. Philips Episcopal Church**

22 Sussex Street, Buffalo
716-883-0442

Independent**Bethesda World Harvest International Church**

1365 Main Street, Buffalo
716-884-3607

Elim Christian Fellowship

70 Chalmers Avenue, Buffalo
716-832-7698

Muslim**Masjid Nu'man**

1373 Fillmore Avenue, Buffalo
716-892-1332

Muhammad Mosque #23

230 Moselle Street, Buffalo
716-335-2292

Resources

Public Relations/ Marketing/ Photography/ Videography

Crews Control Media

990 Kenmore Avenue, Suite B,
Buffalo
347-286-8313
crewscontrolmedia.com

Get Fokus'd Productions

getfokusdproductions.com
info@getfokusdproductions.com

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fdfotos.com
716-598-0270

Blanc Photographie

Tri-Main Center,
2495 Main Street
Suite #516, Buffalo
716-319-8979

Hotrod Studios LLS

3 Woodland Terrace,
Cheektowaga
716-316-6414
hotrodstudios.com

Mustard Seed World Consulting Group

mustardseedworldgroup.com
716-533-7413

Ari Parson PR

ariparsonpr.com
14 Lafayette Square
Suite 2008, Buffalo
716-218-9241

Jennifer Parker Communications

716-866-4174
jparker.com

Community Organizations

Buffalo Urban League

716-250-2400
buffalourbanleague.org

NAACP

163 Broadway, Buffalo
716-884-7241
buffalonaacp.com

Open Buffalo

1327 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo
openbuffalo.org
716-243-8777

Buffalo Federation of Neighborhoods

423 Monroe Street, Buffalo
www.bfnc.org
716-856-0363

Community Health Center

34 Benwood Avenue, Buffalo
716-986-9199
www.chcb.net

Resource Council of WNY

347 E. Ferry Street, Buffalo
facebook.com/TheRCWny

Fraternal and Masonic Organizations

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

Rho Lambda Chapter
PO Box 971, Buffalo

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Xi Epsilon Omega Chapter
PO Box 1861, Amherst

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Gamma Phi Omega Chapter
PO Box 3231, Buffalo

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity

Buffalo Alumni Chapter
PO Box 2676, Buffalo

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

Phi Omega Chapter
PO Box 1193, Buffalo

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity

Theta Sigma Chapter
PO Box 583, East Amherst

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority

Kappa Upsilon Zeta Chapter
PO Box 900, Buffalo

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Buffalo Alumnae Chapter
PO Box 625, Buffalo

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority

Eta Rho Sigma Chapter
188 Jewett Parkway, Buffalo
716-883-1438

**Master
Craftsman****Lodge #110**

248 E. Utica Street, Buffalo

Iconic Lodge #88

453 Porter Avenue, Buffalo

Paramount Lodge

248 E. Utica Street, Buffalo

St. John's Lodge

17 Kingsley Street, Buffalo

**Cultural
Institutions****African American Cultural
Center/Paul Robeson Theatre**

350 Masten Avenue, Buffalo
716-884-2013
aacbuffalo.org
paulrobesontheatre.org

Ujima Company

429 Plymouth Avenue, Buffalo
716-322-5178
ujimacoinc.com

**Frank E. Merriweather, Jr.
Library**

1324 Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo
716-883-4418

Muhammad School of Music

617 Main Street, Suite 105, Buffalo
716-570-5064
muhammadschoolofmusic.net

El Museo

91 Allen Street, Buffalo
716-464-4692
www.elmuseobuffalo.org

Buffalo City Ballet Co.

307 Leroy Avenue, Buffalo
716-833-1243
buffalocityballet.org

**Afro-American Historical
Association of the Niagara
Frontier**

aahanf.org/

**The Buffalo Association
of Black Journalists**

nabj-buffalo.org

**Buffalo Genealogical Society of
the African Diaspora**

bgsad@verizon.net

**Michigan Street African
American Heritage Corridor**

michiganstreetbuffalo.org

**Buffalo Quarters
Historical Society**

PO Box 1542,
Central Park Station
Buffalo, 716-834-2584

Daughters of Creative Sound

Karima Amin
716-834-8438
facebook.com/Daughters.
of.Creative.Sound

Harriet Tubman 300s

716-896-7016
Velma G. Ferguson, President

**National Black MBA Association
Inc. Western New York Chapter**

716-939-1341
nmbmaa.org

Uncrowned Queens Institute

716-913-1228
uncrownedcommunity-builders.
com

Project Mona's House

852 Kensington Avenue
projectmonashouse.com

Feed Buffalo

Organic and Halal Healthy Food
and Healing Center
feedbuffalo.org

Media

The Challenger News

1337 Jefferson Avenue
716-881-1051
bufchallnews.com

The Buffalo Criterion

623 William Street, Buffalo
716-882-9570
thebuffalocriterion.com

Power 96.5FM/WUFO

Gospel
716-834-1080
wufoam.com

www1400AM

Classic, soul, R&B
716-843-0600
am1400solidgoldsoul.com

WBLK 93.7 FM

Hip-hop and R&B
716-644-9393
wblk.com

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Planner**

Visit Buffalo Niagara

716-852-0511 or 888-238-3369
visitbuffaloniagara.com

Motherland Connexions

716-282-1028
motherlandconnexions.com

**Tradition Keepers-Black
Storytellers of Western
New York**

716-834-8438 or 716-886-1399
Karima Amin and Sharon Holley
Master Storytellers

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Aitina Fareed-Cooke

THE LAST WORD: Aitina Fareed-Cooke

We are creatives
We catapult ideas designed within our arteries
We tinker within the abstract
We create spaces where imaginations have
wing spans that extend beyond the universe
We create spaces to grow community and culture
We create spaces and shift atmospheres
We dare to fly out of boxes that try to convince
us to quiet down
We are creatives who create in order to
cultivate change.

Aitina Fareed-Cooke is the
founder of Get Fokus'd Productions
and Buffalo's poet laureate.

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AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

GUIDE TO BUFFALO