

Hunters Point Shipyard Temporary Art Installation

Afatasi the Artist

Inder Grewal, OCII

Hunters Point Shipyard CAC

07/13/2026



Location

- Galvez Avenue
- Adjacent to Site Office and 19-Polk bus stop
- Accommodates unveiling event at Site Office
- Activation of vacant lot
- Potential for seating and other amenities during installation duration



Alternate Location

- Pocket Park 16
- Space to accommodate second art piece
- Existing seating
- Nexus between Shipyard Phase 1 and Morgan Heights
- Near 15- Bayview Express bus stop

Timeline for Implementation



MEMORY PORTAL: 1945

A Presentation by Afatasi

Fine Artist · Cultural Archivist

Founder, Where're Yo' People's From?!? — Year Four

Presented to the Hunters Point Shipyard CAC

July 13, 2026 | Bayview-Hunters Point, San Francisco

"Fine Arts for Reparations."

WHO I AM

Afatasi

Fine Artist · Cultural Archivist · Generational San Franciscan

GRANDDAUGHTER

of an American steelworker and WWI Veteran

DAUGHTER

of the Great Migration — my father served in the U.S. Army and was redlined when he tried to buy a home in San Francisco

ARCHIVIST

Founder of Where're Yo' People's From?!? — 4 years of direct genealogy field research with over 350 families in Bayview-Hunters Point

ARTIST

Commissioned by SFAC & SFPUC. Shaping Legacy grant recipient. Creator of The Memory Portal Project — a nationwide monument initiative

EDUCATOR

Over \$500,000 in free genealogy research services delivered directly to the Great Migration community of San Francisco

THE RESEARCH: WHERE'RE YO' PEOPLE'S FROM?!?

Four Years of Community Field Research · Bayview-Hunters Point, San Francisco

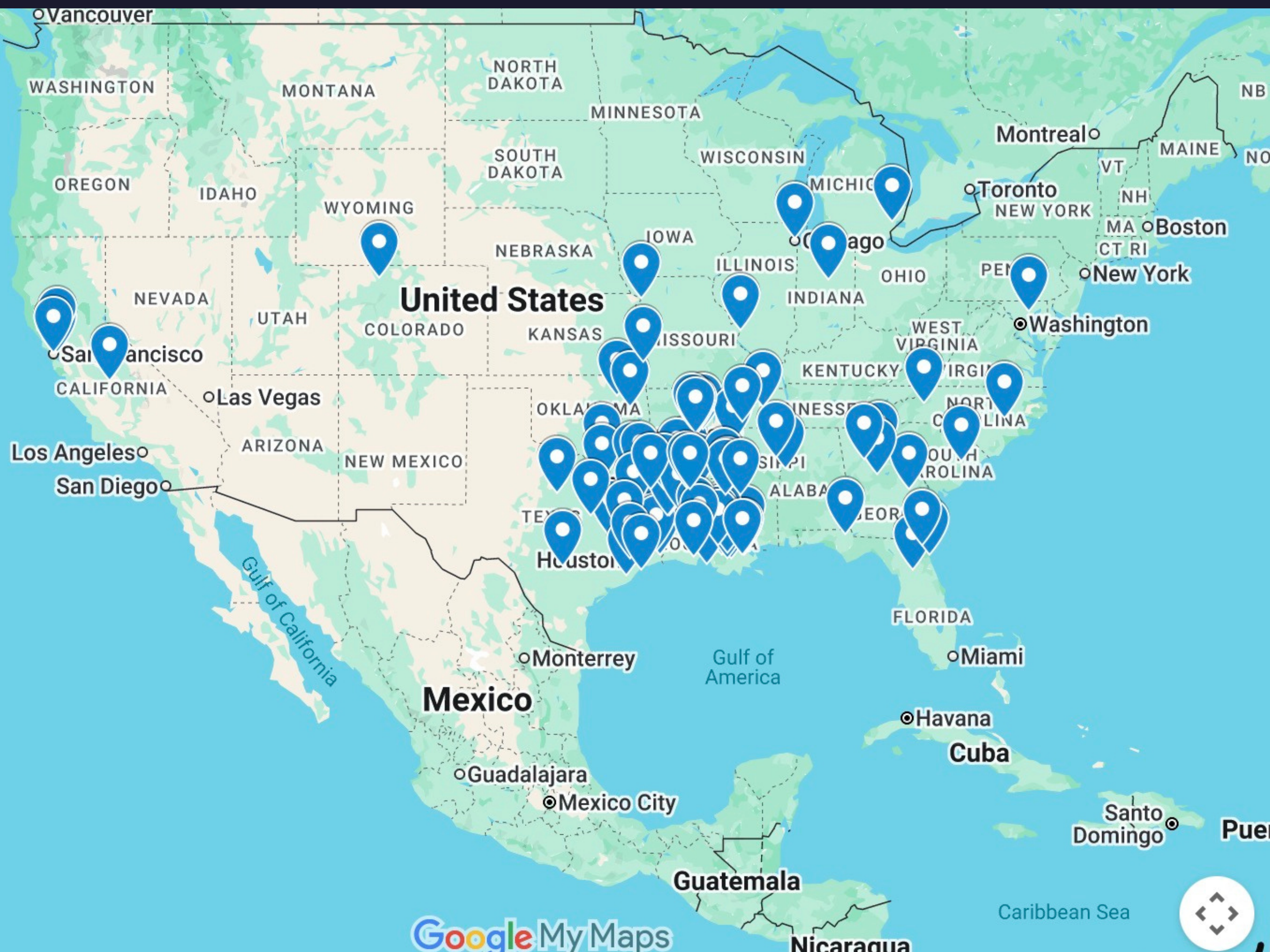


ESTIMATED VALUE OF FREE SERVICES DELIVERED TO COMMUNITY



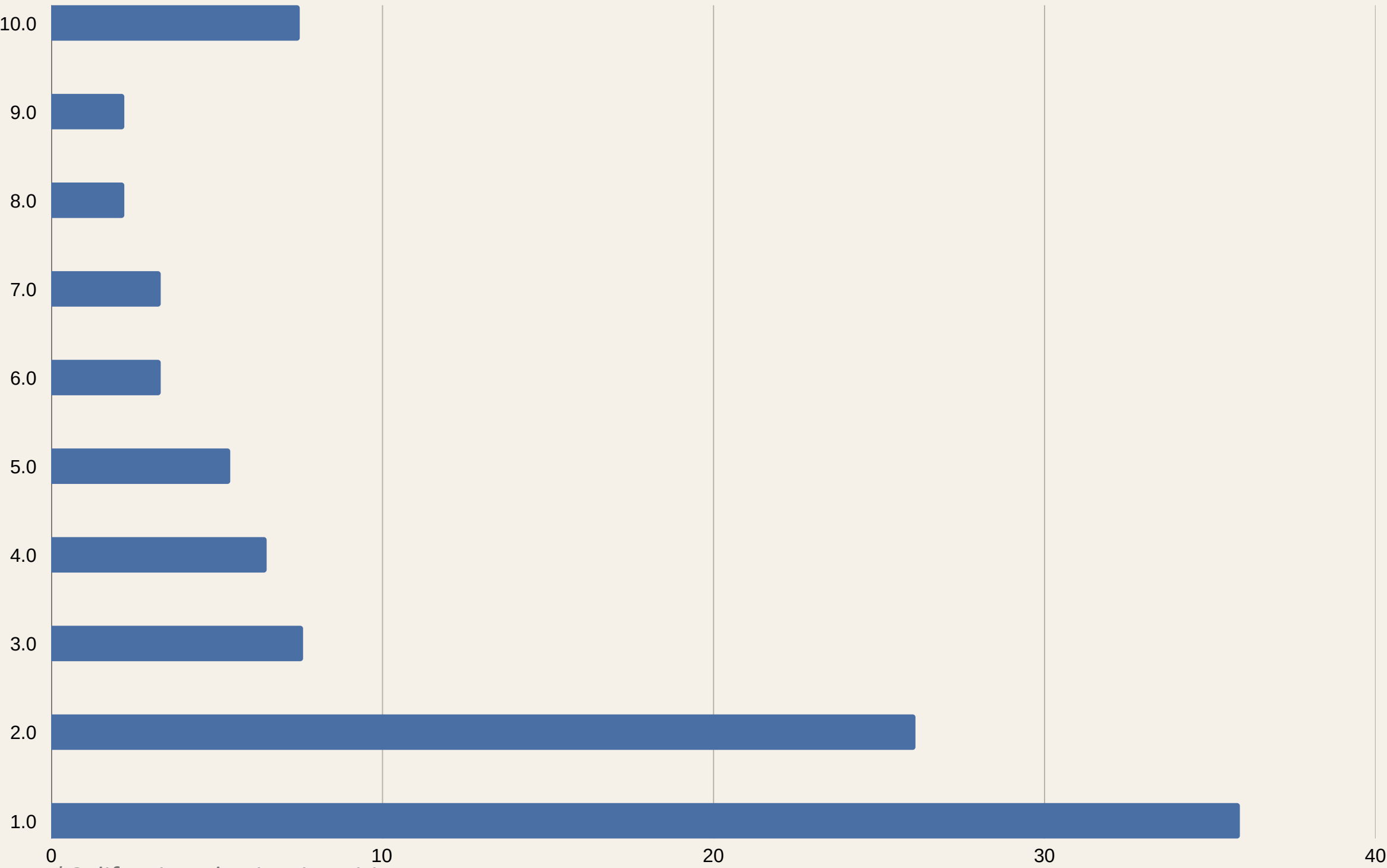
WORKSHOP HISTORY

SPRING 2023	Dr. George Davis Senior Center — demand so high, moved to larger room mid-session	35 participants
FALL 2023	Dr. George Davis Senior Center — returned by popular demand	55 participants
2024	Sunbelt Gallery in collaboration with Dr. George Davis Senior Center	40 participants
2025	Dr. George Davis Senior Center	40 participants
ONGOING	Individual genealogy reads — community members, friends, family (3-year span)	~150–160 people



THE DATA: ANCESTRAL HOMELANDS MAP

Where're Yo' People's From?!? — Partial Sample: Year 1 & Year 2 Participants Only (92 of 350+ families)



*California = destination cities
(SF, Oakland, Fresno, Vallejo)

KEY FINDINGS

76%

of mapped homelands trace to the Deep South — Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi & Arkansas

36%

Louisiana alone — the single largest state of origin in the sample

26%

Texas — second largest, with 24 documented locations across the state

16

states represented in this partial sample alone

WHAT THE DATA TELLS US

Genealogy as Cultural Preservation — and as Evidence

A CRITICALLY ENDANGERED CULTURE

San Francisco's Great Migration community — the community that built the Harlem of the West — is the city's only consistently shrinking demographic since 1960. This is not coincidence. It is the documented result of policy decisions made by institutions in this room.

A MIGRATION PATTERN, NOT ANECDOTE

92 ancestral homeland locations across 16 states — from a partial sample only. The data shows a clear corridor: Louisiana and Texas to San Francisco via the Hunters Point Shipyard. These families did not wander here. They were recruited here in 1945 by the United States Navy.

GENEALOGY AS TRANSFORMATION

When participants discover their ancestral origins, something measurable happens. Seniors who had never been politically active begin demanding tangibles for their vote. Community members start advocating for businesses, cultural events, and resources. Self-knowledge produces civic power.

A REGISTRY IN PROGRESS

Where're Yo' People's From?!? is not just a community art program. It is the foundation of a lineage-based registry — a tool that can delineate and document a community that has never had a say in how it is named, classified, or served.

THE MONUMENT: MEMORY PORTAL: 1945

Research Made Physical — A Monument 80 Years Overdue

In 1945, thousands of laborers from the American South arrived in San Francisco, recruited by the Navy to work at the Hunters Point Shipyard. They built this city's wartime economy and formed the community known as the Harlem of the West.

There is no public monument to honor them in San Francisco.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

MEDIUM:	Hand-welded steel — scrap steel sourced and salvaged
DIMENSIONS:	8 feet tall × 4 feet wide — freestanding
COMPONENTS:	Modular Memory Tiles — handcrafted metal panels carrying motifs rooted in WYPF genealogy research
TECHNOLOGY:	Augmented Reality layer — visitors access documented archival family histories connected to the Shipyard
UNVEILING:	Juneteenth, June 19th, 2026 — the 81st year of Juneteenth celebration in San Francisco
GRANT:	San Francisco Arts Commission — Shaping Legacy Temporary Public Art Grant

THE SIX MOTIFS OF MEMORY PORTAL: 1945

Each motif is rooted in four years of genealogy research with over 350 families in Bayview-Hunters Point

BUFFALO SOLDIER

Honors the military history of our community. The Buffalo Soldiers — established 1866 — were among the most decorated soldiers of their era. Most WYPF participants have a direct ancestor who served in the United States military.

NORTH STAR

The North Star as navigational tool — from Harriet Tubman to the millions guided north and west during the Great Migration. Direction. Purpose. Survival.

HeLa

Honors Henrietta Lacks and all victims of medical exploitation due to race. Her immortal cells changed science. Her story changed nothing — until we tell it.

FADE IN THE WATER

The Folding Chair of Resistance — August 5, 2023. An act of solidarity in our living memory. Racial violence accelerated the Great Migration. That history is not past.

FREEDOM DAY TRANSFER

June 19, 1865. The SF MUNI transfer honors Great Migration travelers who rode public transportation to San Francisco, and the generations who worked within the city's transit system.

MAGNOLIA

The Magnolia is the state flower of both Louisiana and Mississippi — the two largest states of origin in our genealogy research. A symbol of Deep South roots, beauty, and resilience transplanted to San Francisco soil.

A CALL IN — NOT A CALL OUT

An Invitation to the Table

The facts speak for themselves.

- 1 San Francisco formally apologized to the Black community in 2024 at a Board of Supervisors meeting. An apology is a beginning. It is not an end.
- 2 The Hunters Point Shipyard is a Superfund site. The community that built San Francisco's wartime economy at that site has never received a public monument honoring their contribution.
- 3 OCII — formerly the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency — was the instrument of urban renewal policies that displaced thousands of Great Migration families from the Fillmore District and Bayview-Hunters Point.
- 4 The population of San Francisco's Great Migration community has been in continuous decline since 1960. This is the only demographic in the city on a consistent downward trajectory.
- 5 Memory Portal: 1945 is not a grievance. It is a gift. It is the first monument in San Francisco's history to honor the Great Migration families who built this city. It belongs here.

THE ASK

Site Approval for Memory Portal: 1945 — 452 Galvez Avenue, Bayview-Hunters Point

SITE APPROVAL

Approval to install Memory Portal: 1945 at the concrete island outside the guard shack at 452 Galvez Avenue in Bayview-Hunters Point for the grant period through October 2026.

INSTALLATION DATE

Early June 2026, in advance of the public unveiling on Juneteenth, June 19th, 2026 — the 81st year of Juneteenth celebration in San Francisco.

STRUCTURAL SAFETY

Engineering review currently in progress with SFAC-recommended structural engineers. Installation designed to minimize site surface impact.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

Public unveiling on Juneteenth + ongoing genealogy workshops, augmented reality demonstrations, and cultural programming through October 2026.

DEINSTALLATION

Full deinstallation by October 31, 2026. Site restored to prior condition. Covered under grant budget and General Liability Insurance naming the City as additional insured.

A NEW DAY HAS DAWNED.

We Were Here in 1945.

We Are Still Here in 2026.

Memory Portal: 1945 — Unveiling: Juneteenth, June 19th, 2026

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Where're Yo' People's From?!? · 350+ Families · 92 Ancestral Homelands Mapped (Partial Sample) · 16 States · 4 Years



**SHAPING
LEGACY**

SAN FRANCISCO MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

JUNE 1, 2026

sfac san francisco
arts commission



Mellon Foundation

\$500M

The Monuments Project

A commitment to transform the nation's commemorative landscape by supporting public projects that help represent the complexity of American stories.



NEWS RELEASE

Mayor London Breed Announces The San Francisco Arts Commission Is One of Nine Municipalities Nationwide That Has Received A Portion of a \$25 Million Mellon Foundation Grant to Support Its Work on Monuments and Memorials Initiative

The \$3 million Monuments Project grant will fund and support "Pulse Check: Accountability and Activation of Future SF Monuments"





SHAPING LEGACY
SAN FRANCISCO
MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS

Shaping Legacy is a three-year grant funded project that aims to critically examine the monuments and memorials in San Francisco's Civic Art Collection and to reimagine the future of monuments and memorial in the City.

We believe artists and their communities can guide us towards a future where monuments and memorials are spaces of inclusion, belonging and recognition of our shared humanity.

BRIEF PROJECT OVERVIEW





PROJECT GOALS

- Engage communities underrepresented in the City's commemorative landscape.
- Create opportunities for artist-led activations in public space and support temporary installations that reimagine future monuments and memorials in our city.
- Produce an Audit report on the monuments and memorials in the San Francisco's Civic Art Collection.

The project prioritizes meaningful community engagement to holistically assess the Civic Art Collection, build awareness around the civic process, rectify current power imbalances, and engage community in a sustained, relevant way.

SAN FRANCISCO MONUMENTS & MEMORIALS



TEMPORARY PUBLIC ART PROJECT GOALS

Five (5) Temporary Public Art Projects will represent a variety of art forms.

- Artwork will reimagine the future of monuments and memorials in the City.
- Artwork will be accessible and encourage opportunities for social interaction.
- Artwork will center community, collaboration, local histories and stories.
- Artists will have a meaningful connection to the San Francisco/Bay Area and/or direct experience collaborating with local communities in the development and implementation of their previous artwork design(s).
- Selection of artworks will represent a diversity of approaches and take place in different parts of the City.



THANK YOU