

Good morning Lana,

I hope you are doing well. I spoke with Ian today and he let me know that you have both been chatting about the Buffalo Soldier trail project and the potential of including the Vernal Heritage Center as one of the primary locations. I wanted to follow up with you on some additional information so that you can present the topic to your board:

The State's Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Program (UCSS), and [Sema Hadithi African American Heritage & Cultural Foundation](#) are partnering with many stakeholders including the BLM, Forest Service, Museums, Counties and more to establish a Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail.

The goal of the Buffalo Soldier Heritage Trail is to lead folks to significant sites throughout central and north east Utah where the Buffalo Soldiers had a strong presence. We are currently developing a map and a physical tri fold handout. We plan to establish an interactive virtual version of handout and to create multiple interpretation panels at these significant stops along the trail. Here are the following locations we have confirmed with the land or property managers to place interpretation panels (These folks are also stakeholders in the project):

- Strawberry Reservoir and the Strawberry reservoir visitors center
- Fort Douglas
- Price Prehistoric Museum
- Help Heritage Museum

Here are some other key topics on the development of the project:

- SHPO will be working with Sema Hadithi to develop these interpretation panels, the handout, and virtual platform.
- SHPO will be paying to develop these materials and overseeing the production as well.
- The interpretation panels could be placed on the outside grounds of the Vernal Heritage Center.

The Vernal Heritage Center would be a wonderful location to include some interpretation on the Buffalo Soldiers. With one of the significant stops being Fort Duchesne, the Vernal Heritage Center could provide visitors with an awesome connection to the trail and would be a great place for people to stop and discover even more history about the area.

Ian or myself would be happy to answer any additional question you may have. Thank you for bringing this project up to your board and we would love to have the Heritage Center involved in this project.

Thanks so much, Lana!

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Lexi

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