

# Thinking through Monuments

## Episode II

## *The Freedom Wall*

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Commissioned by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and located at the corner of Michigan Avenue and East Ferry Street in Buffalo, *The Freedom Wall* is a public art project that depicts twenty-eight local and national civil rights leaders. The project initially received backlash over its choice of the artists who would complete the mural. Members of the community called for better representation and acknowledgment of African American artists in the city.

Lippa, Nick. “How *The Freedom Wall* Strengthened and Developed the WNY Urban Arts Collective.” *WBFO/NPR*, November 16, 2018.

↗ <https://news.wbfo.org/post/how-freedom-wall-strengthened-and-developed-wny-urban-arts-collective>.

Quaintance, Hannah. “*The Freedom Wall*: Public Art and Negotiations of African American Heritage in Buffalo, New York.” *Future Anterior* 15, no. 1 (2018): 16-29.

↗ <https://muse-jhu-edu.gate.lib.buffalo.edu/article/724542>.

\*Assata Shakur was described by Henry Louis Taylor as an unlikely figure to be portrayed in *The Freedom Wall*.

Adekunmi, Bim. “Assata Shakur: from Civil Rights Activist to FBI’s Most-Wanted.” *The Guardian*, July 13, 2014.

↗ <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2014/jul/13/assata-shakur-civil-rights-activist-fbi-most-wanted>.

## Mary Talbert Way

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Mary Talbert (1866-1923) was one of the leading civil rights activists at the turn of the century. She helped found the Niagara Movement (1905-10), a precursor to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and would go on to be the president of the National Association of Colored Women’s Clubs and vice-president of the NAACP. To commemorate her life and contributions, University at Buffalo recently renamed a main road on North Campus to “Mary Talbert Way.”

Hsu, Charlotte. “A 40-year Quest to Retrace the Life of Activist Mary Talbert.” *UB Now*, August 14, 2020.

↗ <http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2020/08/williams-mary-talbert.html>.

National Women's Hall of Fame. "Women of the Hall: Mary Burnett Talbert," Accessed June 26, 2021.

↗ <https://www.womenofthehall.org/inductee/mary-burnett-talbert/>

Wuetcher, Sue. "Talbert Replaces Putnam on North Campus Roadway Signage." *UB Now*, September 1, 2020.

↗ <http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2020/09/mary-talbert-way-signage.html>.

## National Mall

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Appointed by the US Congress in 1791, Pierre Charles L'Enfant was commissioned to design and plan what would become Washington DC. Part of his plan included the National Mall. This park within the federal city was to be the location of the national government as well as representative monuments to what this new nation represented and strived to be. A popular tourist attraction today, it stands as the symbolic center of the nation's foundational principles.

Benton-Short, Lisa. "From Grand Avenue to Public Space: A Brief History of the Mall." In *The National Mall: No Ordinary Public Space*, 21-44. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016.

↗ <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3138/j.ctvg25415.6>

Glazer, Nathan. "Modernism and Classicism on the National Mall." In *From a Cause to a Style: Modernist Architecture's Encounter with the American City*, 117-145. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007.

↗ <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt7s20w.9>

National Parks Service. "History & Culture: About the National Mall and Memorial Parks." Accessed May 25, 2021.

↗ <https://www.nps.gov/nama/learn/historyculture/index.htm>.

National Parks Service. "National Mall Plan: Update on the National Mall Plan." Accessed June 2, 2021.

↗ <https://www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan/national%20mall%20plan.html>.

## United Daughters of Confederacy

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Established in Nashville, Tennessee in 1894, the United

Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) centers most of its efforts on erecting and maintaining monuments to Confederate Civil War soldiers. To many, these monuments are symbols of America's racist and repressive past. Simultaneously, to groups such as the UDC, they are a source of pride and affirm their perception of history.

Brundage, W. Fitzhugh. "White Women and the Politics of Historical Memory in the New South, 1880–1920." In *Jumpin' Jim Crow: Southern Politics from Civil War to Civil Rights*, edited by Dailey Jane, Gilmore Glenda Elizabeth, and Simon Bryant, 115–139. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000.

↗ <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv131bvz5.10>

Cox, Karen L. "The Whole Point of Confederate Monuments Is to Celebrate White Supremacy." *The Washington Post*, August 16, 2017.

↗ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/posteverything/wp/2017/08/16/the-whole-point-of-confederate-monuments-is-to-celebrate-white-supremacy/>.

Smith, Clint. "Why Confederate Lies Live On." *The Atlantic*, May 10, 2021.

↗ <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2021/06/confederate-lost-cause-myth/618711/>.