



This year, the theme of Black History Month is "African Americans and Labor," highlighting the vital role of Black workers throughout history.

The Naco Heritage Alliance celebrates this theme through our ongoing commitment to honor and preserve the story of the service of the Buffalo Soldiers - at Camp Naco and worldwide - in February and beyond. It is a reminder that Black History is American History, and the Buffalo Soldiers are an important part of that legacy.

Let's do this together.
Jeremy



Jeremy Fricke

Naco Heritage Alliance

Executive Director



Groundbreaking

On January 30, 2025, the Naco Heritage Alliance (NHA) reached a critical milestone. Working with our partner [Durazo Construction Corporation](#) we took the plunge and broke ground, formally beginning Phase One of the rehabilitation of Camp Naco. We were honored to be joined by a color guard with members of our local VFW and American Legion, as well as numerous NHA board members, City officials and council members, and many dedicated supporters of the Camp Naco project. We could not have reached this point with the support of [State of Arizona's Governor's Office](#) and the [Mellon Foundation](#).



Joining us at this historic moment were (from left to right) Demetria Warren, Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers (SWABS) President, Jeremy Fricke, Naco Heritage Alliance Executive Director, Margaret Hangan, Naco Heritage Alliance Board Chair, Nathalia Untiveros, Deputy Director, Southern Arizona Office of the Governor, Bisbee Mayor Ken Budge, City of Bisbee City Manager Steve Pauken, Charles Hancock, SWABS member, JD Durazo, Durazo Construction, Mike Normand, Camp Naco Construction Project Manager, and Rosendo Arrieta, Naco Heritage Alliance Vice President. (Photos Steve Pauken and Mark Costa)



Color guard (from left to right): Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Commander Rudy Verdugo; VFW member & Vice Commander Kerry Feldman; American Legion & VFW member and Legion Riders Finance Officer Paul 'Doc' Dougherty; Sons of the American Legion Commander Scott Avant; VFW Quartermaster Beorn Whetstone; Coast Guard veteran William Gillespie; American Legion Auxiliary President Laurie Lewis

February lecture with Naco Heritage Alliance Board Chair Margaret Hangan

Thursday, February 27 at 7pm

Logging, Ranching and the Military: African Americans of the Grand Canyon Region



[A free online event, **click here to register**](#)

This discussion will delve into the fascinating history of African Americans and their relationship to the Grand Canyon area and the Timber Industry.

Presenter Margaret Hangan has worked as a professional archaeologist since 1989. Originally from California, she moved to Williams, Arizona in 2007 and has worked for both the Kaibab and Tonto National Forests. She recently retired from the Forest Service in January 2025. Margaret has served on many boards and advisory committees through out the years and currently is a member of the NAU School of Forestry Advisory Committee, the Arizona State Historic Sites Review Committee and chair the Historic Preservation Commission for the City of Williams. She is currently the Chair of the Naco Heritage Alliance Board of Directors.

2024 Naco Heritage Alliance Annual Report

2024 Annual Report

Naco Heritage Alliance
**CAMP
NACO**

The Camp Naco team has completed our annual report, which is available for download [HERE](#).

Fellowship Program

Naco Heritage Alliance Fellowship for Arts, Culture, & Scholarship

Made possible by a grant from:



One of the fundamental goals of the Camp Naco project is to support the Arts, Culture and Scholarship of Naco, Bisbee, Cochise County, and the entire Borderlands. As a part of the generous Mellon Foundation grant, the Naco Heritage Alliance is proud to announce the

kickoff of the 2025 Naco Heritage Alliance Fellowship program. Applications begin this Friday (February 14). For more information about the program, please visit our website at CampNacoAZ.org

**Save the Date! Saturday, March 22 at 6pm
Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum**

**Dr. John P. Langellier Fireplace Chat and book
signing: *Buffalo Soldiers in Arizona***



Military historian Dr. Langellier returns to Bisbee with his new book examining more than six decades of Buffalo Soldiers in Arizona, their achievements, and the challenges they faced. Signed copies will be available. Space is limited, register [HERE](#).

Thank you Grecia!



We bid a fond farewell to one of our Cochise College Interns, Grecia, who recently accepted full-time employment with another company in her chosen field of work. Grecia has been an invaluable member of the Camp Naco Project Team in her short time with us - we will miss her tremendously! Best wishes Grecia, from all of us at Naco Heritage Alliance and the Camp Naco Project!

Naco Heritage Alliance

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The City of Bisbee and Naco Heritage Alliance express their gratitude to the following for the generous financial support and advocacy that has enabled Camp Naco to launch its vision:



National Trust for Historic Preservation
**America's 11 Most
Endangered Historic Places**

