



# NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE • AUGUST 2, 2012  
CONTACT: JOYCE KAMEN 513.543.8109 or  
MANDA HURDELBRINK 513.324.8610

## COMMEMORATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF CINCINNATI'S BLACK BRIGADE TO INCLUDE CINCINNATI POPS CONCERT AND CIVIL WAR ERA EXPERIENCES

*Free event will be held Sunday, September 9 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Smale Riverfront Park*



**CINCINNATI, OH:---**On Sunday, September 9, the Cincinnati Park Board will host a community-wide commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cincinnati's Black Brigade. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a brief ceremony at the Black Brigade Monument, at Joe Nuxhall Way and Mehring Way in the south Tree Grove at



**CINCINNATI  
POPS ORCHESTRA**

Smale Riverfront Park. Following the ceremony, a commemorative concert by the Cincinnati Pops will take place on the park's Schmidlapp Event Lawn. The Cincinnati Pops concert is made possible by a generous gift from the Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trusts, Fifth Third Bank, Trustee. The entire event is free and open to the public.



Information booths from several organizations will be set up during the event. Participating organizations include Cincinnati Parks, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the Civil War Museum, the National Park Service (Taft House), Cincinnati Civil War Roundtable, Hamilton Civil War Roundtable, Camp Nelson Museum, and OhioCivilWar.com. The 5th Independent Battery of Ohio Volunteer Light Artillery will fire a cannon and light artillery during the commemoration ceremony and concert. The U.S. 5th Regiment Colored Troop (also known as 127th OVI) will also be on hand, along with costumed interpreters who will portray prominent leaders in Cincinnati and U.S. during the Civil War.

*William Mallory, Sr. (L), who championed the cause of creating the Black Brigade Monument, sees the statues of Col. William Dickson and Black Brigade Marshall P.H. Jones with Cincinnati Parks Director, Willie F. Carden, Jr. The statues were sculpted by artist John Hebenstreit.*

Guests are encouraged to bring blankets, lawn chairs and picnic items if desired. Visitors can also purchase food from outdoor concessions that will be set up adjacent to the Moerlein Lager House and the Schmidlapp Event Lawn.

-MORE-

Earlier in the day, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center will host a reception for the descendants of members of Cincinnati's Black Brigade. Anyone who believes they may be a descendant of a member of the Black Brigade can check the complete muster roll at:

[http://mysmaleriverfrontpark.org/pdfs/BlackBrigade\\_brochure.pdf](http://mysmaleriverfrontpark.org/pdfs/BlackBrigade_brochure.pdf)

General admission to the Freedom Center will be only \$5 on Sunday, September 9 from 11 am-5pm. (\$7 off regular adult admission) The Freedom Center will also have Black Brigade artifacts on display, including the Black Brigade flag from the Ohio Historical Society and the sword that the Black Brigade presented to Colonel William Dickson. There will also be videos, panel displays that tell Black Brigade members' individual stories and more.



Prior to the construction of the Black Brigade Monument, the story of over 700 African-American men who volunteered to build fortifications to defend Cincinnati from a Confederate attack during the Civil War in September, 1862. was little known. The city's black men were denied the opportunity to enlist as soldiers, but they were abducted from their homes and forced into labor. This led to protests of the inhumane treatment of the men and an outcry by local media. The protests led to an intervention by Union officers, who freed the men from the forced labor and returned them to their homes. The men were then invited to volunteer their services and become a part of the team of 7,000 Cincinnatians who constructed the fortifications that ultimately protected Cincinnati from a Confederate attack. The Black Brigade monument pays tribute to this very significant moment in Cincinnati's—and the nation's—social history.



*"Mother and Child" statue by Cincinnati artist Carolyn Manto.*

The monument's creation was sponsored by the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. / U.S. Bank Foundation, the City of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Park Board, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Member of the Design Team will be on hand for the event. The team includes Cincinnati Parks Art Administrator Jan Brown Checco, graphic designer Erik Brown, sculptor Carolyn Manto, sculptor John Hebenstreit, writer Tyrone Williams, monument siting designers Sasaki Associates, Casting Arts & Technology and assisted by the honorable Mr. William Mallory, Sr.

For more information, please contact Joyce Kamen at 513.543.8109; or Manda Hurdelbrink at 513.324.8610.

####