



Black Wall Street Buffalo – Jefferson Avenue District

Jefferson Avenue in Buffalo, NY, is steeped in history, particularly as a hub for African American culture and business. The area has been central to Black life in Buffalo and has experienced both growth and challenges over the years. The recent spotlight on Jefferson Avenue, particularly around the Tops Supermarket, makes it a prime location for the development of a Black Wall Street district, focusing on revitalizing local African American businesses and promoting economic empowerment.

District Overview:

- **Anchor: Tops Supermarket**, located at 1275 Jefferson Avenue, would serve as the economic anchor for the district. It's already a central point for the local community, and incorporating it into a revitalization strategy would increase traffic and encourage development.
- **Street Boundaries:**
 - **North Boundary: East Ferry Street** – a major commercial artery that connects various residential and business areas.
 - **South Boundary: William Street** – includes historical residential neighborhoods with a strong African American presence.
 - **East Boundary: Best Street** – located near Martin Luther King Jr. Park, a historic landmark for African American culture in Buffalo.
 - **West Boundary: Michigan Avenue** – a historical street with strong ties to African American history, including the Michigan Street Baptist Church, a station on the Underground Railroad.

This proposed district covers approximately **10-20 blocks**, strategically combining both residential and business areas, which would foster a vibrant local economy.

Key Considerations for Economic Development:

1. **African American Business Incubation:** The district should focus on incubating African American-owned businesses, such as restaurants, retail stores, and service-based enterprises. This could mirror the structure seen in other successful Black Wall Street models, where entrepreneurs have access to business resources, grants, and mentorship.



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2. **Cultural Attractions and Events:** Establishing museums, galleries, and performing arts centers that highlight Buffalo’s rich African American history and cultural contributions would attract tourism and local interest. Hosting regular community events, such as markets or festivals, would also help generate local economic activity.
3. **Community and Residential Integration:** To truly thrive, this district should seamlessly integrate African American residential areas, encouraging mixed-use developments that provide housing, retail, and cultural spaces.

Map and Boundary Layout:

The Jefferson Avenue Black Wall Street district would be located between the following key streets:

- **North:** East Ferry Street
- **South:** William Street
- **East:** Best Street
- **West:** Michigan Avenue

This area includes both residential neighborhoods and key historical landmarks, making it ideal for a mixed-use business district that promotes both community and commerce.

Website Integration and Planning

In alignment with the mission of www.blackwallstreet.org, this Black Wall Street Buffalo District would focus on economic independence, empowerment, and the celebration of African American heritage. The district could also serve as a hub for business networking, entrepreneurship training, and cultural preservation.

By creating a space that supports African American entrepreneurs while preserving the cultural heritage of Jefferson Avenue, Buffalo has a prime opportunity to establish a thriving Black Wall Street district that honors its past while building toward a more prosperous future.



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To visualize the proposed Jefferson Avenue Black Wall Street district in Buffalo, NY, I can provide a general description based on the key streets:

Map and Boundary Layout

1. North Boundary: East Ferry Street

- A major east-west road, connecting different parts of Buffalo, including cultural landmarks and residential areas.

2. South Boundary: William Street

- Running parallel to East Ferry Street, William Street serves as the southern border, connecting several residential communities and providing access to the highway.

3. East Boundary: Best Street

- Best Street runs near Martin Luther King Jr. Park, a cultural focal point for African American history in Buffalo, and borders residential zones.

4. West Boundary: Michigan Avenue

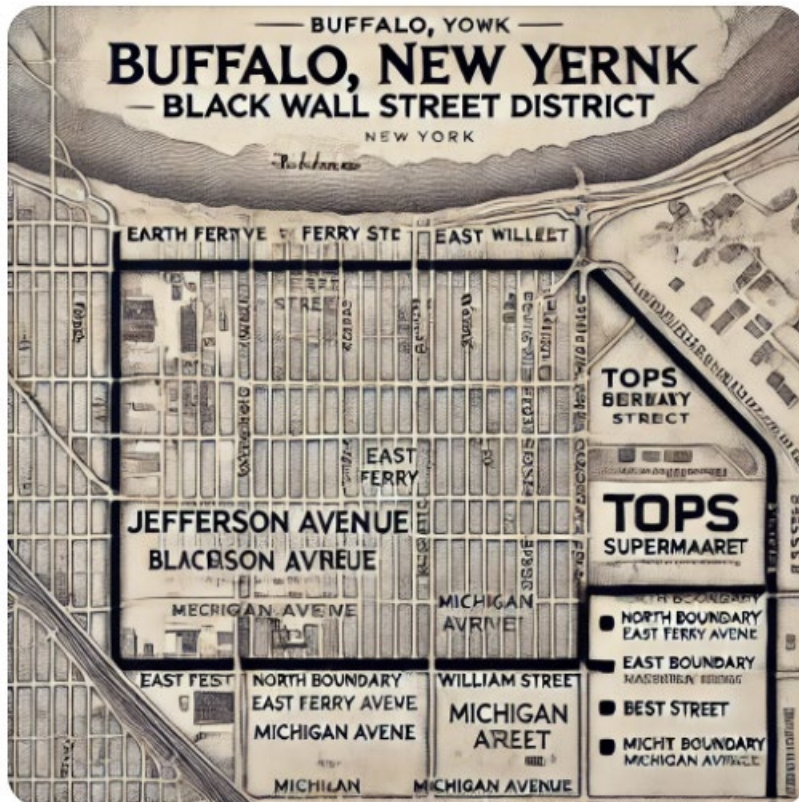
- A historically significant street for the African American community, including landmarks like the Michigan Street Baptist Church, contributing to the cultural identity of this proposed district.

The district would stretch about **10-20 blocks**, creating a well-defined area to support a diverse array of businesses and cultural initiatives, with **Tops Supermarket** serving as the anchor at **1275 Jefferson Avenue**.



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Here is the local map showing the proposed Jefferson Avenue Black Wall Street district in Buffalo, NY. The boundaries include East Ferry Street to the north, William Street to the south, Best Street to the east, and Michigan Avenue to the west. Key landmarks such as Tops Supermarket on Jefferson Avenue and Michigan Street Baptist Church are highlighted within the district.





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Executive Summary: Black Wall Street Buffalo - Jefferson Avenue District

Overview

The Black Wall Street Buffalo project aims to revitalize the Jefferson Avenue district by establishing a 10-20 block business district focused on African American entrepreneurship, culture, and community empowerment. Anchored by the **Tops Supermarket** at 1275 Jefferson Avenue and leveraging historical and cultural landmarks such as the **Michigan Street Baptist Church**, this development seeks to transform the area into a thriving center for Black-owned businesses, cultural tourism, and local economic growth.

This initiative is inspired by the legacy of Tulsa’s Black Wall Street, with the goal of fostering economic independence, addressing socio-economic disparities, and celebrating African American heritage. The district will offer a mix of retail, dining, services, cultural institutions, and residential spaces, promoting both local commerce and community engagement.

Goals and Objectives

1. **Economic Revitalization:** Develop the Jefferson Avenue corridor into a bustling business district, attracting both local consumers and tourists.
2. **Entrepreneurship and Business Growth:** Provide resources, mentorship, and capital access for African American entrepreneurs to establish and expand businesses.
3. **Cultural Tourism:** Establish historical and cultural attractions that celebrate Buffalo's African American history, including ties to the Underground Railroad.
4. **Community Empowerment:** Create a district that reflects the needs of the community by offering job opportunities, housing, and culturally relevant services.
5. **Long-term Sustainability:** Ensure the district's success through strategic partnerships with local businesses, government entities, and educational institutions.

Proposed District Boundaries

- **North Boundary:** East Ferry Street
- **South Boundary:** William Street
- **East Boundary:** Best Street
- **West Boundary:** Michigan Avenue



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Budget Summary

Category	Estimated Cost
Real Estate Acquisition	\$5 million – \$7 million
Infrastructure Development	\$3 million – \$4 million
Business Development Fund	\$2 million – \$3 million
Cultural & Historical Projects	\$1.5 million – \$2.5 million
Marketing & Community Outreach	\$500,000 – \$1 million
Public Space & Amenities	\$1 million – \$1.5 million
Contingency (10%)	\$1 million
Total Estimated Budget	\$14 million – \$20 million

Key Funding Sources:

- Public-Private Partnerships
- Federal and State Grants for Economic Development and Historical Preservation
- Investments from local business leaders and institutions
- Crowdfunding and community investment initiatives

Next Steps

1. **Secure Funding:** Begin fundraising efforts through public and private sources.
2. **Business Recruitment:** Identify and recruit African American entrepreneurs and businesses to participate in the district.
3. **Community Engagement:** Hold meetings with local residents and stakeholders to ensure the district reflects community needs and aspirations.
4. **Construction & Development:** Begin development of the district's infrastructure, business spaces, and cultural attractions.

Conclusion

The Black Wall Street Buffalo Jefferson Avenue District is poised to become a beacon of African American economic empowerment and cultural preservation in Buffalo. Through strategic planning, investment, and community involvement, this district will create a lasting impact on the city's economic and social fabric.