



Tammy L. Brown is a writer, educator, and multimedia artist. An associate professor of history and African diaspora studies at Howard University, she integrates art, technology, and biographical methods in her teaching, research, and public engagement, and is currently writing a biography of Jimi Hendrix that explores the spiritual dimensions of his music. Her interdisciplinary practice bridges historical scholarship, multimedia poetry, and documentary filmmaking, with work on race, feminism, art, and politics featured by TEDx, NPR, Vox, and the ACLU blog. Her scholarship has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Mellon Foundation.



Audrey Coombe is a sculptor and video artist based in New York City. She creates works that often inhabit public spaces and appear in unexpected urban and natural environments. Her projects examine borders as geopolitical or architectural demarcations and as ontological thresholds. Her films and videos have been shown on billboards in Times Square and downtown Denver, CO; at Boston City Hall; Harvard University; the University of Genova; The Swedenborg Society (London); the Verbeke Foundation (Belgium); Millennium Film Workshop (NY); CCDMX (Mexico); Wielka Wieś (Poland); and other locations. She has a B.A. from Yale University.



Jeremy Harris is a cinematographer from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and a graduate of Salisbury University, where he earned a B.A. in Mass Media with a focus on documentary and news packaging. After early work as a cameraperson for the CW Television Network and a photographer for the Howard Theatre, he honed his craft at the New York Film Academy and trained under acclaimed cinematographer Anthony B. Richmond, ASC. Harris has worked across Los Angeles, New York, and Atlanta, building a portfolio that spans major brands including *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, *Wired*, and *Bon Appétit*. He has shot multiple narrative features—including *Sundays in July*, *Family*, and the forthcoming *A Story About You (2025)*—and continues to expand his work across feature films, documentaries, and shorts.



Selena Makell is an actor, director, writer, and multi-disciplinary artist whose work bridges movement and storytelling. A graduate of the National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts, she has appeared in numerous stage productions and starred in the short film *Code Switch*, which screened internationally, including at the Pompidou Centre in Paris. She further developed her voice at the Sankofa Film Institute under Haile Gerima and is currently writing her first feature film, which she plans to direct and star in. With a foundation in Vaganova ballet and leadership as captain of Hampton University's Ebony Fire majorette team, Makell brings a dynamic physicality and artistic purpose to her work on stage and screen.



Chardonnay Beaver is an award-winning multimedia storyteller, speaker, and author. She is the founder of The Genesis Media (formerly CB Productions) and executive producer of the documentaries *Fulfill the Promise: The Rise. The Fall. The Promise.* (2024) and *Hope In the Valley: An Atlantic Street Center Story* (2025). In addition to community-collaborative films, The Genesis Media offers multimedia services to amplify stories of courage, community service, history, and more. In 2019, Chardonnay founded Words of Wisdom by Char (WOWbyChar), an Instagram page turned inspirational column dedicated to authenticity and inner transformation—what she calls “soul-care.” She authored *Words of Wisdom: A Compilation of Life Principles, Inspired by Truth & Guided by Purpose, Vol. 1* (2024), along with its companion journal.



Tauna Szymanski, JD, MPA (she/her), is the Executive Director and Legal Director of CommunicationFIRST, the only civil rights organization led by and for and dedicated to protecting and advancing the rights and interests of the estimated 5 million people in the United States who cannot rely on speech alone to be heard and understood due to disability or other condition. Ms. Szymanski serves on the Boards of Directors of the Disability Rights Bar Association and the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund. Ms. Szymanski grew up mostly outside the United States, is neurodivergent and multiply disabled, lives in the Washington DC area, and parents a high school student with multiple significant disabilities.