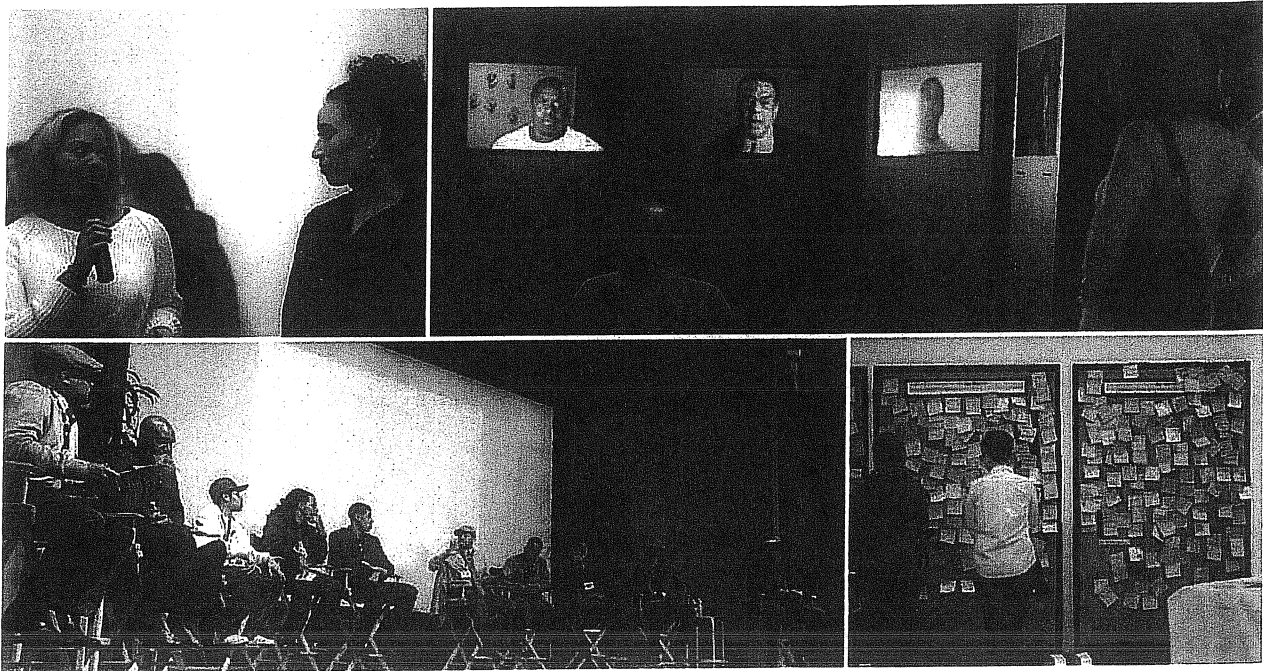


BECOME AN EDUCATION PARTNER

QUESTION BRIDGE: BLACK MALES

By **Chris Johnson** and **Hank Willis Thomas**, in collaboration with **Bayeté Ross Smith** and **Kamal Sinclair**
Executive Producers: **Delroy Lindo**, **Jesse Williams**, and **Deborah Willis**

QUESTION BRIDGE. BLACK MALES



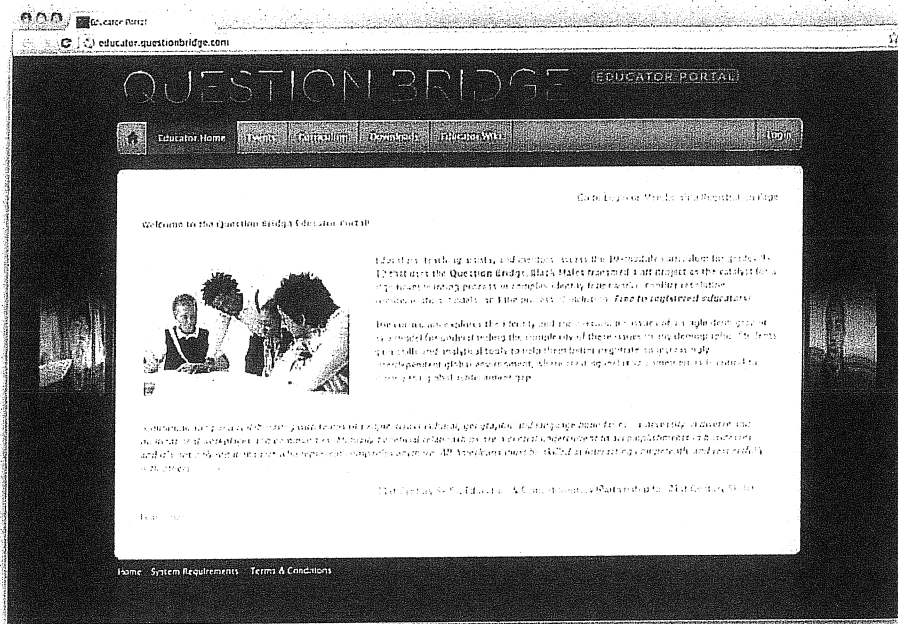
INTRODUCTION

Question Bridge: Black Males is a project that explores critical and challenging issues within the African American male community by instigating a **transmedia** conversation among Black men from a range of geographic, economic, generational, educational, and social strata. The innovative five-channel video installation begins a dialogue that is continued through custom social media tools, a website, a curriculum offered to high schools, and special community events across the country. Question Bridge aims to provide a forum for necessary, honest expression and healing dialogue on themes that divide, unite, and puzzle Black males today in the United States.

The unique Question Bridge **curriculum** incorporates multi-dimensional learning tools that are interdisciplinary, project-based and research-driven. Through a variety of targeted lesson plans students will learn media literacy skills that reinforce and encourage diversity and achievement. Educators can also use the Question Bridge video content to initiate a learning process on identity frameworks, conflict resolution, and communication. The robust series of curriculum module will empower students to create new knowledge, publish their projects on line, and become influential 21st century world citizens.

Top left and bottom right: Teacher Leadership Program at the Brooklyn Museum (Kameelah Rasheed). Top right: Installation; bottom left: Blueprint Roundtable community event at the Oakland Museum of California (Yoni Klein)

QUESTION BRIDGE: BLACK MALES



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The Question Bridge curriculum allows students to gain skills and analytical tools to better negotiate an increasingly interdependent global environment, where inclusion and familiarity with the “other” is critical to closing the global achievement gap. The curriculum explores the identity and community issues of a single demographic as a model for understanding the complexity of identity and socio-economic issues in any demographic.

The curriculum offers ten-modules for educators, teaching artists, and mentors serving youth in grades 9-12. Educators will be able to choose which modules to focus on and the sequence in which to use the modules.

To fulfill our mission, Question Bridge is seeking education partnerships with high schools, education non-profit organizations, youth organizations, and arts education organizations to deliver the curriculum to youth in grades 9-12.

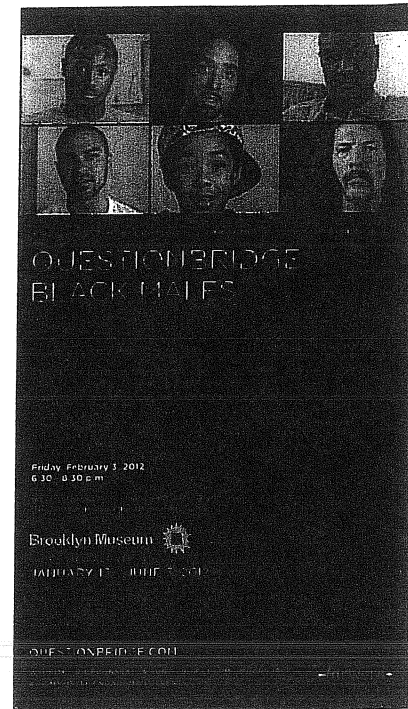
PARTNERS CAN SUPPORT IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- A. **Deliver the curriculum to high school age youth.**
 1. Register on the questionbridge.com website and download the curriculum.
 2. Administer the curriculum pre-test to youth.
 3. Teach one or more modules in the classrooms, after school programs, and mentorship programs.
 4. Administer the curriculum post-test to youth.
 5. Submit the results of student pre/post-tests to Question Bridge: info@questionbridge.com.
 6. Complete an online survey.
- B. **Host a Teacher Training seminar** for educators, teaching artists, and/or mentors. Question Bridge will provide the trainers. The partner provides the seminar space, travel/accommodations (if necessary) and trainer fees.
- C. **Provide one or more Youth Ambassadors** from your program to participate in the local Blueprint Roundtable.
- D. Schedule a **field trip** to the local Exhibition of **Question Bridge: Black Males**
- E. **Invite Question Bridge representative** to present the curriculum concept at conferences and events.

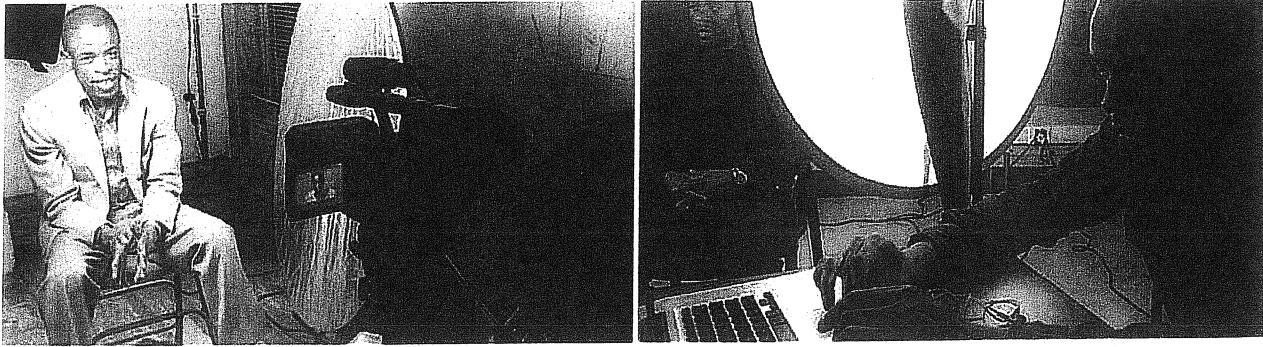
QUESTION BRIDGE. BLACK MALES

BECOME AN EDUCATION PARTNER, CONTINUED

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
Online Learning Community Registrations	Educators contributing content and accessing resources	Free
HS Curriculum (download)	Ten module curriculum of videos and .pdf files	Free
Teacher Training	Education consultant and/or teaching artist train up to 15 teachers in QB curriculum in person (15 hours recommended—price does not include travel, accommodations, or materials. Additional fee for each additional teacher beyond 15)	\$200 per hour
Teacher tours of Exhibition	Education consultant and/or teaching artists will lead a tour of the exhibition and lead engaging workshops to your educators to familiarize them with the Question Bridge content (2 hours recommended—price does not include travel, accommodations, or materials. Additional fee for each additional teacher beyond 15)	\$200 per hour



QUESTION BRIDGE. BLACK MALES



ABOUT THE PROJECT

The **Question Bridge** project originated in 1996, when the artist Chris Johnson was looking for a way to use new media to initiate a meaningful conversation around class and generational divisions within San Diego's African American community. Johnson invited ten members of the Black community to express their deeply felt beliefs and values through candid question-and-answer exchanges in front of a video camera. None of the questions or answers were prompted.

Left: Chris Johnson taping a participant. Right: Hank Willis Thomas monitoring the video content.

Building on this idea, over the past four years Johnson, along with **Hank Willis Thomas, Bayeté Ross Smith, and Kamal Sinclair**, traveled the nation collecting a video catalogue of 1,500 questions and answers from more than 150 Black men in twelve cities: New Orleans; New York; Philadelphia; Miami; Chicago; Birmingham, Alabama; Atlanta and Fayetteville, Georgia; and San Francisco, Mountain View, Oakland, and San Bruno, California. These questions and separately filmed answers were then interwoven to create a stream-of-consciousness "megadialogue" around issues such as family, love, interracial relationships, community, education, violence, and the past and the future of Black men in American society. From these exchanges emerge surprising insights and new possibilities for witnessing our common humanity.

QUESTION BRIDGE, BLACK MALES

PRESS

"Why is this a big deal? Well, for one, it shatters many commonly-held stereotypes about black men—that they are angry, unemotional, non-communicative, inarticulate and blame racism for everything that has happened to them. Watching the exhibit, one is forced to reexamine one's perceptions about African-American males. It's a big rethink."

—ERIC K. ARNOLD, OAKLAND LOCAL

RECENT EXHIBITIONS

In 2012, Question Bridge traveled to five institutions, sparking a conversation about reconsidering black male identity.

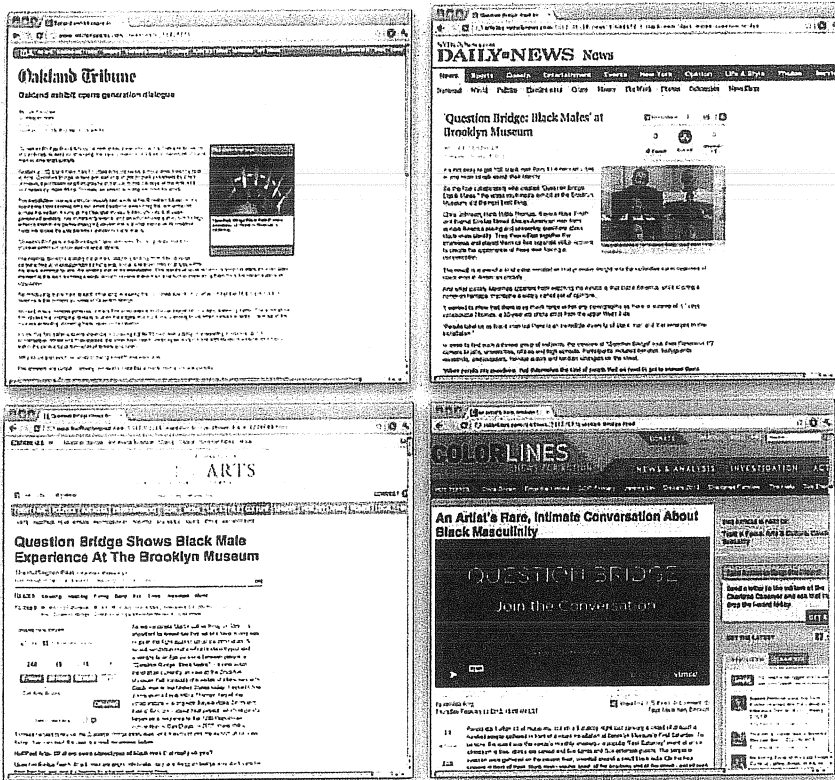
The Brooklyn Museum of Art

The Oakland Museum of California

Sundance Film Festival
New Frontier

Utah Museum of Contemporary Art

Chastain Gallery of Art,
Atlanta



Oakland Tribune, NY Daily News, Huffington Post, Colorlines.

QUESTION BRIDGE: BLACK MALES

CREDITS

Question Bridge was conceived by Chris Johnson. *Question Bridge: Black Males* was created by Chris Johnson and Hank Willis Thomas, in collaboration with Bayeté Ross Smith and Kamal Sinclair. The Executive Producers are Delroy Lindo, Deborah Willis and Jesse Williams. The *Question Bridge* curriculum was designed by Kamal Sinclair in collaboration with Bayeté Ross Smith and Chris Johnson, in consultation with Jinan Sumler, Dr. Joy Angela DeGruy and Dr. Deborah Willis. The *Question Bridge* website concept was conceived by Kamal Sinclair. Post-Production Producer, Will Sylvester. Supervising Story Producer, Rosa White.

Question Bridge: Black Males was produced by Songha and Company.

CO-PRODUCED BY
Innovent and farWord Inc.

UNDERWRITTEN BY
Open Society Institute's
Campaign for Black Male Achievement
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SUPPORTED BY
Bay Area Video Coalition,
Sundance Institute's New Frontier Story
Lab, UPM and DualStar Digital.

CONTACT

Associate Producers:

Raquel de Anda, raquel@questionbridge.com

Natasha L. Logan, natasha@questionbridge.com

QUESTION BRIDGE. BLACK MALES

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Chris Johnson originated the *Question Bridge* concept with a 1996 video installation he created for the Museum of Photographic Arts and the Malcolm X library in San Diego, California. In 1994, he co-produced and directed *The Roof is on Fire* with Suzanne Lacy, which was broadcast on KRON. Additionally, he authored *The Practical Zone System: for Film and Digital Photography*; currently in its 4th edition. Currently, he is a full Professor of Photography at the California College of the Arts where for ten years he served as President of the Faculty Senate. He is also the Media Wall Project Manager and Public Art Management Team member for Oakland Museum/Port of Oakland.



Hank Willis Thomas is an artist working with themes related to identity, history, and popular culture. His work has exhibited internationally, at MoMa P.S.

1, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Galerie Anne De Villepoix, Paris, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, Studio Museum Harlem, The Smithsonian, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco and the Wadsworth Atheneum. Thomas' work is in public collections including The Whitney Museum of American Art, the Brooklyn Museum, and The High Museum of Art in Atlanta. His video projects include *Winter in America*, *In Search of the Truth*, and *Along the Way* (installed at the Oakland International Airport and Sundance Film Festival's New Frontier). Thomas' monograph, *Pitch Blackness*, was published by Aperture in 2008. He received a new media fellowship through the Tribeca Film Institute and is a fellow at the Dubois Institute at Harvard. He received a B.F.A. in Photography from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts; and his M.F.A./M.A. in photography/visual criticism at the California College of the Arts. Thomas is represented by Jack Shainman Gallery in New York City.



Bayeté Ross Smith began his career as a photojournalist with the Knight Rider Newspaper Corporation, in Philadelphia, Charlotte and Tallahassee. He received a B.S. in

Photography from Florida A&M University and an M.F.A. from the California College of the Arts. Bayeté has exhibited at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival, the Goethe Institute (Ghana), the Zacheta National Gallery of Art (Poland), the Leica Gallery and Rush Arts Gallery (NYC), the SF Arts Commission's "Art at City Hall" and the Oakland Museum of California. His work has been on the cover of *Dis:Integration: The Splintering of Black America* (2010), and in *Posing Beauty*, *SPE Exposure*, the Society of Photographic Education Journal, *Black: A Celebration of A Culture*, *25 Under 25: Up and Coming American Photographers*, *The Spirit Of Family* (Al & Tipper Gore), *Black Enterprise*, *Working Mother*, *Village Voice*, and more. He worked as a fellow and artist in residence at the Kala Institute, Can Serrat International Art Center (Spain), McColl Center for Visual Art and Southern Exposure.



Kamal Sinclair was a six-year cast member of *STOMP*, the founder of Universal Arts and director of *The Beat* and *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome*. She directed the

2003/2004 Oneness Awards at Universal Studios (awarding Edward James Olmos, Michael Jackson, Ed Begley Jr., Jim Hensen Muppet Company); multiple National Black Arts Festival fundraising galas (honoring Dr. Cornel West, Big Boi, Samuel Jackson, Lynn Whitfield & Jasmine Guy); multiple Woodruff Arts Center events (honoring Ambassador Andrew Young, Wynton Marsalis, Andre 3000, Jamie Foxx and Ludacris.) She served the Fractured Atlas, Children's Theatre Company NYC and CRG boards; and the Alvin Ailey Ambassador's Council. She is the Principal Consultant for Strategic Arts (clientele: High Museum of Art, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Alliance Theatre, Young Audiences and SCAD. She graduated from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts (BFA) and GSU's Robinson College of Business (MBA).

QUESTION BRIDGE: BLACK MALES

ABOUT THE EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS



Delroy Lindo's career spans extensive contributions to film, television, and theatre. His film credits include Mr. Rose in *The Cider House Rules*, and Rodney

in *Clockers*. He worked with Spike Lee on *Crooklyn* and *Malcolm X*, (NAACP Image Award nomination). Other notable film credits include: *Heist*; *Wondrous Oblivion*; *The Core*; *The Last Castle*; *Domino*; *The One*; *Gone in 60 Seconds*; *Ransom*; *A Life Less Ordinary*; *Get Shorty*; *Feeling Minnesota*; *Romeo Must Die*; *L'Exil du Roi Behanzin*; *Devil's Advocate*; *Bright Angel*; *Mountains of the Moon*; *This Christmas* (also executive producer); and Pixar's *Up!*. Recent television credits include a starring role in *The Chicago Code*, and *Kidnapped* (NBC). He appeared on *Law and Order: SVU*; *Lackawanna Blues* (HBO) and *The Exonerated* (Court TV). He received critical acclaim for *Profoundly Normal* (CBS); and starred as Justice Clarence Thomas in *Strange Justice* (Showtime, Peabody Award).

Selected Broadway credits include Herald Loomis in Joe Turner's *Come and Gone*, and *Master Harold and the Boys*. He played Walter Lee in *A Raisin in the Sun* at the Kennedy Center (Helen Hayes Award Nomination and NAACP Image Award, Best Actor), and he has worked off-Broadway and extensively in national regional theatres and Canada.

Lindo has also directed and produced documentary and theater works for stage and screen.



Jesse Williams founded farWord, Inc with Aryn Drake-Lee. farWord creates curriculum, literary, film/TV, and new media projects to develop the honest and innovative

presence needed for cultural leadership and creative and psychological independence. He can be seen as series regular, Dr. Jackson Avery in ABC's *Grey's Anatomy*. After graduating from Temple University with degrees in African American Studies and Film/Media Arts, Jesse began his professional career as a high school teacher of African and American History in low-income Philadelphia public charter schools. Jesse's professional acting career began with off-Broadway performances in award-winning playwright Edward Albee's *The Sandbox*. He also directed *Life Stories Student Theatre* for The Urban Arts Partnership: 24Hour Off-Broadway Plays. His feature credits include *Brooklyn's Finest*, *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2* and the upcoming *The Cabin in the Woods*.



Deborah Willis, Ph.D is a 2000 MacArthur Fellow and Chair of Photography and Imaging at Tisch School of the Arts, New York University, where she also has

an affiliated appointment with the College of Arts and Sciences, Africana Studies. She was a 2005 Guggenheim and Fletcher Fellow, and has pursued dual professional careers as an artist and one of the nation's leading historians of African American photography and curators of African American culture. Her projects include *Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers—1840 to the Present*, *The Black Female Body in Photography*. Some of her recent works are *Posing Beauty: African American Images from the 1890s to the Present*; *Black Venus 2010: They Called her Hottentot*; and *Michelle Obama, The First Lady in Photographs*, for which she was awarded a 2010 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work.