

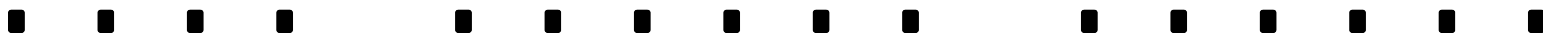
BlackStar Projects Celebrates 10th Anniversary, Announces New Year-Round Programs

A podcast, talk show, and more from the growing organization behind the lauded BlackStar Film Festival

(Philadelphia, PA – January 8, 2021) **BlackStar Projects**, the premier organization celebrating visionary Black, Brown, and Indigenous film and media artists, is proud to kick off their tenth year with a slate of new initiatives that continue to expand the reach and breadth of the organization. Already home to the [BlackStar Film Festival](#), BlackStar Projects is thrilled to announce several new and continuing initiatives that will expand upon the acclaimed festival, including a **streaming talk show, print journal, filmmaker seminar, and podcast**. More details about each are below.

In addition to these new projects, BlackStar is pleased to announce a special **print portfolio and fundraiser** in advance of their 10th annual film festival, taking place this August. Over the next year, BlackStar will release a limited edition, 8.5 x 11-inch print each month, featuring artworks by **Garrett Bradley, Damon Davis, Kevin Jerome Everson, Haile Gerima, Arthur Jafa, Kahlil Joseph, Louis Massiah, Terence Nance, Michelle Angela Ortiz, Fahamu Pecou, Andrea Pippins, and Cauleen Smith**. More information on purchasing options and the print series will be available on BlackStar's website [here](#), beginning January 15.

2021 will also see the return of **BlackStar Live!**, which premiered during the 2020 Film Festival as a special daily morning show featuring filmmaker interviews, live performances, astrological updates, and roundtable discussions of the day's programming. Season 1.5 of *BlackStar Live!*, presented by the Open Society Foundations, will return as a weekly evening variety show, streaming **every Friday in February** with the first episode premiering Friday, February 5. Guests include



Mahogany Browne, Kimberly Drew and Jenna Wortham, Jamila Crawford Pécou, Omar Tate, and Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson. (Guests subject to change.)

The new year will also welcome the second issue of [Seen](#), a new, twice-annual journal of film and visual culture made for and about Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities. Issue 002, edited by curator, writer, and editor **Dessane Lopez Cassell**, will be available in **May 2021**. Issue 001, which was released last winter, is [available in print and digital formats here](#).

BlackStar has also launched a new podcast, [Many Lumens](#), featuring BlackStar Artistic Director and CEO **Maori Karmael Holmes** in discussion with guests who illuminate the world through film and media art, creating at the intersections of art, social change, and popular culture. The first episode, featuring *Surviving R. Kelly* executive producer **dream hampton**, premiered on Monday, January 4 and is [available to stream here](#). In addition to a [teaser](#) and [introduction](#) special, five new episodes will premiere every **Monday through February 1**. *Many Lumens* is available on [Apple](#), [Spotify](#), [Google](#), [Stitcher](#), [RSS](#), and [other podcast outlets](#).

BlackStar was also recently named one of the nationwide Satellite Screens for the **2021 Sundance Film Festival**, hosting customized local programming from **January 28 through February 3, 2021** in Philadelphia.

Expanding on the success of the annual day-long filmmakers symposium at the Festival (that has included 100 filmmakers of color annually), BlackStar is also hosting a three-day seminar for artists of color working in cinematic realms this year. This online event will take place in March and registration will open later this month.

Submissions for this year's BlackStar Film Festival, which will be held virtually again in light of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, will open on January 15.

These new initiatives follow a historic 2020 edition of the BlackStar Film Festival, which moved primarily online due to the ongoing pandemic. The Festival lineup included approximately 90 films, including 24 world premieres, and represented more than 20 countries. In addition to presenting a wide-ranging program of live programs and panels, the festival also featured three drive-in screenings at Philadelphia's Mann Center for the Performing Arts in West Fairmount Park.

For overall information on BlackStar, including its festival and programs, visit blackstarfest.org.

About BlackStar Projects

BlackStar Projects, home of the annual BlackStar Film Festival, celebrates and provides platforms for visionary Black, Brown, and Indigenous artists. We do this by producing year-round programs including film screenings, exhibitions, an annual film festival, a filmmaker seminar, a film production lab, and a journal of visual culture. These programs provide artists opportunities for viable strategies for collaborations with other artists, audiences, funders, and distributors.

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