



Evon Black, originally from Arkansas, is the Associate Director of the Center for Black Deaf Studies at Gallaudet University. A nationally recognized leader and storyteller, she served as President of the National Black Deaf Advocates from 2017 to 2019 and has been a powerful voice in the Black Deaf community for over 35 years. She previously held roles in student development, recruitment, and fundraising—including leading efforts for the Kendall School Division 2 Memorial and the Louise B. Miller Pathway and Gardens. As a Gallaudet student, Evon made history as the first Black Deaf student to serve as Vice President of the Student Body Government in 1985–1986. Evon holds a B.A. in Psychology (1987), an M.A. in Educational Technology (1997), and an Ed.S. earned in May 2025. Her work continues to honor and uplift the legacy of Black Deaf history, culture, and education.



Dr. Crystal A. deGregory—Bahamian-born, Nashville-made historian of Black higher education—is associate professor of history and founding director of the Mary McLeod Bethune Institute at Bethune-Cookman University. She created HBCUstory, *Dorian and Beyond*, and the forthcoming podcast *Her Due*, which celebrates women whose contributions have been overlooked. DeGregory recently chaired the 2025 Southern Association for Women Historians Triennial Meeting and edits the *#BethuneAt150 Syllabus*. Her commentary on race, gender, and HBCUs appears in *The Washington Post*, *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, and on NPR, and she was inducted into Morehouse College’s Martin Luther King Jr. Collegium of Scholars in 2023. Author of the poetry collection *Magic and Mortal*, she is completing *The Greatest Good: Nashville’s Black Colleges, Their Students, and the Fight for Freedom, Justice, and Equality* for Vanderbilt University Press. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Fisk University, she also holds an M.Ed. from Tennessee State University and a Ph.D. in history from Vanderbilt.



Robbie D. Jones is a principal senior architectural historian and Tennessee branch manager for Richard Grubb and Associates, Inc., a cultural resources consulting firm based in Cranbury, New Jersey. During his 33-year career, he has documented over 10,000 resources in 21 states. Robbie holds a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and a Master’s in in Public History and Historic Preservation from Middle Tennessee State

University. He is past president and current treasurer of the Southeast Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians. Robbie has been invited to speak at conferences across the country, chaired architectural history conferences in Memphis and Nashville, is widely published, and has been recognized with awards from local, state, and federal organizations. He has documented hundreds of resources associated with the civil rights movement in Alabama, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Robbie was a principal historian for the recently completed Nashville Civil Rights Movement Documentation Project and is currently finishing up a statewide study of civil rights resources for the State of Maryland. Last year, the TCLF requested that Robbie prepare a nomination for Nashville's Fisk University for the Landslide 2024: Demonstration Grounds project.



Maura Rockastle is the co-founder of TEN x TEN, a landscape architecture studio whose mission is to co-create compassionate, immersive, and resilient spaces that confront the issues of our time. Maura's professional experience is focused on cultural, institutional, and public realm projects such as Historic Fort Snelling Revitalization, Indian Mounds Messaging Plan, and the Ellen DeGeneres Campus for the Dian Fossey Fund. Her work spans many scales - from 4,500-acre parks to 5-acre urban plazas, to small collaborative art installations and interactive interpretive features and has received national awards for design excellence and preservation. Maura has taught design studios at Harvard GSD, Yale School of Architecture, University of Pennsylvania Weitzman School of Design and currently teaches in the Architecture and Landscape Departments at the University of Minnesota College of Design. She holds a BFA in sculpture and printmaking from Cornell University and an MLA from the University of Pennsylvania, where she won the Ian L. McHarg Prize and an ASLA Certificate of Honor.