

AFROS & AUDIO VIRTUAL PODCAST FESTIVAL

State of Black Podcasts: Collective Innovation Needed

Description:

Five years ago, Afros & Audio was founded on a basic principle; a commitment to community and collaboration.

Collaboration plays an essential role in the generation of ideas and the path to game changing innovations. Within our community of podcast creatives, audio professionals, thought leaders, and business owners, the potential for innovation is everywhere. Collective innovation is about listening and talking with people at all levels—from all backgrounds and understanding that every point of view and experience adds something important to the process of change, even if that something is “what not to do”.

Innovation already exists here! As Black creators and professionals, we have already come up with hundreds of micro-improvements that make our lives easier, quicker, or more efficient.

Individual and collective dreams are deferred when resources are limited, support isn't clear, and/or we hoard ideas in our heads or hard drive. The power of innovation and the collective must have a place to seed and grow.

In this year's “State of Black Podcast: Collective Innovation Needed” Roundtable, thought leaders will discuss ways to harness our collective intelligence and resources to impact an industry that we are actively shaping but in a lot of ways only reaping minimal rewards for our efforts.

Discussion Points:

- Making space for collaboration
- Listening to each other and honoring the experiences that can push us forward
- Recognizing the long-term value of collective innovation
- Where we as a community and industry can go from here



MODERATOR & PANELISTS:

Moderator:

Talib Jasir is a storyteller, founder, visionary, author, podcast producer, and advocate for the people and our collective power.

Talib is a creative entrepreneur with over 19 years of professional experience managing accounts in marketing and advertising. In 2018, he founded Afros & Audio Podcast Festival the first two-day conference for and by Black Podcast Creatives and Audio Professionals in Brooklyn, NY. Afros & Audio continues to expand with the launch of their Community Network and production company, Vanguard Podcast Network in 2020. He is also a registered RYT-200 Yoga Teacher Trainer and dual-certified Emotional Wellness Coach with a focus on creatives, podcast creators, and entrepreneurs.

Panelists:

Keisha "TK" Dutes is the co-founder of Bondfire Radio a community oriented online radio station and an Executive Producer at Spoke Media. With experience spanning terrestrial radio, online, podcast (Buzzfeed's "Thirst Aid Kit", Function with Anil Dash, Hear to Slay) and audio drama, her life in audio is all encompassing. TK's has a passion for Black audio drama, having produced W.E.B DuBois' The Comet, and The Weeksville Project, a story about a free Black community Brooklyn, N.Y. She also spreads the gospel of radio and podcasting through workshops and mentorship and was listed on Current.org's "Black Talents in Public Media You Should Know." Currently, she serves on the board of the Association of Independents in Radio and does independent projects with her friends at her new company, Philo's Future Media.

Audio production is the core of what **Krystal Hill** does. From her start as a Technical Producer at NBC Sports Radio to her job as a producer of The Steve Harvey Morning Show, to her current position as the Director of Podcasts for Black Love Inc, there isn't a challenge that she hasn't seen.

As the Director of Podcasts for Black Love Inc, she was given the task of launching a vertical of podcasts that spoke to the company's mission of showcasing 360 degrees of Black Love. She currently oversees all aspects of podcasting from tracking, to producing, editing to analytics and...well you get the point. The Black Love Podcast Network launched in February 2021 and has over 1 million downloads across its slate of eight podcasts.

Throughout her career, Krystal has learned that most media spaces do not understand the voice, nor the value of Black audiences and she has made it a mission to help amply and uplift Black creators by giving them all the tips and tricks she's learned along the way.

Lloyd George, is a Zimbabwean American content creator. I manage a newsletter for creators called the Cre8tor Hub.

