



BAHAMAS
DEVELOPMENT
BANK

Orange Economy Micro Technology Grant Report

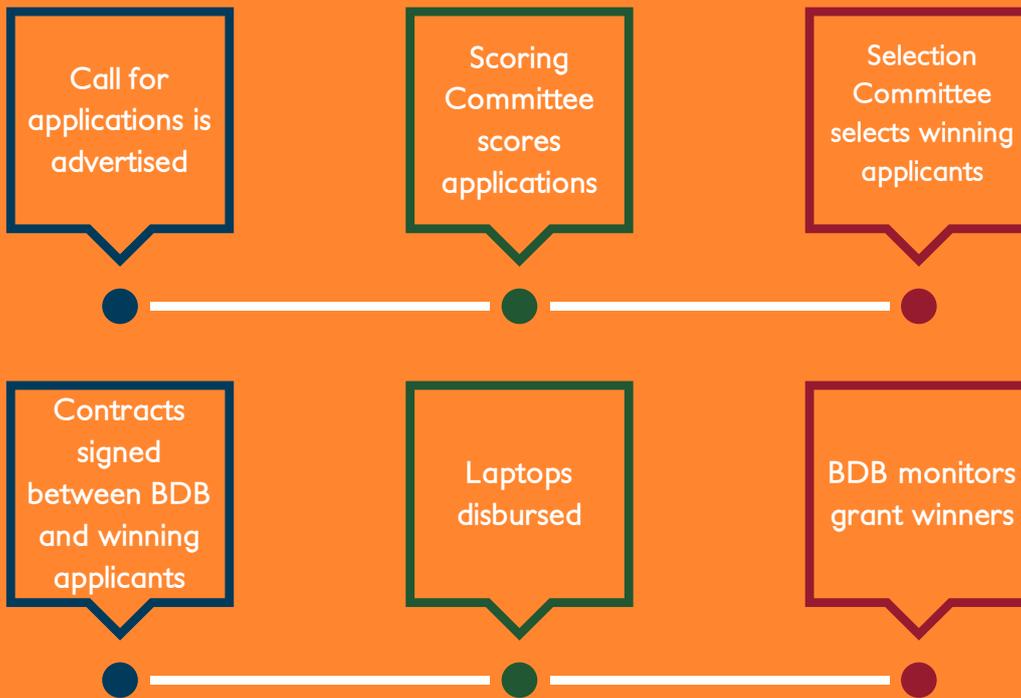
2022





BAHAMAS
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Grant Process



Minimum Grant Requirements

- Bahamian Creative Professional or Business with 60% Bahamian ownership
- Three years of demonstrated experience in creative industries

Areas Supported

- Arts & Heritage - Visual Arts, Performing Arts & Shows, Tourism & Cultural Heritage and Artistic & Cultural Education
- Conventional Cultural Industries - Publishing, Audiovisual, Music.
- Functional Creations - Design, Content Software, Information Services, Advertising.





BAHAMAS
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Vision

To be the developmental financial institution of choice for Sustainable Development throughout The Bahamas.

Mission

To be the Government's catalyst in facilitating and stimulating sustainable development through economic expansion and diversification throughout the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Core Values

We foster trust and integrity with our customers and colleagues.

We uphold accountability and transparency to our stakeholders.

We deliver professional and excellent customer service.

We provide innovative products and services.

We are adaptable learners, we embrace change.

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The Bahamas Development Bank ("BDB" or "The Bank")

Principal Functions

The Bank is the Government's primary provider for promoting industrial, agricultural and commercial development, facilitating participation in approved enterprises while stimulating and enhancing the economic development of The Bahamas. The Bank serves a wide and diverse population with its clientele being drawn from all levels of the Bahamian society and throughout the archipelago. The Bank is mandated to provide financing for economically viable projects that:

- ✓ Create employment
- ✓ Promote prosperity for all Bahamians
- ✓ Introduce new technology & skills
- ✓ Reduce imports and increase exports
- ✓ Utilize Bahamian materials & resources

The Bank's fundamental purpose therefore is to assist with the industrial growth of The Bahamas by providing financial assistance in key areas.



The Bahamas along with the rest of the United Nations member countries recognizes that economic development must also consider the needs of the environment and people along with financial prosperity. The Bank has integrated international frameworks for development including the Sustainable Development Goals into our strategy. The 17 SDGs consider climate change, financial inclusion, gender equality, quality of work and environmental sustainability as part of development. Our strategy focuses on the twin pillars of financial sustainability and development impact.

The Orange Economy

The Orange Economy also known as the Creative Economy, includes all sectors based on creation of intellectual property. UNESCO states that the main purpose of the Orange Economy, is the production or reproduction, promotion, dissemination and/or the marketing of goods, services and activities that have cultural, artistic or patrimonial content.



Bahamians are a creative, innovative people and The Bahamas Development Bank is committed to funding innovative projects across the creative industries.

While there are a number of creative products such as Junkanoo, Straw Work, wood carving, film and music that offer opportunities for entrepreneurs who create unique works that reflect the character of our islands, greater investment is needed to develop the sectors' full potential as a representation of talent of the Bahamian people. The digital age also brings new opportunities to incorporate technology into our daily lives.



BDB Impact

Growing Bahamian Businesses

Since its establishment, The Bank's debt lending to MSME'S has exceeded \$100 million. BDB has provided capital to a number of businesses including Agave Restaurant, Bahamian Paint Company, Bertha's Go Go Ribs, Boardwalk Seafood, Gulf Stream Seafood, JC Seafood, Kruger Plastic Ltd., LaSarena Group of Companies, Letty's Paradise, Manta Ray Bay, Nassau Gas, Pace Foundation, Pirates Well, Powerboat Adventures, SFB Resorts, Sky Bahamas, Sunrise Shredding, Wellspring Academy, and WemCo Security. Together this selection of our clients employ over 651 persons.

Forging Inter-Island Linkages

The Bank has also acted as the primary financier of mail boats in The Bahamas. By funding the mail boats, The Bank not only created hundreds of jobs for persons directly employed in the industry, but also facilitated inter-island trade. This enabled the creation of opportunities for the establishment of many businesses within the Family Islands. Several of the original mail-boat operators who received financing from the BDB have graduated from the Bank and have gone on to establish businesses in other industries.

Current Financing Opportunities

- BDB Loan Financing
- BDB Microloan
- AWE Bahamas Micro Loan
- Green Lending - Electric Vehicle Financing



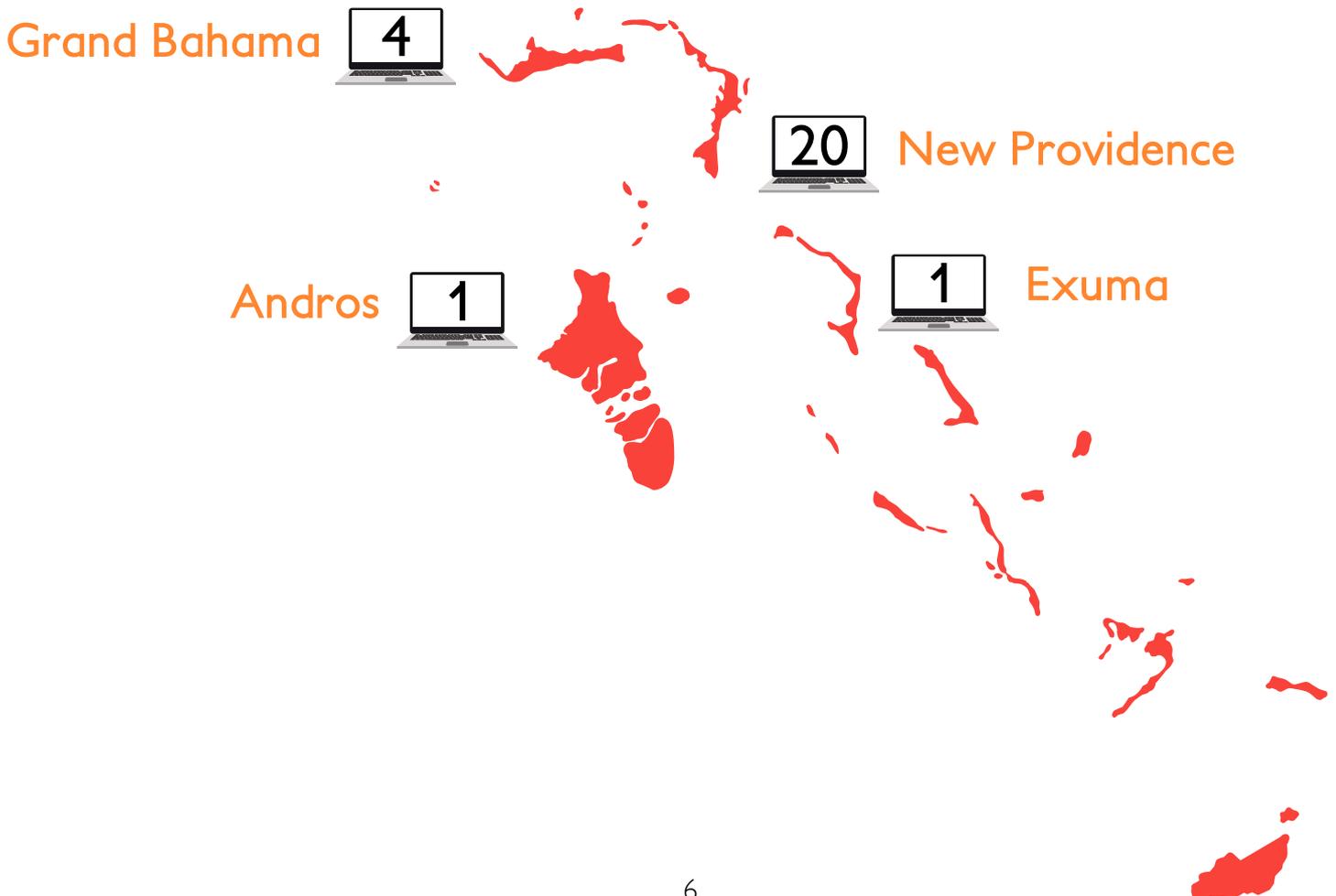


Orange Economy Micro Technology Grant

Background

The Bahamas Development Bank ("BDB" or "The Bank") launched the Orange Economy Micro Technology Grant on January 17th, 2022 with a budget of \$70,000 (BSD) with the aim of increasing the capacity of creative professionals in The Bahamas. The goal of this grant program was to provide videographers, musicians, photographers, and other artists with technology to improve the quality of their productions through the acquisition of professional computers.

By the grant deadline, over 280 completed applications were received, with over 500 applications attempted. In total, 26 applications were selected to win the MacBook Pro laptops. The islands impacted by the grant are shown below.





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ORANGE ECONOMY TECHNOLOGY MICRO GRANT

The Bank is issuing a call for proposals aimed at increasing the capacity of creative professionals by providing grants for MacBooks. The goal of this grant program is to provide creatives with technology to improve the quality of their productions.

The grant program deadline is February 14th, 2022. Successful applicants will receive MacBook Pros.



These grants are aimed at persons who have demonstrated talent and experience in the creative field of their specialization. Applicants must be able to clearly articulate the benefit that the device will have on their craft and show a plan for expanding their market penetration.



The Orange Economy includes:

- Arts & Heritage - Visual Arts, Performing Arts & Shows, Tourism & Cultural Heritage and Artistic & Cultural Education
- Conventional Cultural Industries - Publishing, Audiovisual, Music.
- Functional Creations - Design, Content Software, Information Services, Advertising.

Apply on our website at www.bdb.gov.bs.

For questions, email sdi@bdb.gov.bs.



Orange Economy Technology Micro Grant Requirements

The Bahamas Development Bank (“The Bank” or “BDB”) recognizes the role of the Orange Economy in building a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable future. BDB is committed to enhancing support for Bahamian entrepreneurs and artisans of every size through targeted investments. Thus, The Bank is issuing a call for proposals aimed at increasing the capacity of creative professionals. The goal of this \$30,000 grant program is to provide videographers, musicians, photographers, and other artists with technology to improve the quality of their productions through the acquisition of professional computers.

Program Description

- Grants will be offered to individuals and microbusinesses to improve the quality of their productions.
- No cash will be provided, successful applicants will receive a MacBook Pro.

Eligibility Criteria

- Bahamian Creative Professional or Business with 60% ownership
- Three years of demonstrated experience in creative industries

Grant Scoring

Relevance		30	Relevance Projects should demonstrate scalability through the use of technology. Applicants should be able to articulate how the device will improve their productive ability.
Experience		20	Experience The applicant should demonstrate consistent attention to their craft with prospects for advancement.
Innovation		20	Innovation Projects should be bold, innovative, and transformative with the potential for future financing.
Inclusion		15	Inclusion Consideration for strong social inclusion, including gender equality and women’s empowerment, indigenous peoples, youth, and or persons with disabilities in the initiative.
Climate Smart		5	Climate Smart Proposals should consider climate change impacts on the Orange Economy and how the Orange Economy fits in adaptation and mitigation strategies.
Community Based		5	
Knowledge Building		5	

Community Based

Leverages partnerships and additional resources e.g. co-financing with NGOs, foundations, private sector, creative community, and government and regulatory agencies.

Knowledge Building

Possible activities in capacity development may include: a) Education and training to community members; and b) Identification and collection of good practices within the orange economy and knowledge sharing based on international best practices.

Application Process

1

Application Submission

1. Applications should be submitted via the online website 11:55pm by February 14th, 2022.
2. Within 24 hours of submitting, the applicant will receive an email acknowledging receipt.
3. Applications will be reviewed once the application deadline expires at 11:55pm on February 14th, 2022.

2

Decision and Approval

1. All completed applications will be scored and reviewed by the Appraisal Committee prior to submission to the selection committee.
2. The Selection Committee will review the scores of the Appraisal Committee and determine which applications are conditionally approved and can be processed further. Applicants that are conditionally approved will be required to submit all requisite KYC documents within a week of notification.
3. All applicants will receive a formal letter announcing the success or failure of their application. This process will take up to 15 business days after the application period has ended.

3

Disbursement

1. If approved, the grant contract and all supporting documents will be sent and a signed copy must be returned to begin the disbursement process. The disbursement process should be completed within 7 business days of award notice. The awardee must adhere to all disbursement guidelines. BDB representatives will contact grant recipients to collect impact data and begin monitoring for up to one year following the award.

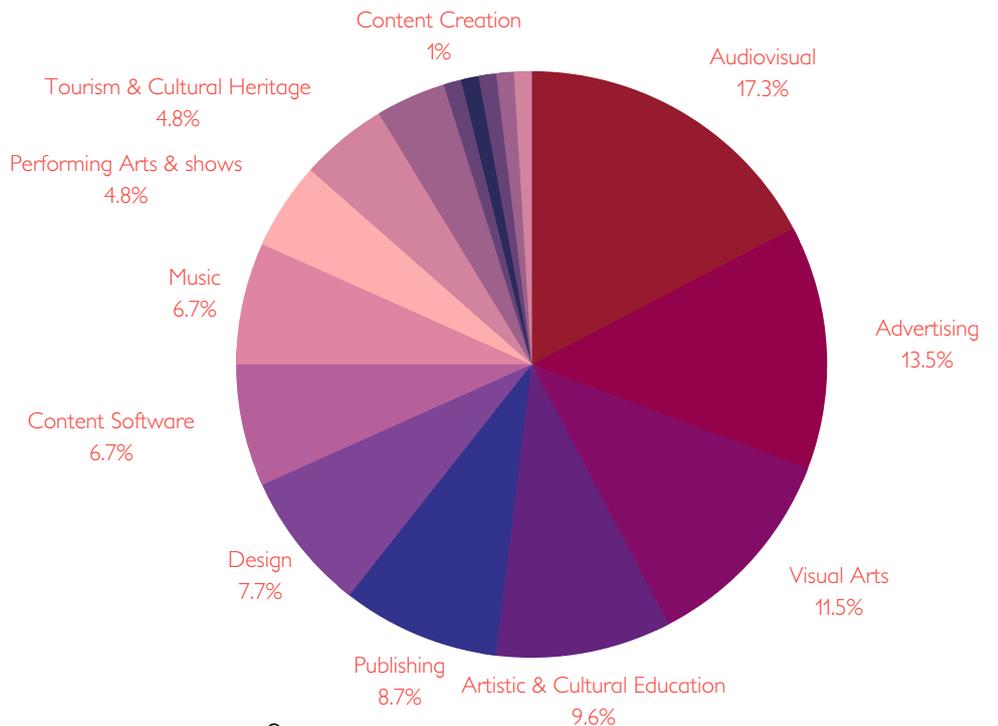


Grant Impact

WINNERS BY GENDER



WINNERS BY INDUSTRY





Alexis Clarke

Everything Bahamian



Alexis J. Clarke is a Bahamian creative with a love for Bahamian history , the arts and island hopping!

Her work within her platform Everything Bahamian focuses on Bahamian historical research and educating others on the wonders of The Family Islands within this beautiful archipelago.

Alexis J. Clarke is a graduate of Florida International University with a bachelors in Hospitality Management and Tourism.



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Ashleigh Rolle

Ashleigh Sean Rolle is a Bahamian writer and social commentator that currently resides in Grand Bahama. Since 2011, Ashleigh has volunteered her time and efforts to the international organization Global Dignity, whose mission was in sync with her vision of a school system that was based on the dignity of others.

In 2014, she was appointed as the Bahamas' Country Chair of Global Dignity by His Royal Highness Prince Haakon of Norway. She is also a One Young World Ambassador having acted as a Coordinating Ambassador for Central America and The Caribbean for two consecutive years. Ashleigh is a Global Shaper with the World Economic Forum's community of Global Shapers, her involvement taking the form of former Curator of The Nassau Hub and being one of the youngest Global Shapers to do so. Ashleigh is also the Marketing Manager of the TOCU Agency in Grand Bahama, a boutique agency creating big voices for small businesses.

Further, she was the recipient of The Ministry of Youth's Most Outstanding Youth Award in 2014 and she was also chosen as a Fellow during President Obama's Inaugural Young Leaders of The Americas Initiative in 2016. She has a YouTube channel where she discusses a range of topics and where she recently launched her series 'History They Didn't Teach Us' a series that takes a look at Bahamian History we never learnt in school. As a writer, her work has been featured in HuffPost, MindThis Magazine, Fodor's Travel, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust, SheMedia, CNN and the popular Bahamian site 10th Year Seniors.



History They Didn't Teach Us: ⋮



Contact Information





Ashley Whitney

Three Amigos Media



Creative, vibrant, tenacious – a glimpse into the many layers of videographer and photographer, Ashley Whitney of Three Amigos Media. Before graduating with a Bachelors in Media Journalism from the University of The Bahamas in 2017, Ashley immersed herself into her creative field during her first year. Her work and personality opened many doors and allowed her to work for well known brands and organizations such as Bahari, HG Christie, PAHO, 700 Wines & Spirits and many more. Ashley then went on to becoming a Production Assistant at The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, working on many notable programs such as Shock Treatment, Fabulous Living, Jitney 242 and many others.

In her spare time, she loves creating beauty content for Youtube, spending time with her family and friends and catching up on much needed and well earned rest. She hopes to continue honing her craft and to become a Senior Producer at The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas.



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Brandon Kemp

Tin Ferl



Brandon Kemp is a young Bahamian entrepreneur whose mission is to use small business development as a tool for community growth. After graduating from Queen’s College, Brandon embarked on a journey of four and a half years of volunteering with the Logos Hope ship, primarily as a project manager travelling ahead of the ship to scout for opportunities to partner with local non-profit organizations, coordinate logistics with local authorities, and integrate with the local community. His travels to over 30 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, the Caribbean, and Latin America, gave him the exposure to set the framework for the impact he planned to make back home.

He returned home to pursue his new mission of creating platforms for economic and cultural development. He started the Nassau Night Market, a downtown street festival inspired by Taiwanese night markets with the goal of bringing more Bahamian entrepreneurship to the quiet downtown after hours. Transforming Market Slope into an authentic and unique nightlife experience. Working with this community and seeing their common needs and difficulties in doing business inspired him to join Kendrick Delaney and found Tin Ferl.

Tin Ferl is an incubator for food and beverage businesses most well known for their Pop Up Parks. Over the last three years he has dedicated himself to the Tin Ferl community, driven by a passion to see Bahamians excel and thrive in their entrepreneurial ventures. Tin Ferl has been able to support their community through a pandemic and provide opportunities for growth and new business despite the difficult times. The best is yet to come as they work to establish Pop Up Parks that are world class venues for Bahamian excellence in the culinary and entertainment industry.

Additionally, as an aspiring polyglot, fluent in Spanish, and studying Mandarin, he co-founded Hello Culture, a foreign language learning institution that invests in teaching and bringing together people passionate about foreign languages and cultures in a natural and engaging manner.

He is also studying Economics and Finance at the University of The Bahamas.



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Brittney Ambrister

Bahfari Films



"A determined mind can create endless possibilities" - Brittney Ambrister, 2014

Those who love fantasy tales and Bahamian stories would be great admirers of the work of Brittney Ambrister. After all she is an award winning filmmaker for the documentaries Who Are We? and Rhythms of The Bahamas.

For her education, Brittney studied broadcast video and radio production, creative writing and print design courses at the College of The Bahamas where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Media Journalism. She is currently enrolled at Liverpool John Moore University attaining a Master's Degree in Mass Communications.

Inspired by the folk stories of Ber Bookie and Ber Rabbi and the legendary tales of the Chickcharney, Brittney would go on to write and or produce her own Bahamian short stories or audio drama series such as Brown Skin Gal, Purple Heart and Devil's Deal.

Brittney is more than just a storyteller as she is currently a partner at Bahfari Films producing educational audiovisual products, theatrical releases, quality television content for the entire family for better living and client corporate branding services.

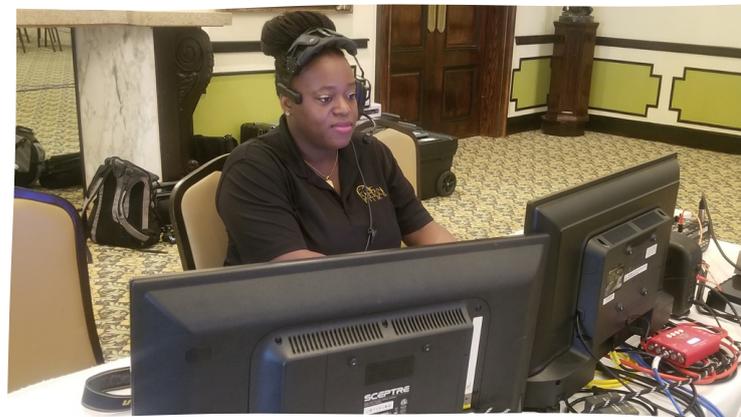
Brittney and her team have provided production services and branding audiovisual products for many of the country's leading brands such as University of The Bahamas, Ministry of Education Bahamas, Bahamas Power & Light Company, Leno Groups of Companies, Master Technician's Limited, The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce/Inter-American Development Bank Energy Project and more.

She has done branding for regional and international companies including Med-El/HearLife Clinic, Whirlpool Corporate and The Global Water Partnership Caribbean.

For the past 8 years, Brittney has volunteered her time and service to The Gift of Hearing Program by providing free video production services to assist with increasing awareness and support. The Gift of Hearing Program has functioned as a Rotary Club of East Nassau sponsored project for the past 14 years. The brainchild of Audiologist Dr. Kim Scriven, The Gift of Hearing Program's core objective is to provide free access to desperately needed Hearing Aids and follow-up care to the families of children faced with hearing impairments but unable to afford the very expensive devices that are critical to addressing their children's hearing challenges.

Brittney is also a member of The Bahamas Screen and Stage Association (BASSA), which is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the advancement of creatives in The Bahamas.

With more than ten years of expertise working in media and production, Brittney believes that a business cannot grow and develop properly without deliberate sound investment in teaching and training.



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Bahfari Films Inc





Christopher Smith

Energy Sounds Inc.



Energy Sounds Inc. was established in January 2017 under the leadership of Christopher Smith. He had spent all his life in the settlement of Victoria Point, Mangrove Cay, Andros. With music being a huge part of his life, he was a part of the Mangrove Cay High School Band, where he was instrumental in writing musical pieces for the band. He possesses a Grade 3 in The Royal School of Music, and Grade A in the BGCSE Music Subject. Additionally, he plays the keyboard, bass guitar, drums, trumpet, lead guitar, and sings.



Upon leaving high school, he went to Nassau and worked along with two bands called Jukebox Live, and Jupiter Band. He still takes frequent trips to Nassau to perform with these bands at Baha Mar, Melia Resort, Atlantis, Marina Village, Lyford Cay and other private functions. Besides band, he also performs at Sandals as a solo artist, where he takes song requests in a sing along style at a piano bar.

Upon moving back to Andros, he desired to help to build his own homeland by doing what he knows best - starting a local rake n' scrape band. The band he started is called The Spice Band, together they have traveled all throughout Andros and also to Cat Island. They have performed on stages such as Mangrove Cay Homecoming Regatta, Seafood Festival, Independence shows, Christmas services, Conch Festival, Mars Bay, Goombay Festivals in Fresh Creek, Mangrove Cay and South Andros, Lowe Sound Homecoming, Mastic Homecoming, Harvest Festival Morgan's Bluff and many other stages and fund raisers.



Seeing the need for equipment, Christopher went ahead and invested more than \$40,000 into a musical sound and stage lighting system in order to accomplish what he needed to be done. Thus the company Energy Sounds Inc. was formed, specializing in audio sound and live performance set up for live bands and regattas, homecomings, festivals, weddings, birthdays, business openings, fund raisers, cookouts and many other functions in Andros from Mars Bay to Nichols Town. Recently, Energy Sounds Inc. found themselves doing video editing and video shooting for local businesses and businesses on other islands including Abaco and Cat Island.

This opportunity was because of people's love for the original song that was released by the Spice Band, "Good Life". Having very little competition, he saw his way to the top. In March 2021, after writing his first cultural song, the band traveled to Nassau to Commonwealth Recording Studios and recorded two songs with Dillon McKenzie as the producer - "Good Life" and "The Coconut Song". The music video for Good Life was released on January 22, 2022.

With much more work to be done, Energy Sounds and The Spice Band continues to pursue their dreams under the leadership of Christopher Smith to be some of the best entertainers in the music industry.

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Colette Parker

Bahamas Dance Theatre

Colette Parker, a native of the island of Grand Bahama, is a three-time international award-winning dance coach, graphic artist, and all around creative. Her career as a creative began from the age of 14 where she began teaching as a dance instructor / choreographer at the Bahamas Dance Theatre, FPO.

Through her tenure at the studio she has won numerous awards including : E. Clement Bethel National Winner for Best Choreography 2018, E. Clement Bethel National Winner Most Outstanding Choreographer 2018, Most Outstanding Dance "Shake The Ground" Dance Competition 2020 and many others. In 2018, Colette founded the international award winning Bahamas Dance Theatre Competition Team. Recently, she founded the H.Y.P.E. (Helping Young Performers Excel) Dance Competition, that focuses on providing opportunities for Bahamian dancers to compete at an international standard.

Aside from being a dance coach, Colette is a self taught graphic artist. Presently, she is the assistant graphic artist for the Bahamas Dance Theatre FPO and does contract graphic work for small businesses, entrepreneurs, and organizations.

Apart from her dance accomplishments, she has obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management and Tourism from the University of The Bahamas, Master of Science in Entertainment Business from Full Sail University, Orlando Fl. and Accounts Certification from Galilee College. Colette is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and the current treasurer of the Pi Upsilon Omega Chapter.



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Denise Poitier

Caribay Hospitality Group



Excited about the World of Hospitality, Denise studied Culinary Arts and Food Service Management at Johnson & Wales University where she graduated Summa Cum Laude and also received The Hospitality Academic Excellence Award from the Florida Restaurant Association in 2004. Denise then went on to receive her Master of Science Degree in Hospitality Management from Florida International University and also obtained certifications in Culinary Arts from The Ritz Carlton, Restaurant Management from Darden Restaurants and Wedding Planning from the Wedding Planner Institute of Canada.

Denise has held management positions in both hotels and restaurants in her hometown of Nassau, Bahamas and the United States. This includes Catering Sales Manager at Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort, and Restaurant Manager at Red Lobster Hollywood, Florida and Blue Door at The Delano Miami Beach, Florida, and General Manager of the Mahogany Grille, Miami Gardens, Florida.

In Denise's quest of further establishing herself as an International Hospitality Consultant, Denise has traveled to China and Rwanda providing recommendations to hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions. This led to Denise establishing her own company The Hospitality Guru International, providing consultation and training services to small businesses in the hospitality and tourism sector. She also lectured at an all-girls college in Rwanda, Akilah Institute for Women, where she served as the Hospitality and Entrepreneurship Instructor. Over 100 of her students gained employment at the Marriott in Dubai after graduation. On Denise's return to The Bahamas, she and her husband started Gourmet Lunch Box and Caribay Cuisine which has been successfully in operation for over 7 years. Denise's passion is to help others and has several other non-hospitality business endeavors that allows her to do that while rearing her 4 daughters; Zaire, Zeden, Zion and Zhenie. She has proven time and time again that she can do all things through Christ who strengthens her.



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Denzel Lightbourne

Denzel Lightbourne also known as "Lightburnz" is a Bahamian born contemporary painter who lives and works in Freeport, Grand Bahama. At a very early age, he started off drawing his favorite cartoons that were displayed on his television, then, that would later grow into a love of the arts. Anything involving art, Lightburnz has probably dubbed or mastered the skill, but his most important skill to him is his painting.

His colorful and expressive paintings pay homage to his country. His distinctive personal style, whether it's digital or traditional, emanates joy and peace and expresses the vibrant spirit and atmosphere of Caribbean culture.

His work is inspired mostly by the things his people in The Bahamas experience. He captures the livelihood of a Caribbean native in a comedic and lighthearted way with contrasting and harmonious colors and bold, exaggerated and psychedelic compositions.

The self taught artist has been shown in exhibitions in The Bahamas and the U.S., including "Stranded" his first solo exhibition, and shows in Philadelphia, PA and Columbus, OH. He's had success with digital art and NFTs, just early last year he sold a number of NFTs making him the first artist from The Bahamas to list and sell an NFT.



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 Art By Denzel Lightbourne



Dion Cunningham

Born and raised in Nassau, Bahamas, Dion Cunningham began his musical studies studying piano with Dawn Sands. After high school, Dion attended Macalester College (St. Paul, MN) where he received both Biology and Music degrees studying piano with Don Betts. In 2013, Dion graduated from the prestigious Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University with a Master of Music in Piano studying with Marian Hahn. For his outstanding musical achievement, he was awarded the Frances W. Wentz Turner Memorial Prize. In 2019, Dion graduated with the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from The University of Maryland, studying with Rita Sloan and Cleveland Page. Dion is currently in his second year on faculty at the University of The Bahamas with appointments in the School of Communication's Music Department and the School of Education.

In 2015, Dion was recognized internationally when was awarded 2nd prize in the American Protege International Piano and Strings competition as well as 3rd prize in the American Prize Solo Piano competition. As a result of his success, he made his debut in Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall in November of that year. In 2016, Dion debuted his annual edutainment outreach recital series, "Adventures In the Arts," which has presented to over 1000 students in The Bahamas and United States to date – the most recent productions being in March of 2022. Other notable engagements include collaborations with Nassau Music Society's guest artists Dr. Nicole Jordan and Dr. Josh Ganger as well a residency at Macalester College (St. Paul, MN) where he gave recital and concerto performances.

Dion's experience as an educator is also significant. He obtained his Dip. Ed. from the University of The Bahamas and an M.M. Ed from Vandercook College (Chicago, IL), and has been employed as a high school music teacher for 5 years. Service activities remain close to Dion's heart as he has personally benefited from such programs. His academic pursuits have given him the opportunity to work alongside musicians of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra in the OrchKids program and the East Lake Expression Engine (Chattanooga, TN), where they provided music instruction for inner city elementary and middle school students. In partnership with the Bel Canto Singers (Nassau, Bahamas), Dion has had the opportunity to bring colleagues from the Peabody Conservatory and the University of Maryland to The Bahamas to do benefit concerts and workshops with high school and college students for the past 5 years.

It is Dion's hope to use his career as a performer and educator to inspire those from non-traditional backgrounds to pursue careers in music. He believes that music has immense power to bring about the positive change we need in our communities by promoting mutual understanding of the things that connect us as human beings.



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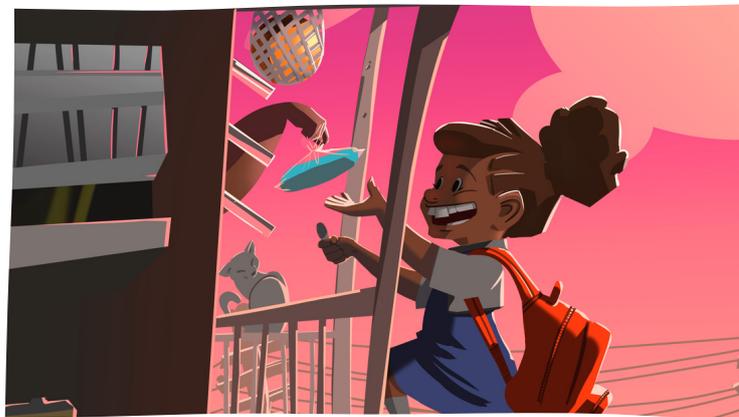
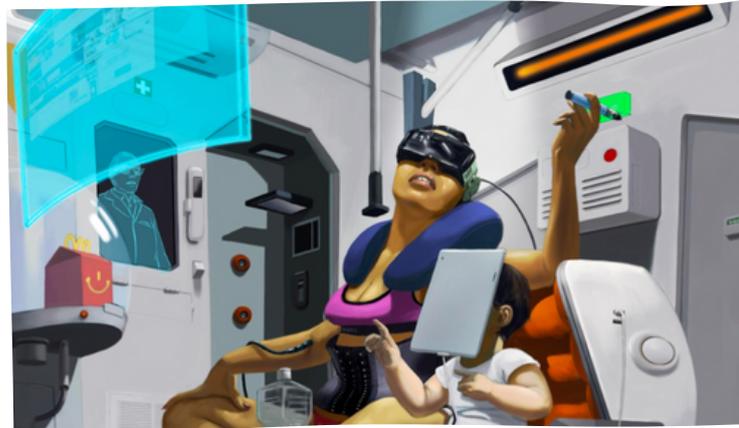
Durrelle Williams

Durrelle Williams Art

Born on New Providence, an island in the sun, Durrelle Williams has been an artist as far back as he can remember. He was an imaginative young boy who would use sticks to carve masterpieces in the beach sand. This natural inclination led him to summer art camps which exposed him to possibilities. That stick evolved into graphite pencils, charcoal, paintbrushes, and even tattoo needles because Durrelle was driven to create.

That drive led him to The Academy of Art, San Francisco where he earned a Bachelors of Fine Art degree. He worked as an illustrator, an animator, a painter, a tattoo artist, and even dabbled in fashion design. His projects included storyboards, comics, character design, and painting with oil, watercolor, and digital media. After almost ten years of living in the United States, Durrelle has returned home to The Bahamas.

His first solo show was in May 2017 and was themed The Bahamas: Forgotten History. Durrelle is currently a full-time artist with a focus on creating fine art and digital pieces inspired by Bahamian culture.



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Farreno Ferguson

F.DoT Photography



For the past 18+ years Farreno Ferguson has been working as a professional photographer, film maker, marketing executive and all around creative based in The Bahamas but with a global reach.

He has challenged himself to create not only his own brands but assist in helping others bring their brand and products to life. His mission in life is to see the dreams and ideas of Bahamians come to life in a way that the world will have to take notice of. The talent in our country is great and from day one he has had a passion for exposing persons to the greatness that is the people of The Bahamas, whether it be in the arts, music or technology.

Over the years, he has pushed his own physical and mental limits to create and assist in creating some of the magic that emanates from this great country, and he has no doubt that he will continue to do this until the day he dies.



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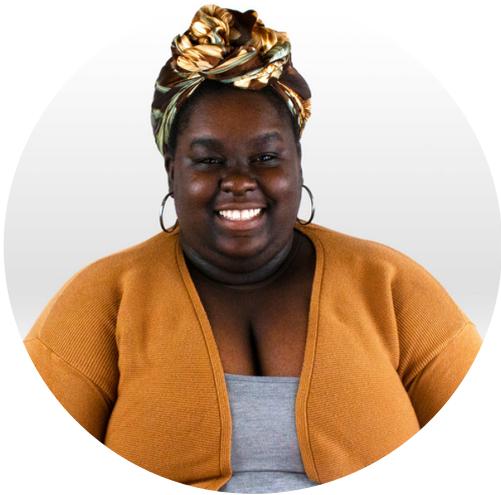
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Felicia Woodside

Mangra Studios

Felicia Woodside is the CEO of Mangra Studios, one of The Bahamas' leading marketing and media production companies. With her fiancé Kenneth Frazier, she also owns a creative print media company, Printable, and a tech company, AlliGo.

In April 2019, she took a leap of faith and quit her well-paying job at an American firm to start her own marketing and video production company. She worked extremely hard to establish herself as a talented and skillful creative. Within three years, she retained notable local & international clients such as BRON, the Office of the Prime Minister, Subway, and Disney.

Entrepreneurship was an inevitable life path for Felicia. Born into a legacy of successful women, hard work was no stranger to her. At the age of 14, she ran her own babysitting business. At 16 she worked part-time as a party hostess at Burger King, a pump attendant at FOCAL Gas Station during her summer breaks, and freelanced as a graphic designer. She set her goal to attend college in Nassau very early in life leaving her family's home in Grand Bahama at the age of 19 years old. As a result, she supported herself financially and struggled to make ends meet for many years until she was able to attain her AA in Law and Criminal Justice degree.

Despite not having the means, Felicia had overcome obstacles of extreme poverty and lack when she realized that her gifts made room for her. She's an accomplished playwright, filmmaker, web developer, and social media marketing guru. A Creative at heart.

Today, Felicia is a proud female STEM entrepreneur. Her company, Mangra Studios (and sister companies), provide services such as web development, app development, NFC tech services, eCommerce tech solutions, marketing, and videography to medium and large corporations. She manages a strong team of 9 people with various outstanding creative skills and capabilities.

With the help of her team, she launched an entertainment video platform via Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube called MangraTV. It showcases Bahamian culture and creativity through video production. Since February 2022, Both Mangra Studios and MangraTV's social content has reached over 414.4k people and their videos have been watched over 279.7k times.

Additionally, in February 2022, Felicia launched a small business initiative called Better at Business, where she invited established and successful business professionals to be a part of a free masterclass webinar offered to entrepreneurs to help them to become better at business. Their first event had over 300+ small businesspersons in attendance.

In 2013, Felicia was a Youth Member of Parliament for Mount Moriah. She was awarded Writer of the Year by the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Culture. Felicia was recognized by the Government and nominated for a National Youth Award for her work with the youth and the creative arts in October 2019.

It's her ultimate dream to become a filmmaker to capture The Bahamas' culture and history on film and a world-renown tech guru.



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Ilka Rodgers

Ilka Rodgers is an experienced video editor and videographer with a demonstrated history of working in broadcast media & film production for over six years. The 28-year-old professional was born and raised in Nassau, New Providence. In 2011, Ilka graduated from Bahamas Academy School of Seventh-day Adventists.

She attended the University of Stirling in Scotland, where she graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with honours in Film, Media and Journalism Studies. She further pursued graduate studies at Birmingham City University in England in 2015, where she obtained a Master of Arts Degree with honours in International Broadcast Journalism. Upon completing her studies, she returned to The Bahamas, where she worked at The Counsellors Ltd. as a public relations writer.

In 2016, she relocated to Freeport, Grand Bahama and worked as a video editor and videographer at Keen I Media Ltd. In 2018, she moved back to New Providence and was hired as a Production Assistant 1 at The Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas. In December 2021, Ilka was promoted to the position of Assistant Production Director.

Her experience includes video coverage of over 10 National Broadcast Productions, sporting events, national ceremonies, cultural parades, documentary filmmaking, electric news gathering and commercial filmmaking. Editing projects include documentaries, docuseries, news packages, short films, commercials, and multicamera editing.

In 2018, she was awarded Runner Up for Best Magazine Programme at The Caribbean Broadcasting Union Awards for her work on the docuseries "Agriculture Now - Women In Farming". She was nominated twice for Best Editing at the 2018 and 2019 Press Club Awards. Her hobbies include swimming, painting and reading.



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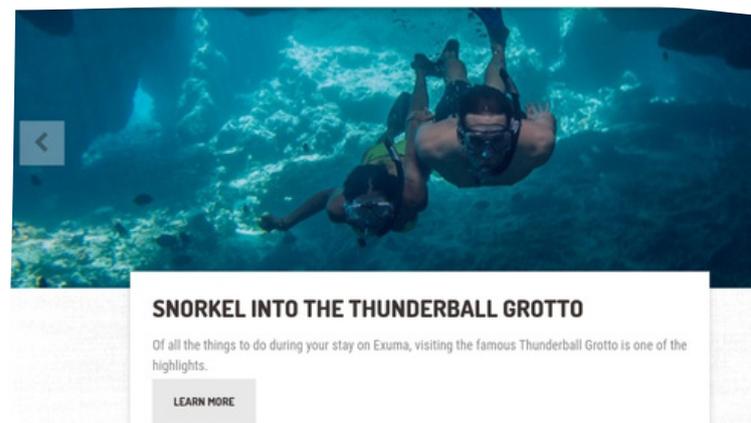
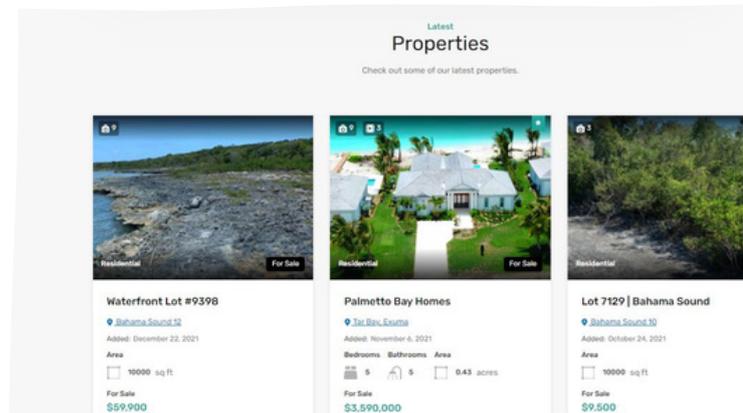
Johnny Gray

Grays Business Solutions



Johnny Carson Gray is the proud founder of Grays Business Solutions which was founded in January 2010. He is a native of The Hermitage, Exuma Bahamas. He has been married to the beautiful Mrs. Ashley Gray since 2011. They are the proud parents of 2 kids - Caley Faith Gray and Kylann Carson Gray.

Johnny is a multi-talented video editor with more than 10 years of experience producing multi-media productions for small businesses, corporations, government agencies, radio stations and local entrepreneurs. With years of experience also in web design and content production from pre- to post- production, including camera and video operation, photo editing and storytelling, Johnny has a proven track record of producing quality work with quick turnaround time. He is also an effective communicator and enjoys public speaking. Johnny Carson Gray also serves as the Campus Pastor at Relevant Kingdom Center, a local church in Exuma, Bahamas where he uses his technical skills to help advance the ministry!



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Kache Knowles

iisabahamianbey



Kaché Knowles is a Bahamian creator that has a love for celebrating, sharing and empowering Bahamian culture, dialect and The Bahamas with the world. She has a Biological Science degree and a Masters in Marketing and Sales, which she initially intended to create an environmental business with. However, after returning to her home on the island of Eleuthera from traveling in South East Asia for several months, the idea for her brand “iisabahamianbey” fell in her lap and she’s been running with it ever since. It started as an educational and empowering platform for Bahamian language and now has turned into a community of people that share in culture, Bahamian dialect, history and empowering The Bahamas. iisabahamianbey is a clothing line that offers Bahamian inspired merchandise and a digital creative space to produce video series that encourage Bahamian dialogue about culture.

iisabahamianbey is used as a means to uplifting, empowering and highlighting the 700 islands and cays in The Bahamas.



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Kenrick Wells Melodius Sounds



Mr. Kenrick Wells is a notable Music Instructor with more than 20 years of excellent service. With an innate passion for music/production, Mr. Wells has developed a skillful hand in playing several musical instruments. Moreover, He has a special interest in playing string instruments more specifically with piano and rhythm/ bass guitars.

Mr. Wells' love for Music has allowed him to develop strengths that would be able to assist him all aspects of music. Not only is he knowledgeable, but he is also a continuous learner, ambitious, a team player, organized and a critical thinker.

More importantly, Mr. Wells is also a certified and trained professional, with several certifications from Trinity Guildhall College of London in solo piano and music theory. Mr. Wells is currently working on a Bachelors of Arts in Music Production at Berklee College of Music.



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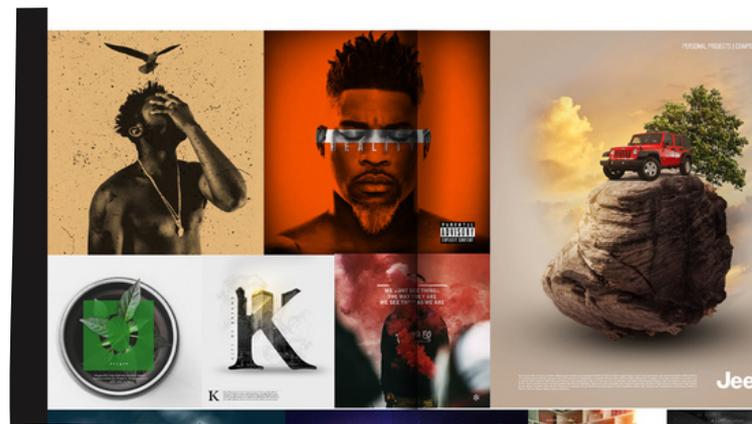


Kevin Fox
The Clever Fox



The Clever Fox is a digital creative and branding agency located in The Bahamas. We specialize in creating strong brands through the use of critical design thinking and integrated strategies. Our goal is to establish emotional connections and build trust between a business' brand and their ideal consumers, creating exponential value to those organizations internally and externally.

Ran by founder and creative director Kevin Fox, who brings over 10 + years of industry experience and an inherent passion for great design. We are always inspired by an organization's unique attributes and use those core values to craft brand identities and business tools that communicate in the most impactful way.



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Ky'Shaun Miller

MK Productions



Ky`Shaun Miller was born 1.45pm August 7th, 1996, raised in New Providence, The Bahamas by his parents Frezell Rigby and Jestina Miller-Rigby alongside his older brother and mentor D'Angelo Charlton.

He completed high school at Temple Christian High School and graduated from COB/UB with an Associates in Law and Criminal Justice (Credit) and a Bachelors in Psychology (Credit), His interests include fashion, psychology/mental health, photography, and leadership development. He is the CEO and Creative Director of MK Productions which is a talent agency and marketing firm, where he serves alongside Travis Bastian, Art Director and other team members to deliver stunning in studio and on location photoshoots and video productions with the object in mind to "Create experiences that they won't soon forget."



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Lisa Davis

Total Media Bahamas



Lisa Davis is a multi-skilled video, audio and photography professional with decades of experience in all three fields.

She is a graduate of the Freeport Anglican High School, after which she attended Valdosta State University in Georgia, where she studied computer engineering. She also attended FMC in Orlando, where she studied visual and video production, obtaining her Apple Certification.

Her audio training came at MIW Chicago, where she studied audio engineering, obtaining her multi-skilled engineering certification. She is proud of her accomplishment of becoming an Apple certified editor and fully licensed audio, studio and multi-skilled audio engineer.

Lisa began her media career as a music artist. That passion quickly became a profession. Her first studio job was at Mackey Media and at 100 Jamz Radio Station as a production assistant. She also held positions at Cool 96 radio in production and programming.

After a few years of applying all of her knowledge in audio and video to advance and increase the revenues of the companies where she was employed, Lisa opened her own production studio – Ultimate Dub Lab – where she created audio and video projects for television, social media and for marketing agencies. Later on, as her services expanded, Lisa's Ultimate Dub Lab Studio evolved into Total Media Bahamas, a more advanced and comprehensive media studio.

Total Media Bahamas is famous locally for its production of captivating and flashy video promos, its editing style, and production and event photos. Lisa has also helped a number of local musical artists put together music CDs.

In 2016, Lisa was offered a job at the Government's main information bureaus, Bahamas Information Services as a media specialist. Lisa is convinced that her skills, training and certifications have helped to pave the way for her to have the privilege of providing media for Bahamian government officials on a regular basis.



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 Total Media Bahamas

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Miquelle Swann-Nairn

Swann Talent



Born July 29th, 1986 Miquelle Swann was born in Nassau, Bahamas to parents Michael and Lillisbelle Swann. From the tender age of 3, Miquelle demonstrated musical talent, performing her first vocal solo on stage at that age. From that point on, her parents endeavored to invest in and perfect her God-given musical gifts.

She attended classical piano lessons under the tutelage of the renown pianist, Mrs. Dawn Sands from age 5 – 17. Miquelle also attended Allegro Studios from the age of 12 – 17, receiving classical vocal training from Bahamian Tenor, Antoine Wallace. Through guidance by the late Kayla Lockhart-Edwards, Miquelle was able to develop her performance skills and performed for many political and national events between the ages of 7 – 17, including a solo performance for the Queen Elizabeth II during her last visit to The Bahamas in 1994.

At age 17, Miquelle graduated from St Augustine's College in June of 2004 and in August of the same year, left The Bahamas to pursue a degree in Performing Arts. She was accepted into The Savannah College of Art & Design SCAD – The University for Creative Careers, in Savannah, Georgia. As a student majoring in Media & Performing Arts, Miquelle auditioned and successfully attained a prestigious scholarship. She was awarded by the university, the privilege of being a member of the elite Performance Ensemble. While in Georgia, Miquelle also worked via contract for various Entertainment Companies as a singer / dancer, and taught music and dance in Middle Schools in Chatham County. In June of 2009, after graduating with a B.A. in Media in Performing Arts, Miquelle returned to The Bahamas to give back what she had learnt abroad.

Coming from a very strong Christian background and upbringing, Miquelle believed in giving talents back in service to God. She became very active in the music and dance ministries of her church, God's Righteous Kingdom Ministries International which she still plays an active role in today as Minister of Music. From 2010 – 2014 She also began teaching voice, dance, and musical theater at various schools including Tambeary School, New Providence Community Center, See-Saw Christian Academy, Yodephy Dance & Modelling Academy and The Bahamas National Dance School. In 2014, Miquelle was hired by The Melia Nassau Beach All-Inclusive Resort as a Guest Experience Manager focused on the areas of all-age entertainment, fitness, and overall ambiance of the property. She worked in this capacity from 2014 until the resort's closure in 2021.

Since the pandemic, Miquelle has committed full-time to developing her brand, Swann Talent & Entertainment Production Company. This is a company that specializes in creating theatrical wow moments, live shows, vocal coaching, and prep for auditions (college or job) in creative performance fields. Swann Talent also has been working along with the charitable organization, The Blue Rose Foundation, since 2018, providing them with stellar live shows for their fundraiser events for children battling with Leukemia and other cancers. Between 2015 – 2022 Swann Talent has created entertainment for various entities such as The Red Cross Ball, Junkanoo Summer Festival, official ceremonies for Crystal Cruises, Royal Caribbean, and Carnival Cruise line, Toyota Corporate Groups, and The Bahamas Ministry of Culture, just to name a few.

Miquelle is a lover of music and the arts and will always be working in this field for as long as she is able, as her dear Pastor taught her "Your success lies where your passion is." God has given each of us a passion, and therein lies your success.

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Neville Smith

Settlers Cove **SETTLERS COVE**
PRODUCTIONS

Neville LA Smith is a trained cinematographer for Settlers Cove Productions. Neville's passions are producing documentaries, filmmaking, and electronic news gathering. His passion project is Those From Shallow Waters, a short doc series shooting interesting Bahamians and residents. A few of his clients are ABC News, ESPN, Good Morning America, CBS and Channel 9 Australia, to name a few.



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Reagan Kemp

SixSeven



Reagan Kemp is a multi-disciplinary visual artist living and working in Nassau, Bahamas. She is passionate about art in every form- primarily photography, film and fine art- and uses her interests and talents in those fields to professionally document and aid other creatives in their respective fields. Intrigued by an introduction to Art History at the University of the Bahamas, Reagan found a passion for process- in her own work and with other artists.

Her deep appreciation for the arts led her to become the co-founder of SixSeven Multimedia, a company that provides photography, videography and graphic design services to artists of any discipline or those wanting to add a creative touch to their projects. Driven by a will to play a part in making art both more accessible and appealing to the general community, and see an industry formed in areas where locally talent abounds but opportunity lacks, since 2018 Reagan has been a photographer and videographer artistically directing short films, photoshoots, music videos and the like, as well as using the small but growing platform that she and her team have created to interview and work with local talent in order to contribute to the community building ideals she reveres.

Currently, Reagan balances her career behind the camera with a developing studio practice centered around experimenting with mediums and with surrealistic imagery to convey the common human emotional experience- she has a firm belief that art exists to connect and communicate throughout the wider community. Her ultimate goal is to live a life exalting the work of other creatives through creative camerawork while successfully exhibiting her own concepts and ideas in gallery spaces.



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Reuno Pratt

Padishah Studios  PADISHAHSTUDIOS

Mr. Pratt is a high-end graphic and website designer with 10+ years of experience at Padishah Studios, which is Persian for “Master King”. He has a background in Architecture and Graphic Design, and is proficient in Photoshop Illustrator, InDesign, Premier Pro, After Effects, WordPress and Elementor. His clientele portfolio is diverse, with projects within both public and private sectors.



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Shanaye Smith

UNSEEN MEDIA UNSEEN MEDIA

Shanaye Smith is an entrepreneur, marketing and communications professional, award winning filmmaker and producer and One Young World Ambassador with over 6 years of experience in the field.

In May 2018, Shanaye graduated from the University of The Bahamas at the top of her class, collecting the Journalism Achievement award and a Bachelor of Arts in Media Journalism. She is the co-founder and co-owner of media company Unseen Media and has assisted in the communications of various brands throughout the Bahamas such as Sebastian Bastian, On The Record television show and ILTV Studios.

Most recently she has lent her talents to the communications team of the Office of the Prime Minister and she is currently pursuing her masters in International Marketing at the University of Sussex, one of the top 10 business schools in the United Kingdom.



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Travis Miller

Travis Miller Web [travismillerweb](http://travismillerweb.com)

Shift The Culture 

Arrowlynk Ventures 

Travis Miller is a web designer, developer and strategy consultant. He works with startups, agencies & entrepreneurs to build strong brands and create meaningful experiences on the web. He is driven by startups, community, and entrepreneurship both local and abroad. His core projects and initiatives over the years include Shift The Culture, Arrowlynk Ventures, Starter Island and Venture Coworking.

Travis was born and raised in Nassau, Bahamas and completed his degree in Management Information Systems at the University of Tampa John H. Sykes College of Business. With over 10 years of experience, Travis has been involved in numerous profit and non-profit projects and initiatives, competed in and facilitated business development competitions and has spoken at events and panels on creative technologies and entrepreneurship. He is dedicated to developing his community and to the education and mentoring of young creatives and technologists for the future.



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