

Panel Bios

Dr. Valerie Williams-Sanchez Bio: Dr. Valerie Williams-Sanchez holds a Ph.D. in literacy from St. John's University, Columbia grad and certified project manager working in communications at Columbia University Medical Center. A former journalist turned communications and marketing professional, she is a self-published author of children's books and budding reading researcher originally from Southern California. Valerie speaks Spanish, and looks to impact literacy for multicultural and children of color.

Booklyn Demme Bio: Brooklyn Deme is a community storyteller who learned working in the field with his father and mentor, the late great Jonathan Demme. Combining his love of film with his experience in executive non-profit leadership, Brooklyn founded Truth 2 Power in 2021 to keep telling the stories which strengthen our communities. Through mentorship with Lenape youth, educational fundraising with the Nación Achuar de Ecuador, and a feature-length documentary film commissioned by the Northern Cheyenne Elder's Council, Brooklyn is inspired to help honor Indigenous futures with film. Brooklyn is happy and thankful for the chance to carry on his family's tradition of using stories to positively impact the world around us.

Anneliese Bruner Bio: Anneliese M. Bruner, the great-granddaughter of Mary E. Jones Parrish, is a writer and editor who has worked in the business, media, and nonprofit sectors. She attended Bryn Mawr College. Her writing has appeared in *Honey Magazine*, *Savoy Magazine*, *USAID FrontLines*, and *The Lily (Washington Post)*. She was born and raised in San Francisco, with stints in Oakland, and still considers California her home. She has lived in Washington, D.C., for more than thirty-five years.

Dr. Shelley Martin-Young Bio: As a 30-year veteran teacher, Dr. Martin-Young spent her time teaching fourth and fifth grades. After receiving her Master's in Library media, she spent the last seven of her k-12 years in an elementary library. In 2015 she decided to pursue her PhD and finished her PhD program in December of 2021. Dr. Martin-Young received her Doctorate in Language, Literacy, and Culture and her dissertation was focused on the hidden history of the Tulsa Race Massacre. Her areas of research interests include hidden history, using children's and young adult literature to disrupt the textbook, and the importance of learning about your place. She travels around the country presenting at conferences and has also presented a few times internationally.

Dan White Bio

Dan is an artist who lives in Nyack with his wife Dena and his son Ben. He paints and draws and keeps terrible hours. NEVER call after 11 pm; Texting OK. After graduating from the North Rockland High school in 1988, he received an A.A from Rockland Community College and a B.A. in Creative Writing from SUNY/New Paltz in 1995.