

# DIGITAL DIASPORA FAMILY REUNION

## *One World – One Family*

### What Purpose is the Family Album in a Digital Age?

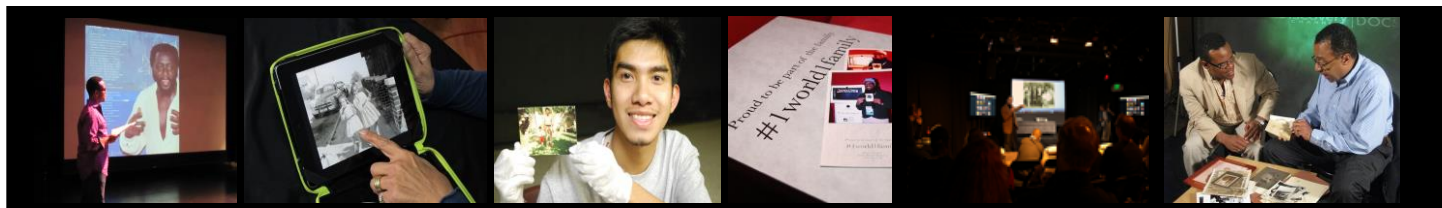
The award-winning documentary film, [Through A Lens Darkly: Black Photographers and the Emergence of a People](http://1world1family.me/through-a-lens-darkly/), (<http://1world1family.me/through-a-lens-darkly/>) directed by Thomas Allen Harris and produced with Dr. Deborah Willis, looks at contemporary artists probing the recesses of the American family album by interrogating images of stories suppressed, forgotten and lost. It is the first documentary to explore the role of photography in shaping the identity, aspirations and social emergence of African Americans from slavery to the present.

The companion transmedia project, [Digital Diaspora Family Reunion](http://1world1family.me/video) (<http://1world1family.me/video>) and [1World1Family](http://1world1family.me/ddfr-participants/) (<http://1world1family.me/ddfr-participants/>) social media campaign, engages audiences to discover connections between their own family archives and the film's historical narrative, thus creating new communal linkages that underlie our common humanity.

A TYPICAL ROADSHOW – features live interactions with the audience, where people share their stories and

family photographs, on cellphones or as actual photos, projected on a large screen. The atmosphere created, with music and intimate revelations, is that of a sacred space, where strangers are transformed into family. People laugh, cry, hug, make new connections, discover new insights and generally come away with a very deep appreciation for our connections with each other as fellow travelers on the great journey of life. It is as beautiful as it is precious!

DDFR Roadshows are flexible, from a single 90-minute photo-sharing event to a week-long residency, with screenings of *Through A Lens Darkly*, [live community events](http://1world1family.me/ddfr-roadshows/) (<http://1world1family.me/ddfr-roadshows/>), workshops on archival preservation and visual literacy, local artist and photographer talks and local academic panels. The user-generated 1World1Family campaign centrally focused on [online social media](http://1world1family.me/ddfr-instagram/) (<http://1world1family.me/ddfr-instagram/>) enhances and expands the boundaries of the live events to an even larger audience, across time and space, creating an inter-generational, cross-cultural experience.



DDFR participants are encouraged to critically rethink how they read and interpret the welter of images they encounter, while also highlighting the significance of their own family photographs as historical artifacts in the making.

*Through A Lens Darkly*, together with Digital Diaspora:1World1Family, pioneers a new model of filmmaking by merging a robust outreach project with content production, thus reinforcing and reimagining the

documentary as a cross-platform, self-generating transmedia experience.

Over 15 DDFR Roadshows, 6 cities, 750 participants and 8,500 images collected, working with partners, including: AFI/Silver Docs, Bay Area Video Coalition, Brooklyn College, Sandy Ground Historical Society, Bronx Museum of the Arts, Louis Armstrong House Museum, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and National Alliance for Media Arts & Culture.

### TEAM

Thomas Allen Harris – Executive Producer/Director  
Don Perry – Executive Producer/Writer  
Ann Bennett – Producer  
Greg Warren - Producer

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