

Fareed Alston Artist Statement

My name is Fareed Alston and I work as a digital video journalist, documenting American Folk Culture. Video Journalism is an interdisciplinary art form that mixes video, photography and audio to tell a non-fictional story about a person, place, thing or idea. Currently, I focus on contemporary American Civil History.

As a teenager, I began producing short documentaries with family and friends. In 2007, I began studying Cinema and Photography; and Black Studies at Southern Illinois University Carbondale; earning a Bachelors degree of science and arts in 2013.

American Folk Culture and oral traditions inspire me. Since graduating, I continue to document folk literature. I recognize folk literature to be a true reflection of American history. Because American folk tradition is passed down to generations by spoken language, it runs risk of being lost or manipulated. Digital Video Journalism provides a concrete medium to preserve peoples' expressions about the dynamics of American culture.

Think of the film series *Eyes on the Prize* (Produced by Henry Hampton, 1987), which documents American Civil Rights between the years of 1954-1985. Would we recognize the struggles before us, if the film series did not exist?

Using unbiased video journalism, my aim is to capture topics on American Folk Culture. Video Journalism provides a comprehensive medium to connect people, places, things and ideas. Video Documentaries can secure historical preservation.