OFFICIAL PRESS KIT

THE REDLINE

A NOIR ARTHOUSE, LLC DOCUMENTARY

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OFFICIAL SELECTION · 30TH ANNIVERSARY
URBANWORLD FILM FESTIVAL
2026

OFFICIAL SELECTION
NEWFILMMAKERS LOS ANGELES
2026

OFFICIAL SELECTION
CHARLOTTE BLACK FILM FESTIVAL
2026

OFFICIAL SELECTION
TOUCHSTONE INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL
2026

OFFICIAL SELECTION
GREENWOOD FILM FESTIVAL
2026

SEMI-FINALIST
DUMBO FILM FESTIVAL
2026

SEMI-FINALIST · BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT
INDEPENDENT SHORTS AWARDS
2026

WINNER, INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY SHORT
WILLIFEST
2026

WINNER
WILLiFEST
INT'L DOCUMENTARY SHORT COMPETITION
2026

Official Selection, 30th Urbanworld Film Festival 2026. Read the announcement

Winner, WILLiFEST 2026 International Documentary Short. Read the press release

History is not behind us.

It still shapes the present.

DOCUMENTARY · APPROX. RUNTIME 20 MIN · USA · ENGLISH · 2026

A NOIR ARTHOUSE, LLC PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BLACK ART & CULTURE PROJECT INITIATIVE · EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: IAN SWAIN

SECTION 01

LOGLINE

Through the work of a teacher-artist who paints her students with a recurring red line in every portrait, Redline explores how history, racial boundaries and generational damage continue to shape the present — and how art preserves what society tries to forget.

SECTION 02

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Redline is an inspiring and deeply reflective documentary centered on a teacher-artist whose artwork explores the lasting impact of redlining and generational damage. Through portraits of her students, each marked by a red line, the film reveals how history continues to shape identity, place and possibility. Blending art, education and lived truth, Redline reminds us that history is not past — it is present, and art helps preserve its meaning.

SECTION 03

PRESS BLURB

Redline is a visually intimate documentary that confronts the enduring impact of redlining through the eyes of the next generation. With artistry and emotional clarity, director Terry Dillard Jr. and teacher-artist Blu Murphy weave together education, history and portraiture to create a powerful meditation on identity, belonging and inherited systems. A cinematic call to witness, Redline is both a cultural archive and a conversation starter for our time.

> “
>
> *History is not behind us. It still shapes the present.*

SECTION 04

LONG SYNOPSIS

Redline is a visually intimate and historically resonant documentary that examines the enduring legacy of redlining through the lens of art, education and memory. At the center of the film is a teacher and artist whose work transforms the faces of her students into living archives — portraits that are beautiful, honest and marked by a single recurring symbol: a red line.

That red line is more than a visual motif. It is a historical wound. A border. A warning. A record of the invisible systems that have shaped generations of Black life, opportunity, neighborhood and self-perception.

Through the teacher's reflections, her creative process and the presence of the children she paints, Redline asks urgent questions about what we inherit, what we normalize and what we choose to remember. The film reveals that redlining is not just a policy of the past — it is a living force whose effects continue to shape communities, schools, families and futures.

At once inspiring, historical and deeply human, Redline is a meditation on the power of art to hold truth, preserve memory and make visible the stories too often ignored. It is a reminder that history is not over, and that through art, we can still confront it.

"I AM ART."

SECTION 05

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER STATEMENT

BY IAN SWAIN

I have collected Blu Murphy's work for years. Long before there was a film, there was a portrait: a child, painted with care, with a red line across the eyes. That line is not decoration. It is a record of a decision made on paper, decades before that child was born, about what their neighborhood and their schooling were worth.

Redline exists because those stories deserve to be told with the resources, care and reach that legacy demands. Too often our history is told cheaply, or told about us rather than by us. This film is owned by Noir Arthouse, LLC, and presented through The Black Art & Culture Project initiative, so that the people inside the story keep authorship of it.

I am committed to educating the next generation and to building lasting wealth in the Black community. I am a husband and a father. This work is for the children watching.



IAN SWAIN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

> *"Our stories deserve to be told with the resources, care and reach that legacy demands."*

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BIO — IAN SWAIN

ROLE	Executive Producer, Redline
OWNERSHIP	Owned by Noir Arthouse, LLC, and presented through The Black Art & Culture Project initiative.
ALSO FOUNDED	Swain's, a technology-enabled fine art exchange

ALSO FOUNDED	Noir Arthouse, film development and art publishing
PREVIOUSLY	Executive Producer, A Time to Yell: More Than a Statue, winner of Webby, Anthem, Emmy and Bronze Lens awards — the fight to remove the Confederate statue, led by Dr. Wes Bellamy
BASED	Born and raised in Washington, D.C.; based in Maryland
CONTACT	ian@theblackartproject.com

Ian Swain is an entrepreneur, art collector and the executive producer of Redline. He has built and operates multiple businesses across industries, including noted AI platforms that enhance user experience and operational efficiency.

Redline is owned by Noir Arthouse, LLC, and presented through The Black Art & Culture Project initiative. He is the founder of The Black Art & Culture Project initiative; of Swain's (swainsauction.com), a technology-enabled fine art exchange; and of Noir Arthouse, a film development and art publishing company. He previously served as one of several executive producers on A Time to Yell: More Than a Statue, winner of Webby, Anthem, Emmy and Bronze Lens awards, about the fight to remove the Confederate statue, led by Dr. Wes Bellamy.

A longtime collector of Blu Murphy's work, Ian's connection to the Redline series was the inspiration that brought this documentary into being. His work as a producer is grounded in a single conviction: that our stories, the weight of what our communities have endured, and the brilliance, laughter and resilience that define us anyway, deserve to be told with the resources, care and reach that legacy demands.

Ian is committed to educating the next generation and building lasting wealth creation in the Black community. He is a husband and a father, and his work is for the children watching.

SECTION 06

DIRECTOR STATEMENT

BY TERRY DILLARD JR.

Redline was born from a truth I've felt for a long time: history doesn't simply disappear because time has passed. It lives in our neighborhoods, in our schools, in our bodies, and in the quiet ways systems continue to shape how people move through the world.

What drew me to this story was the power of one teacher using art to make that truth visible. Her portraits are not just beautiful images — they are acts of witnessing. Each student she paints carries a presence, a future and a history, and the red line that appears in every piece serves as both a symbol and a confrontation.

As a filmmaker, I wanted Redline to feel intimate, reflective and grounded in care. I hope audiences leave both moved and challenged: moved by the humanity and brilliance of the children and the artist at its center, challenged to recognize that systems like redlining are not relics of the past, but part of the architecture of the present.



TERRY DILLARD JR.

DIRECTOR · FILMMAKER · STORYTELLER

> *"This film is not about history as an abstract concept. It is about history as something living."*

Most of all, I hope Redline reminds people that art is not decoration. Art is preservation. Art is evidence. Art is a way of telling the truth when the world would rather look away.

TERRY DILLARD JR.

DIRECTOR · FILMMAKER · STORYTELLER

DIRECTOR BIO — TERRY DILLARD JR.

ROLE	Director · Cinematographer · Producer
COMPANY	Founder, Authentic Ave Media
EXPERIENCE	15+ years in film and entertainment
CREDITS	Executive Producer, It Takes a Village
HONORS	Winner, International Documentary Short (WILLiFEST 2026); Official Selection, Greenwood Film Festival 2026; Semi-Finalist, Best Documentary Short, Independent Shorts Awards 2026
BASED	Washington, D.C.

Terry Dillard Jr. is a Director, Cinematographer, Producer and founder of Authentic Ave Media, a film production company, with more than 15 years of experience in the film and entertainment industry.

With a background in television and film, Terry brings a dynamic visual perspective to storytelling across documentaries, short films, feature films, commercials, and social media campaigns.

Terry served as Executive Producer of the documentary It Takes a Village and continues to create compelling, authentic stories that connect with audiences and represent an authentic perspective.

Through Authentic Ave, Terry develops and produces projects across film, television, commercial, and digital platforms.

See Terry's body of work →

SECTION 07

ARTIST STATEMENT

BY BLU MURPHY

I see Black people as art. I am a mixed media artist, educator and photographer based in Washington, D.C. I combine striking black-and-white photography with acrylic paint or fabric, and upcycled frames as canvases. My artwork not only features my students — it celebrates and honors them as living pieces of art. My art is about them; the photography is them. The subject matter is always them.

I like to connect them, placing them in Black history. There's something beautiful about connecting the past and the present and teaching them visually in that way. I use a collage method to connect my students to figures and happenings of the past, to teach Black history while also commenting on the current state of the community. This infusion of past and present, rooted in the culture, sheds light on stories that are often forgotten, hidden or untold.

My work is a tribute to the Black community — its essence, beauty, magic and resilience. I hope it inspires and informs viewers, while also speaking to and for the youth and educators, especially those working in Title I schools.

The Redline series asks the viewer to connect to these pieces in a tangible way. The materials are limitless — leather, collage, textiles, fabrics and photography — textures that represent my subjects as individuals and as urban culture. The red line of quilted fabric that covers their eyes is a visual representation of the blinding educational trap redlining creates in low-income Black communities.

The upcycled, hand-painted or fabric-wrapped frame speaks directly to the emotional trauma of disenfranchised people who so often feel discarded, unnoticed and deemed invaluable. My art showcases these individuals — their stories and experiences — as the masterpieces they truly are.

None of this leaves the classroom alone. My thanks to Terry Dillard Jr. and the crew who filmed with such care, to the staff and families of Perry Street Prep, to my students above all — and to executive producer Ian Swain, who believed in this work and made it possible to put it in front of the world.

BLU MURPHY

ARTIST · EDUCATOR · CREATOR OF THE REDLINE SERIES



BLU MURPHY

ARTIST · EDUCATOR · CREATOR OF THE REDLINE SERIES

> *"I paint outside the frame because I don't believe that my people were meant to be inside boxes. Our sauce cannot be contained."*

SECTION 08

CONTEXT & CREDIBILITY

REDLINING & RACIAL HISTORY

The film examines the long shadow of redlining and how historical boundaries continue to shape communities today.

BLACK CHILDHOOD & REPRESENTATION

Centering the humanity, brilliance and complexity of Black youth through authentic, dignified portraiture.

ART AS MEMORY & RESISTANCE

Exploring how art preserves truth, resists erasure and makes the invisible visible.

EDUCATION & IDENTITY

Investigating the role of schools, educators and learning in shaping self-worth and possibility.

INHERITED SYSTEMS & PLACE

Unpacking how systems, policies and geography continue to determine access and opportunity.

CULTURAL MEMORY

Honoring stories, people and places that carry history forward for future generations.

TERRY DILLARD JR.

DIRECTOR · FILMMAKER · STORYTELLER

Terry Dillard Jr. is a Director, Cinematographer, Producer and founder of Authentic Ave Media, a film production company, with more than 15 years of experience in the film and entertainment industry.

NOIR ARTHOUSE, LLC

THE BLACK ART & CULTURE PROJECT INITIATIVE

Owned by Noir Arthouse, LLC, and presented through The Black Art & Culture Project initiative. A culture-centered film development and art publishing effort committed to documentary filmmaking, visual storytelling and educational media. Our mission is simple: tell the truth beautifully, honor the people behind it, and build stories that matter now and for generations to come.

SECTION 09

NEXT STEPS

Join the movement. Help preserve truth.

UNIVERSITIES & EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Engage students and faculty through screenings, workshops and conversation.

COMMUNITY SCREENINGS

Bring Redline to neighborhoods, youth programs and local organizations to spark dialogue and awareness.

FILM FESTIVALS

We are seeking festival partnerships that champion bold storytelling and social impact.

MUSEUMS & CULTURAL SPACES

Partner with museums and galleries to expand the conversation around art, history and representation.

PANELS & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Conversations with filmmakers, educators, historians and community leaders.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborate with mission-aligned organizations to amplify impact and extend reach.

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2026

SEMI-FINALIST · BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT

INDEPENDENT SHORTS AWARDS

2026

WINNER, INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY SHORT

WILLIFEST

2026

22 ADDITIONAL FESTIVALS PENDING.

PRESS COVERAGE

PBS NEWS STUDENT REPORTING LABS · JULY 2026

"You are the masterpiece." How one teacher empowers her students to see themselves as art

www.pbs.org/video/srl-reports-you-are-the-masterpiece-how-one-teacher-empowers-her-students-to-see-themselves-as-art-iqd00s/

PBS NEWSHOUR · NATIONAL BROADCAST · AUG 2026

The Student Reporting Labs story on Blu Murphy and Perry Street Prep, broadcast nationally

www.pbs.org/newshour/show/teacher-empowers-her-students-to-see-themselves-as-art

DISTRICT FRAY · 2022

I Am Art: Artist + Educator Blu Murphy talks teaching philosophy + new exhibit

districtfray.com/articles/blu-murphy/

MD STATE ARTS COUNCIL

Blu Murphy, artist directory

msac.org/directory/artists/blu-murphy

CAST & CREW

CAST

Blu Murphy

SUBJECT · ARTIST · EDUCATOR

Mixed-media artist, photographer and educator based in Washington, D.C., with a BFA in Painting from Morgan State University and 15 years teaching art in Baltimore and D.C. She teaches at Perry Street Preparatory Public Charter School, where her students become the subject of her work. Creator of the Redline series and the I Am Art teaching philosophy at the center of the film.

CREW

Ian Swain

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER · ART COLLECTOR

Entrepreneur, art collector and executive producer of Redline. Redline is owned by Noir Arthouse, LLC, and presented through The Black Art & Culture Project initiative. Founder of The Black Art & Culture Project initiative; of Swain's, a technology-enabled fine art exchange; and of Noir Arthouse, a film development and art publishing company. Previously an executive producer on A Time to Yell: More Than a Statue, winner of Webby, Anthem, Emmy and Bronze Lens awards. A longtime collector of Blu Murphy's work, his connection to the Redline series inspired this documentary.

CREW

Terry Dillard Jr.

DIRECTOR · CINEMATOGRAPHER · PRODUCER

Director, cinematographer and producer with more than 15 years in film and television, and founder of the production company Authentic Ave Media. His work spans documentaries, short and feature films, commercials and social campaigns. Executive Producer of the documentary It Takes a Village; director of I Am Art: The Redline, winner of the WILLiFEST 2026 International Documentary Short.

CREW

David Vanterpool

PRODUCER

Producer, I Am Art: The Redline.

CREW

Christopher Farmer

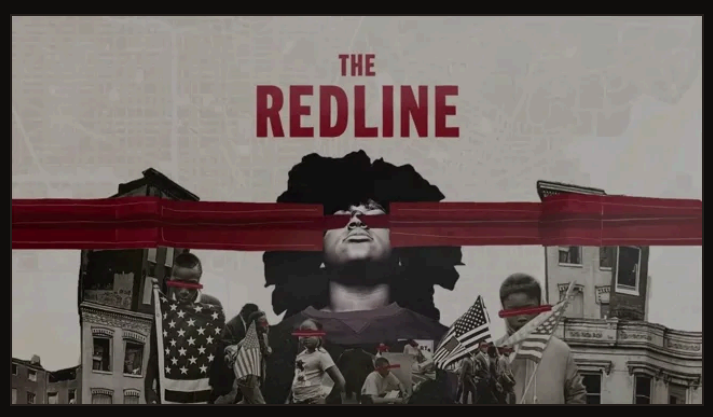
CAMERA OPERATOR

Camera operator, I Am Art: The Redline.

SECTION 10

PRESS STILLS

High-resolution frames cleared for editorial use. Credit: Artwork © Blu Murphy · A Noir Arthouse, LLC production in association with The Black Art & Culture Project initiative · Executive Producer: Ian Swain



Title card — The Redline



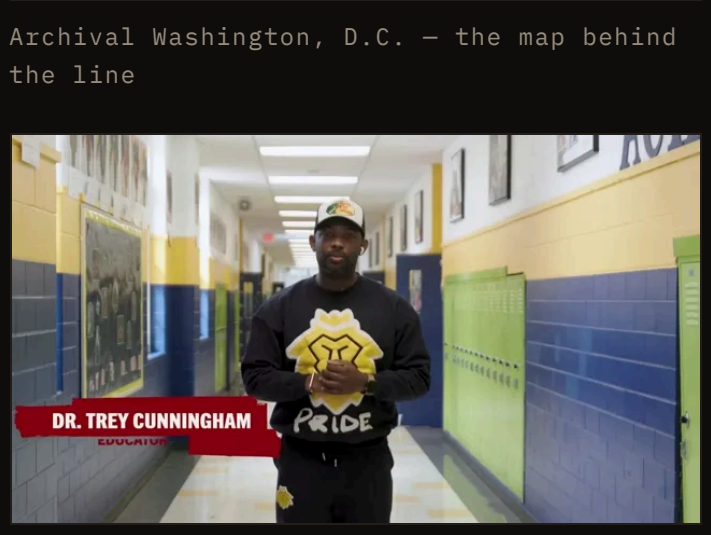
Archival Washington, D.C. — the map behind the line



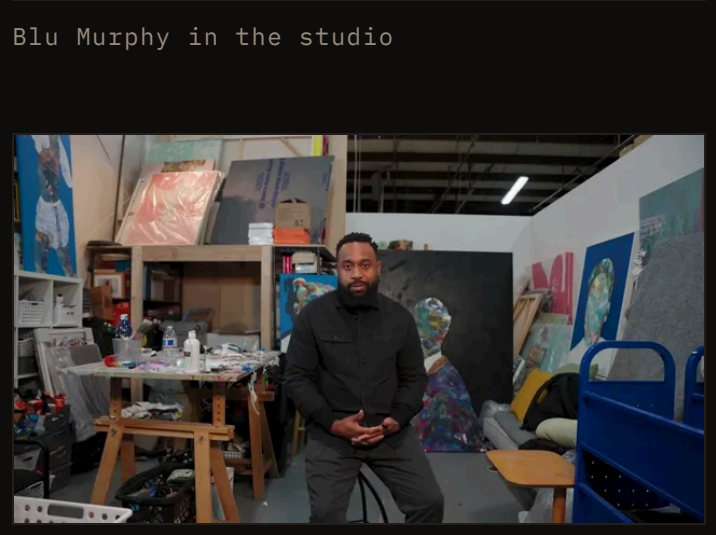
Blu Murphy in the studio



On the record — defining redlining



Dr. Trey Cunningham, educator



Inside the working studio



I AM ART on the studio wall



Memory and testimony



Blu Murphy — the red line motif

THE REDLINE

A DOCUMENTARY BY TERRY DILLARD

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Charlotte Black Film Festival
2026

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Touchstone Independent Film Festival
2026



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30TH ANNIVERSARY
urbanworld
FILM FESTIVAL
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WINNER
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SEMI-FINALIST
Dumbo
Film Festival
2026

OFFICIAL SELECTION
NewFilmmakers
Los Angeles
DOCUSLATE
2026

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Greenwood
Film Festival
2026

SCREENINGS · PRESS · FILM INQUIRIES

@BLACK_ART_CULTURE | IAN@THEBLACKARTPROJECT.COM | WWW.IAMARTREDLINE.COM

A Noir Arthouse, LLC production in association with The Black Art & Culture Project initiative · Executive Producer: Ian Swain

Documentary Short | Approx. Runtime: 20 min | USA | English



The Redline series, framed

SECTION 11

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INITIATIVE
The Black Art & Culture Project

ARTIST
blumurphyart.com

“WE DON’T JUST PAINT PORTRAITS. WE PRESERVE TRUTHS.”

> A NOIR ARTHOUSE, LLC PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BLACK ART & CULTURE PROJECT INITIATIVE · EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: IAN SWAIN

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