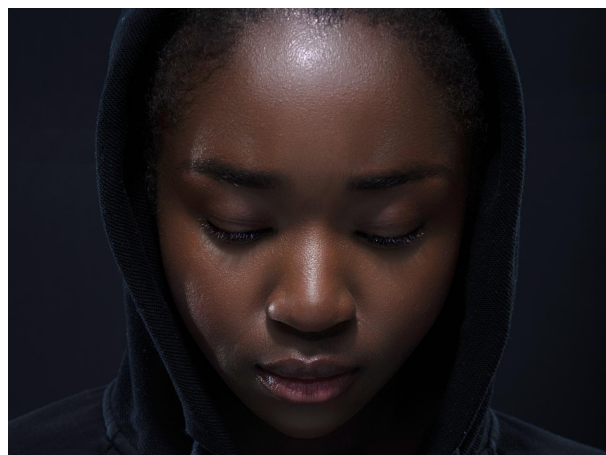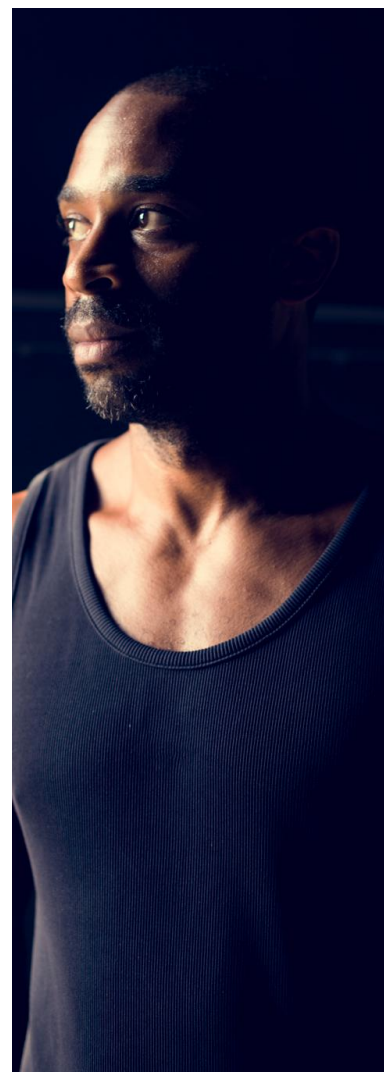# Illuminating Black Experiences

June, 2023

MONOLITH

Mon·o·lith

/'mänə‚liTH/

A large political, corporate, or social structure, or collection of people regarded as uniform without individuality and distinguishing characteristics.

Illuminating Black Experiences

Although people who identify as Black have varying backgrounds, distinct interests, and a variety of viewpoints, we are often treated as a monolithic collective, virtually indistinguishable from one another.

Stereotypes not only influence how we are treated, but they impact our internal dialog. Both negative and positive stereotypes can be disruptive to personal development and fulfillment. Our goal is to change the narrative, break stereotypes, and nourish the souls of Black people everywhere.

Stereotypes in the Media

Black people are overrepresented as perpetrators of violent crime when news coverage is compared with arrest rates. But are **underrepresented** in the more sympathetic roles of **victim**, law enforcer.

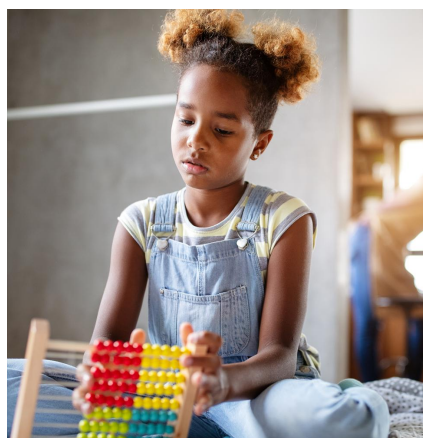(Entman & Gross, 2008, p. 98, citing Travis L. Dixon & Daniel Linz, 2000)

Stereotypes in the Media

Negative media stereotypes are demoralizing. They reduce self-esteem and expectations. These things can create stress and drain mental resources in some contexts, leading to lowered performance.

(The Opportunity Agenda, October 2011)

THE FACTS

Impact on the Young

According to a recent study, **children begin to show bias from an early age**. They absorb the stereotypes they see and become "increasingly attuned to social category labels, social status, and the biases exhibited by family members." **Children—both black and white—had a "strong and consistent pro-white bias."**

(Perszyk, Lei, Bodenhausen, Richeson, Waxman, January 2019; Summarized Article)

Breaking the Chains of Stereotypes

Black people are often chained by stereotypes that attempt to categorize us as lazy, dangerous, and unintelligent. These stereotypes then become the tools used to construct discriminatory systems that deny Black people fairness, equality, and justice. They also are used as weapons to inflict harm, abuse, and danger to Black lives.

Stereotypes not only impact how people view and treat us but can also negatively impact self-esteem and personal performance. By sharing and amplifying authentic Black narratives we will purify the air of these stereotypes. It's time to create a space that allows Black people to be seen as unique individuals, with their own personalities, opinions, quirks, and strengths. Opportunities should come from potential and determination, not skin color, and not assumptions based on that skin color.

Our Mission

Collect authentic narratives that nourish the hearts of Black people while informing the global community.

Our Vision

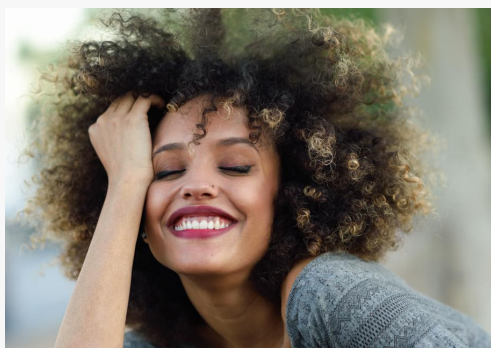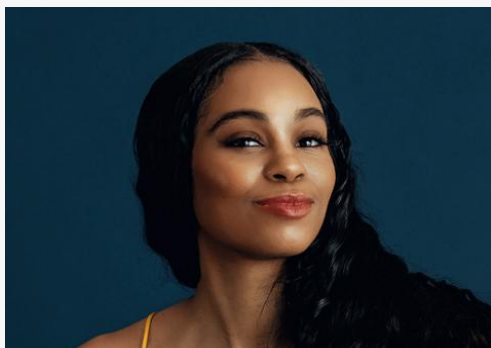A world that truly understands that there is complexity in the patchwork of black experience.

Our Strategy

Using individual stories, books relevant articles, podcast episodes, and blog posts, the Monolith platform collects and curates Black narratives. We gather sharable, easy-to-digest content that counteracts many of the stereotypes that impact our lives. Monolith is a place for Black people to see themselves completely, authentically, and unapologetically reflected in the community.
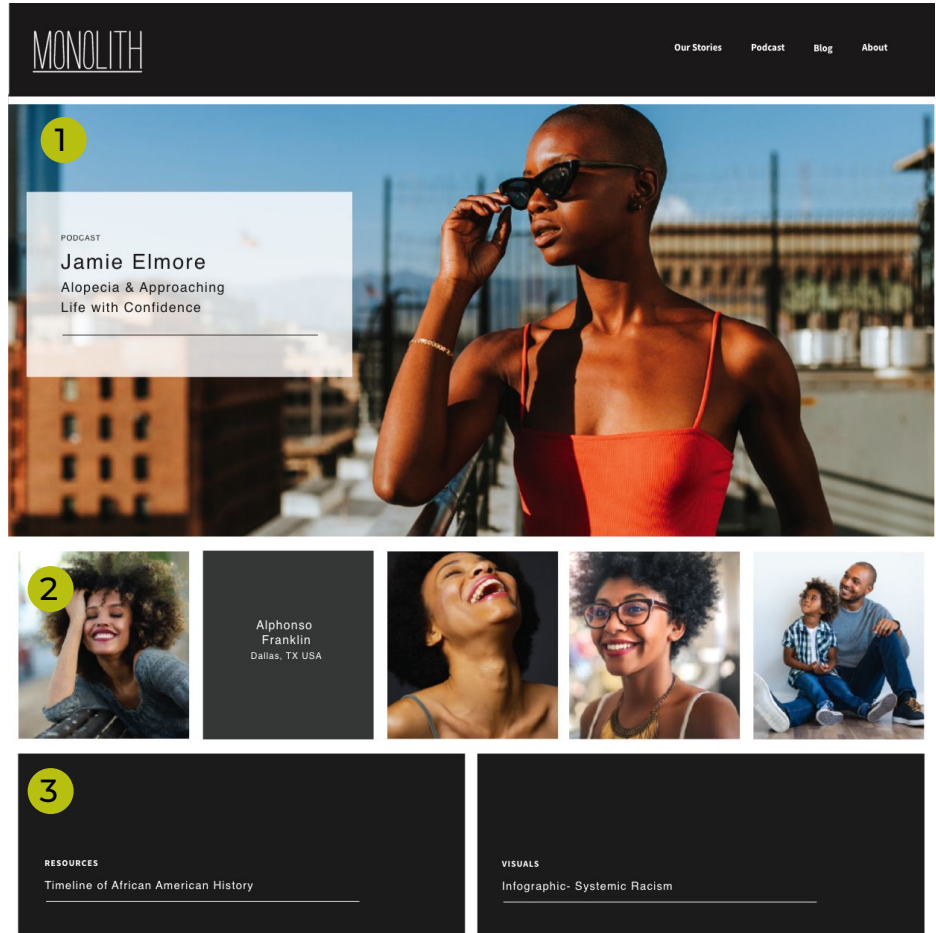
Homepage

1. **Slider:** This is used to highlight the most recent article, blog post, or podcast episode.

2. **Individual Stories:** Recent stories will be displayed semi-randomly. When a user mouses over an image, the contributor's name and highlighted information will be visible.

3. **Articles:** Recent and relevant articles will be shown

Website Tour

Individual Stories

1. **Photo:** The user will share a relevant photo or video.

2. **Life Highlights:** The user will share anecdotal details about their life and interests. They will be able to choose what they feel comfortable sharing.

3. **Narrative:** The user will share a story about their life.

MONOLITH

Our Stories   Podcast   Blog   About

Leon Plant

Age: 26
Profession: Engineer
Hometown: Dallas, TX

A Few of His Favorite Things
Favorite Song: Love Like This
Childhood Book: Where The Wild Things Are
Go-to Karaoke Song: Love Shack

A few years ago I was working the graveyard shift at a hotel in Orlando. It was 'that' hotel, the cheapest one in the area. The place where people go for an hour to do the things they need to do. And not only was I working there, but I was living there too. Because my wife was pregnant with our second child, and it was the only place we could afford. Late one night I'm sitting in the lobby with the owner's son. It was just the two of us. He was from New York. He graduated from college and worked at a hedge fund. But I was still holding my own with him. I was able to challenge some of his beliefs. Because even though I'm working at a cheap hotel, I still know a lot of things. Then at one point he looks me dead in the eye, and says: 'You know what? You're probably right. You deserve more. But why would I ever give it to you, when I can get you for this?'

And that broke me. Because he knew. He knew what it all comes down to in the end. He knew he was going to drive away in his Tesla. And I was going to leave my desk, and go back to my room, in the hotel that he owned, which I couldn't even afford with the money he paid me. He knew my wife was sick. And my child was about to be born. And that I had no other options. And it's just so hard, man. It's so hard to live in a world that wants you to be weak. That wants you to be an angry black man. Especially when you work your ass off every day. And you love people. And you tell your kids to be a good person. But I will say this, man. I've never buckled. A few weeks ago I lost my job. I just lost my home. It was just a room in some guy's house, but it was

Target Audience

Primary
Black people from anywhere in the world are the primary audience.

Secondary
Non-Black persons who want to support the destruction of stereotypes.

Information. Inspiration. Impact.

Information is transformative. It broadens our outlook, deepens our understanding, and inspires growth and change. We hope that the stories we share will support and nourish Black people everywhere, with them feeling seen and connected while also embracing and celebrating our individuality. This information helps others better understand that Black people are unique and complex individuals - a library of a million stories. And in these ways, we hope to create a lasting impact.

Get in Touch

Please feel free to contact me for further information.

📞 +214.514.7391

✉️ alexis@monolithstories.com

🌐 www.monolithstories.com

📷 monolithstories