



SHANTELLA Y. SHERMAN

FREEDOM SCHOLAR AWARD

Shantella Y. Sherman, Ph.D., is a public historian whose work documents, deconstructs, and interprets African American history, popular culture, Women & Gender studies, and Black British culture. Dr. Sherman is founder of The Acumen Group, a historical research institute that trains young people in archival research, family and community oral history, and the interpretation of non-traditional historical data. Dr. Sherman is publisher of The Acumen Group's quarterly magazine, *Acumen*. She is author of *In Search of Purity: Popular Eugenics and Racial Uplift among New Negroes, 1915-1935* (2016), which earned the 2019-2020 Best Academic History Book Award from the International Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society and *Pop-Eu: Popular Eugenics in Television & Film* (2022). Dr. Sherman is a Visiting History Fellow with Black History Walks (United Kingdom) and The House of Khepera (Amsterdam). Dr. Sherman provides free monthly public lectures on popular eugenics, colorism, identity formation, and deconstructing structural racism and bias. She is an award-winning journalist, Special Editions Editor of *The Washington Informer* newspaper and a former editor of both *The Washington Informer* and *The Philadelphia Tribune*. Dr. Sherman is a graduate of Jackson State University (undergraduate) and The University of Nebraska – Lincoln (graduate) and a native Washingtonian.