

# Virtual Viewing and Discussion

Dates: 10/1, 10/8, and 10/15 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Click [here](#) to register

## 13th: From Slave to Criminal in One Amendment



### Join us!

The historical roots of African American oppression run deep, as Ava DuVernay's documentary 13TH reveals. The film looks back to the ratification of Amendment XIII, which states, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." DuVernay argues that a prison-industrial complex which statistically imprisons black men disproportionately and allows for their disciplinary servitude, has taken advantage of America's black population and brings into question if this system ultimately acts as a form of modern day slavery.

Facilitated by Roderick "Rudy" Bankston, we'll meet virtually to view and discuss the film *13th*. Over three 2 hour sessions, we'll reflect on the legacy of slavery, the politics of mass incarceration, the representation of African Americans, and the stigma of being Black.

Rudy Bankston is a committed educator, entrepreneur, Restorative Justice practitioner, and writer. His powerful story describes his experience as a survivor of the school-to-prison pipeline and surfaces and explores intersecting themes of identity, equity, justice, trauma and resiliency. Wrongly convicted and sentenced to life in prison at 19 years old, Rudy spent 20 years in prison before winning back his freedom on appeal.

After his release from prison in 2015, Rudy began working for the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD); first serving as a Community Liaison at Memorial High School. He added a second position guiding students' learning and growth within 'Restore', the district's expulsion abeyance program. The following school year, he transitioned into a Central Office position as a Restorative Justice Coach to support engagement of Restorative Justice across all levels of the organization. He left MMSD in August 2019 and continues his work engaging Restorative Justice as a founding member of SmallFire, LLC. and founder of i Am We Classics and i Am We Coaching & Mentoring, LLC. Rudy has served as an adjunct professor at Edgewood College and as a consultant with the National Equity Project. Rudy currently serves on the board for the National Association of Community and Restorative Justice (NACRI), and is a member of

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the Black Educators Network. Rudy's published works include a novel, *Shed So Many Tears*; a collection of Haiku, *Snippets of Soul in Seventeen Syllables*; and a book of poetry, *Buried Alive*. His books are available for purchase through [iamweclassics.com](http://iamweclassics.com). Finally, March 2020 marked his 5th year of freedom. This past May marked another important milestone: the end of his parole.

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