

The founder and president of [Elegba Folklore Society, Inc.](#), Janine Bell is an artist, a producer, an arts administrator and a folklorist/cultural historian. From its downtown Richmond, Virginia cultural center, the Society makes an educational, social, economic and spiritual impact. Janine produces the Society's annual events including ***Juneteenth: A Freedom Celebration***, the ***Down Home Family Reunion, A Celebration of African American Folklife*** and the ***Capital City Kwanzaa Festival***. Elegba Folklore Society also offers performances of African dance, music and theatre, engagement in the visual arts and a menu of cultural history tours including, ***In the Beginning... Virginia, Along the Trail of Enslaved Africans*** for which Janine provides artistic direction, performance and interpretation.

She is glad to contribute this expertise as an EXPRT. Exposing history creates clarity for now. Cultural awareness and celebration vitalizes people and communities as we stand on the shoulders of our ancestors.

Ms. Bell holds a degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is a recipient of UNC's Harvey E. Beech Outstanding Alumna Award, the Teresa Pollak Prize for Excellence in the Arts, the Belle Women in the Arts Award, the A Woman of Richmond Who Rocks award and the 2019 Richmond History Maker Award.