***Ric Burns Bio:***

Ric Burns is a documentary filmmaker and writer, best known for his eight-part, 17-hour series *New York: A Documentary Film*, which premiered nationally on PBS to critical acclaim (1999, 2001, 2003). Burns has been writing, directing and producing historical documentaries for over 25 years, since his collaboration on the PBS series *The Civil War* (1990), which he produced with his brother Ken and co-wrote with Geoffrey Ward. Since founding Steeplechase in 1989, he has directed many films of note for PBS including *Coney Island* (1991), *The Donner Party* (1992), *The Way West* (1995), *Ansel Adams* (2002), *Eugene O’Neill*, *Andy Warhol* (2006), *Into the Deep: America, Whaling & the World* (2010), *Death and the Civil War* (2013), *American Ballet Theatre: A History* (2015), *Debt of Honor: Disabled Veterans in American History* (2015), *The Pilgrims* (2015), *VA: The Human Cost of War* (2017), *The Chinese Exclusion Act* (2018), *Oliver Sacks: His Own Life* (2019), and *Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America* (2020). His work has won numerous film and television awards including six Emmy awards, three Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia Journalism awards, two George Foster Peabody Awards, two Organization of American Historians’ Erick Barnouw prizes, three Writers Guild of America Awards for Outstanding Individual Achievement in a Craft: Writing, and the D.W. Griffith Award of the National Board of Review. Burns was educated at Columbia University and Cambridge University. He lives in New York City with his wife and two sons.

***Gretchen Sorin Bio:***

Dr. Gretchen Sullivan Sorin is Distinguished Professor and Director of The Cooperstown Graduate Program. Her book, *Driving While Black: African American Travel and the Road to Civil Rights*, form the basis of the scholarship for this project and was a finalist for the 2021 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary work. Her research explores the role that the automobile played in the lives of African Americans during the Jim Crow era, the way that African Americans expressed middle class American values through car ownership, and how cars helped change deeply entrenched racial etiquette. Dr. Sorin has more than thirty years of experience in the museum profession, working for more than 250 museums as a museum exhibition curator and education, programming, and interpretive planning and strategic planning consultant. She has served as a guest curator for many exhibitions. Major exhibitions include, *In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* for the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service; *Through the Eyes of Others: African Americans and Identity in American Art*; the nationally acclaimed traveling exhibition, *Bridges and Boundaries: African Americans and American Jews* for the Jewish Museum in New York; and the award-winning *Wilderness Cure: Tuberculosis and the Adirondacks* for the Adirondack Museum. Dr. Sorin holds a B.A. degree from Rutgers University in American Studies, an M.A. in Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program and a Ph.D. from the University at Albany in American history.