

# LUANA M. GRAVES SELLARS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER • CULTURAL INFLUENCER • SME •  
WRITER/BLOGGER • DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER

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## A GREATER SENSE OF SELF:

The question, “*who am I?*” has become very common in society. Discovering where we came from and what makes us who we are is an important element of self discovery and understanding who we are and why we do what we do.

As a cultural influencer and subject matter expert on Gullah Geechee culture, in addition to being a resource, I offer several interesting perspectives on the path to discovery, especially for Black Americans who face unique ancestral challenges.

A Greater Sense of Self begins with my own personal journey in uncovering that not only am I a Gullah, and the cultural grounding that’s associated, as well as the genealogy research that led to the discovery, and the incredible, yet unexpected connections that unfolded along the way.

## BIO:

A native-born New Yorker, Luana M. Graves Sellars, quickly discovered that weather wise, she was really “a misplaced Floridian”. Even though she has a degree in Journalism and Black History, she wasn’t prepared to live on Hilton Head Island, one of the most culturally rich and historic areas of the South. A passion for her Gullah Geechee roots led her to become a cultural influencer and preservationist through her writing which is focused on educating others, as well as documenting Gullah culture, it’s history, and people.

In 2021, she started the company, Sankofa Communications, expanding into visual media by creating, writing, directing, and producing long and short cultural videos and documentaries. The Founder of the nonprofit(s) Lowcountry Gullah and the Lowcountry Gullah Foundation, Luana is also a keynote speaker and community activist who is doing her part to sustain and preserve Gullah Geechee culture for future generations.



## 300+ Published Articles:

*I AM Gullah*

*A Greater Sense of Self*

*Finding Georgetown*

*Changing Perspectives | Written in Stone*

*Changing Perspectives | Marks Left Behind*

*Changing Perspectives | Following in my Ancestor’s Footsteps*

## Documentaries:

*Harriett Tubman | From the Railroad to a Spy*

*Juneteenth | The Birth of Freedom*

*Freedom Day | Exploring the Families of Historic Mitchelville*

I am one who likes to capture history your presentation was dynamic and filled with substance. I am beginning to know my ancestors and after also watching your YouTube videos made me search more for their journeys. Thank you!!!

~Tim Cureton  
SC EOC Conference