

Sharon D. Toomer
Communications Professional, Journalist and Writer

Sharon D. Toomer is Director of Communications and Membership for the Association of Black Foundation Executives (ABFE) where she works to execute the mission of promoting effective and responsive philanthropy in Black communities. She is also the founder and managing editor of BlackandBrownNews.com (BBN) - a digital source of news, information and a community building platform serving the underrepresented, underserved and ignored public.

As a communications professional Sharon has provided skill and guidance to employers and clients in their communications strategy, goals and objectives, and has worked in state and local political campaigns; the criminal justice and law enforcement system of a large metropolitan city; federal and municipal government; private business; higher education; an employee union and for nonprofit organizations. As a journalist she has worked on the editorial side of news media for local, cable and network news organizations, including *CNN (New York)* and *NBC News (Atlanta)*.

Sharon's perspective on society, politics, cultural issues, public affairs and current events has been published in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times* and *The Atlanta Journal Constitution* and on the online publication *The Huffington Post*. She has also appeared for commentary and perspective on *National Public Radio*, *Air America*, *NBC's Today Show*, *Al Jazeera English Network*, *MTV* and various local radio programs, television outlets. Sharon became the first African American-Latino woman to scribe a regular column for *Creative Loafing (Atlanta)*, a news and information publication where she provided political, social and current events commentary.

As a writer Sharon has enjoyed writing several screenplays, and she is currently working on a book about class and Black America.

At heart Sharon is guided by a firm conviction that every side and every voice deserves to be heard in a democratic society, and that an informed and engaged community is critical to social, economic and cultural progress. Sharon does not own a pet issue but regards "Any issue that disenfranchises or adversely bears down on the most vulnerable and least connected has my attention."

Sharon was born in the south Bronx, New York to a Dominican mother and African American father. She was raised in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. and graduated from Spelman College in Atlanta,

Georgia before returning to New York City in 1999. Today, Sharon lives in New York City. She is a member of the *National Association of Black Journalists*, the *National Association of Hispanic Journalists*, *Investigative Reporters and Editors* and the *New York Press Club*.