

*"The Roll Up CLT addresses a major issue that is often faced by artists of color regarding the often invisible labor they take on to make it in an art world not created and often not willing to celebrate their artistic genius.*

*The unique mission of The Roll Up CLT assists in the facilitation and expansion of a more equitable and inclusive creative culture by advancing a community of independent Black artists who are committed to reimagining and taking ownership of our narrative, and by creating spaces to celebrate Black creative talent.*

*I am excited to work with this innovative and meaningful initiative that truly embraces the core spirit and soul of arts and community. I am excited about all the possibilities!"*

- **Jaki Shelton Green**, North Carolina Poet Laureate



PHOTO BY Carey J. King

#### PROJECT SUMMARY:

A neighborhood-embedded artist residency program, provides Black contemporary artists with time, space and money to collaborate with local residents and engage them in their creative practice.

The goal is to establish a residency program that connects national artists, local talent and community residents as neighbors through innovative pedagogical collaborations, participatory interventions and art creation/dissemination over the residency period and beyond. By connecting communities and artists, we transform people and neighborhoods ultimately creating a space that contributes to social change.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Each year, Black artists of any discipline, with a track record for excellence and community engagement, are invited to stay for six months to one year. We provide free housing accommodations, a space to produce and exhibit work, an unrestricted honorarium, a transportation stipend, food and meal stipend, and a supply and material budget. While in residence, artists are supported with opportunities to develop programming in partnership with local arts organizations and are encouraged to collaborate with our community of local artists and neighbors.

An extension of the Residency is a Fellowship program and Internship component that support two Charlotte-based emergent artists/arts administrators under the age of 25 with compensation, mentorship, professional credentials and the practical experience necessary to establish a career in the field.

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

Jessica Gaynelle Moss founded the Roll Up in 2007 when she transformed a blighted and dilapidated residential space in a previously vibrant, culturally rich Black neighborhood (The Hill District, Pittsburgh PA) into an affordable housing solution for artists in the community.

Building on this creative place-making work, from 2013 to 2015, she worked on the senior leadership team of Theaster Gates' Rebuild Foundation, operating out of The Stony Island Arts Bank-- a 1923 savings and loan bank turned into a world-class arts center in a greatly under-resourced Black community (Greater Grand Crossing, Chicago IL).

Immediately after, in 2016 she acquired another neglected property in a predominately Black historic neighborhood (Camp Greene, Charlotte NC) and converted it into an artist in residency program called The Roll Up CLT. We call it The Roll Up because whenever the garage doors are rolled up, it's a sign for the community to roll up and participate in whatever program or event the artist is hosting in the space. This year, The Roll Up CLT welcomes its fifth annual artist in residence since the program began.

The Roll Up CLT is committed to collaborating with Black artists through every step of our process. Our Advisory Board consists of artists, curators and administrators that help with the selection of our annual artist resident, fellowship recipient, and interns. Our Advisory Board consists of all Black women including, arts nonprofit CrownKeepers' Director Davita Galloway, The North Carolina Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Green, The L'Louise Arts Foundation Founder La Keisha Leek.



PHOTO BY Carey J. King

#### ROLES + EXPECTATIONS:

Each year, The Roll Up CLT team consists of the Resident Artist, with support from The Roll Up CLT Fellow, and annual Intern in an effort to host programs and events that foster community engagement and education in an ongoing environment of trust and transparency.

#### **The Roll Up CLT Artist in Residence**

*During their time in residence at The Roll Up CLT Resident Artist will:*

- Live full time in The Roll Up space in Camp Greene
- Focus on Research, Production and achieving Artistic Excellence while in residence
- Participate in regular programming at The Roll Up space and throughout the city, as appropriate
- Regularly host Open Houses in an effort to engage with local community residents
- Make relationships with neighboring communities
- Contribute at least (1) one artwork to The Roll Up CLT's permanente collection
- Develop their unique system of knowledge transfer:

#### METRICS OF MEASURING SUCCESS:

For each Resident Artist, we document and record the following metrics with a system of knowledge transfer put in place as institutional memory for future Resident Artists:

- (a) Relevant community interaction and connections
- (b) Number of workshops, open houses, studio visits, school programs, interventions, talks, attendees at each event, (c) growth of the social media account, mailing list contacts
- (d) post-program surveys with partner and collaborating individuals, institutions and organizations

**The Roll Up CLT Fellowship** focuses on mentorship and professional development. This apprentice model requires the Fellow to work closely with the current Resident Artist to implement the goals of this residency. Intended to enable the Fellow with both professional credentials and practical experiences, they will be compensated to document the process of the residency, develop community-based programming, and ultimately, assist in the knowledge transfer system put in place for future resident artists.

*The Roll Up CLT Fellow will:*

- Attend all Roll Up CLT events on and off site
- Assist Resident Artist as a local ambassador (directions, people to know, places to eat, etc.)
- Introduce Resident Artist at events or engagements when appropriate
- Monthly shopping trip for program materials, based on Resident Artist's needs (drinks, utensils, sharpies)
- Set up and shut down The Roll Up CLT and other spaces during programs/events
- Develop at least (1) one community-based program related to the Resident Artist's creative discipline
- Produce (1) one piece that documents the Resident Artist's entire residency

**The Roll Up CLT Internship** was established as a way to augment academic study with the hands-on experience necessary for success in any field.

*The Roll Up CLT Intern will:*

- Attend all Roll Up CLT events on and off site
- Manage, post and track growth of the social media account @therollupclt
- Manage and log the program sign-in sheet ('name, email, how'd you learn about this Roll Up CLT event?')
- Document the number of attendees at each event (with images, meeting minutes)
- Follow up each event will post-program surveys
- Assist The Roll Up CLT Fellow with community-based program planning



PREVIOUS The Roll Up CLT RESIDENT ARTISTS:

**2020 The Roll Up CLT resident artists Ashley Nickens and Kia O. Moore:**

Hosted 6 Writing Workshops that connected over 70 participants, showed work in a virtual exhibition that featured 30+ local artists, organized a Virtual Book club that brought Black women together over Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, created new partnerships with Black owned businesses and organizations including Shelves Book store, Charlotte Uprising and Unfold.CLT, participated in collaborative programming with BOOM Charlotte, The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Culture, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library and Engaging Collections, Supported 4 local artists with partnership honorariums.



PHOTO BY Mitchell Kearney

**Ashley Nickens (2020)** is an award-winning educator, writer, and story-sharer. Having been born in Maryland, raised in Virginia, and made a woman in North Carolina, she feels deeply connected to her southeastern roots. Her work is inspired by her ancestral connection to the land, and centers Black femmehood, spirituality, and sexuality. She works with the #SmartBrownGirlbookclub and is the founder of SISTORIES LITMAG, an interactive Black Feminist literary magazine and community writing workshop that fosters connection around the historical and contemporary narratives of Black women and femmes.

Ashley was awarded Teacher of the Year and is a North Carolina Teaching Fellow. She earned her bachelors in English Education from The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and is currently working towards a masters in their Liberal Studies program, studying Black Feminisms, Creative Writing, and Arts Administration. Awardee of the Arts & Science Council Cultural Vision grant, and the Charlotte is Creative HUG grant.

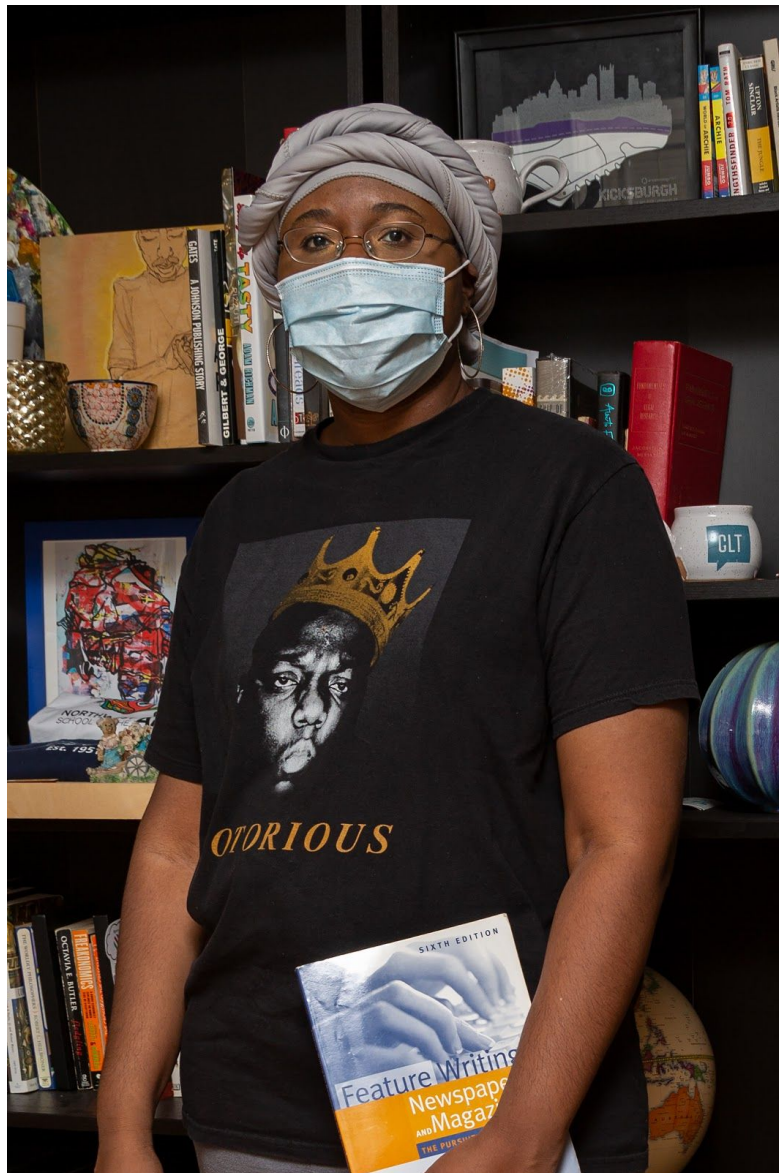


PHOTO BY Mitchell Kearney

**Kia O. Moore (2020)** is the founder of the Charlotte-based social venture Hip Hop Orchestrated and is the Creative Director of the mentorship-focused Charlotte-based nonprofit Hack & Hustle Social Entrepreneurship Academy. She holds a B.A. in Communication Studies with a certificate in International Public Relations and a minor in Journalism from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Moore's love for all things Hip Hop culture and her innate need to create harmony and understanding between people led her to the world of Hip Hop nonprofits. Prior to stepping into the nonprofit sector, she worked in the media industry at a Charlotte publication in the advertising department. She now works as a freelance writer and content marketer. Her work can be found in Qcitymetro, QC Nerve, Creative Loafing Charlotte, and other Charlotte-based publications.

Moore has found passion in making a social impact through the art of writing and Hip Hop culture. With her life's work now aligned with her inner "WHY" she is working toward becoming the change she wants to see in the world.





**2019 The Roll Up CLT resident artist  
\$HAN Wallace had:**

8 commissions, attended 2 conferences, showed work in 12 exhibitions and participated in 5 exhibition-related programs, had 16 interviews and 12 lectures and panel discussions, collaborated on 9 other artist's projects, organized 6 open houses, instructed 19 classes to over 25 students, led 5 monthly programs at Beatties Ford Library [photographing over 60 people and producing over 120 photos], and attended 11 studio visits.

"For five months I posted up at the Beatties Ford public library in Charlotte. The very last Monday of the month, community members, residents, young teens, grandmothers, families, elderly voters, single parents, everyday working people, full-time working mothers and fathers all congregate to have their portrait taken. I value the everyday people of Beatties Ford, getting through these trying times, clocking-out at their jobs, making it through rush hour with a car full of kids, just in time to have their portrait right outside their backyards. Many of the sitters would come every month, maybe by themselves or friends and family they invited. Each encounter and each capture meant so much to me. I always ponder on our moments together, like the father standing on the side watching his daughter stand strong with the utmost confidence or when the elderly grassroots

organizers would peek in and see the locals sit proudly in the wicker chair. I would also pair strangers together and every time someone made a new friend. Some of my most proudest rewards and memories include the Beatties Ford Family. Even better, everyone received a copy of the photograph. To me, it's really a way to keep the photo album legacy, or living room photo galleries alive and ongoing." - \$HAN Wallace, 2019 Resident Artist

**SHAN Wallace (2019)** is a nomadic award-winning visual artist, photographer, educator and freedom fighter from East Baltimore, MD. SHAN has received recognition from publications like the Baltimore Beat for 'Best Solo Show', the City Paper for 'Best Photographer', and the Association of Health Care Journalists' awarded her '2nd Place - Small Outlet Feature' for her photojournalism piece "Losing Conner's Mind" in the Atavist Magazine. Her work has received widespread support from publications like The Daily Beast, Essence Magazine, Black Entertainment Television (BET), the Washington Post, the Baltimore Sun, the Baltimore City Paper, VICE, Red Bull Amaphiko, The Charlotte Observer and The New York Times. SHAN's work is in both public and private collections across the US.



**2018 The Roll Up CLT resident artist Zun Lee had:**

Over 110 interactions with the Charlotte community, taught 3 photography courses, gave 9 public talks/presentations, participated in 4 Open Houses at The Roll Up, hosted 2 visiting artists and 11 studio visits, took over 7,000+ images....But beyond all that, what is most important, are the now established relationships with Charlotte residents, artists and neighbors:

"I regard the most significant part of "the work" as the inaugural artist in residence to demonstrate that the program and its representatives are seen as an integral part of the community and the neighborhood in which I reside. Functioning as a "good neighbor" and creating social capital in the form of meaningful relationships with individuals, families, and local groups - whether arts-related or not - was a crucial aspect of embedding myself in Camp Greene and Charlotte's Westside." - Zun Lee, 2018 Resident Artist



PHOTO BY Mitchell Kearney

**Zun Lee (2018)** is an award-winning visual artist, physician and educator. He was born and raised in Germany and has also lived in Atlanta, Philadelphia and Chicago. He currently divides his time between Toronto, ON and Charlotte, NC.

Lee has exhibited and spoken at numerous institutions in North America and Europe. His works are widely published and represented in public and private collections around the world. Selected honors and awards include: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Practitioner in Residence (2019), Knight Foundation Grantee (2018), Ontario Arts Council Grantee (2018), Canada Arts Council Grantee (2017), Magnum Foundation Fellow (2015), Photo District News Photo Annual Winner (2015), LOOK3 Educator (2015), Paris Photo/Aperture Photobook Awards Shortlist (2014), Photo District News' 30 New and Emerging Photographers to Watch (2014).

*"Jessica embodies an ethic of kindness and service, and has created a mirroring residency program that was flexible enough to adapt in a way that encouraged my personal development, while also continuing to meet the shifting needs of the Charlotte community.*

*During my residency, I was allowed the space to deepen my analysis of the city I've called home for ten years, and gained clarity on the role I wish to play here as a citizen artist. The suggestions and feedback provided through the program helped foster new community connections, and a personal ethic that I will carry with me for a lifetime."*

- **Ashley Nickens**, 2020 The Roll Up CLT Resident Artist

## BACKGROUND + RESOURCES:



PHOTO BY Carey J. King

### **THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

The Roll Up CLT resides on the ancestral lands of the Catawba Nation.

The physical space is located in a predominately Black, historic neighborhood called Camp Greene.

Camp Greene's history began in 1917 as an Army training facility in Charlotte, where more than 40,000 American soldiers prepared to depart for World War I. Camp Greene developed into a vibrant African American community in the 1930's through the 1950's but became blighted from the 1970s to the 1990s due to structural economic shifts and the drug epidemic. Efforts for urban renewal and revitalization are once again changing the fabric of this community but come with their own set of problems such as physical/economic displacement, gentrification, concentrated poverty and cultural alienation of current residents.

### **COVID-19**

COVID-19 has presented many changes and is devastating on many fronts. This pandemic is affecting capitalist structures, our employment situations, and the way that our lives will function from this point on. However, this has not affected our ability to think creatively, to make art and to strategize with our community. The Roll Up CLT remains dedicated to honoring our mission of supporting Black contemporary artists-- pandemic or not. Thankfully, our program is fluid enough that it can pivot and be flexible through obstacles like COVID-19.

## ACCESSIBILITY

The Roll Up CLT has a long driveway with ample parking and passenger loading zones, leading to a two car garage that is not connected to the unit. To access the unit from the driveway, the front or back door, there are multiple flights of stairs. All interior doors have been removed. Light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats and other environmental controls are in accessible locations. There are restroom accommodations and a bathtub equipped with a holding bar. There is no elevator.

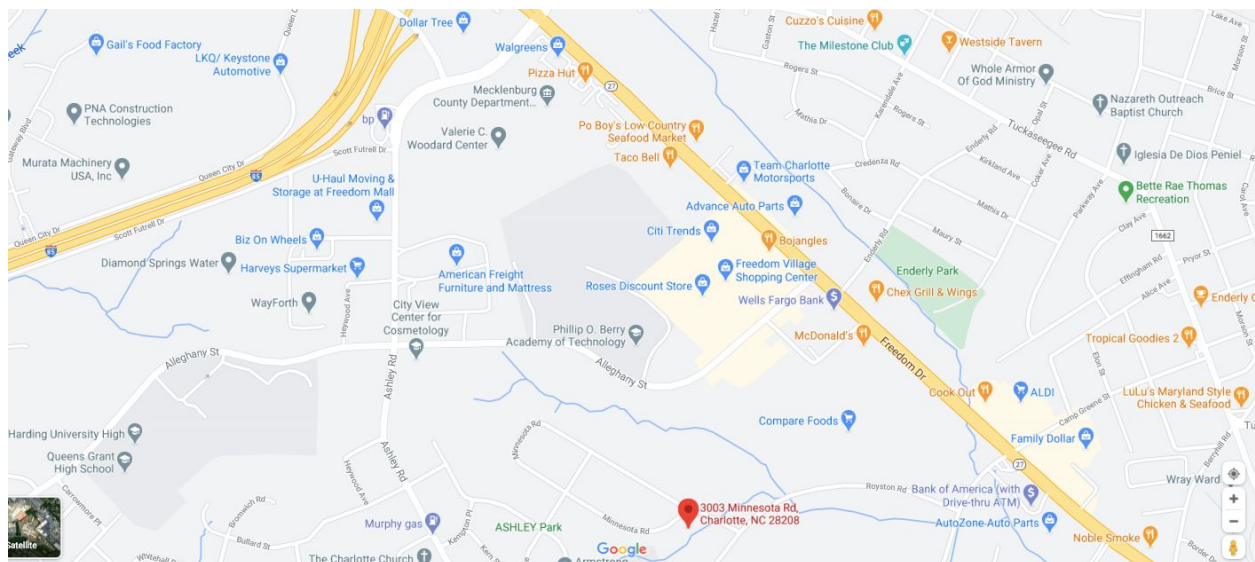
## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

The Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) is the agency responsible for public transportation in the Charlotte metropolitan area. CATS operates bus and rail transit services in Mecklenburg County and surrounding areas. Established in 1999, CATS' bus and rail operations carry about 320,000 riders on an average week.

The LYNX light rail runs for just under 19 miles from I-485 in south Charlotte to UNC Charlotte in north Charlotte. The train cuts through neighborhoods including Yorkmont, Colonial Village, Sedgefield, South End, Uptown, NoDa and University City.

Local Bus & LYNX

	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Seniors 62 or Medicare Card</u>
<u>One-Way</u>	<u>\$2.20</u>	<u>\$1.10</u>
<u>Weekly Unlimited Rides</u>	<u>\$30.80</u>	<u>\$30.80</u>
<u>Monthly Unlimited Rides</u>	<u>\$88.00</u>	<u>\$44.00</u>
<u>10-Ride</u>	<u>\$22.00</u>	<u>\$9.35</u>





## NEARBY NECESSITIES

The Closest:

Supermarket - Aldi and Compare Foods

Hair - Master Cutz Barbershop and Naty Dominican Hair Stylist

Beauty - Carolina Beauty

Nails - Midtown Nails and Polished

Smoke - Freedom Tobacco & Vape

Gym - Planet Fitness and Crossfit QC

Thrift- Community Thrift Store and

Fast Food - Cookout and Showmars

Carry Out - Po Boys Low country, Cuzzo's Cuisine and Cottage II

Sit Down - Beaugard's, Noble Smoke and Pinky's Westside Grill

Coffee- Enderly Coffee and Not Just Coffee

Hospital - StarMed Family Urgent Care and Novant Health Presbyterian Medical Center

Community - Bettie Rae Thomas Recreation Center and Beatties Ford Library

Park - Frazier Park and Seville

Beer - Blue Blaze and Rhino Market

Spiritual Supplies- House of African in Plaza Midwood and Mama Bessies in Elizabeth

Nightlife- The Scorpio and The Milestone



PHOTO BY Carey J. King

IMAGES OF PREVIOUS PROGRAMS + EVENTS:  
**COLLABORATIONS**



Zun Lee digitizes family photos from a neighborhood resident, 2018

Queens University Arts Leadership students visit The Roll Up, 2018

Local sculpture, Khem, planting 'Love Blossoms' at The Roll Up CLT, 2019

'Sisters with Stories' Collaboration by \$HAN Wallace, in partnership with the YWCA of Central Carolinas, 2019

'A Call to Create' Collaborative virtual exhibition between BlkMrkt, BOOM Festival, Charlotte is Creative, 2020

The Color Purple Virtual Book Club Collaboration between Shelves Bookstore, Unfold.CLT, Sistories, 2020



## EXHIBITIONS



\$HAN Wallace 'cutXcopy' collage exhibition at The New Gallery of Modern Art, 2019

Zun Lee photography exhibition at The Roll Up CLT with curators from the Levine Museum of the New South, 2018

SHAN Wallace 'Sisters with Stories' photography exhibition at Hodges Taylor, 2019

'Black Blooded' exhibition at The New Gallery of Modern Art, 2018

## 2019 PUBLIC COMMUNITY PROGRAMS





Ethical Responsibility in Social Practice discussion led by Zun Lee and Jessica Moss at Elder Gallery, 2018  
 \$HAN Wallace during her free monthly portraiture sessions at Beatties Ford Library, 2019  
 Fellowship recipient, Terry Suave premieres his documentary about resident, \$HAN Wallace at Elder Gallery, 2019  
 Sistories Literary Magazine Writing Workshop at The Roll Up, 2020

#### OPEN HOUSES AT THE ROLL UP



Monthly Open House at The Roll Up with resident artist Zun Lee and site architect Nathalia Rios Garcia, 2018  
 Two young neighbors during one of the 2019 monthly Open Houses at The Roll Up with \$HAN Wallace, 2019  
 CPCC representatives and instructors visit during an Open House with resident \$HAN, 2019  
 Locals and neighbors drop by during an Open House with resident Zun, 2018



THE ROLL UP CLT PROGRAM PARTNERS:





PHOTO BY Terry Suave

### **2018-2019 The Roll Up CLT PRESS:**

[The Roll Up CLT Connects Artists to Their Craft and the Community](#), ASC 2019

[When Art & Activism Collide](#), TTT Media 2019

[The Best of Arts, Culture, and Entertainment in Charlotte](#), Charlotte Magazine 2019

[While in Charlotte, this Baltimore photographer uses her art to create community](#), The Charlotte Observer, 2019

[Why Baltimore Persists as a Cultural Beacon](#), The New York Times Style Magazine, 2019

[A Conversation With SHAN Wallace: Photography, Baltimore, and Healing](#), Soundcloud, 2019

[Creativity and flexibility powers welcome space for artists](#), The Charlotte Post, 2019

[9 Charlotte arts moments hit us in 2018 – but what's next in 2019? These ...](#), Charlotte Observer, 2019

[This year, activism – in varying intensities – takes the stage](#), Charlotte Observer 2018

[Well-known photographer at work in West Charlotte says, 'We want people to roll up' at The Roll Up](#), Charlotte Observer 2018

[The Roll Up, Charlotte's New Artist Residency Program](#), Pride Magazine 2018

[Jessica Moss Connects, Houses Artists in Charlotte and Beyond](#), Charlotte Magazine 2018