



Supporting Artists for Over Twenty Years

Cheri L. Stokes

Around The Way Gurl: The Block Party



Image credit: Dwain J. Photography

Around the Way Gurl: The Block Party Cheri L. Stokes

Cheri L. Stokes, Lead Artist
Dedrick Gray Residency Assistant
Rian Wood Residency Assistant

Kara Jenelle, Performer
Cyrah L. Ward, Performer
Eboné Amos, Performer
Erykah Jenkins, Performer

The Block Party invites audiences to join Cheri in a multigenerational community dance workshop! Like the block parties of the 80s and 90s, participants can expect dance, music and fellowship in a casual but upbeat atmosphere!

The Block Party serves as a means of research and engagement for the development of *Around the Way Gurl*. Engaging autoethnography and personal narrative to inspire movement and text, *Around the Way Gurl* explores the intersections of gender, intergenerational movement aesthetics, innate movement patterns, generational and community values, and Hip-Hop culture’s influence on the artist’s identity and the women from Bed-Stuy in the 1980s and 90s.

About Cheri L. Stokes

Cheri L. Stokes, born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, Cheri L. Stokes is a dancer and choreographer with over ten years of dance education and six years of arts administration and creative producing. Her performance background spans genres of West African, Afro-Contemporary, Contemporary, and Hip-Hop dance forms. Her choreographic research examines the ways in which facets of social vernacular dance forms, specifically Hip-Hop and Dancehall, have influenced her contemporary practice and art-making.

Cheri’s latest work, *Da Block*, was featured in the *MODarts Collective Thread Festival* (2021), *the STooPS Bed-Stuy Art Crawl* (2021), and *SummerStage* at Corona Park (2022). She is the recipient of the Silent Partner’s Grant (2021), the Stephen Petronio Retreat and Restore Dance Residency (2021), the Urban Bush Women Choreographic Center Producing Fellowship (2022-23), the Brooklyn Arts Exchange Space Grant (2023) and the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA 2024). She has served as a guest teaching artist at several universities including, Florida State University, Austin Peay State University, Elon University, Western Kentucky University, and University of Tampa.

Hi-ARTS

Founded in 2000 as the Hip-Hop Theater Festival and reemerging as Hi-ARTS in 2011, we have been supporting artists for over twenty years. Through artistic support, civic engagement, and creative education, Hi-ARTS empowers Artists of the Global Majority to develop new work while creating a lasting impact on their communities.

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Land Acknowledgement

Hi-ARTS and El Barrio’s Artspace PS109 are situated on the island of Manhattan (Mannahatta), on Munsee Lenape and Wappinger homeland. We pay respect to Munsee Lenape and Wappinger peoples, their ancestors, and their elders—past, present, and future. **Learn more about whose land you’re on at native-land.ca**



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Hi-ARTS is supported in part by public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts; New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature; and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with Council Member Diana Ayala and the City Council. Organizational support is provided by the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Development Corporation, Ford Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Scherman Foundation, and David Rockefeller Fund. Additional support comes from the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Foundation, Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, Dance/NYC, Mertz Gilmore Foundation, The Shubert Foundation, and Lucille Lortel Foundation.