

GORDON SQUARE.

arts district

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Gordon Square Arts District Announces 2019 Artists-in-Residence

February 6, 2019 CLEVELAND, OHIO – [Gordon Square Arts District](#) (GSAD) today announced the selection of four Gordon Square Artists-in-Residence for 2019. Each quarter in 2019 will feature a talented Cleveland artist. Gordon Square Arts District launched its quarterly artists-in-residence program in 2017 to support the artist workforce in the neighborhood and connect the community with free and inclusive arts programming.

The quarterly 2019 Gordon Square Artists-in-Residence are:

- Valerie Mayen, fashion designer, during Q1 (January-March)
- Dee Jay Doc, musician, Q2 (April-June)
- Amber Ford, photographer, Q3 (July-September)
- Chris Seibert and Denis Griesmer, performers, Q4 (October-December)

“We have hundreds of talented artists living and working in the Gordon Square Arts District. We’re thrilled to work with these 5 talented artists and performers in 2019 and bring their work to the community,” said Carrie Carpenter, President & Executive Director of Gordon Square Arts District.

Each quarter, the chosen Gordon Square Artist-in-Residence will engage with residents and visitors to share inclusive arts experiences.

Gordon Square-based fashion designer and owner of [Yellowcake Shop](#), **Valerie Mayen** is the first quarter artist-in-residence. Her community program *Hi, Fashion* will invite community members to fashion design and sewing clinics, helping them upcycle and restyle their clothing while providing education on socially responsible fashion. It will culminate with a [free showing](#) of [The True Cost](#) on March 21 at the [Capitol Theatre](#), sponsored by [Cleveland Cinemas](#), and [Hi, Fashion](#), a free two-day event on March 23 and 24 at [Near West Theatre](#), with resources including on-site alterations, DIY styling tutorials, information on creating a capsule wardrobe, and a clothing swap.

Gordon Square resident and founder of [Refresh Collective](#), [Dee Jay Doc](#) was selected as the musician-in residence for the second quarter. During his residency, Dee Jay Doc will guide an intergenerational group of songwriters through the process of hip-hop song production and offer free performances in the neighborhood.

Photographer [Amber Ford](#) was selected as the third quarter visual artist-in-residence with her project *This Story is Mine and Ours*, which will incorporate live storytelling events and a portrait series that celebrates the unique contributions of people of color in Gordon Square.

The fourth quarter residency will feature Gordon Square-based performers [Chris Seibert](#) and **Denis Griesmer**, with their performance piece *The Poetry Psychic and Raree Box Madame*. Seibert and Griesmer will bring their pop-up street performance to community organizations and events in Gordon Square, inviting audience members to interact one-on-one with the performers as they explore personal meaning behind randomly selected poems.

The quarterly Gordon Square Artist-in-Residence is one of GSAD's initiatives to support the development individual artists and enhance arts in the neighborhood. GSAD supports the selected artist for each residency with a \$5,000 stipend and project costs up to \$2,000. The residencies are funded by a grant from [The Cleveland Foundation](#).

For more information about the residencies and other arts programs through Gordon Square Arts District, please email McKenzie Merriman at art@gordonsquare.org.

The Gordon Square Arts District leverages vibrant arts and culture to foster economic growth and livability in Cleveland's Gordon Square neighborhood. Its vision is to create an exciting lakefront neighborhood with vibrant theatres and enhanced art activity that is a regional destination for arts and culture. <http://www.gordonsquare.org>

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