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**Morris Home and Mural Arts Philadelphia
Public Paint Day and Celebration to Create New Murals**

Wednesday, July 28, 2021, 5 – 8 pm
Clark Park, 4300 Baltimore Avenue

Mural Arts Philadelphia and Morris Home are hosting a **free public paint day and celebration in Clark Park on Wednesday, July 28, 2021, 5 - 8 pm**. Members of the public are invited to help paint panels of two future murals in paint-by-number style, along with performances, food, and a gallery of artwork by Morris Home participants.

Wit López (they/them), one of Mural Arts' 2021 Black Artist Fellows, curated weekly art workshops at **Morris Home, the only residential recovery program in the country to offer comprehensive services specifically for the trans- and gender-nonconforming community**. López, an internationally recognized, award-winning, multidisciplinary maker, performance artist, writer, and cultural advocate based in Philadelphia, led conversations that focused on healing to supplement the ongoing services at Morris Home. Two artists, Ali Williams (she/her) and Kah Yangni (they/them), also led workshops with residents to shape their mural designs. Williams' mural will be installed at Philly Aids

Thrift, 710 S. 5th Street in Queen Village, and Yangni's will be installed at Cake Life Bake Shop, 1306 Frankford Ave, in Fishtown. The artists will paint the murals over



Rendering by Kah Yangni

Future location: Cake Life Bake Shop, 1306 Frankford Ave. in Fishtown

the summer, and plans are underway to dedicate both of them officially in the fall of 2021.

Williams' mural is a memorial and life celebration of trans Philadelphians. One portrait included is of Nizah Morris, a Black trans woman who was attacked and died from a head injury in 2002, and for whom Morris Home is named. The text in Yangni's mural was collectively created through a workshop with Morris Home members. Photographs were also taken of members of Morris Home at Bartram's Garden, and they were used as reference images to inspire the illustrations.

The free event will feature prints of the two murals on display, with an opportunity for the public to paint panels from each of the murals. Performances from trans and nonbinary artists will add to the atmosphere, along with family-friendly art activities, artwork on display from Morris Home members, resource tables, Narcan training, and free food and beverages from food trucks as well as treats from Cake Life Bake Shop.

Morris Home is moving its residential facility to University City this year. The staff and residents of Morris Home are looking forward to engaging with local residents in their new neighborhood at this event. The paint day is free and open to the public and is fun for all ages. No formal painting skills required. The artists and a team of assistants will be on hand to show people how to participate. All supplies will be provided.

About the Artists

Kah Yangni (they/them) – [Kah Yangni](#) is an illustrator living in the city of Philadelphia, PA. They make heartfelt, neon visions of justice, queerness, and joy. Their art has been shared by people like Indya Moore and Alok V. Menon, and they've worked with the *New York Times*, *Vice Media*, *Bust Magazine*, as well as with projects like the National Women's Law Center, Rock the Vote, and the Movement for Black Lives. Kah's recent projects include a billboard on the sacredness of trans people in Richmond, TX and participating in the First100Days project with Mural Arts Philadelphia.
Instagram: @kahyangni.

Ali M. Williams (she/her) – [Ali Williams](#) is a Philadelphia based artist and public muralist. She is interested in how visually altering a space with public art affects the surrounding environment. Ali has been a visiting teaching artist at Lycée Rochambeau (The French International School), The Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen, Moore College of Art, Fleisher Art Memorial, Project Learn School, The Hillside School, and Riverside Correctional Facility. She has worked with numerous education and community outreach programs such as Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Twist Out Cancer, Philadelphia Dept. of Public Health, The Youth Violence Reduction Partnership, and many more. Some of her clients include Zappos, Primark, Nasdaq, Marriott Hotels, The Wells Fargo Center, and Blick Art Materials. Her murals invite you inside a collaged, fabricated dreamscape of paint, mysterious beauty, and contemporary iconography. She's interested in combining realism with abstract concepts and design to create a surreal experience. Symbolic elements, graphic imagery, and vibrant bursts of color are frequent components of her work. She is drawn to bold, color palettes, and loves to incorporate neon pink as much as possible. See more of her work on Instagram at @alimwilliams.

Wit López (they/them) – [Wit López](#) is an internationally recognized, award-winning, multidisciplinary maker, performance artist, writer, and cultural advocate based in Philadelphia, PA. They are the Founder and Artistic Director of Till Arts Project, a grassroots arts services organization serving LGBTQ+ artists in the Greater Philadelphia Area.

Morris Home's murals are an initiative of Mural Arts Philadelphia's Porch Light program, a joint collaboration with the City of Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, in partnership with Morris Home, the only residential recovery program in the country to offer comprehensive services specifically for the trans- and gender-nonconforming community. The project is funded by the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services and Niarchos Foundation.

Mural Arts Philadelphia is the nation's largest public art program, dedicated to the belief that art ignites change. For more than 35 years, Mural Arts has united artists and communities through a collaborative and equitable process, creating over 4,000 artworks that have transformed public spaces and individual lives. Mural Arts aims to empower people, stimulate dialogue, and build bridges to understanding with projects that attract artists from Philadelphia and around the world, and programs that focus on youth education, restorative justice, mental health and wellness, and public art and its preservation. Popular mural tours offer a firsthand glimpse into the inspiring stories behind Mural Arts' iconic and unparalleled collection, which has earned Philadelphia worldwide recognition as the "City of Murals." For more information, call 215-685-0750 or visit muralarts.org. Follow us on social media: @muralarts on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), [MuralArtsPhiladelphia](#) on Facebook, and [phillymuralarts](#) on YouTube.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

High-resolution photographs are available for media usage at: <http://bit.ly/MuralArtsPressKit>.
Email cari@reliefcomm.com with any questions.