



Always *Welcome*

A Social Arts Salon

What is a Social Arts Salon?

My mom's nail technician, Ms. Betty, ran a one-chair salon in a small back room that somehow held an entire community. One person at a time, she built connections across neighborhoods and created a space where people left feeling more seen than when they arrived.

This is a Social Arts Salon.

Always Welcome is a community podcast and oral history project rooted in Howard County, MD -- investigating what belonging means for the people who live, work, and build here. One conversation at a time.

Performance Ethnography

I am Mallorie Kris Greene Kristoffersen -- performance ethnographer, teaching artist, and 9th-generation Howard County native. Through field research, community conversations, and the Always Welcome Podcast, I am documenting how people find belonging across cultures, generations, and lived experiences.

Supported by a FY26 Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant.



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Guiding Questions

- What does belonging look like in the spaces you work in?
- Where do you see community thriving -- and where is it struggling?
- Where do culture and economy intersect in the communities you serve?
- What do you wish more people understood about the work you do?
- What conversation do you think is not happening enough in your community?

Will You Share Your Gifts & Insight?

We are excited for the conversations and discovering the rich perspectives that make this world filled with wonder and awe. If you or someone you know is in a field below, we'd love to add your voice to the conversation!

- Cultural practitioners
- Social practitioners
- Economic development voices
- Local knowledge holders
- Institutional voices

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Dear Business Owner,

We are building something in Howard County and we would love for your business to be a part of it.

Always Welcome: A Social Arts Salon is a community podcast and oral history project supported by a FY26 Maryland State Arts Council Creativity Grant -- investigating what belonging means for the people who live, work, and build here. This summer and fall we are taking the research into the community, and we are looking for local business partners who want to be part of the conversation.

What We Bring to You

A **fun pop-up field research** presence in your space -- have questions you have been wanting to ask your customers but a survey is not working? We can include them in our research.

Public podcast recording opportunities -- **your space as the backdrop for real community conversations**

Community buzz -- we **promote every partnership**, bringing new and returning faces through your door

A **raffle opportunity** that gives participants a reason to come back to you

Association with an **MSAC-funded community arts project** -- added recognition that extends your reach

What Your Customers Get

- A meaningful, participatory community experience
- A chance to be part of something being documented and shared
- Connection with neighbors and community members
- A gift card opportunity for participating partners

What We Ask of You

- Table space and access to your customers or patrons
- A date or recurring window this summer or fall

We are here to serve your community alongside you.

Let us find the right fit together | 410.591.7309