

## **Social Curator Larissa Johnson-Akinremi (b. Baltimore, MD, 1969)**

The daughter of creative visionaries activist Bobbie Johnson and Zaid A. Maalikulmulk, 80s club kid and social curator Larissa Johnson-Akinremi (b. Baltimore, MD, 1969) began her career as a jewelry designer in the early 1990's after college and years later as a freelance make-up artist and fashion stylist. In 2000 she became the host, promoter and nightlife social curator for Deep House Page; Chicago's premier source for music entertainment and dance culture. Now her focus is in photography and curation. She is inspired by nature, people, social interaction, music, and dance culture. She enjoys the surreal, and spiritual realm and some of her work encompasses those forms. Larissa's process includes photography of human form, a play on light and body movement, which also includes spoken word, animation, video and performance art. In her spare time and upon request she is also a DJ. Johnson's first solo exhibition People, Places and Things took place in 2015 at Tangible Things. Her work was most recently featured at Beats and Treats, a solo exhibition at Chicago's Bronzeville Room 43, which featured local artists.

In 2016, Ms. Johnson's work was featured in a group exhibition; Continuous Span at the Hyde Park Center, and she along with other collaborating curators facilitated the exhibition Taking Shapes at the Hyde Park Art Center. Her photography was selected to appear in Connect Gallery Hyde 2017 as well as Connect Gallery South Shore in the fall of 2018; a weekend Showcase of local Chicago artists hosted the Silver Room's Pop-Up Gallery. Larissa Johnson lives and works in Chicago and is the curator for Sounding Bronzeville; a gathering space along the Burnham Wildlife Corridor, south lakefront region. She is also the promoter and creative director for Universal Dance Music. She also served as the coordinator for The Great Migration Centennial, Bronzeville Community Development Partnership and assisted in special projects with the Bronzeville Visitors Association. Ms. Johnson is the president of Race to Knowledge and Beyond successor to her late mother's organization Race to Knowledge and founder of thesocialmove, an organization that creates extraordinary experiences for youth, seniors and families through arts and culture.

Larissa Johnson-Akinremi's mission is to preserve cultural institutions, history and artifacts, just like her mother; the late community activist, philanthropist and preservationist Bobble Johnson, notably recognized for saving the Rosenwald building located in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood.

Larissa is the Creative and Promotions Director for Universal Dance Music , as well as other collaborative projects with Chicago artists, historians and creatives. She has received her Visual Arts Certification from the University of Chicago Graham School and Hyde Park Art Center in 2017 and has earned a certificate in 2020 from Digital Storytelling Institute at the Logan Center.