

RESIST AND PERSIST

The story of Charlotte as never told before

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Oct. 16, 2017 – Spoken-word poets join together at The Charlotte Museum of History on Saturday, Nov. 4, to tell the story of the Queen City as never heard before – a history of “resisting and persisting.”

“Charlotte often thinks of itself as a city that emphasizes conciliation in solving problems, but that’s not the whole story. A ‘resist and persist’ theme runs through much of Charlotte’s history,” says Mary Newsom, chair of the museum’s board of trustees. “From Charlotte’s very beginnings, this area was a hotbed of protest against injustice and inequality – a tradition that continues today.”

Emmy-winning spoken-word poet Bluz (Boris Rogers) and other local spoken-word poets tell Charlotte’s history in this 20-minute performance, accompanied by Kojo Bey and Drums4Life. The performance highlights Charlotte’s revolutionary legacy, including:

- Mecklenburg residents jump-started the Revolutionary War, declaring our break with the British government a year before the Declaration of Independence when they issued the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and Resolves.
- Free blacks in Charlotte incited slave revolts in 1852.
- North Carolina suffragettes, seeking the right to vote for women, held their first convention in Charlotte in 1913.
- Charlotte civil rights activists forced the desegregation of schools and other public facilities through protests at lunch counters, in the streets and in the courts in the 1960s.

Following the performance, retired *Charlotte Observer* associate editor Fannie Flono will moderate a brief discussion about Charlotte as a city with a history of resisting authority. The event is funded by a Cultural Vision Grant from the Arts & Science Council.



How to Go

“**Resist & Persist: The Story of the Queen City**” takes place on Saturday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. at The Charlotte Museum of History at 3500 Shamrock Drive. The event is free for students and teachers; \$10 for the general public and \$5 for museum members. Tickets and registration are at charlottemuseum.org [under the Events tab](#).

About The Charlotte Museum of History

The Charlotte Museum of History engages a broad audience in the history of the Charlotte region through the stories of its people, places and events to promote dialogue and historical perspective. The museum is the steward of the Hezekiah Alexander House (ca. 1774) and home site, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the oldest home in Mecklenburg County. To learn more, visit charlottemuseum.org and follow the museum on Facebook and Twitter (@CLThistory).

About Spoken-Word Artist Boris “Bluz” Rogers

Boris “Bluz” Rogers is an award-winning poet having won three Emmy Awards and the 2010 Southern Fried Poetry Slam. He is the slam master and coach of the 2007 and 2008 National Poetry Slam Championship team, SlamCharlotte. A published author and recording artist, Bluz focuses his poetry on dismantling social, economic and ethnic barriers. He has partnered with media organizations including CBS Radio, Disney, Raycom Sports, ESPN and SPEED TV, and he has shared the stage with such artists as Taylor Mali, Nikki Giovanni, Outkast, John Legend and Pink Floyd.

About Kojo Bey

Kojo Bey is a writer and international performer with Drums4Life. He co-founded Sounds of Afrika Drum and Dance Troupe, and he has performed and taught African drumming as a healing art worldwide for 20 years.

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