



Cover page:

Xeena Ellison (She/Her)

Practicum Project:

KOMATOSE

Host

Organizations:

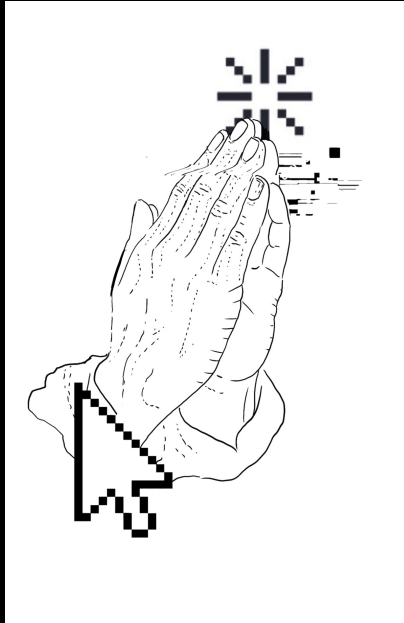
The Movement/CrescentCare, Bulbancha Collective,

**Viiv Healthcare, Last Call Oral History Project, Trans Income Project,
DeepSpaceCraft**

Xeena Ellison, professionally known as GOUL8DE DJ & Robertha Anne Sparrowz, is a New Orleans-based multidisciplinary artist, cultural worker, public health advocate, and 2025-26 PWN-USA Policy Practicum Fellow. As a disabled Black trans woman living with HIV, she works at the intersection of art, policy, nightlife, and community organizing to create innovative models of care, education, and social change.

Her fellowship project explores accessible HIV/STI testing possibilities that integrate harm reduction, community meals, performance, film, and disability-friendly environments into welcoming spaces for connection and wellness. Through this work, she advocates for public investment in culturally relevant, community-led health infrastructure.

Beyond her policy work, Xeena is a DJ, poet, writer, actress, model, graphic designer, filmmaker, and organizer whose practice centers healing, visibility, and collective liberation. Across every medium, she uses creativity as a tool for storytelling, advocacy, and building transformative spaces where marginalized communities can thrive, lead, and imagine new futures together.



WHAT IS... KOMATOSE?

KOMATOSE

is an HIV/AIDS & STI-testing possibility

model merging broader access 2

harm-reduction resources;

ambient/disability-friendly space(s) &

resources 2 PLHIV, "neuro-spicy",

disabled, sex workers,

black/brown/indigenous/undocumented,

LGBTQIA, non-binary & gender

non-conforming people or other

similarly, marginalized groups 2 erotic/performing arts &

nightlife-based education/entertainment events.

"KOMATOSE festival will be an accessible, sit-down nightlife event in New Orleans that functions as a pilot for publicly funded alternative HIV/STI testing sites. The project combines a closing DJ set, community dinner, performances, altar/ambient/disability-friendly space, film screenings with on-site testing and harm reduction resources, scheduled outside standard nine-to-five clinic hours to reach people who are currently excluded. As a Black disabled trans woman leading a Black LGBTQ-centered space, I am using this event to demonstrate how government funding can support community-based, disability-centered nightlife as a formal part of the testing infrastructure, with a model that can be replicated across multiple venues and dates."

KOMATOSE is a A dual fellowship venture *By:*

Xeena Ellison, PWN-USA Policy Fellow, GOUL8D3, multidisciplinary artist, cultural organizer, and creative strategist & Simone Immanuel, AIDS United Transgender Fellow & Co-Director of LOUD Queer Youth Theatre Drama Instructor of NOCCA

KOMATOSE is fiscally Sponsored by:

- ★ *The Movement/CrescentCare,*
- ★ *Xeena Ellison, PWN-USA Policy Fellow*
- ★ *Bulbancha Collective*
- ★ *AIDS United Transgender Fellowship*
- ★ *PWN-USA Policy Practicum Project Fellowship*
- ★ *S. Mandisa Moore-O'Neal, exec. Dir of CHLP*
- ★ *Brandon Dykes, Community Liaison, Viiv Healthcare*

KOMATOSE is partnering with host organizations which have graciously provided:

- ★ *Photobooth by Brandon Dykes*
- ★ *Co-Organizing & Community Consulting Bryson Richard,*
- ★ *Consulting & Networking with Sponsor: S. Mandisa Moore-O'Neal,*
- ★ *Harm Reduction by Odyssey House*
- ★ *Advisory, Accounting, & Consulting by Indee Mitchell & Jasmine Davis*
- Dir. & co-dir, Last Call Oral History Project New Orleans*
- Event PR Support, Advisory & Consulting by: Natalie Rupp and Tobi Jaunzemis,*
- Trans Income Project*
- Event PR Support, Emergency Housing & Artist Residency Space offered by The*
- DeeepSpaceCraft,*

The DeeepSpaceCraft (also known as the

Uhuru Dreamhouse) is a grassroots, Black- and Indigenous-led transitional sanctuary located in New Orleans, LA. It operates as a safe haven providing housing, creative workspace, and community healing for queer, transgender, intersex, and disabled people. Owned and maintained by Black and Indigenous trans people, the project was established to create a housing safety net for those experiencing systematic discrimination. The sanctuary offers several vital resources:

- **Transitional Shelter & Safety:** Provides a physical refuge for individuals experiencing emergencies or seeking a secure environment.
- **Creative Sanctuary:** Acts as an art house and studio space for marginalized artists, particularly those in the queer and trans community.
- **Mutual Aid & Accessibility:** Serves as a collaborative space (a "third space") focused on accessibility and community-driven rehabilitation.
- Because it is a grassroots organization, it relies heavily on community contributions and micro-reparations to fund its mortgage, utilities, building repairs, and living expenses.

PWN-USA 2025-26 Policy Practicum Project Fellowship

Overview Host Organization Brief:

Because of a lack of existing policy structure around testing & HIV/AIDS management, beyond the movement of epidemic or molecular surveillance for HIV-positive people living in New Orleans, LA and our surrounding state, my policy practicum project is a possibility model focusing on strengthening and advocating for community-based approaches to HIV & AIDS testing through merging broader access to HIV/AIDS & STI testing; sex worker & harm reduction resources; ambient/disability-friendly space(s) & resources to PLHIV, "neuro-spicy", disabled, sex worker, black and brown, undocumented, LGBTQIA, non-binary and gender non-conforming people or other similarly marginalized groups to erotic/performing arts and nightlife-based education/entertainment.

I allocated national, federal, and local state funding and/or fiscal sponsorship via grant funding or donation-based funding to fund this possibility model. Events will include sit-down variety style dinner shows offering drinks & menu-order testing whilst featuring local artists in erotic, nightlife, and performing arts at our bimonthly events. This event will occur on Sun./Mon. nights at 7pm-12am in a venue downtown I have discussed this event with. Events will platform the DJ school/cohort of new DJs, musicians, performers, hosts, and panelists particularly from the larger Greater New Orleans or the national LGBTQ+, bounce music, ballroom and artist community.

HIV & AIDS/STI Testing will be offered in a more discrete, secure and accessible way that can be provided outside the traditional clinical time/location. Either through physical resources or conversation/dialogue harm reduction, consent training and sex work decriminalization info & resources will be provided during testing. The focus of this form of community-based testing is to center a "for us by us" style; aiming to work particularly with Black LGBTQ+ phlebotomists and other medical personnel in local HIV/AIDS & STI service based orgs; as well as through tabling with orgs like Trystereo and other orgs with a similar focus.

KOMATOSE Policy Practicum Project Overview

This project seeks to strengthen community-based HIV and STI testing through a culturally relevant, accessibility-centered model that combines public health outreach with nightlife, arts, and community engagement. The proposed policy change focuses on encouraging local, state, and federal governments to allocate funding and resources toward alternative testing sites and partnerships with community-based organizations, particularly those serving marginalized populations.

As part of the project, a resource-based community event will be developed featuring local erotic and nightlife performers, food, HIV/STI testing services, sexual health education, and harm reduction resources. The initiative aims to expand access to HIV prevention and care information, including U=U (Undetectable = Untransmittable), PrEP, PEP, consent education, and sex-positive health resources.

The project prioritizes creating disability-friendly, sensory-conscious, and affirming spaces for people living with HIV, disabled and neurodivergent individuals, sex workers, Black and Brown communities, undocumented people, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and gender-expansive populations. By integrating public health services with community-centered arts and cultural programming, the project advances innovative approaches to HIV prevention, testing, education, and care.

ORIGIN STORY

This event draws inspiration from several recent and past experiences. These include *Snapshots*, a play produced by Last Call Oral History Project New Orleans, and an oral history interview with Kyra Kincaid, an older Black trans woman working in healthcare. In the interview, she described conducting HIV testing out of her car during the pandemic and offering gift cards as incentives—an approach very similar to my own work at CADA, where I helped develop a similar testing incentive program offering my graphic design services and where I completed my COMMUNITY Promise (CDC) Training as well as the AIDS Regional Planning Council's Peer Advocate Training.

The event is also shaped by my previous work in 2017 creating a platform for creative, theatrical, and sex-positive erotic arts within a seated theatre setting, where I performed as a DJ/. Ongoing conversations around establishing a DJ residency or school in

New Orleans further informed this vision seeking to center those traditionally excluded or not as popular in the mainstream nightlife, particularly focusing on the lack of accessibility due to the beautiful yet tragically inaccessible architecture of most 3rd spaces in New Orleans nightlife & entertainment.

Through this fellowship, I aim to merge these influences into a single, cohesive event. The goal is to create a community-centered, accessible space that offers seating, music, performance, and entertainment, all grounded in principles of harm reduction, consent, and sexual health.



LEVEL UP

If you are 18-24, LEVEL UP is offering Incentives up to \$60 for Participation

- FREE HIV & Syphilis Testing!
- Healthcare Treatment Services!
- Comprehensive Screening & Testing!
- Prevention Education Programs & Resources!

Contact:
Sy'ria, 504-821-2232 Ext. 107





Leticia Fry
3.3.17
2240 St. Claude St
Doors: 8:30 PM Show: 9 PM
HOSTED BY:
TRILLITERATE

MECCA: Xxxpression of EroticArts
by Bayou Belle Productions
4 followers • 5 events • 9y hosting • 83 total attendees
[Follow](#)

Sales ended
Fri, Mar 3, 2017 •
8:30 PM

[Explore similar events](#)

2240 St Claude Ave • New Orleans, LA
Friday, March 3, 2017 • 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Were Back, Fresh & New ! Come for a night of pleasure and seduction via the Gods & Goddesses! A night of Erotic Arts XXXpressed through dance, song, and poetry!

(idea: community artists compensated 2 perform as a practice)

HOSTED BY PODCAST: Trillierate (idea: compensate local artists/comedians/thespians to host)

SOUNDSCAPES BY: Xena (dj cohort programming featuring 1 dj & myself to close event 10pm-12a)

Please join us on 3/3/17 at Always Lounge, come prepared to play naughty
(location scouted: CANAO)