



CHARLOTTESVILLE

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

CLIENT PARTNER SPOTLIGHT – ALAN AVERILL

Alan Averill is fully devoted to designing spaces and places that meet each client’s unique needs. As owner of Salty Architects, LLC, Alan frequently works in tandem with a variety of design firms like Lamplight Design Studios. By providing architectural expertise at exactly the right moment in time, Alan helps turn clients’ dreams into reality.

So, if you’re in search of an architect, one look at Lamplight testimonials will tell you that you’re in the right place! Shares a local Charlottesville realtor, “Whenever my clients are planning on a renovation or addition and ask me for a referral, I send them to these guys. Lamplight is always in my top recommended design/build firms in town.”

But getting to this point in his career, he openly attests, has not been easy. Even with years of experience in major D.C. firms, he found that having a record often closed doors before an interview ever began. Still, he stayed optimistic, saying yes to an array of work opportunities while keeping his long-term goal in focus: reclaiming his career as a licensed architect and creating a future defined by his talent, not his past.

Central to Alan’s journey was his willingness to trust others and accept help. Community members, faith leaders, and professional contacts offered opportunities that became turning points: a conversation at a probation office led to paid work, a chance meeting led to his first freelance client, and support from The Fountain Fund made it possible for him to secure his Virginia architectural license. Each act of trust—both given and received—created momentum that allowed his career to grow.

While Alan currently has many exciting design projects that are underway, **The Hub**, a resource space made possible by The Point Church, is one of the most meaningful. The Hub brings access to over 850 nonprofits under a single roof. It’s a place where, “Life change isn’t just a possibility... it’s their purpose. It’s a bridge to stability and independence for under-resourced and under-served neighbors.”

Today, Alan’s work as an architect stands as proof that reentry is not just about survival, it’s about thriving. His story shows that determination opens doors, but community—and the courage to embrace connection—keeps them open.



Wisdom Alan Averill offers others: “Even if something seems minor, you have no idea what can come of it. So if there’s an opportunity, no matter how small, it could be something huge.”



A field of wildflowers near Mount Hood that exemplifies the beauty of planting the seeds of possibility. Photo Credit: Alan Averill

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS – FOUNTAIN FUND TO PRESENT AT NATIONAL CBA SUMMIT

The Fountain Fund is excited to share the news that the **Credit Builders Alliance** has invited our team to present at their national summit in Arlington, Virginia this June! Through a dynamic, facilitated conversation, our lending leaders Shantel Hopkins (Director of Lending), Sankofa Alkebu-Lan (Loan Operations Specialist), and Jeffrey Beacham (Loan Assets Specialist) will explore how credit can serve as a tool for elevation for the formerly incarcerated. The session will examine how lending systems can honor dignity while still meeting expectations around risk, sustainability, and performance, ultimately helping individuals move beyond barriers toward a future that is “cleared for takeoff.”



Facilitated by Shantel in a fireside chat format, the conversation will go beyond theory to offer a transparent, real-world view of how credit building can lead to economic growth and financial stability for vulnerable populations. The session will highlight the vital importance of turning a systemic “No” into a life-changing “Yes.”

PROXIMITY FOR JUSTICE BRINGS TEDx TO FLUVANNA CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Martize Tolbert, Fountain Fund National Director of Client and Community Engagement, recently shared his motivational life story at a TEDx event at the Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women.

Hosted by the Virginia Department of Corrections (VADOC) and **Proximity for Justice**, this TEDx event, titled “The Journey,” brought together more than 40 compelling speakers – from community leaders, to philanthropists, to law enforcement, to inspiring residents. It was the first event of its kind to be held in a Virginia women’s prison.

As shared on their website, “Proximity for Justice is dedicated to mass decarceration by helping incarcerated individuals gain the necessary skills and relationships to reenter society successfully.” This innovative nonprofit, “Amplifies incarcerated voices, fosters meaningful connections between people on both sides of prison walls, and mobilizes the public to advocate for justice-system change.” These events encourage dialogue, forge connections, and inspire reform.



CREDIT BUILDING BRINGS A BRIGHTER TOMORROW



Client Partner Christopher Green increased his credit score from 485 to 720+ with help from a Fountain Fund loan. Consistent payments and reduced debt strengthened his credit profile and made homeownership possible, allowing him to secure a 6% mortgage interest rate through a traditional bank on his family’s first home.

When Christopher finally held the keys to his new three-room bedroom rancher in hand, he told his children, “*This is your house.*” He told his grandchildren, “*You can go to school and tell them your pop-pop bought a house for you.*” Generational wealth brightens the future... for future generations. Congratulations, Christopher. You inspire.

CHARLOTTESVILLE FACTS

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

98% felt supported by the Fountain Fund
97% were able to better support their families
97% felt empowered to overcome barriers.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

- “Please, please keep being active with our community and with our people because we need y’all.”
- “I cannot stress this enough: if you fall down seven times, you just have to get up eight times. Having a record, you’re going to fall down a lot. ... Thank you, Fountain Fund, for believing in me.”

TOTAL LENDING

As of February 28, 2026, Charlottesville’s total lending included 589 loans valued at \$2,529,719!

GROWING STRONG

We’re excited to welcome **Muntadher Almusawi, Senior Manager of Data and Operations**, to our team! His expertise and dedication to our mission make us stronger.



Scan to learn more!

CONTACT US IN CHARLOTTESVILLE



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EXAMPLES OF LOANS

- Business Equipment
- Secure Housing
- Obtain a Driver’s License
- Auto Loans & Vehicle Repair
- Court Costs & Fees
- DMV Fines & Fees

OUR MISSION

The Fountain Fund increases economic opportunities for formerly incarcerated people to improve their lives and remain in their communities.