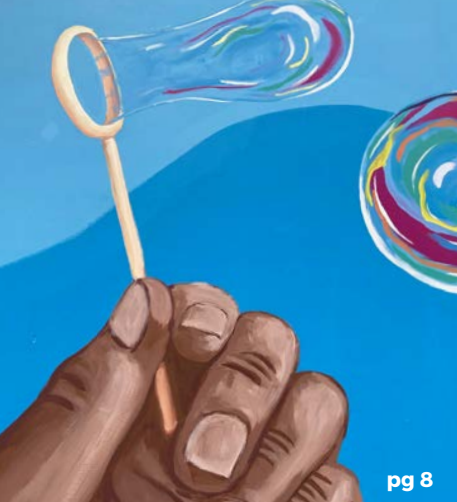




PITT COUNTY
ARTS
COUNCIL AT
EMERGE

ARTZINE

SPRING
2021



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Thank you to the ARTZINE Sponsors:
Ms. Harvey S. Wooten and
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Register yourself as an artist in Pitt County
www.pittcountyarts.org

Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge
404 Evans St. Greenville, NC 27858
252. 551. 6947 · info@pittcountyarts.org
For more information,
visit www.pittcountyarts.org

Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge:
ARTzine, Vol. 1, No. 8, Spring 2021 Issue.

On the front cover: Photo of Kevon Gainer
by Aaron Hines

A Letter from the President

The past twelve months have challenged our community in ways never anticipated, but with clear leadership and vision, the Pitt County Arts Council is emerging with renewed strength. The Arts Council staff continues to work tenaciously to navigate some of our greatest challenges yet; a global pandemic that turned daily operations on its head and national racial reckoning that positioned the Arts Council to help give voice to our black community.

Making this happen behind the doors of the Arts Council, are four smart, passionate women who work tirelessly with humility to strengthen and improve our community. For the past 20 years, Holly Garriott, Executive Director, has built this grassroots organization from a bold idea to the fundamental countywide asset it is today. Holly's dream team is rounded out by Paula Rountree, Programs Director; Heather Mae Suter, Education Coordinator; and Sarah Lazure, Marketing Coordinator. But don't let their titles fool you; these women take on roles much greater than their titles suggest and they are always one step ahead.

During the year I have received many calls from Holly that start something like, "We have a situation that we need to discuss with the Board...". Although before discouragement sets in, Holly quickly adds that she, Paula, Sarah, and Heather have a recommendation. This unflappable team doesn't see problems; they see solutions. For this, our Board is so grateful. Next time you see Holly, Paula, Heather or Sarah, please give them an air hug and huge thank you for their endless commitment to strengthening our community through art.

Their much-needed work throughout our community this past year proves that art matters in our most challenging times. Art matters to those who need a voice, art matters to bring us together as a community, and art matters to our economic vitality. Our supporters recognize the value of the Pitt County Arts Council and have risen to the occasion. We thank you so very much. Please continue to help us support our artists, arts organizations and our Pitt County community by renewing your membership or joining the Arts Council.

Sincerely,



Myriah M. Shewchuk
President, 2018-2021
Pitt County Arts Council



**2020-2021
Pitt County Arts
Council at Emerge
Board of Directors:**

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Programs Director
Paula Rountree
**Educational
Coordinator**
Heather Suter
**Marketing
Coordinator**
Sarah Lazure

Arts Organizations in Pitt County

An alphabetical
listing of Arts
Organizations
in Pitt County

A Place in the Heart Theatre Company
<https://www.facebook.com/APIHTCO/>

Ayden Arts & Recreation
<http://www.ayden.com/departments/arts-recreation>

City Art Gallery
www.cityartgreenville.com

East Carolina ArtSpace
<http://www.eastcarolinaartspace.com/>

ECU's S. Rudolph Alexander
Performing Arts Series
<https://artscomm.ecu.edu/alexander-series/>

ECU Family Fare
<https://artscomm.ecu.edu/family-fare/>

ECU Joyner Library's Faulkner Gallery
<https://media.lib.ecu.edu/development/fulkner-gallery.cfm>

ECU Fletcher Recital Series
<https://artscomm.ecu.edu/fletcher-recital-series/>

ECU/Loessin Playhouse
<https://theatredance.ecu.edu/current-season>

ECU School of Music
<https://music.ecu.edu/>

Eastern Youth Orchestra
www.easternyouthorchestras.org

Emerald City Band
<https://emeraldcityband.com/>

Emerge Gallery & Art Center
<https://emergegallery.com/>

Farmers & Makers Market
<https://www.facebook.com/Farmersandmakers/>

Farmville Community Arts Council
<https://www.farmville-arts.org/about/>

The GlasStation
<https://www.facebook.com/ECUGlasStation/>

Faux & More...Lisa Jordan
<https://bylisajordan.com/>

Folk Arts Society of Greenville
<http://fasgnc.org/FASG/Home.html>

Greenville Brushstrokes
<https://www.greenvillebrushstrokes.com/>

Greenville Choral Society
<https://www.greenvillechoralsociety.com/>

Greenville Civic Ballet
<https://www.greenvillecivicballet.com/>

Greenville Museum of Art
<https://www.gmoa.org/>

Greenville Theater Arts Center
<http://www.futureent.org/>

Hobby Horse
<http://jonathanbowling.com/>

Jaycee Park Arts & Crafts Center
<https://www.greenvillenc.gov/government/recreation-parks/programs-and-activities/arts-crafts#ad-image-0>

Katura Dance
<http://www.katuradance.com/>



Find Our Countywide Arts Calendar at pittcountyarts.org.

Is your organization not listed? Email Info@pittcountyarts.org

L'Academie de Danse
www.Lacademiededanse-noraparker.com

Magnolia Arts Center
<http://www.magnoliaartscenter.com/>

Makerspace Greenville
<https://makerspaceofgreenville.com>

Moxie Pop
<https://moxiepopnc.com>

Music Academy
of Eastern North Carolina
<http://musicacademyec.org/>

Music House
<https://visitgreenvillenc.com/visit/the-music-house/>

NC Academy of Dance Arts
<http://danceacademyofnc.com/>

North Carolina Furniture School
<https://ncfurnitureschool.com/>

Open Door Studios
<http://opendoorartstudio.com/>

Opus 126 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church
<http://www.opus126.com/>

Pitt Community College
Fine Arts Gallery and Symphony
<http://www.pittcc.edu/>

Pitt County Schools Arts Education
<https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/1446>

R. A. Fountain General Store
<http://www.rafountain.com/>

Smiles and Frowns Playhouse
<http://www.smilesandfrowns.org>

Spazz Presents
<https://www.facebook.com/spazzpresents>

Tar River Community Band
Tarriverband.com

The Art Lab
Theartlabnc.com

The Painted Peacock
Thepaintedpeacocknc.com
Uptown Art Supply
<https://uptowngreenville.com/locations/uptown-art-supply-gallery/>

Uptown Greenville
<https://uptowngreenville.com/>

USA Dance
Greenvillencusadance.org

West Side Strings School
<https://www.facebook.com/The-West-Side-Strings-School-171811026187832/>

Whirligig Stage
<https://www.whirligigstage.com/>

Winterville Historical
and Arts Society, Inc.
<https://www.facebook.com/WintervilleHistoricalAndArtsSocietyInc/>



2020 Annual Report



2020 brought the shuttering of our arts and performance venues, losing income and paychecks for our arts organizations and artists.



In response to the pandemic, the North Carolina Arts Council distributed North Carolina CARES for Arts funding to local arts councils. The Pitt County Arts Council took the lead in making grant awards by applying for the county allotment from the NC Arts Council and then sub-granting to local eligible arts groups. The purpose of the funds was to offset business disruption and/or expenses incurred due to COVID-19 between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. This is especially important for our arts organizations, as almost all of the normal programming events and income has been cut due to COVID-19. These grants have helped our arts organizations stabilize, and hopefully hang on until they can begin programming again.



Through the hard work of our staff, Board and supporters, Emerge was able to raise enough funds, not only to retain our 4 full-time staff members, but to also help our Pitt County Arts Community and advocate for social justice for our Black artists and community!



\$16,000 DONATED
between April - December 31, 2020
\$155,878 TOTAL
LOSSES REPORTED
FROM 46 ARTISTS
AND ARTS ORGANIZATIONS



Please read the following highlights of 2020 for our Emerge Arts Community.

Highlights:

GRANTS TO PITT COUNTY ARTISTS AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Pitt County Arts Relief Fund: \$16,000 to 46 artists and arts organizations

Grassroots Grants: \$19,575 to 10 arts organizations

Artist Support Grants: \$10,824 to 13 artists

NC Cares for Arts Grant: \$127,601.91 to 32 arts organizations and artists

SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH THE ARTS:

Commissioned Façade Paintings by 8 Black and POC Artists

Presented district-wide Black Voices Matter exhibition

Civic Arts Facilitator for the First Street Mural, 23 Black and POC Artists participating

Became Umbrella Organization for the Black Creatives of Pitt County

PUBLIC ART PROJECTS:

Emerge implemented 9 Public Art Projects

Including the DownEast and many new mural projects (See Pg. 8)

Finished and released the "Emerald Loop Vision Plan": multi-modal urban arts trail project that the City Council approved in August 2020

STABILIZING THE PITT COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL:

Maintained 4 full-time staff positions

Received over \$200,000 in grant funds (to offset the loss of income from cancelations of our major fundraisers, events, classes and camps)

Doubled the giving by individuals ***Thank you!***

Presented 13 exhibitions and presented openings virtually

Continued the African American Music Series virtually

Hosted 10 virtual auctions to raise funds for Emerge

Started Zoom options for adult classes

Created an online shop for sales gallery artists and exhibitions

ECU Arts Go Virtual

Last March, as the pandemic shuttered performance spaces around the globe, ECU's College of Fine Arts and Communication began adapting. While continuing a tradition of exceptional instruction, the college is also delivering unique—and safe—performance opportunities for our students.



Quickly after this, Director of the ECU School of Theatre and Dance, Jayme Host shared the outcome of an assignment she gave to her modern dance class — a way to dance together while far apart. The result was an amazing collaboration between the students, as each created their own choreography then sent their clip to Host and the next dancer. The next dancer had to start where the last left off. The clips were stitched together to create “Dancing Alone Together”.

In the fall, ART CAST, a web series curated by two professors that collaboratively explores what connectivity and community mean during a time of physical distancing and isolation. In episode one, Graphic Design Professor Cat Normoyle and Ballet Professor Jessica Teague hosted six segments featuring artists

ARTCAST

in book arts, dance, furniture craft, photography, education and international digital flute performance. A second episode is under production currently.

As ART CAST continues, the professors expect to host episodes open to all creatives beyond the campus footprint. To that end, please explore the work and watch the website for a future call to participate, at <https://artcast.studio>

Most of the activity can be found on the websites of the four schools within the College: Art and Design, Communication, Music, and Theatre and Dance. ECU/Loessin Playhouse, for example, streamed a series of four radio shows, reminiscent of entertainment from days of yore. Music ensembles used technology to weave together safe performances captured in multiple spaces throughout Fletcher Music Center.



As the college continues to adapt to the pandemic, our dedication to world-class instruction is paramount. Learn more about our work at artscomm.ecu.edu.

New Public Art Projects in Greenville



Squirrels
by Lexi Malpass

Public art instills meaning—a greater sense of identity and understandings of where we live, work, and visit—creating memorable experiences for all. It humanizes the built environment, provides an intersection between past, present, and future, and can help communities thrive.

- Americans for the Arts

The Pitt County Arts Council in conjunction with Greenville Mural Project, Uptown Greenville, City of Greenville, and Greenville-Pitt County Convention & Visitors Bureau, has brought these major public art projects to the streets of Greenville.

Scott Eagle's mural at The Art Lab





Carlos Romero



Dee Dee Oliver



Ramiro Davaro-Comas



Helen Jori Alvir Lewis's mural on the Parking Deck

AMEXCAN Bus Sculpture by Sally Jacobs



The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation's Inclusive Public Art grant was awarded to the Association of Mexicans in North Carolina (AMEXCAN) in collaboration with Sally Jacobs, a painter and multimedia artist based in Greenville, NC. Sally has spent three years in eastern North Carolina building relationships in the farmworker community while co-directing the documentary, "At A Stranger's Table," which follows the lives of migrant farmworkers and introduces them to consumers in hopes of creating mutual understanding.

This grant was awarded to create an inclusive public work of art. The public artwork will lift up the story of a large, marginalized group: the Latino migrant farmworker community. It will create a platform for farmworkers to tell their stories in their own voices, while highlighting the essential economic and cultural contributions of the migrant H-2A farmworker population and will create opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration and understanding.



(Top L): Sally Jacobs by Deborah Griffin

(Bottom Left): Watching Documentary by Scott Temple
Next Page

(Top): Bus Sculpture at Alice F. Keene District Park

(Bottom Left): Photo by Zachary Pomeroy Hood

(Bottom Right): Creating Art by Scott Temple



The bus itself serves as a metaphor, as gutted and repurposed school buses are the primary mode of transportation that farmers utilize to transport workers and equipment to the field and produce/harvests from the field in eastern North Carolina. On the road, these school buses are hiding farmworkers in plain sight, which speaks to the isolation of this community. The mobile sculpture will have a permanent home in Alice F. Keene District Park in Greenville, NC, but also will travel to schools and other community events, as well as to farmworker camps.

More information about the project can be found at:
<https://www.atastrangerstable.com/>





Rakia Jackson



Paula Jordan-Mayo



Mural on First Street

On December 13, 2020, our community witnessed the completion of the street mural on First Street, between Washington and Cotanche Streets, as a contemporary piece of art in response to the Black Lives Matter movement, as well as honoring the late Sycamore Hill Community that was displaced by misguided urban renewal in the 1960s. The street mural states "Unite Against Racism," which were the words chosen by the City Council after much discussion and deliberation.

The individual letters of the mural were completed by 24 artists and volunteers. The project was organized by Kevon Gainer and lead artist Randall Leach who originally proposed "Black Lives Matter" for the mural.

Artists include Aliyah Bonnette, Brianna Hemby, Brittany Hemby, Cameron Johnson, Deborah Sheppard, Jacinda Aytch, Jasmine Hemby, Jeremy Richardson, Jermaine McNair, Kevin Gonzalez, Kevon Gainer, Kidd Graves, Luis Federico,

Maria Young, Marlon Westray, Megan Ellison, Nataly Monter, Paula Jordan-Mayo, Rakia Jackson, Randall Leach, Raymond Henderson, Steph Alexander, and Terlarrio Faulk.

On Saturday, December 19, 2020, City Council members, Mayor Pro Tem Rose Glover, Councilperson Monica Daniels, and Councilperson Rick Smiley presented each of the artists with a photographic documentation of the street mural and their participation. At the close of the ceremony, Dr. John Bray and Nancy Bray gifted the newly formed Black Creatives of Pitt County with a donation of \$5,000 to begin their next projects.

The Pitt County Arts Council will serve as the umbrella to Black Creatives of Pitt County (BCPC) for right now. The artist group is open to Black artists of all arts genres, including but not limited to visual arts, music, dance, performance, and literary. Additional donations can be made to the Arts Council and 100% of the proceeds will go to the Black Creatives of Pitt County.

Interested in donating?
Visit www.pittcountyarts.org/support



Setback will spur artists to keep creating

- by Deborah Sheppard

Art is an icebreaker, it pulls the elephant in the room by its trunk and places it front and center: "Here, systemic racism, make yourself known to the group." At its best, art can voice for us what we are afraid say.

Throughout history, African-Americans have had little other than the arts to inform us about the truth of our history and social inequalities. Since the days of slavery, art has been a way of hope and in its highest form of activism, a method to freedom.

Black artistry is multidimensional. It is not only supposed to make you feel good, but it's also supposed to make you aware. You can journey back in time and see where black artists and influencers have had an impact on whatever social movement was present during that time. Lorraine Hansberry wrote the popular "A Raisin in the

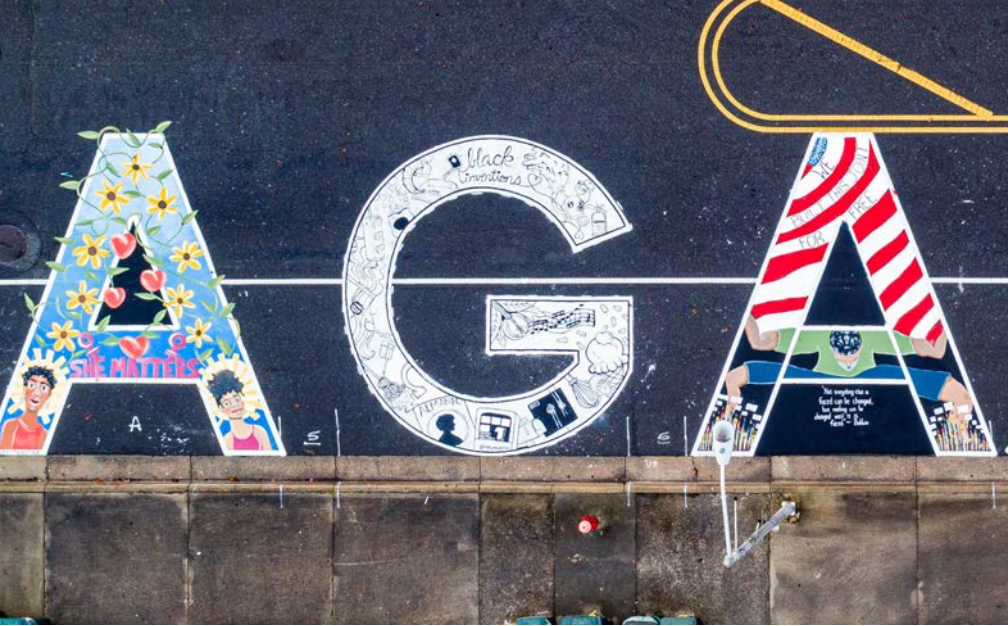


Sun" to highlight segregation and disenfranchisement in Chicago in the 1950s; Muhammad Ali lent his voice and influence to be a backbone in the Civil Rights Movement; and Gordon Parks, a 20th century, world renowned photographer, used his body of work to document race relations, civil rights and poverty. It was never enough for them to just entertain society, but to use their gifts and talents to be change agents, even at the expense of their careers.

In 1963, when those four beautiful, black girls were killed by white supremacists who planted dynamite beneath the steps of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, it had a profound impact on our nation. It troubled many souls, including that of famous African-American, jazz singer, Nina Simone.

Nina Simone said, "I sat struck dumb in my den like St. Paul on the road to Damascus: all the truths that I had denied to myself for so long rose up and slapped my face. The bombing of the little girls in Alabama and the murder of Medgar Evers were like the final pieces of a jigsaw puzzle that made no sense until you had fitted the whole thing together. I suddenly realized what it was to be black in America in 1963, but it wasn't an intellectual connection ... it came as a rush of fury, hatred and determination."

The horrific and unspeakable cruelty of that event is how we got Nina Simone's "Mississippi Goddam." It was honest, provoking, and for this remarkable black woman with a huge white following, the song was seen as career suicide. Radio stations banned the song and even sent back the records, broken. Nina wasn't invited back to some of the major events that she would usually be asked to



perform. All because, she, an artist, decided to use her talent to speak out on inequalities of Blacks.

Artists help us see, feel and process. Artists are the gatekeepers of truth. They are society's anchor. They are our pathway to consciousness. So, what happens when society tries to run the gatekeepers off their property? What happens when they just want our artists to perform and nothing more?

What happens when 18 artists, right here in our city, decide that they wish to use their talent to highlight the injustices, not only in this nation but our city? Injustices such as police brutality, racial discrimination, economic deprivation, education inequalities and more. What happens when they are met with opposition? They do what many others before them did; they keep creating.

These artists haven't even placed a drop of paint on these streets but they've already created something much greater. These brave artists are spreading consciousness, they are creating conversations that most turn away from, and they are setting the foundation for change, this city desperately needs. They have no intention to suffocate truth but yet bring it to the forefront of this city's existence. Art has a place in fighting social injustices.

Just the idea of a "Black Lives Matter" painting in our city has sparked uncomfortable conversations. Conversations that are giving the voiceless a voice. Conversations that will hopefully lead to understanding, empathy and policy changes. Art started this



journey for our city. This is what art does and this what art will continue to do, because creation has no expiration date.

Deborah Sheppard is the author of “Good Secrets, Bad Secrets,” a member of the City of Greenville’s Human Relations Council and the Black Lives Matter mural subcommittee.



Jermaine McNair & Randall Leach



Letter C in Racism

- Kidd Graves

"This mural project brought together a much-needed group of Black and POC artists in Greenville and I am so grateful for the opportunity and experience to work alongside so many talented individuals. Sharing our ideas and messages about our experiences was the best approach to this project and I'm excited to see what the future holds in conversations about equity within this community."





Raymond Henderson

Letter A in Against

- Raymond Henderson

"With my letter 'A', I was expressing how the weight of America was built for free on the backs of African Americans. The image of the black male in the center is displaying emotions from the hurt and pain of America but continues to be strong for his black community (which are displayed at the bottom of the letter). I added the Baldwin quote 'not everything that is face can be changed but nothing can be changed until it is faced.'"



Luis Federico

Black Light Project

Interview between Sarah Lazure, Marketing Coordinator with Pitt County Arts Council and Tonya Lynch, founder of JG Media Productions

Z. Smith Reynolds Inclusive Public Art grants funded The Black Light Project (BLP), which includes eight permanent, large scale photographic installations in multiple, prominent locations across Rocky Mount, NC.

SL: How did the project get started?

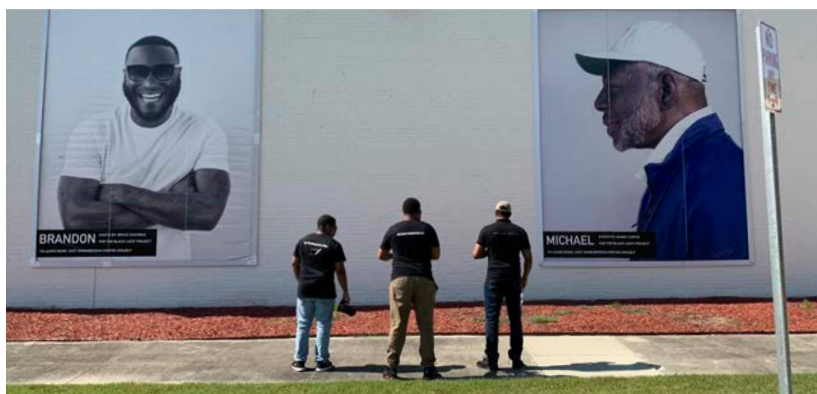
TL: The Black Light Project (BLP) started in 2016. I wanted to do a "Lemonade"-esque project to Black Men. You know Beyoncé's visual album? Well, I wanted to do that. I had played around with this use of photography and storytelling. I have five boys and wanted the world to see Black men, Black people the way I see them. But it really got going when I met with Regina Garcia and Jasmin Spain at Pitt Community College.

How did you get connected with the artists/photographers??

I already knew Randy Curtis from previous work he had done with me and my for-profit JGirls. It has been some time so I almost don't remember how I met Randy but I knew him prior to thinking up the Black Light Project. I met Bryce Chapman through Charity Valentine, one of the members of PCC's art department. She introduced me to him and his work and I was blown away!

What is the mission/goal of the project?

The Black Light Project believes that the sharing of narratives is activism. It is in our stories that we gain a deeper understanding of the human condition and begin to analyze, question, and shift our perspectives on our fellow man and their life experience. Specifically, The Black Light Project focuses on those narratives of the oppressed and disenfranchised; those who are systematically deprived of proper representation and whose lives are often depicted in negative stereotypes and in stories told by others.



How did you get connected with Rocky Mount for the public art portion of the project?

It was rather serendipitous actually. I went to the Imperial Center in Rocky Mount to meet someone about using that location for an event and I saw they had a really nice gallery. I reached out to Alicyn Wiedrich, the art curator and the rest is history! I love Alicyn. She is amazing!

How has the Z Smith Reynolds grant changed the mission/goal?

I don't think that it has necessarily changed the mission but it has made us see how it can be impactful on a bigger scale. It has made me realize that as much as I

knew that Black people need these stories shared; that other cultures do also.

Do you see the project coming to Pitt County in the future?

So we did do a showing at Emerge - shout out to EMERGE! However, I think Pitt County could certainly benefit from a public arts campaign. I am a native of Farmville and I think it is always important and special to see your work at home

What has been the best moment of the project?

Definitely when we unveiled it at the Craig Goess Building for the very first time at Pitt Community College in 2017.



Photo courtesy of
Jeremy Rall



Family photo courtesy of
Tami Outterbridge



John Ivery's Truck: Hauling Away Traps and Keeping Yams, 1993
mixed media, Part of the Permanent Collection at:
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)

First Poet, Olivia, 1993
mixed media Part of the Permanent Collection at:
California African American Museum, Los Angeles

In Memory of John Outterbridge

John Wilfred Outterbridge was born to John Ivery and Olivia Northern Outterbridge on March 12, 1933, in Greenville, North Carolina. He was the second of eight children and is survived by four siblings: Freddie, Marvin and Robert Outterbridge and Jackie Outterbridge Parks. Sadly, John passed away on November 12, 2020.

Outterbridge's upbringing was full of art as both of his parents and family were artistic. His mother and uncle were both pianists and his siblings were each creative in their own way. Painting, poetry, and music were foundations of his early years. Outterbridge's childhood home in Greenville included many of the homemade things that influenced his later work of assemblage.

John Outterbridge's groundbreaking work from the 1960s through the mid-2010s has influenced countless artists and his wisdom and mentorship has guided many of us in the art world. Outterbridge moved to Los Angeles in 1963 by way of Chicago. After serving in the military, John Outterbridge became an art teacher in California before launching a full-time studio artist career.



"My father cherished his beginnings. That time, those memories, that era, molded him, honed his perspective, sparked a particular aesthetic approach and never left him. North Carolina roots would continue to run deep, sprouting up Greenville shoots throughout his lifetime of work."

- Tami Outterbridge

Known as one of the early Los Angeles assemblage artists to address the social and political moment, his work is poetic while always created with intent, voicing a pointed commentary on the state of this world and the history of African Americans. His poignant sculptures often embrace a gentle sense of humor and love of humanity, avoiding the didactic.

Member Highlight



Ed & Jef Glenn

In the early 80's, recently moved from the Washington, DC area, Ed & Jef Glenn helped organize and establish the Pitt Greenville Arts Council. They saw the potential for a lively arts scene and quickly discovered others who shared their interest in building community support.

The Glenns and others who helped form the original Arts Council, contacted the NC Arts Council for direction and assistance. In those early years the Art Council operated out of Ed's bottom desk drawer at Jefferson's Florist. They began hosting events, making noise for the art scene and getting noticed here in the east.

Governor Jim Hunt took notice of their work, and in 1983, along with RJ Reynolds company, Jefferson's Florist was presented the Governor's Business Award in the Arts and Humanities. At that time, they were the smallest business in the state ever to receive this award.

"Jef and I are proud that the legacy of the Arts Council continues through Holly Garriott and Emerge Gallery," stated Ed. The Glenns, along with Jefferson's Florist, have helped to establish our Arts Community and revitalization of Uptown Greenville and now Dickinson Avenue District.

Thank you Ed & Jef Glenn!

Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge Donors for 2020-2021

Individual Benefactors

Benefactor Level

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Mike & Page Aman

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Will & Erin Wooten

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