



PITT COUNTY
ARTS
COUNCIL AT
EMERGE



ARTZINE

FALL
2021

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**Thank you to the ARTZINE Sponsors:
Ms. Harvey S. Wooten and The Daily Reflector**



For more information, visit www.pittcountyarts.org.

Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge

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A Letter from the Director

Emerge Gallery's doors opened for the first time on September 14, 2001, three days after 9/11. The devastation and loss seemed too much, however, we knew that the community needed the arts more than ever.

Twenty years later, we feel that devastation yet again, following more than a year of the pandemic and social justice issues that seem insurmountable. However, the arts are here again to help with the emotional and social healing that we all need so dearly.

Emerge Gallery has served as the spark for revitalization for our Center City here in Greenville – being one of the only retail businesses that is still here two decades later, and igniting the interest of new businesses that have invested in Greenville. It is that economic development that comes from the arts in our communities. We create the activities that bring the people to the heart of our city and towns.

Looking forward to the next twenty years, we know the arts will continue to heal and bring the much needed economic impact to eastern North Carolina. We are thrilled to have Greenville designated a SmART City, and look forward to how the Emerald Loop, an urban arts trail connecting our cultural gems, unfolds. We are honored to be the umbrella organization to the Black Creatives of Pitt County, and will continue to take the time to listen and learn, and advocate for the arts to be accessible to everyone.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the ArtZine, celebrating Emmerge's 20th Anniversary. It has been quite a journey, and we look forward to the next twenty years of serving our community.

Sincerely,

Holly M. Garriott
Executive Director
Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge

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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/>

The Art Lab
<https://www.theartlabnc.com/>

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

Black Creatives of Pitt County
<https://pittcountyarts.org/artists/black-creatives-of-pitt-county>

City Art Gallery
www.cityartgreenville.com

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

Eastern Youth Orchestra
www.easternyouthorchestras.org

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/>

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/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Greenville Theatre Arts Center
<http://www.gtacnc.org/>

Heartoscope
<https://heartoscope.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>

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/>

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

The Painted Peacock
<https://thepaintedpeacocknc.com/>

PCC 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/>

Room 108
<https://www.facebook.com/Room108Art>

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

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

Tar River Community Band
<https://tarriverband.com/>

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/>



*Looking for things to do?
Here is a comprehensive
calendar of arts related events
in Pitt County!
pittcountyarts.org/events*

HISTORY OF EMERGE



Left to Right: Holly Garriott, Christina Miller, Leah Foushee Waller, Jerry Jackson at the opening reception of the Schwa Show, 2001

It took the graveyard shift of stoking a wood kiln, for Holly Garriott to realize that Greenville needed a community art space that could help offer practical education in

the arts to ECU students. In her conversation with fellow ECU art student Jamie Kirkpatrick, they talked about the lack of preparedness for artists to delve into the professional world of art. Then, the conversation continued with a small group of art students, including Leah Foushee Waller and Christina Miller, and faculty member Mel Stanforth about the possibility of starting a gallery.

Mel suggested the group go to ECU's Small Business & Technology Development Center, who suggested they go to an Uptown Greenville meeting. At that meeting, they met Don Edwards,



Left to Right: Holly Garriott, Richard Garriott (father)

and the rest is truly history. Don had just purchased a building on Evans Street, and asked that the students bring their business plan to him.

A few months later Don had agreed to custom renovate the front half of the building and offered it rent-free for one year (which turned into three)!

The building took nearly a year to renovate with the help of Candace Pearce, and during that time Holly worked to research as much about art galleries as possible. She also met with Michael Dorsey, Director of the School of Art, to establish an ECU internship program at Emerge.



Left to Right: Mel Stanforth, Holly Garriott

The doors opened on September 14, 2001, only three days after 9/11. However, sorrow was turned to community healing, with over 500 people coming to the opening reception. No one got paid for nearly four years, with Holly working several side jobs at the Greenville Museum of Art, Jaycee Park Center for Arts & Crafts, and ECU School of Art & Design to survive. The annual budget for the first year was a mere \$20,000. Flash forward 20 years and Emerge has six employees, 30+ contracted artists and instructors, and a budget of over \$600,000!

A turning point for the organization came in 2006, when Emerge expanded into the building next door and into the back half of the original building, bringing the space to over 8,000 sq. ft. and becoming a community arts center in addition to a gallery. With the help of Board member Ms. Harvey Wooten, Emerge grew into its potential by offering art classes in pottery,



Youth Public Art Program, Students and Ira Varney

metalsmithing, painting, and photography. Heather White was the second employee to be hired, and built the educational program from the ground up.

This also created an opportunity to begin Emerge's first outreach

program, the Youth Public Arts Project. The idea came from Judge Gwyn Hilburn and Pitt County Schools Arts Education Director Jane Austen Behan to begin an arts program for at-risk youth. Initially taught by art teacher Ira Varney, this program has impacted hundreds of Pitt County youth.

About this same time, Emerge began working with the City of Greenville with former planner Carl Rees to create public art projects. Beginning with the annual DownEast Sculpture Exhibition, large-scale sculpture were exhibited throughout the community. Emerge was also hired as the Civic Art Facilitator for the Eppes Gateway Project, the first large budget, with an even larger community impact, public art project.



Eppes Gateway Project

The North Carolina Arts Council took notice of all of the community programs that were occurring. Their staff asked Emerge to consider taking on the role of the Pitt County Arts Council, since Pitt County had been without a local arts agency for nearly two decades. In 2009, the Pitt County Commissioners approved this designation, and Emerge Gallery became the Home of the Pitt County Arts Council!

This was another milestone for Emerge, as we were able to bring together our community arts organizations throughout the county and help share resources, ideas and marketing. In 2012, Emerge conducted a Cultural Arts Strategic Plan



Low-Poly Open Heart (REDI) by Matthew Duffy

that established the Civic Arts Committee, created partnerships with our municipalities, and determined the community's needs for the arts.

In 2018, the City of Greenville was designated a SmART City by the North Carolina Arts Council, and another major milestone

came with the development of the Emerald Loop Vision Plan. Things were in full swing for this project as well as many others until the pandemic hit in 2020.

Everything slowed down, but just long enough for Emerge to take on social

justice issues and serve as an advocate for our local Black artists. This was a moment to increase the stage for Black voices to be heard. The Black Creatives of Pitt County formed from this experience. The Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge is serving as their umbrella organization.



Members of the Black Creatives of Pitt County at the Unite Against Racism street mural dedication

LEAH FOUSHEE WALLER

Leah Foushee Waller met Holly and Christina her sophomore year, where she aspired to become a sculptor and an art teacher. Shortly following the opening of the gallery, she began student teaching full time in rural Greene County Public Schools, and became involved in a major public art project brewing in Durham, NC.

Less than a week after graduating in December of 2002, Leah moved to Durham, NC with her husband, Michael Waller. The two met at an ECU Annual Halloween Iron Pour a couple years prior. She began work as a Teacher Assistant to the Visually Impaired in a Durham Public Elementary School by day. Leah and Mike were commissioned to create "Major", the iconic bronze bull pasturing in Durham's Center City Plaza. Sculpting "Major" spawned their business, WallerFoushee Studios, as well as their involvement in the non-profit studio and foundry, Liberty Arts.

While completing "Major", Leah landed her first teaching job at a K-8 private school. Now beginning her 18th year in the classroom, she currently teaches art part-time at Central Park School for Children. This school is a project-based, child-centered, arts integration, anti-racist public charter school.

Using the cast metals of aluminum, iron, and bronze, Leah's personal work embraces realism as metaphor.

Shortly after the birth of her first child, she began "The Vintage Button Series", which is a metaphorical exploration of a mother's journeying efforts of keeping

it all together. Leah recently began a new series of works, "The Seashells", as a meditative practice of processing pandemic into quasi post-pandemic life. This series represents uncovering and observing unexpected pieces of discovery while sheltering, noticing, wondering, and reflecting.



CHRISTINA MILLER

Christina Tatiana Miller was a graduate student at the ECU School of Art, seeking an MFA in metal design when she helped start Emerge Gallery. From the beginning, she was a collaborator, and when she heard about the possibility of starting a gallery, she was in. And this is where her community engagement began a career of thoughtful implementation of the arts.

After graduating from ECU in 2003, Miller moved to Boston, MA where she taught metalsmithing courses at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and later worked full-time as a community organizer on community access to and preservation of urban green spaces. During this time she co-founded Ethical Metalsmiths with Susan Kingsley and went on to lead the non-profit organization in various capacities for 11 years. She organized the first-ever multi-jeweler Fairmined gold purchase in the United States.

In 2006, Christina began as Assistant Professor of Jewelry and Metalsmithing at Millersville University, where she won an award for her civic leadership due to her work with Ethical Metalsmiths.

Presently, she is the founder and a consultant at Christina T. Miller Consulting which provides education, guidance, and strategy for small and medium-sized companies in the jewelry industry, acting as a bridge between civil society organizations and jewelers, to implement customized responsible and sustainable business practices. She is also a professional speaker, workshop leader, mentor, change-maker, and artist.



DON EDWARDS

Emerge Gallery would have never come into existence without Don Edwards. An amazing visionary and optimist, Don embodies the true idea of what could be. When three young art students approached him at an Uptown Greenville meeting talking about starting a gallery, he took a chance. He understood that the arts would bring the people to an area that had only seen businesses closing from a failed pedestrian mall. With the mall removed and the original street put back, this was a fresh start for Uptown Greenville. Don, a true supporter of the arts, understood long before most others that the arts brought vitality and economic development to a city. He custom renovated 404 S. Evans Street and made it a bustling activity center. And soon thereafter came other businesses and people. Twenty years later, Don still believes in the arts and Emerge, serving on the Emerald Loop Steering



Left to Right: Holly Garriott and Don Edwards



Left: Don Edwards, Right: Holly Garriott

Committee, and continuing to advocate for community engagement and positive development. Thank you Don for your vision and your heart!

"Creative economies enhance the quality of our life and revitalize our communities. Emerge has spearheaded this effort and we are now enjoying a vibrant and beautiful Uptown Greenville! They have indeed been an important catalyst for dramatic revitalization in the heart of our city." - Don Edwards

HARVEY WOOTEN

Within an hour of being introduced to Emerge Gallery, Ms. Harvey Wooten became the highest level member at Emerge. She agreed to serve on the Board

of Directors, and that was nearly two decades ago. When Emerge was in debt in the beginning years, Harvey wrote a check to pay it off, and said she would do so as long as she didn't have to be on a committee and we never had credit card debt again. The first did not remain true, as Harvey has served on countless committees, but the second promise was kept. Harvey also helped establish Emerge's community art center expansion, creating an arts educational center that



Left to Right: Holly Garriott and Harvey Wooten

welcomes nearly 500 children each summer. In the first few years, Emerge actually closed during the summer months because no one came in! Now it is the busiest time of the year.

Harvey continues to give her time and treasure by supporting programs like The Art Lab, the Holiday Exhibition, the Tiny Art Show, Rock the Bus, and even the ArtZine! Harvey's passion for the Arts and Emerge is a glowing example of what one person can do to help lift

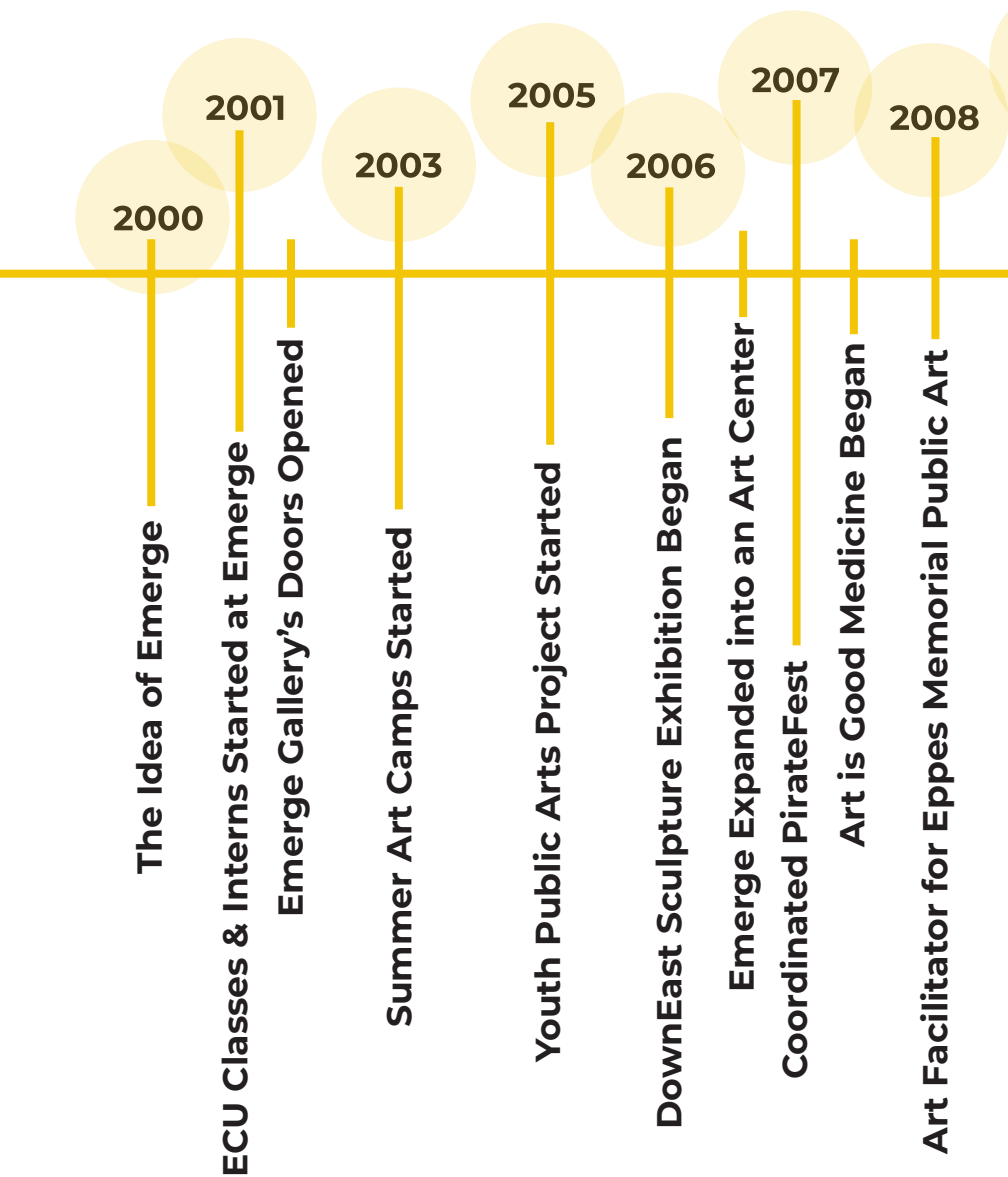


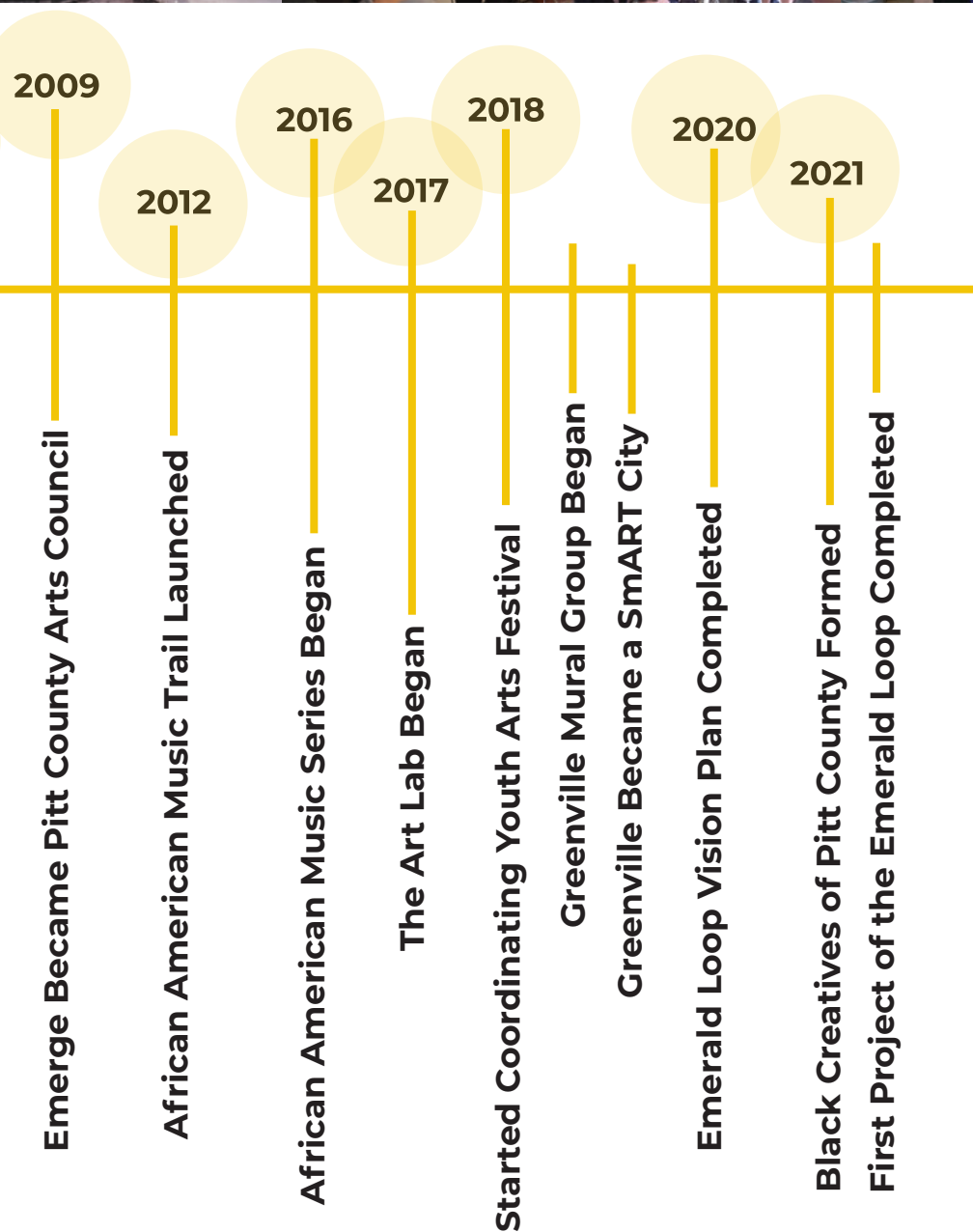
Ms. Harvey S. Wooten at
The Art Lab Ribbon Cutting

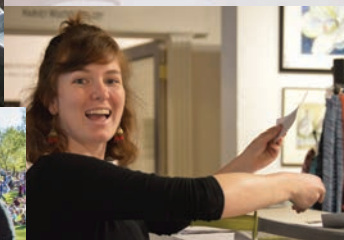
up an organization. She has helped build Emerge into one of the leading Arts Councils in North Carolina and helped make Pitt County an arts destination. Thank you Harvey for your love of Emerge!

"After my first visit to Emerge, I knew then that Emerge was "alive with creativity" and I wanted to be a part of it. Twenty years later I still feel the same way!" - Harvey Wooten

EMERGE OVER THE YEARS













EMERGE IS AN ECU LEARNING LAB

In 2001, Emerge was overseeing a group of ECU School of Art interns before the doors even opened. Those 12 amazing students helped operate Emerge, and 20 years later ECU



Social Work Interns

students and interns are still the foundation of practical education in the arts. Starting with a Community Arts Management course taught by Gil Leebrick, the former Director of the Wellington B. Gray Gallery at ECU, Holly Garriott soon took the helm after receiving her MFA from ECU, and became full-time faculty at the ECU School of Art & Design. The program has expanded from one class to three classes, adding Community Arts Event Planning (where students now help plan and implement the Youth Arts Festival and PirateFest),

and Work Experience in the Visual Arts and Design, an internship program. Nearly 70 ECU students have a class or intern at Emerge each year, with over 1,000 students coming through the Emerge program since the beginning!

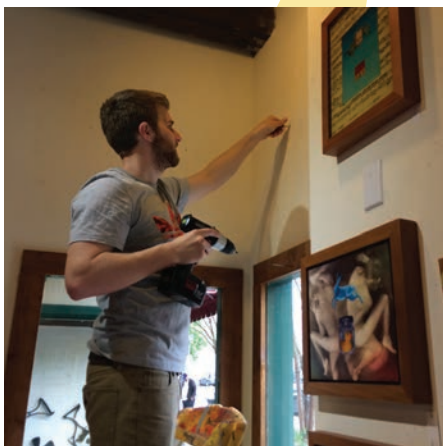
From Art and Design students to Social Work and English majors, Emerge has been a learning lab for many different



Social Work Intern assisting with
Art is Good Medicine

ECU students. This next year, we will be inviting students from the Engineering Department to work on sustainable trolley stops for the Emerald Loop project.

But the goal of these professional experiences is not for busy work, it is to actually make a difference in our community, and also offer professional experience to the students. It is so amazing to see how many “Emerge/ECU” students have gone on to professional success in the arts. Just a few include Cathy Hardison, Executive Director of the Arts Council of Wilson, Jonathan Burger, Executive Director of the Craven County Arts Council, and Sara Caropreso, Director of the Jaycee Park Center for Arts & Crafts in Greenville. But, there are so many more!



Work Experience in the Visual Arts and Design Intern installing artwork in the Sales Gallery



Above: Heather White and a Social Work Intern at a Youth Public Arts Project mural site



Right (Top and Bottom): Work Experience in the Visual Arts and Design Interns at Emerge event booths

THE NORTH CAROLINA ARTS COUNCIL: A NATIONAL STANDARD

You will often hear Emerge Executive Director Holly Garriott brag about the North Carolina Arts Council, commenting that she believes we have the best state arts agency in the country. This is not just because they assisted Emerge Gallery with becoming the Pitt County Arts Council, but because they are helping all 100 counties in North Carolina rise to their creative and community potentials.



**North
Carolina
Arts
Council**

*Fifty years
of leadership*

In 2005, when NC Arts Council staff member Janie Wilson started the conversation with Holly about the incredible void that Pitt County faced being without a local arts council. It had been over a decade since the former Pitt County Arts Council had dissolved, and there was no entity to help bring together and advocate for community arts. The NC Arts Council had taken notice of Emerge's engagement within the community, especially with the Eppes Public Art Project and the Youth Public Arts Project. At this time Emerge Gallery became the Provisional Partner to the NC Arts Council and started to subgrant the Grassroots Arts Project Grants to countywide non-profits implementing community based arts programming.

Youth Public Arts Project: Light Pole
Installations





Holly Ann Scoggins working with a patient for Art is Good Medicine

In 2009, Emerge Gallery became the designated partner to the NC Arts Council and the official Pitt County Arts Council was approved by the Pitt County Commissioners.

PCAC at Emerge

then became the regional grants administrator for the Regional Artist Project Grants disbursing grants to individual artists throughout 29 counties in the east. The NC Arts Council has been instrumental with launching Emerge's two main outreach programs, the Youth Public Arts Project and Art is Good Medicine. Now over 15 years later, the Youth Public Arts Project is an official TAPS (Traditional Art Project for Students) program with the NC Arts Council, connecting it to the African American Music Trail.

They also helped establish the African American Music Series of ENC at Emerge with Artistic Director Carroll V. Dashiell, and Greenville's current project, "The Emerald Loop" which is part of the SmART Communities Initiative. These grant programs were instrumental in creating our strong community and arts presence, however the staff dedication from the NC Arts Council is priceless and its impact goes far beyond the funding. This helped shape what the Pitt County Arts Council is today, and what Pitt County will look like in the years ahead.

Vaughan Ambrose working with a student for Youth Public Arts Project



THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS IN PITT COUNTY

The arts have grown and flourished over the years in Pitt County, and we know that the early arts pioneers deserve the majority of the credit including the Greenville Museum of Art, ECU, and the Farmville Community Arts Council, just to name a few. However, the true power of the arts can only come from the collaborative nature of our entities working together toward a common mission and vision. Emerge's mission is to enhance the quality of life in Pitt County through the arts, and by working together this will continue to happen. 2020 brought sadness, isolation, pain, and divisiveness, and the arts community responded with creating happiness, a sense of community, healing, and inclusion. Connectivity within the arts has led to the formation of the Black Creatives of Pitt County, networking with all of our arts entities, funding for struggling artists, and strategic arts planning for both Greenville and our surrounding towns.

Through the Emerald Loop, we hope to increase local economic activity to businesses and restaurants in Greenville, with prospective developers and employees taking note that Pitt County is indeed the cultural hub of eastern North Carolina. Through arts planning, we see Farmville and Ayden continue to grow as arts destinations. Through collaboration, we see the



The first intersection artwork for the Emerald Loop at Eva

Greenville Museum of Art bringing one of a kind museum experiences to ENC, and ECU's College of Fine Arts and Communication finally being recognized as the arts leader in the UNC system.



Mural painted in Ayden by Raymond Henderson, Kidd Graves, and Rakia Jackson

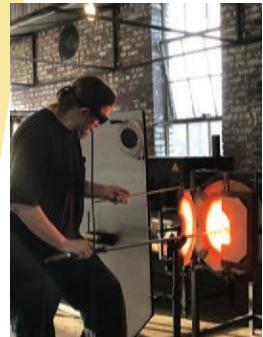
We see the Black Creatives of Pitt County and increased collaborations with organizations and artists of color as imperative to our community's growth. When everyone is at the table, and we take the time to listen, the world becomes a better place. We recognize the powerful impact of arts education planting the seeds that will grow into empathetic, innovative, and visionary future citizens who will continue to truly change the world in a progressive manner.



Evans Street and Reade Circle

to continue to foster this process throughout all of our towns in Pitt County and look forward to the next 20 years!

We know that arts, entertainment, and culture increase the quality of life and also bring people to our downtowns. In 2001, Emerge may have had a few people walk by each day, with boarded up buildings all around. Now, 20 years later, Evans Street welcomes 30,000 people to PirateFest with four hotels and major development on the horizon. We hope



The GlasStation in Farmville



"From Emerge's humble beginnings, it is now the driving force for expanding community access and experiences in the Arts in Pitt County. It has been an absolute joy serving on the Board for two decades!" - Jane Austen Behan

Member Highlight

Jane Austen Behan was the first board member of Emerge Gallery, even before the doors opened in 2001. As the former Arts Education Director for Pitt County Schools she knows that the arts are integral to the whole brain learning experience for our children. She also knows that arts engagement within the community is imperative to this experience. Jane has advocated for arts education for her entire career, and actually led the way for Pitt County to have a required arts credit for graduation long before North Carolina required it. Her advocacy and passion has helped shape the arts within our schools and community, allowing our students and teachers to thrive. Jane has helped Emerge Gallery grow into a full community arts center and create true community engagement. She has paved the way for our future art advocates and showed us all how, when you are passionate about something, you can change the world through the arts. Thank you Jane for ALL you have done and we hope you will enjoy a well-deserved retirement!

Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge Donors for 2020-2021

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Benefactor Level

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