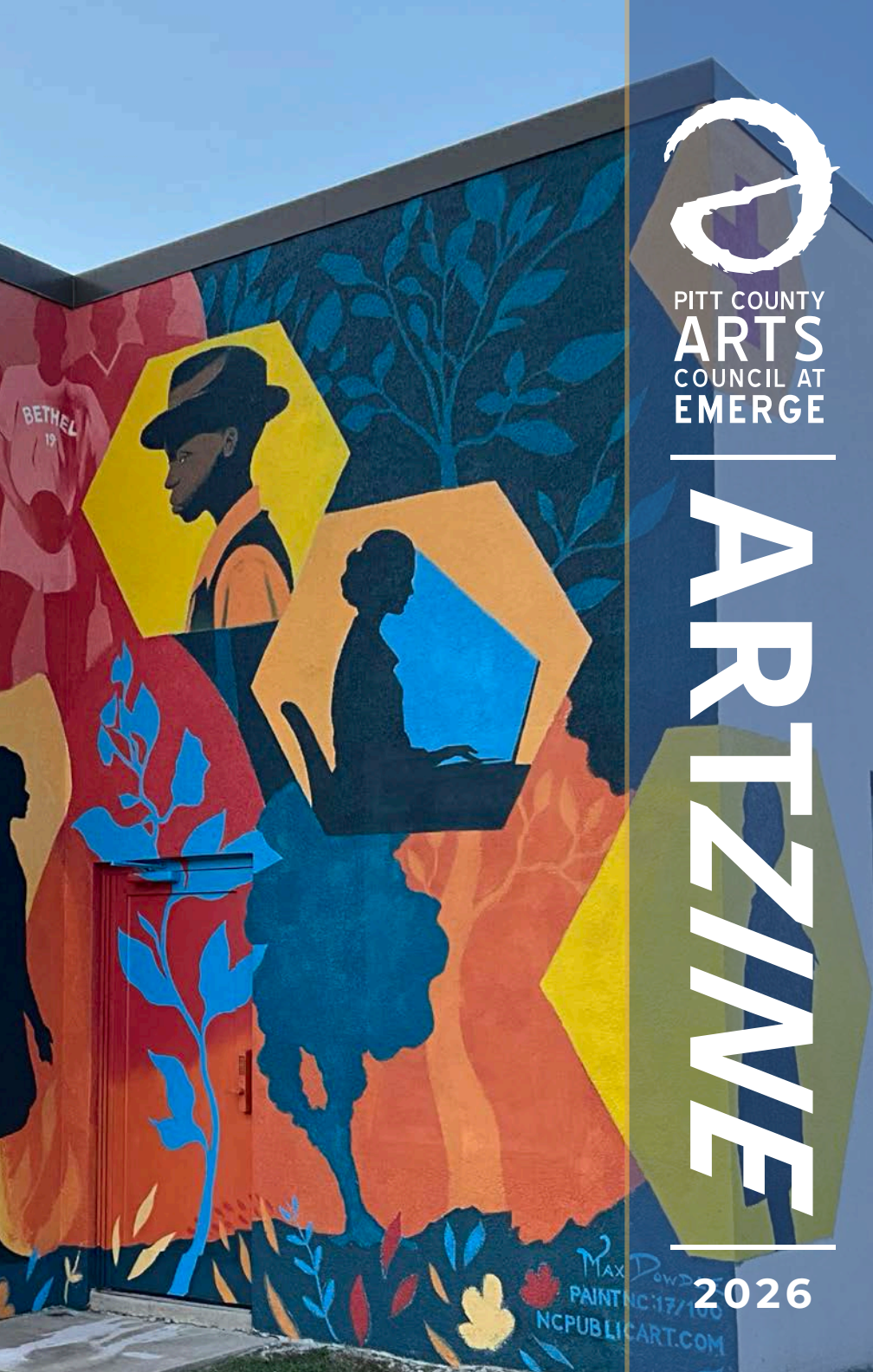


PITT COUNTY
ARTS
COUNCIL AT
EMERGE

ARTZINE

2026

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2026 Issue 2

Thank you to the ArtZine sponsor: Ms. Harvey Wooten

Visit www.pittcountyarts.org for more information.
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Creative Community

The Pitt County Arts Council has staff and board members who are consistently engaging with the community. They do this to spread the word about arts opportunities, creatives and their practices, and ways the Arts Council can support the creative community in Pitt County.

Check out the Community Arts Calendar, Artist Directory, and Creative Spotlight for more ways to get involved!

www.pittcountyarts.org









A Letter from the Chair Maria Satira



When I first moved to Greenville in 2014, the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge was one of the first places that welcomed me into the community, not only as a local news anchor... but as a young professional who had chosen to live, work, and grow in Pitt County.

I took art classes. I participated in art walks. I attended gallery openings, free concerts, and community events. And, for a very brief stint, I even sold some of my own artwork. Those experiences helped me get to know Pitt County in a way that went far beyond my job. They introduced me to people, places, and cultures that gave this community personality and made it feel like somewhere I could belong.

More than a decade later, the Arts Council remains one of my favorite places to take family and friends when they visit. It's also one of my four-year-old's most requested destinations on mommy-daughter dates. There is something incredibly special about watching a place that helped connect me to this community become part of her experience growing up here, too.

That is the power of the arts.

In economic development, we spend a lot of time talking about attracting businesses, creating jobs, developing talent, and encouraging people to move to our community. But attraction is only part of the equation. We also need to create a place where people want to stay, build relationships, raise families, and put down roots.

Arts and culture within our communities are an important part of that work, and their impact is measurable. For Pitt County specifically, the nonprofit arts and culture industry generated more than $18 million in economic activity in 2022. Art brings people together by creating opportunities for connection. It supports artists, entrepreneurs, restaurants, retailers, and other local businesses. It gives our downtowns and communities character and provides experiences that make Pitt County feel distinct, vibrant, and alive.

For someone considering a move to Greenville-Pitt County, these things matter. And for those of us who already call this community home, they matter just as much. The arts may not always be the first thing people think about when they hear the words "economic development," but they are an important part of the ecosystem that helps communities thrive.



I know this because I've experienced it firsthand. The arts helped welcome me to Pitt County in 2014, and they're part of the reason I stayed. Today, the arts are helping my daughters discover and love the community they get to call home.

Maria Satira, Chair

PCAC at Emerge Board of Directors

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Member Spotlight Curtis Forbes

"Art is.... I believe the emotions one may experience when attending a concert, a play anywhere, visiting a museum, creating and/or experiencing art in all genres, etc., are important to one's physical and mental well-being. I know it is for me."

Curtis Forbes is an alumni of North Carolina Central University [NCCU] and University of Bridgeport, CT. He is an avid supporter of these two academic institutions as well as arts organizations. When talking with friends decades ago, the subject of charities became part of their conversation. Curtis didn't expect this question and comment. "Why art? You're not an artist." This question forced Curtis to reflect on his connection to the arts and why the arts have always been important to him.

You see, Curtis has always loved to sing. He started in the church youth choir, the choir at South Ayden High School in Ayden, NC, and the NCCU Concert Choir. Over the next couple of decades, he sang with small church choir and performed on the stage in productions like *Purlie Victorious* and Georges Bizet's *Carmen*. These early opportunities led to his active participation with arts organizations as he lived in both Connecticut and New York.

When Curtis retired and moved back to North Carolina, he already knew of the Pitt County Arts Council. Curtis quickly met with Holly Garriott to introduce himself and his desire to become involved with the Arts Council. Joining the Board of Directors gave him a chance to promote the viability of art initiatives in Pitt County.

Curtis is currently supporting as the Ambassador of our monthly African American Music Series and the Black Creatives of Pitt County, a group that serves as a safe place to be, network, create, and serve the diverse arts community.


SYCAMORE HILL
GATEWAY PLAZA

Artist Support Grants

The North Carolina Arts Council Artist Support Grant is a statewide grant program that funds professional and artistic development for emerging or established artists to create work, improve their business operations, or bring their work to new audiences.

The grant is intended to support a broad range of talented artists in the genres of visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, music composition, choreography, and interdisciplinary arts.

Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to spending a significant portion of their time on their work as artists.

Our state is divided into 18 regions, and our region includes the counties of Edgecombe, Greene, Nash, Pitt, Wayne, and Wilson.

Over the last fifteen years, the Pitt County Arts Council has funded projects for hundreds of creative endeavors. In 2026, ten creatives in our region were awarded money. Two of our recipients were kind enough to share how their awards have uplifted their practices.

Charity Jules is an ECU alumna with a Master in Fine Arts in Photography and is currently the Department Chair of the Associate in Fine Arts & Music Programs at Pitt Community College.

Charity Jules of Wayne County said that the grant had a meaningful impact on both her work and her confidence as an artist. She followed up with, “The grant validated the direction I was taking and helped me determine how to present the photographs, found objects, sculptures, and jewelry as a cohesive exhibition. Just as

importantly, the grant reminded me that I am part of an extraordinary arts community in Pitt County. Knowing that my friends and colleagues believed in the work encouraged me during the most demanding moments of preparing the exhibition. Their support gave me the confidence to continue developing and sharing *Reverie*."





Charlotte Fitz-Daniels is an ECU alumna with a Masters in Art Education and is currently the Events and Programs Coordinator at the Janice Faulkner Gallery in ECU's Joyner Library.

"With the NC Artist Grant funds, I purchased a North Star slab roller. The slab roller has been a wonderful addition to my studio practice. It has assisted me with creating a uniform slab thickness, key for the strength and durability of larger sculptures, reducing the physical effort and time needed for manual rolling. The finished work is hollow-built, free-standing ceramic figures," Fitz-Daniels, Pitt County resident, shared.



North Carolina Arts Council

This project is supported by the NC Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.

25th Anniversary

On Thursday, May 28, 2026, Emerge Gallery & Art Center celebrated 25 years of business and community with a ceremonial ribbon cutting and open house.

The ribbon cutting, organized by the Greater Greenville Chamber, was a wonderful gathering of friends, new and old, along the 400 block of Evans Street. Holly Garriott, Executive Director, shared stories and recognized the many people who had joined her on the journey.

Long time supporters, Don Edwards and Harvey Wooten stood with Holly as she cut the ribbon! City, County, and State officials stood proudly beside her as well as our treasured Programs Director, Paula Rountree.

Pitt County Arts Council Awards were presented to Jeremy Jordan, Arts Advocate of the Year, Gloria Ryann, Artist of the Year, and The City of Greenville, Community Arts Partner of the Year. Though the biggest honor was seeing the gigantic smile on Holly's face as she greeted folks throughout the evening.

Interns and staff had created an art piece for the event, an image of the Emerge building as part of a growing tree. Participants painted leaves with their thumbs, therefore becoming the finger-print of our success. The finished piece hangs proudly on the second floor of Emerge Gallery.

We look forward to another 25 years of serving Pitt County as a cultural destination, making the arts accessible to our community and providing economic input for individuals and businesses.









PCAC Arts Scholarship

One major goal of the Pitt County Arts Council has been to make the arts accessible to our entire community. To help achieve this mission, the Pitt County Visual Arts Scholarship has been created to help area high school seniors with the cost of art supplies, education, and whatever else will keep them involved within the arts.

With the help of former Arts Council Board of Directors Chair, Barbour Strickland, former Arts Coordinator, Jane Austen Behan, and current Arts Coordinator Russell Knight, the Pitt County Visual Arts Scholarship was created in 2026.

All six recipients of the inaugural award stayed in Pitt County to attend East Carolina University (ECU) or Pitt Community College (PCC) to further their studies.

Thanks to our initial donors, all Pitt County community members, we were able to award the following students a scholarship of $500 each:

D.H. Conley High School: Campbell Cabacar (ECU)
J.H. Rose High School: Samira Williams (ECU)
South Central High School: Jeremy Jones (ECU)
North Pitt High School: Lisette Muñoz (PCC)
Farmville Central High School: Cora Loughery (PCC)
Ayden Grifton High School: Taliyah Godley (PCC)
(Students pictured opposite from top to bottom, not pictured: T. Godley)

We need your help to continue this scholarship for future years. Our goal is to expand the scholarship to music and other performing arts areas.

Please consider helping us with our giving campaign and invest in our future with this scholarship program by donating a tax deductible contribution today at pittcountyarts.org.




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2026 Pitt County Arts Council
Visual Art Scholarship Recipients
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Save the Music Grant



In February 2026, Pitt County Schools was notified that they had been chosen as one of eight school districts in North Carolina (one from each economic development region) to participate in the Music Impact Coalition (MIC) North Carolina pilot. This is a coalition of over 20 of the nation's leading Music and Arts Education advocacy organizations that are working together to make a positive impact on access to Arts Education in our state.

One of the first steps for the eight participating districts is collecting data with the help of the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation. The data will come from in-depth teacher surveys completed by our Arts Educators as well as information about our arts education opportunities compiled from our student information system, Infinite Campus. Once the reports are completed for each of the 8 districts, the participating organizations will strategically partner with districts that they feel best need their assistance based on the specified areas for potential growth.



Pitt County Schools was very fortunate

that they were partnered early in the process with Save The Music Foundation (STMF). STMF has a long history of providing instruments to schools to increase access to music education. Typically, this foundation continues working within a school system for multiple years with the hopes of impacting all of their schools. At the same time, they typically hope to move their support into surrounding school districts as well to increase the potential impact of their assistance.





In this first year, STMF has donated $25,000 worth of elementary music instruments to four of our Pitt County Schools for a total of a $100,000 investment. In addition, STMF is also funding professional development opportunities for all of our K-5 and K-8 music teachers to become better equipped to teach with the instruments that they are providing.

The four schools that are in this initial grant are Grifton School, Lakeforest Elementary, South Greenville Elementary, and Sugg/Bundy Elementary. The instruments arrived the week before students began their classes and are already being used in these classrooms.

Bethel Mural

The Bethel Pitt Stop Mural is a public arts project administered by the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge in partnership with the Town of Bethel. The request for qualifications received more than 30 applicants, the majority from North Carolina.

Max Dowdle was the chosen artist and brought his design to fruition with the Bethel community. Dowdle said that he was "touched by the stories [he] heard in Bethel of how everyone cares for each other, particularly evident in the stories about the community garden. The garden, agriculture, and plants in general feature heavily in the designs, but always with an eye towards the future."

The mural is painted on the Bethel Pitt Stop, a Pitt County Health Clinic and was the original hospital in Bethel.



Thank you to the following for making
this public art project possible:
Invest Greenville, Pitt County Government,
Town of Bethel, and the Pitt County Arts Council.





Countywide Murals

The Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge, in collaboration with the Town of Fountain, is excited to develop and implement an outdoor mural on the R.A. Fountain General Store at 6754 E. Wilson Street in Fountain, NC.

The designated mural area, located on the side exterior of the building, will infuse creativity and artistry into a prominent location, celebrating Fountain's ties to music through the life, work, and cultural impact of Herbalist Emma Dupree and Luthier Freeman Vines. Ultimately, the mural should honor their legacies and contributions to the town's history.

The three mural finalists are Scott Nurkin of Chapel Hill, Osiris Rain of Charlotte, and Valentin Ramirez of Wingate. The mural should be complete by the next issue of the ArtZine. Stay tuned!





Invest Greenville's David Horn and Pitt County, NC presented the Town of Fountain with a $20,000 check at a town commissioners meeting. The funds were awarded through the joint Invest Greenville/Pitt County Municipal Grant Program to support a mural on the historic R.A. Fountain General Store. The mural will showcase the town's identity and rich heritage. This initiative is being carried out in collaboration with the Pitt County Arts Council.

Earlier this year, Invest Greenville also invested money in Ayden and their public art initiative. The Coaches Mural, by Samantha Brinson, transformed a frequently viewed exterior wall of the Arts & Recreation Building into a public art installation that reflects Ayden's identity. By connecting the town's past, present, and future, the mural gives residents another way to celebrate their shared history while creating an engaging visual experience for visitors.



Margie Agnew



Margie Agnew is originally from Zimbabwe, Africa and moved to the US in the 1980s. Margie and her family have lived in eastern North Carolina for over forty years. Today, Margie owns and operates Margie's Mudd Creations on Railroad Street in Bethel, NC.

After visiting Seagrove, NC and witnessing a potter throw a beautiful bowl, Margie thought it might be fun to learn pottery. When Margie discovered that she could take classes at Emerge, she immediately enrolled. That was more than ten years ago.

Becoming a regular in the pottery studio, Margie formed a friendship and partnership with Kathy Lyles. Kathy, a former chemistry teacher, provided a unique style to their combined efforts. Crystalline pottery is a cone 10 (2350°F) firing in which the pottery is slow cooled and held at a

temperature for several hours. The zinc and silica do a chemical dance that results in crystals. As they both say, “The effect is magic.”

We asked Margie what inspired the idea of opening a shop in downtown Bethel. Margie said that it was an easy choice. “Once involved and having established a home studio, which I rapidly outgrew, my husband encouraged me to find a space to work out of. I had already invested in display units, so I knew I had to create a studio with an area to display and attempt to sell art. I also did not want to be far from home, I knew that a building on Railroad had been occupied and vacated some years earlier, so I offered to purchase it.



“I have been operating the studio/gallery for three and a half years and have steadily grown. We are soon to have a coffee shop beside Margie’s Mudd Creations. It would be amazing if the buildings along Railroad Street could be restored to revitalize downtown Bethel.”



Take time to visit Margie’s Mudd Creations at 121 W. Railroad Street in Bethel, NC.

Or visit the store’s website to learn and shop!
www.themudslingers.net/#/

Lupita Nava

Lupita Nava is an art teacher at Bethel School and a graduate of ECU's School of Art and Design. Lupita started teaching in 2015.

When asked what the most rewarding part of teaching is, Lupita said, "seeing students get excited about new techniques! Art offers so many ways to express yourself. I love seeing people realize that they do not have to be the best drawer or painter. It is just about finding that medium that clicks with you and then using that medium to get your creativity out!"

This is Lupita's eleventh year teaching art at Bethel School, which she says is "the most awesome Pre-K through 8th grade school!"



One can tell that Lupita really enjoys teaching because outside of her daily teaching at Bethel School, she also teaches art once a week at the Bethel Youth Center, and most recently has started teaching a painting class hosted by the Margaret L. Blount Memorial Library.

Four years ago, Lupita started a face painting business, which has become an unexpected passion that gives her the opportunity to travel and spread joy through face and body art.



We asked Lupita how important is public art in the town of Bethel? Her answer was heartfelt, “Public art is becoming a big thing in Bethel, and it is a beautiful sight to see. It is just another way that this community is showcasing itself and all of the wonderful things happening.”

Lupita Nava would like to thank the Bethel community for supporting her in her growth as an artist and teacher. She is grateful to have the opportunity to teach in a community that is so supportive and loving.





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The State Theatre
Tar River Community Band
Up the Street Fiber Arts Studio
West Side Strings School
Wine and Design
Winterville Historical and Arts Society, Inc.

Arts Organizations and Artists in Pitt County are listed in the Art Venues and Artist Directory

https://www.pittcountyarts.org/community/arts-venues#/
https://www.pittcountyarts.org/artists/artist-directory

Memberships with Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge

I would like to sign up for the following:
(Please check the membership of your choice.)

☐	Senior 65+/Student PCC and ECU students only	($25)
☐	Individual	($40)
☐	Family	($65)
☐	Donor	($150)
☐	Sponsor	($250)
☐	Patron	($500)
☐	Benefactor	($1,000)

Thank you for your support of Emerge Gallery & Art Center,
Home of the Pitt County Arts Council.
Emerge Gallery & Art Center is a 501(c)(3)
non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

_____

_____
(City) (State) (Zip)

Phone _____

E-mail _____
(This email will be used to create your account.)

If Applicable:

Spouse's Name _____

Child(ren)'s Name(s) _____

_____

If individual member is under 18:

Parent/Guardian _____

404 Evans St. Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 551-0547 | info@emergegallery.com | www.emergegallery.com

Become a part of Emerge Gallery & Art Center and help support this non-profit art center. Members are an active part of Emerge and benefits are growing everyday. Memberships are renewed yearly.

Senior Citizens and College Students $25
Benefits for Seniors 65 years and older and ECU and PCC students with valid ID include monthly mailings, discounts on classes and workshops for the individual, seasonal newsletter, invitation to members' only events and free admission to select special events.

Individual $40
Benefits include monthly mailings, discounts on classes and workshops for the individual, a seasonal newsletter, invitation to members' only events and free admission to select special events.

Family $65
Benefits include monthly mailings, discounts on classes and workshops for the immediate family, a seasonal newsletter, invitation to members' only events and free admission to select special events.

Donor $150
Benefits include monthly mailings, 5% off sales gallery when mentioned, discounts on classes and workshops for the entire family, a seasonal newsletter, invitation to members' only events and free admission to select special events.

Sponsor $250
Benefits include monthly mailings, 10% off in sales gallery when mentioned, discounts on classes and workshops for the entire family, a seasonal newsletter, invitation to members' only events and free admission to select special events.

Patron $500
Benefits include monthly mailings, 10% off in sales gallery when mentioned, discounts on classes and workshops for the entire family, a seasonal newsletter, invitation to members' only events, free admission to select special events, and one free two hour rental of the gallery.

Benefactor $1,000
Benefits include monthly mailings, 15% off in sales gallery when mentioned, discounts on classes and workshops for the entire family, a seasonal newsletter, invitation to members' only events, free admission to select special events, and one free four hour rental of the gallery.

emerge
GALLERY &
ART CENTER
home of the Pitt County Arts Council

