



PITT COUNTY
ARTS
COUNCIL AT
EMERGE

ARTZINE

2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2025 Issue, Volume 1

A Letter from the President	PG 1
Arts Organizations	PG 2
Let Emerge Be Your Studio!	PG 4
Annual Report	PG 6
Highlights of 2024	PG 7
Looking Forward to 2025-2026	PG 10
Emerald Loop Lighting	PG 12
Meet Dylan Vermuel and Hank	PG 14
Youth Public Art Project	PG 16
Honoring Service: Andrea Norris	PG 18
Grammy Nominee: Christie Dashiell	PG 20
Member Highlight: The Harringtons	PG 22
Members and Donors	PG 24
Corporate Partners	PG 27
Membership Form	PG 29

**Thank you to the ArtZine sponsor:
Ms. Harvey Wooten**

Cover Photo: 5 Points Archway Mural featuring
Hank's Walk by Dylan Vermeul
Credit: Aaron Hines, City of Greenville

Visit www.pittcountyarts.org for more information.
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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you enjoyed our front cover as much I did. Hank is such a superstar, isn't he? With one leap and a joyful grin, he says it all - freedom, fun, boundless energy, eternally

ready for adventure, and oh so full of the joys of life. It's truly amazing the range of emotions that one piece of art can evoke. Hank reminds me of Greenville, Pitt County, North Carolina.

As I get ready to step down from my role as President, I wanted to share with you some of our achievements and our hopes and dreams for the future. The last two years have been incredible. We saw the Paddock Memorial sculpture on Dickinson Avenue come to fruition and we lit up the Greenville landscape with the Brightspeed Tower, Greenville City Hall and the Pitt County Courthouse. We hosted the amazing inaugural Mosaic Multicultural Arts Festival that highlighted the arts, culture and cuisine of Greece, Mexico, Korea, Honduras, Zimbabwe, Philippines and Chile, to name a few. Join us and make this festival bigger and brighter next time.

We are looking at a brilliant future as all of us work together to champion our arts initiatives. Initiatives such as: Art is Good Medicine, where artists work one-on-one with children and adults; the Downeast Sculpture Exhibition, the Murals Project, the Five Points Plaza Archway Project and of course the Youth Public Art Project. Additionally, we have: the African American Music Series, the First Friday Artwalk, and the Youth Arts Festival, where hundreds of students have the chance to showcase their artistic talents. Lastly, there are the youth and adult classes. This is just a smattering of the offerings of the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge. Visit our website, emergegallery.com, for more information. There is literally something for everyone, so join us as a donor, sponsor, member or participant and be prepared to fall in love, just as I did.

As always, take care, stay safe, well and happy.

Yours sincerely,

Devinder Culver

Board of Directors President, 2023-2025

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Arts Organizations in Pitt County

A Place in the Heart Theatre Company	Greenville Quilters Guild
Alleycat Records	HeARToscope
The ArtLab at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences	Jaycee Park Arts & Crafts Center
Ayden Arts & Recreation	Katura Dance
Ayden Historical and Arts Society	L'Academie de Danse
Black Creatives of Pitt County	Magnolia Arts Center
City Art Gallery	Makerspace of Greenville
Dance Unlimited	Music Academy of Eastern North Carolina
Downtown Greenville Partnership	The Music House
East Carolina ArtSpace	Nash Studios
Eastern Youth Orchestra	NC Academy of Dance Arts
ECU Arts	North Carolina Furniture School
ECU Joyner Library's Faulkner Gallery	The Painted Peacock
ECU Wellington B. Gray Gallery	PCC Fine Arts Gallery and Symphony
Emerald City Big Band	Pitt County Schools Arts Education
Emerald City Collective	Pitt County Senior Center
Emerge Gallery & Art Center	Quilt Lizzy Ayden
Farmers & Makers Market	R. A. Fountain General Store
Farmville Community Arts Council	Smiles and Frowns Playhouse
Faux & More...Lisa Jordan	Spazz Presents
Fisk Opus 126 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church	The State Theatre
The GlasStation	Tar River Community Band
Greenville Brushstrokes	Up the Street Fiber Arts Studio
Greenville Choral Society	West Side Strings School
Greenville Civic Ballet	Wine and Design
Greenville Museum of Art	Winterville Historical and Arts Society, Inc.
Greenville Theatre Arts Center	

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>

Connecting Our Arts Community



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



The Artist Directory of Pitt County showcases
the creative talent of all the arts disciplines
in our area. It is also a great tool for artistic
promotion and networking opportunities.

Add yourself today!
pittcountyarts.org/artists/artist-directory



Let Emerge Be Your Studio!

At Emerge Gallery & Art Center, we believe in the power of creativity to bring people together. We invite you to unleash your creativity and have fun with our diverse programming designed for both youth and adults. Imagine a space where friendships blossom and artistic talents flourish! Once a week for six weeks, you can explore your creative side, regardless of your experience level!

If you're looking for a fun night out, why not make plans to join us for our Sip, Savor, and Create Workshops? Grab your friends and indulge in a delightful evening of artistry, where the only requirement is a willingness to have fun!

Our summer art camps for children are the perfect opportunity for young creators to dive into the world of art, explore their imagination, and make lasting connections with peers.

Plus, our beloved Pop In, Pop Art workshops are making a comeback! On the first Saturday of each month, starting at 1:00pm, you can drop in for a quick 20-25 minute lesson for just \$10.

Let Emerge be your studio—a nurturing environment where creativity knows no bounds and every participant can express themselves freely. Join us in this artistic journey and watch as your ideas come to life!





Annual Report

Quantifying Our Success!

\$12,000 to the Art Teachers Education Fund

\$13,000 to the Artist Support Grant

\$58,000 to Pitt County Arts Organizations

2023-2024 Year End Financials

We surpassed \$1,000,000!

Income: \$1,025,210

Expenses: \$974,236

We retained \$50,974 in grant funding for building renovations and public art projects like the Brightspeed Tower lighting for 2024-2025.

Highlights of 2024

- Paddock Club Memorial Sculpture Dedicated
- Greenville Town Common Shelter Dedicated
- Wildwood Sculpture Completed
- Installation of 4th mural at Starlight Cafe
- Record Attendance at the Youth Arts Festival!
10,000 attendees, over 700 performers
- Inaugural Mosaic Multicultural Festival
- Successful Downtown Greenville ArtWalk Series
- Brightspeed Tower Illuminated
- Pitt County Courthouse Cupola Illuminated
- Paddock Club Pop-Up Series at State Theatre
- Shana Tucker Residency and Performances
- cARTwheels grant to Pitt County Schools to bring Mike Wiley
- Expanded Art is Good Medicine to 2 days in the Chemo Bay at ECU Health



Paddock Club Memorial Sculpture



Wildwood Sculpture



Brightspeed Tower



Greenville Town Common Shelter



Downtown Greenville First Friday ArtWalks



Pitt County Courthouse



20th Annual Youth Arts Festival with an attendance of 10,000 with 700 performers



Quarterly Paddock Club Pop Up Events



Five Points Archway Mural



Mike Wiley performs for Pitt C



Shana Tucker in Concert



County Schools



Inaugural Mosaic Multicultural Arts Festival

A Look Ahead to 2025



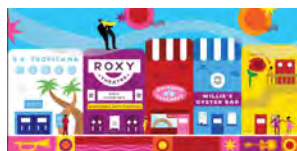
We are excited to announce a series of vibrant new murals and community projects aimed at enhancing the artistic landscape of our city occurring in 2025-2026.

We will be adding unique character to our neighborhoods through several upcoming murals. Check out the stunning Roundabout Mural on West 5th Street as you circumvent the intersection at Elizabeth Street and Albemarle Avenue (concept pictured below). Local artist, and former Emerge Gallery & Art Center intern, Shari White, recreated the vibe and energy of the businesses that once stood there. The murals created by our Youth Public Art Project students at Carver Library and the West Zone Police Station (pictured left) are soon to be installed as well.

The Greenville-Pitt County Pride Festival is a vibrant celebration of the creative expression, identity, and resilience of our LGBTQ+ community. Coordinated by Emerge Gallery & Art Center and many affirming community supporters, the festival sets the stage for LGBTQ+ voices to be seen, heard and honored. Greenville-Pitt County Pride highlights the rich cultural rainbow of the community, showcasing and bringing out many diverse talents and stories. Through art, music, dance and performance, come celebrate Pride this year with us on June 28, 2025.

Even more public art projects are on the horizon this coming year! We are looking forward to rolling out a brand new Emerald Express Trolley, decked out with lights, art and interactive elements. As we launch the 20th year of the DownEast Sculpture Exhibition, four new sculpture pads will be added at the new Pitt County Facilities and throughout Greenville.

Discover the Emerald Loop Intersection Mural at Dickinson Avenue and Reade Circle later this year. To increase the footprint of public art across our county, there is a future Pitt Stop Mural in Bethel.



Emerald Loop Lighting Projects



The Emerald Loop urban arts trail project began in 2018, with plans for intersection murals, the Emerald Express Trolley, a trolley shelter, and an artistic lighting plan that included 12 buildings in Downtown Greenville.

We are so excited that three buildings have been illuminated and now shine brightly on our downtown skyline. The Brightspeed Tower, Pitt County Courthouse, and Greenville City Hall have color changing lights that are often coordinated. These have been added to the already illuminated pedestrian bridge at the Greenville Town Common.



Left page: The Brightspeed Tower illuminated above Dickinson Avenue
Right page: City Hall and Pitt County Courthouse illuminated above
Downtown Greenville. Photo Credit: Aaron Hines

Meet Dylan and Hank

We sat down with Dylan Vermuel, artist and creator of the mural, "Hank's Walk," which resides on the side of Starlight Cafe, facing Five Points Plaza. We asked Dylan to tell us a bit about his artistic practices. "For me, it was all about trying to create something that would resonate with Greenville residents and be instantly recognizable to them. I wanted the piece ultimately to be about the shared experience we all have enjoying our beautiful greenway, and when I started to think about the split-up format of the Five Points Plaza mural I had the idea that Hank could be the through line that would connect all the different sections. It was a piece that I genuinely wanted to make as soon as I saw the call. I poured a lot of time into it without much concern for whether or not I'd be selected. Hank's Walk was just something I wanted to make, and I'm so happy that it ended up resonating with people."

During the conversation, we inquired about his ties to Greenville and how he feels connected to the area. "I ended up in Eastern NC totally by chance. I lived on the West Coast my entire life until my sister, Tessa (a very talented watercolor artist) moved out here with her husband when he ended up in residency at the hospital in Greenville. I visited them at their new home on the 4th of July shortly after the COVID lockdown had ended, and fell in love with eastern NC right away. Post-COVID, all of my work was remote, so I decided to take a chance and move east. It's the best decision I ever made. I love it here, I feel very at home in our little swamp, and I've found an incredible partner in my fiancé Briana. And, of course, I wouldn't have met the Hank man himself if I hadn't moved out here."

I have been impressed with the state of public art in Greenville. From the Five Points Plaza mural to the Emerald Loop Shelter at the Town Common, there's gorgeous work all around our city for those who are interested to look. I'm very proud of our art scene even in comparison to much larger cities in our state, and I'm honored and humbled to have my art included as a public work among the likes of Scott Eagle, Rakia Jackson, Kidd Graves, Beth Blake, and many more.

The Greenway is a big part of why I fell in love with this area to begin with. I've always loved a good walk, especially a walk where I can forget myself for a minute and just immerse myself in nature, and the Greenway provides exactly that every time. I think all artists must make time to periodically step away from their work and mentally reset, and for me, there's nothing better for that than a little stroll on the Greenway. It's even better now that I have Hank; he forces me to take those little breaks even when I wouldn't allow them for myself."

And now for the most important question, how does Hank feel about his new found popularity? "Hank has always been extremely popular in his own mind. I don't think his newfound celebrity status has had any effect on his already hugely inflated ego."

Lastly, we asked about any future projects Dylan has on the horizon. "In terms of art projects, I've still managed to squeeze in a few little illustration commissions here and there between teaching and doing wedding stuff, but I would love to start doing more murals and large-scale public works! I've already talked to a couple of local businesses who are interested in having murals done, and I hope that I can get some more mural projects in the works very soon."



Photo Credit: Briana Earl

Youth Public Arts Project

A photograph of two young girls participating in an art project. The girl in the foreground, on the left, is wearing a light blue t-shirt and is focused on painting a large, abstract shape on a white sheet of paper with a brush. The shape has red and white sections. The girl in the background, on the right, is wearing a grey and blue long-sleeved shirt and is also painting on a similar sheet. They are sitting at a wooden table with various art supplies like paint containers and brushes. In the background, there is a large, colorful mural on the wall featuring a castle and a sun.

Paula Rountree, our Programs Director, is thrilled to share her thoughts about the song recording day at ECU's Fletcher Music Center! "This was a wonderful chance for our participants to experience the magic of music production while fostering their creativity and self-expression. We believe that every young person deserves access to such experiences, and we can't wait to see the amazing talent that will shine through!"

In a vibrant display of creativity and collaboration, the students of the Youth Public Arts Project Program have transformed community spaces with their stunning murals this school year.

One such highlight is a multi-panel mural at the Greenville Police Department Station, which beautifully depicts scenes from events on West 5th Street, capturing the essence of community and engagement. At the Washington Carver Library, a four-panel mural brings the characters from literature to life, immersing viewers in the enchanting world of books nestled within the library's walls.

Under the guidance of mural instructor Rakia Jackson, and with the invaluable assistance of Emerge Gallery & Art Center interns, these young artists created both public murals in less than nine months. They also honed their skills in pottery with instructor Caroline Koerner, making mugs and bowls for the annual Stone Soup fundraiser, which raises funds for locals with food insecurity. Additionally, they embraced rhythmic creative writing and recording their own song, "Community Means YOU + ME," with music instructor Rachael Howard and guest artist Shana Tucker.

Through this program, the students have not only left their mark on the community but have also embarked on a journey of artistic growth and expression.



Honoring Service

Earlier this year, the Governing Board and Town Staff of Ayden, NC announced: "Tonight, we come together to pay tribute to a selfless servant of the Town of Ayden, NC – the remarkable Mrs. Andrea Norris. As we gather to honor Andrea's nearly 50 years of dedication, we cannot help but notice how her journey of service mirrors the enduring principles that guide our lives in Ayden. Her recent accolades, the AARP Inspiration Award and her role as the Grand Marshal in our beloved Christmas Parade, are testaments to her unwavering commitment to spreading joy and goodwill."

The celebration of Andrea Norris' contributions culminated with her receipt of the prestigious Order of the Long Leaf Pine award, the highest civilian honor in North Carolina.

Congressman Don Davis presented to Andrea Norris on behalf of the governor. "She is a living example for all of us," said Congressman Davis. "We can make a real difference right here in Ayden and at home. She's so deserving, and her name should be recognized as one of North Carolina's greats."

Receiving this incredible award is a significant accomplishment that reflects over three decades of dedicated service to the community. Norris credits her deep-rooted passion for volunteer work to her father, who once served as a commissioner in Ayden. Following her graduation from East Carolina University, she devoted 30 years of her life to teaching history at Greene Central High School.

Andrea Norris' legacy stretches beyond the realm of education, as she was instrumental in starting the Ayden Museum in 2015. She spearheaded the conversion of this historic building that served as a doctor's office into the new home of the Ayden Historical & Arts Society. The Museum features historical and arts' treasures connected to Ayden. Acting as President, she helps carry out their mission of "establishing a permanent museum devoted to the preservation, exhibition, and promotion of the historical and artistic traditions of Ayden, NC".



"I am honored, and I am humbled," Mrs. Andrea Norris said. "I mean I didn't expect it. The community has been my whole life. I learned how important it is to give back to your community."

A portrait of Christie Dashiell, a Black woman with short, curly dark hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a vibrant red, strapless, V-neck dress. The background is a solid dark teal color. The text is overlaid on the image in various colors and fonts.

FIRST TIME GRAMMY® NOMINEE

CHRISTIE DASHIELL

For Your Consideration

JOURNEY IN BLACK

BEST JAZZ VOCAL ALBUM

"I was thrilled to learn I'd been nominated for a GRAMMY! My album, "Journey in Black," was completely self-produced and a labor of love for me and my very small team. For it to be recognized as one of five albums in the best jazz vocal album category was and still is a huge honor that I'm extremely proud of." - Christie Dashiell

The Grammy's Best Jazz Vocal Album category is reserved "for albums containing greater than 75% playing time of new vocal jazz recordings."

In January 2025, Christie Dashiell, daughter of Carroll V. Dashiell, Jr. and Rhonda Dashiell, found out that she had been nominated for a Grammy.

Christie Dashiell's album "Journey in Black" competed against "Wildflowers Vol. 1" by Kurt Elling & Sullivan Fortner, "A Joyful Holiday," by Samara Joy, "Milton + Esperanza," by Milton Nascimento and Esperanza Spalding, and "My Ideal," by Catherine Russell and Sean Mason.

"Journey in Black" is just that — a reflection on Dashiell's experiences as a woman of color and her observations of the world around her. Leaning on her uniquely signature style, encompassing both traditional and improvisational vocals, she tells stories of joys and pains, grief and friendships, and fulfillment and longing. While she hopes all audiences can relate, she definitely wants Black people to see themselves in the songs. For Dashiell, authenticity is important.

"The human themes of love, loss, grief, joy, friendship — all of us can relate to that — Black, white, brown, whatever," Dashiell told NPR's 'All Things Considered'." And so I wanted to really paint a picture of the humanity of blackness, the expansiveness of the Black experience. It's not just one thing."

Members of Emerge Gallery & Art Center and fellow community members were fortunate to experience Christie in her element in April 2024 as she released "Journey in Black" here in Greenville, her hometown at The State Theatre.





Member Highlight

On the precipice of this year's summer art camp and our 25th year, we invited Paige and David Harrington to reflect upon their family's involvement with Emerge over the years.

"Our involvement with Emerge started with the kids [about a decade ago], as soon as they were old enough to participate! One major reason that we decided to stay in Greenville was because of our wonderful experience with Emerge camps. We have always felt so comfortable with our children there!

One of my favorite memories is of dropping off and picking up our son from Emerge camp just after our daughter was born. He was so excited to share his new little sister, and everyone there was so kind and excited with us. There was even a photo posted of Cathy [Hardison, former Programs Director] holding the baby. It still feels like a very special moment in time!

We believe that it is extremely important for all children to have opportunities to explore creativity. We feel that instilling an

appreciation for creativity is essential to learning and development for children AND for our community. In today's fast paced computer focused world, children have fewer and fewer moments to work with their hands while expressing themselves. Emerge gives children a safe space where art is what unites them.

Our kids appreciate art in many forms and many environments, and we believe that has a lot to do with their time at Emerge. They love to observe art everywhere, from graffiti and murals in larger cities to even enjoying the drawings they see from other kids on the walls in local restaurants. The kids appreciate that artistic expression can be both personal and private, and they demonstrate that every day. Our daughter shares love through sharing arts and crafts with friends and family. Our son treasures and uses his sketchpad just like a journal or a diary. Having access to all the staff and artists at Emerge has helped to demonstrate the value that the arts can have in our lives.

We hope and pray that Pitt County and the City of Greenville will continue to grow and develop with a sense of creativity and appreciation for the arts. Cities with public access to viewing and creating art are not only interesting and fun to live in, they draw in tourists and newcomers. There is no more important responsibility than to educate our children and to help provide opportunities for growth and development.

Our involvement with Emerge has given our packed schedule household a place to pause, create, and express ourselves. Emerge and its summer arts camps, allows children a time to explore, express, and come together while in a space led by local artists and educators.

With support from parents, educators, and the local community, there is no limit to what we can accomplish. Give a child the opportunity to experience art with their own hands!" - Paige and David Harrington

Join the Harringtons in supporting Emerge and the summer art camp program by donating today. Scan this QR code with your mobile device to donate to our scholarship fund via our website.



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 John and Joan Waters
 James Watson and Isabel Terry
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 Je'Milla Willoughby and Kenyatta Swain
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 Brian Wing
 Nancy Winterbauer
 Alicia and Adam Wolny
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Listing includes donations and/or memberships of \$50 and above.

**Not a member or donor yet?
Visit emergegallery.com for support to become one today!**

Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge Corporate Partners for 2024-2025

5th Street Hardware Restaurant & Taproom, Amante Tacos, Apt to Learn, Audrey Love Charitable, Carolina Chord Connection, Charles June Karate, Chico's, Christy's Euro Pub, City Art Gallery, ECU College of Fine Arts and Communication, ECU School of Art & Design, ECU School of Music, ECU School of Theatre and Dance, Eastern Orthodontics & Pediatric Dentistry, E. R. Lewis Construction Company, Brooks and Joan Fortune Foundation, Greenville Choral Society, Jefferson's, King's Deli, Luna Pizza, Magnolia Arts Center, Metronet, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Otocast, Optimum, Pantana Bob's, Pecheles Automotive Group, PiCASO, Pitt Community College, Pitt County Cultural, Pitt County Economic Development, Pitt County Schools Arts Education, Protect Trans Futures, Raymond James, Rivers & Associates Inc, Side/Bar, The Eddie and Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation, Starlight Cafe, Town of Ayden, Town of Farmville, Town of Winterville, Transworld Business Advisors of ENC, United Way of Pitt County, Uptown Properties.

Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge Partners for 2024-2025



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Carolina
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Fifty years of leadership



Memberships with Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior 65+/Student (\$25)
PCC and ECU students only |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | Donor (\$150) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sponsor (\$250) |
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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)
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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

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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

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