



PITT COUNTY
ARTS
COUNCIL AT
EMERGE

ARTZIME

FALL
2022

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ARTZINE, Vol. 1, No. 11, Fall 2022 Issue

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Thank you to the ARTZINE Sponsor:
Ms. Harvey S. Wooten

We need your help!

**Please complete the
Pitt County Arts Council
Strategic Plan Survey**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NF9Z6QT>



Cover Photo: Sim Asher with STEAM students,
provided by the Greenville Museum of Art

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

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

When Emerge Gallery & Art Center became the home of the Pitt County Arts Council in 2009, we knew that our responsibilities would grow exponentially. The North Carolina Arts Council, the Pitt County Commissioners, and our countywide non-profit organizations all believed in us and knew we would meet the challenges and expectations of being the Local Arts Agency for Pitt County and the designated partner to the North Carolina Arts Council.



For the last thirteen years, our staff and Board have worked diligently to expand beyond Emerge Gallery's walls and throughout Pitt County. We have offered free strategic planning sessions for our non-profit arts organizations, met monthly with countywide arts organizations, created an Arts & Cultural Calendar linked with the Convention & Visitor's Bureau, started the Pitt County Artist Database, advocated for our artist community, and sub-granted between \$50,000 - \$200,000 each year to arts organizations and artists.

In this issue of the ArtZine we are so excited to announce the receipt of a \$250,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Pitt County was one of only about 60 Local Arts Agencies to receive this grant, and we will be investing it into our county by sub-granting the majority of it to Pitt County non-profit organizations.

Thank you supporting our Pitt County arts community! If you are not a member or supporter yet, please see the membership page at the end of the ArtZine and help us continue this important work.

Sincerely,

Holly M. Garriott
Executive Director

2022-2023 PCAC at Emerge Board of Directors

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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
www.facebook.com/APIHTCO/

Ayden Arts & Recreation
www.ayden.com/departments/arts-recreation

Ayden Historical and Arts Society
www.aydenhistoricalandartssociety.com/

Black Creatives of Pitt County
www.pittcountyarts.org/artists/black-creatives-of-pitt-county

Black Light Project
www.blacklightproject.com

City Art Gallery
www.cityartgreenville.com

Eastern Youth Orchestra
www.easternyouthorchestras.org

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

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

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

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

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

ECU Wellington B. Gray Gallery
<https://art.ecu.edu/artonline/gray-gallery/>

Emerald City Big Band
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/EmeraldCityBigBand/>

Emerge Gallery & Art Center
www.emergegallery.com/

Farmers & Makers Market
www.facebook.com/Farmersandmakers/

Farmville Community Arts Council
www.farmville-arts.org/about/

Faux & More...Lisa Jordan
www.bylisajordan.com/

The GlasStation
www.facebook.com/ECUGlasStation/

Greenville Brushstrokes
www.greenvillebrushstrokes.com/

Greenville Choral Society
www.greenvillechoralsociety.com/

Greenville Civic Ballet
www.greenvilleciviballet.com/

Greenville Museum of Art
www.gmoa.org/

Greenville Theatre Arts Center
www.gtacnc.org/

HeARToscope
www.heartoscope.org/

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

Katura Dance
www.katuradance.com/

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



Magnolia Arts Center
www.magnoliaartscenter.com/

Makerspace of Greenville
www.makerspaceofgreenville.com

**Music Academy
of Eastern North Carolina**
www.musicacademyc.org/

Music House
www.visitgreenvillenc.com/
visit/the-music-house/

NC Academy of Dance Arts
www.ncacademyofdance.com/

North Carolina Furniture School
www.ncfurnitureschool.com/

Opus 126 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church
www.opus126.com/

The Painted Peacock
www.paintedpeacock.com/

**PCC Fine Arts Gallery
and Symphony**
www.pittcc.edu/

Pitt County Schools Arts Education
www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/4743

Pitt County Senior Center
www.pittcoa.com/senior-services/senior-centers/

R. A. Fountain General Store
www.rafountain.com/

Room 108
www.facebook.com/Room108Art

Smiles and Frowns Playhouse
www.smilesandfrowns.org/

Spazz Presents
www.facebook.com/spazzpresents

The State Theatre
www.statetheatrenc.com/

Tar River Community Band
www.tarriverband.com/

Uptown Greenville
www.uptowngreenville.com/

USA Dance
www.greenvillencusadance.org/

West Side Strings School
[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/The-West-Side-Strings-School-171811026187832/)
The-West-Side-Strings-School-171811026187832/

**Winterville Historical
and Arts Society, Inc.**
[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/WintervilleHistoricalAndArtsSocietyInc/)
WintervilleHistoricalAndArtsSocietyInc/

*Arts Organizations highlighted in green are featured in this issue.

**COUNTYWIDE
ARTS
CALENDAR**
pittcountyarts.org/events

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

pittcountyarts.org/events

PADDOCK PUBLIC ART PROJECT

Emerge Gallery & Art Center, Home of the Pitt County Arts Council, is proud to announce the creation and future installation of a public work of art to honor and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community. The work will be installed on the site of the former Paddock Club, an establishment founded as a country and western night club and then changed in format to serve as eastern North Carolina's longest-running LGBTQ+ club, operating from 1973 until 2003.

The staircase that is central to the work was salvaged before the building was demolished by Jeremy Jordan, James Moretz, Michael Anderson, and Glen Haddock, the owners of Limelight, a club that operated in the same space following the Paddock Club's closure. Jordan, who serves on the City of Greenville's Historic Preservation Commission, stored the staircase as it waited for a new home.



Proposed Artwork in Context



Proposed Artwork in Context provided by the artist.

Following a request for qualifications, a design by North Carolina artist Jessica Brasher was selected. It incorporates the salvaged steel spiral staircase that was integral to the Paddock Club's interior, adorned with powder-coated steel ribbons reflecting the colors of the rainbow. Those colors represent life (red), healing (orange), sunlight (yellow), nature (green), harmony (indigo), and spirit (violet).

Bradsher, a working artist who earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from East Carolina University in 2018, began creating large-scale outdoor sculpture works fourteen years ago. She serves on the board of the Tri-State Sculptors Organization and has work in exhibition in seven states at present. Bradsher says she values the community the sculpture seeks to honor and the history of the piece itself.

The Greenville City Council has approved the design and site plan, and the project is awaiting final approval from NCDOT. Information on a dedication and unveiling of the sculpture is coming soon.

The installation is a \$55,000 project supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Dr. Jesse R. Peel, and other private donors. To donate to the project, please go to www.emergegallery.com/support/donate or call us at (252) 551-6947.

ARTS RESCUE AND REBUILD GRANT

IMPACT OF ARTS & CULTURE NONPROFITS IN NC



72,000

FULL-TIME JOBS
SUPPORTED



**\$201.5
MILLION**

GENERATED IN
LOCAL AND STATE
GOVERNMENT
REVENUE



**4.6 MILLION
HOURS**

DONATED BY
VOLUNTEERS TO
ARTS & CULTURAL
ORGANIZATIONS



**\$20.1
BILLION**

TOTAL ECONOMIC
ACTIVITY GENERATED
BY ARTS & CULTURE
NONPROFITS IN NC



**\$1.18
BILLION**

SPENT BY
ARTS AUDIENCES



109,525

VOLUNTEERS AT
NONPROFIT ARTS
& CULTURAL
ORGANIZATIONS

ARTS & ECONOMIC
PROSPERITY 5: THE
ECONOMIC IMPACT OF
NONPROFIT ARTS
AND CULTURE
ORGANIZATIONS AND
THEIR AUDIENCES IN
N.C. IS PART OF A
NATIONAL STUDY
CONDUCTED BY
AMERICANS FOR
THE ARTS (AFTA)

The Arts Mean (Business) (Knowledge) (Empathy) (Community) (Health) (Culture)

Thirteen years ago, Emerge Gallery & Art Center became the Home of the Pitt County Arts Council. Pitt County had been without a local arts council for many years, and connections, advocacy, and collaboration were lost. In 2009, the North Carolina Arts Council asked Emerge to become the umbrella organization and arts leader for Pitt County.

The Emerge Board of Directors and staff know the impact the Arts have on a community. Not only do the Arts create a kinder, safer, smarter, more diverse and healthier community, the Arts also bring business and economic development to Pitt County.

The 2015 Arts & Prosperity Study, conducted by Americans for the Arts, showed that for every non-profit arts event, an attendee spent nearly \$23 with other businesses and expenses in Pitt County. This shows that your contribution, as well as government funding, to arts non-profits are not handouts, but an investment that is leveraged and multiplied many times over and re-invested right back into Pitt County.

However, the majority of Pitt County non-profit arts organizations are volunteer-led, without staff. These organizations have done amazing things within the community, but imagine if they had dedicated staff? This would generate more cultural offerings and services, as well as employ our creative workers.

Emerge is thrilled to announce the receipt of a \$250,000 grant from the National Endowment to invest in our Pitt County Arts community. \$150,000 will go toward hiring staff at nine different arts non-profits and \$50,000 will help fund two major public art projects celebrating the diversity of our community.

Emerge has utilized their portion of the grant to hire a part-time Engagement Director to help with continued grant writing, fundraising, and community relations. They are so excited to welcome former Board Member Michael Crane to this position!

This opportunity will also enable Executive Director Holly Garriott to meet with staff and board members of the grantee organizations on a monthly basis to increase strategic planning as well as enhance staff and board development.

Help celebrate these eight organizations that applied and were granted these funds. Please participate in their events, become members, and INVEST in them, and keep the arts and our community growing in Pitt County.

AYDEN HISTORICAL AND ARTS SOCIETY

In 1891, a farmer in southern Pitt County, William Henry Harris, partnered with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad to bring a depot to a portion of his land in hopes of establishing a new town. The town began to grow in the early twentieth century with the establishment of Carolina Christian College and the Free Will Baptist Seminary. After struggling through the Depression and the Second World War, Ayden slowly but surely grew and prospered.

To help preserve their past as they and their relatives in Ayden remember it, the Ayden Historical and Arts Society (AHAS) was organized in 2015. Since its inception the AHAS has been on a mission to establish a museum to preserve and honor the rich history and artistic culture of Ayden. They received encouragement from the Town of Ayden to plan an Ayden Museum. The town gave AHAS permission to use the old Dixon Medical Building at 554 Second Street.

Since 2018 the Ayden Museum has implemented several exhibits illustrating various aspects of Ayden's history. They have a medical exhibit highlighting the medical community that has served Ayden in the 20th and 21st centuries. Their military exhibit showcases





Sammy Pierce, a WWII ace. Also the exhibit includes a list of Ayden citizens that served in the military from the Civil War to the Middle East Conflicts. A history of Veterans Park is in this exhibit. An Education Exhibit features a time line explaining the two colleges that began in Ayden and the history of each of their public schools beginning in 1914. A home exhibit includes a 1914 Edison Phonograph that really plays and a 1887 box camera that is in excellent shape. A doll exhibit includes a doll house and dolls that in some cases are over 100 years old.

An agricultural exhibit reminds many Ayden citizens of growing up working in the tobacco fields. Their latest exhibit is the Barbeque Exhibit featuring two famous barbeque restaurants, Bum's and Pete Jones' Skylight Inn.

To encourage the arts in their community, the museum has a new art gallery that gives local artists an opportunity to showcase their work on a rotating basis. They have just completed a show of Alex Warren's photography of rural eastern North Carolina. They have had local musical talent perform outside on special occasions.

They are extremely pleased and honored to receive a Pitt County Arts Rescue and Rebuild Grant through the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge. The grant will be used to keep the museum open for three days a week, four hours a day rather than once a month. Plus the museum will be open for town festivals, parades, and special events. Their Exhibit Director, Philip Barth, will have the time to enhance existing exhibits and work on an outside mural featuring their 1890 Ayden Depot. This grant will give their community more opportunity to visit and enjoy Ayden's rich history and to make a strong cultural connection.

FARMVILLE COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL



The Farmville Community Arts Council (FCAC) is housed in the historic 101 year-old Paramount Theatre on Main Street in Farmville, NC. FCAC is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that includes individuals from all walks of life. FCAC sought funding from the Rescue and Rebuild Grant to hire a leader to guide its extraordinary and dedicated volunteers in advancing its mission to 'bring the arts to everyone.'

While COVID-19 and all its challenges kept the Paramount Theatre "dark" from March 2020-March 2022, the FCAC has found ways to continue its mission. The board of FCAC worked tirelessly to oversee the joining of an adjacent 101-year old historical building to the Paramount through the theatre's lobby. The primary goal was to create fully accessible restrooms along with ensuring that the theatre's main floor seating is fully accessible.

The Farmville Community Arts Council's new gallery has been a work of slow progress over the last three years. The biggest hurdle was funding for what the council has imagined for years of the potential uses for the building next to the beloved Paramount Theatre and Arts Center. During the pandemonium of the pandemic, key components started to fit together to begin the project.

Both buildings are over 100 years old and in good shape. However, buildings of that era were built sturdily but not accessible to all people due to physical limitations of their design. The council applied for and was granted a federally funded Community Block Grant to create accessible restrooms and better accessibility to an event/gallery space that is part of their arts complex.

On the evening of September 9, 2022, FCAC christened the new gallery with Olena Zinchouk and her beautiful artwork. The new gallery's official name was unveiled during the opening of The Emily Monk Davidson Gallery. Olena and her work are featured in these photographs.

FCAC looks forward to hiring a part-time staff member to help with the management of the organization. This will help continue and increase the wonderful community programming within the Paramount Theatre and now the Gallery space, in addition to programming within the Farmville community, like the annual Ghostwalk and other collaborations.



GREENVILLE CHORAL SOCIETY

For more than 50 years, the Greenville Choral Society has brought choral music to Pitt County. It has grown into one of the largest community-based performing arts organizations in eastern North Carolina. The Choral Society consists of four groups that perform a range of both sacred and secular music in Pitt County and around the world.

As they go into their 53rd season, they are excited to have Dr. Andrea Van Deusen join Dr. Andrew Roby and Mr. Paul Flowers as part of their professional artistic staff. Dr. Van Deusen is currently an Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education at ECU. She will be working collaboratively with Mr. Flowers as leadership for the Youth Chorale and Children's Chorus. These choirs include younger members of the community from 4th grade through high school.

The Concert Choir, under the direction of Dr. Roby, meets Tuesday evenings to rehearse. Members of this choir come from all walks of life including college students, retirees, teachers and professors, physicians, office workers, business owners, as well as some professional musicians. This past spring, they sent a group from the Concert Choir to join choristers from around the world in London to perform Kim André Arnesen's "Tuvayhun - Beatitudes for a Wounded World."



This season, the society will present six concerts including their annual Gala. On October 22 the Concert Choir will present “A Celebration of Freedom: The Testament of Freedom” by Randall Thompson and other works celebrating liberty and freedom. The Youth and Children Holiday Concert will be held on December 11 at The Memorial Baptist Church. A Festive Celebration of the Season will be presented by the Concert Choir with New Carolina Sinfonia Brass in Greenville on December 17 and in Washington on December 18. Their annual Gala “Love is All You Need” will be held on February 11. The Youth Chorale and Children’s Chorus will present their Spring Concert on April 23. “Tuvayhun: Beatitudes for a Wounded World” by Kim Andre Arnesen will be presented by the Concert Choir with New Carolina Sinfonia on April 30.

This grant will help increase the job description for the Greenville Choral Society’s General Manager Ramona LeGrand, adding a marketing and public relations component to her job. It will also help hire another part-time staff member to help with fundraising.



GREENVILLE MUSEUM OF ART

With more than 80 years of service to the Greenville community, the Greenville Museum of Art (GMOA) is a significant advocate for the arts in eastern North Carolina. From its origins in a modest downtown storefront in 1939, to its current location in the historic Flanagan House and 1991 West Wing addition, the GMOA has embraced its newest mission to inspire, educate, and connect people through the visual arts by way of their collection, exhibitions, and programs.

This mission serves the GMOA's broader vision for the cultural life of Pitt County, including 1) a prosperous arts community with equitable opportunities for all artists; 2) creative collaborations that increase and enhance intellectual and physical access to the arts; 3) an ever-growing appreciation for the arts and their central role within the cultural, social, and economic well-being of our community; and 4) meaningful connections with the arts that instill awareness, insight, and empathy.

The arts are essential to the health and development of individuals and communities, and with the GMOA's grounding core values of inclusivity, engagement, collaboration, and accountability, it is well poised to provide even more meaningful art opportunities for the whole of Pitt County.

The growth of the GMOA's arts education and cultural programs is central to its new mission and vision, both of which were established as part of the GMOA four-year strategic plan. This plan highlights key objectives and benchmarks designed to serve the GMOA's diverse, constantly evolving community in Pitt County.

By funding wages for an Educational Coordinator and a Gallery Attendant, the Pitt County Arts Council Rescue & Rebuild Grant will support the first and most robust of their strategic plan objectives, "Define and Develop GMOA Museum-Based Educational Programming."



The GMoA maintains a collection of roughly 800 works of art in a wide variety of mediums and has a rotating exhibition schedule featuring artists and artworks from across the region. It serves about 10,000 guests annually through exhibitions, receptions, social events, and gallery talks and tours; and serves roughly 2,000 people through classes and outreach programs in the community.

This grant will significantly increase the GMoA's capacity for on-site tours and art activities for all. In addition to supporting the GMoA's current educational programs, including STEAM tours for K-12 students planned with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Greenville, both the Educational Coordinator and Gallery Attendant will actively work with teachers and staff from regional educational institutions and community partners to coordinate visits on-site and create museum-based curricula. The GMoA will establish free monthly programs and a new docent program, create virtual educational content, and create educational gallery guides and other resources for visitors, all based on its collection and current exhibitions.

GREENVILLE THEATRE ARTS CENTER



Greenville Theatre Arts Center (GTAC) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1992 in the heART of Greenville, NC, to educate, elevate, and expand the souls of inspiring artists, youth, and creative individuals through knowledge, experience, and resources in the arts.

GTAC engages youth who have been affected during the pandemic and are experiencing mental health issues, anxiety, autism, ADHD, suicidal thoughts, traumatic experiences, and systematic injustice. They believe that every individual has a unique gift and that gift can be used not only to make the community a better place, but can make the world a more peaceful, artistic environment. GTAC offers a mentoring program involving musical arts, performing arts, visual arts, applied arts, and creative arts to provide mental healing and artistic opportunities, to pursue dreams, and to earn a productive position in this society and industry of performing arts. GTAC operates many youth programs and events.

The programs offered in the organization serve as a direct response to the need of the arts in the community, which gives all participants a chance to shine as talented individuals and an opportunity to gain self-esteem and self-awareness. GTAC staff provides a variety of life skill programs that promote positive values, healthy habits, and education through the performing arts.

The Rescue and Rebuild Grant will support the Greenville Theatre Arts Center's staff that makes a meaningful difference in the lives of the youth. When youth develop a vested interest in themselves and the community, their lives and the community become a better place to live, work and visit. GTAC's staff brings individuals together to solve problems, build relationships and get involved in a way that help individuals recreate their experience in a positive artistic way. The Rescue and Rebuild Grant will give them the jumpstart they need to rebuild their staff and programs as they continue to implement awareness to the youth. The success of the Greenville Theatre Arts Center depends on resources from grants and fundraisers that will help pay for their staff and their dedication to ensure that the organization continues to be a resourceful part in the community.



HEARTOSCOPE

HeARToscope uses its art platform to address a variety of social determinants of health such as poverty, economic stability, food security, poorly funded schools, and safe educational environments. Their key location is West Greenville which is one of the most underserved areas in the county and is affected by crippling poverty. HeARToscope uses art as a therapeutic tool that gives kids in this area a creative outlet while allowing them to express themselves in healthy ways.

Their mission is the pursuit of community, art, relationships, and equity. One of the ways they do this is through their HeART Exchange Saturdays program. This is a free program that takes place on alternating Saturdays and is led by a trauma-informed art instructor. Children are invited to enjoy an art lesson, make a craft, be in a safe environment, and are provided with free breakfast and lunch. Examples of lessons that they have covered include painting, graphic design, gardening, etc. According to the American Psychological Association, lack of creative opportunities and social programming negatively affects health, social, emotional, and cognitive development in children of underserved communities.

The HeART Exchange program addressed poverty and economic stability through their HeART exhibit titled “The Mandala Effect.” This exhibit was held at a local business where artwork from their HeART Exchange kids was put on display and placed for auction by bid. The pieces, painted mandalas, were bid on by local community members, with 100% of the funds going directly to the youth artists. This project allowed them to work



with their kids on entrepreneurship skills, money management skills, and marketing skills while simultaneously encouraging their creative side. They received more than \$1,000 worth of bid offers with some of their artists' works selling for more than \$100 apiece. This promotes economic stability by giving the current youth skills that they can now utilize to be creative and adapt an entrepreneurial spirit which will in turn stimulate economic growth in West Greenville.

Another way they are carrying out their mission is through their West Greenville Public Art + Mural Initiative. This initiative was created to improve aesthetics through art in West Greenville as well as creating therapeutic benefits, highlighting diversity, and supporting cultural preservation efforts. Currently they have two mural locations. The first one is located at the Gold Post Café and the second location is inside the Eppes Recreation Center.

As a recipient of the Rescue & Rebuild grant, they will be able to carry on this mission by hiring a part-time Education Coordinator. The Education Coordinator will assist in the development, implementation, and evaluation of all educational programs at HeARToscope. The Education Coordinator will encourage student awareness and appreciation of the arts.



MAGNOLIA ARTS CENTER

Magnolia Arts Center (MAC), founded in 2005, is a local non-profit performing arts organization. Their mission is to educate, entertain, and enrich our community by producing quality theater and performing arts programs that are diverse and inclusive. For nearly a decade, the organization never had a facility to call their own, requiring them to borrow space from other community groups for every rehearsal and performance. In 2014, MAC finally found a home to call their own. That's when they began leasing a building from the city at the Perkins Complex, which is located on East 14th Street adjacent to Greenville Boulevard. Since that time, MAC has produced dozens of shows, as well as workshops, for our local community.

However, having their own building hasn't been without challenges. In order to maintain their lease, MAC was required to renovate the restrooms for ADA compliance, which cost approximately \$30,000. Donations and grants allowed them to renovate the building, and the restroom renovation was completed before a three-year city mandate. They also painted the interior and exterior, replaced flooring throughout, and added another small restroom in the green room back stage area for actors. Maintaining the old building continues to be an ongoing challenge.





Nevertheless, having a designated facility created a plethora of opportunities, most importantly the ability for actors to rehearse in the same space as their upcoming production. MAC also enhanced concessions, including a license to sell beer and wine during performances.

In 2016, MAC was awarded the state's top community theatre award by the North Carolina Theatre Conference. Since inception, MAC has functioned as an all-volunteer organization. The Pitt County Arts Rescue and Rebuild grant will allow them to seek a General Manager position to assist with daily tasks. Duties will include responding to phone calls, texts, and online messages in a timely manner, which will make a difference in providing excellent service. In addition, helping the organization maintain a consistent updated online social media presence will be important.

Databases are also continuously in need of updates, such as contact information for actors, donors, volunteers, and show patrons. Not to mention, the building always needs attention, from small cleaning jobs to meeting vendors. Volunteers will still be important, but this position is expected to provide a sense of relief from many of the daily pressures. This will allow the board to focus on more strategic needs. At one time, MAC tracked and logged all volunteer hours, which was time-consuming, and a general manager can help facilitate this duty again.

Like most organizations, activity during COVID was limited, but MAC is now back in full swing. The recent production of "Clue" was a huge success, offering ten shows to the community, with full audiences. An educational youth workshop was also recently completed. "Taming of the Shrew," a Shakespeare production, was the last summer performance before a full fall schedule.

SMILES AND FROWNS PLAYHOUSE



Smiles and Frowns Playhouse is a children's theater serving Pitt and surrounding counties since 1986. Their mission is to produce two shows a year for 30-40 actors aged 5 to 18. They have two performances over one weekend and bring anywhere from 500 to 800 patrons to their production. Over 36 years, Smiles and Frowns Playhouse has only missed shows due to Hurricane Floyd and, more recently, COVID-19.

The COVID shutdown was announced the day of their final dress rehearsal for "The Jungle Book," which then had to be canceled. It was a blow to their morale and their checkbook. As COVID was becoming better understood, they were able to host safe weekend workshops outside starting in the spring of 2021, and resumed full production in the fall of 2021 with COVID safeguards in place. Seeing a full house enjoying their production was incredibly rewarding and showed them how important they were to their community in ways they didn't fully understand pre-pandemic.

The Town of Ayden Parks and Recs Department shares the town's auditorium with Smiles and Frowns Playhouse and they do their best to pay the town back with capital improvements. Most recently, they have been upgrading the lighting system from older incandescent and analog technology to a more efficient, powerful digital and LED system. Smiles and Frowns generally relies exclusively on volunteer labor which they are grateful for, but with this money, they hope to find some new professionals to teach various aspects of the theater to the actors and tech crew.



With this generous grant, the plan is to offer honorariums for a Guest Director, a Musical Director, and some theater enrichment for their actors. The actors benefit greatly when the Playhouse brings a new perspective and style into the productions and it helps keep the organization modern. They take pride in their alumni and many have utilized the performing arts in various aspects of their career. They also have alumni who have served on their board and had their children in the productions. They give an annual scholarship, named after long term Artistic Director, Andrea Croskery, to a graduating senior and Smiles and Frowns alumni. The diverse age range also allows for many of the children to grow up within their organization. The older children lead and teach the younger ones and when the younger ones grow, they pay it forward to the next generation. The camaraderie formed among a group of children, all with a common goal, prepares them for life's challenges off the stage, as well, and they are proud and pleased to be able to facilitate all of this communal good.



Member Highlight

Charlotte Fitz-Daniels and Chris Daniels have been cornerstones of the Pitt County arts community for years. The arts and artistic expression have played a critical role in their lives since they were both young. Learning to think creatively makes everyone more versatile and effective in all of life's endeavors. As schools continue to cut funding for arts education, they believe it is vitally important to support organizations that provide art education opportunities. Artistic expression and creativity are at the forefront of innovation and allow us to be a more connected better-functioning society.

Chris met Charlotte at the Greenville Museum of Art when she was the Executive Director. Together, they both seek out opportunities to consume and experience art at every turn. Charlotte has a home ceramics studio where she creates narrative vessels and sculptures. Chris is a passionate cook. They love to collaborate in the kitchen, getting creative with recipes, with fresh foods from their garden or the local farmers' market. Charlotte and Chris are passionate about animal welfare causes, art, and arts education.

Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge Donors for 2021-2022

Individual Benefactors

Benefactor Level

MS. HARVEY WOOTEN

Mr. & Mrs. Don Edwards

Deanna Boyette & Chris Mann

Mary Cotter

Devinder & Stephen Culver

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