



PITT COUNTY
ARTS
COUNCIL AT
EMERGE

ARTZINE

FALL
2023



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

Cover Photo:
Last Stop on Market Street featuring [behind hand] Terri Campbell-Payton
of Greenville Theatre Arts Center (GTAC)

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

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I'm so very excited to release our new strategic plan for the arts in Pitt County! Last year, Pitt County community members and stakeholders contributed to a strategic plan for our organization. After nearly 500 surveys, 8 stakeholder meetings, and 4 Board of Director's mini retreats, we are excited to unveil our 5 main focus areas and objectives for this fiscal year.

This plan helps determine specific areas of need for our community. Many, we realized, have already been active tasks for our staff and Board. We will be focusing on serving all of Pitt County through the arts; being the voice for local artists and art lovers; emphasizing diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, accessibility, and belonging; and amplifying Pitt County as a regional arts & cultural hub. We know to be able to achieve all of these things we have to keep our organization strong and sustainable and therefore must prioritize organizational excellence.

Help be a part of achieving our objectives. You can do this by participating in our programs and events, becoming a member, and by letting us know ideas of future growth for the arts in Pitt County.

Thank you for all of your support and belief in how the arts transform and strengthen our community.

Sincerely,



Holly M. Garriott
Executive Director



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Morgan Laketa

Arts Organizations and Events in Pitt County



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

<https://www.emergegallery.com/community/arts-venues#/>

<https://www.emergegallery.com/artists/artist-directory>

A Place in the Heart Theatre Company

Ayden Arts & Recreation

Ayden Historical and Arts Society

Black Creatives of Pitt County

City Art Gallery

Downtown Greenville Partnership

Eastern Youth Orchestra

ECU GlasStation

ECU Joyner Library's Faulkner Gallery

ECU Loessin Playhouse

ECU S. Randolph Alexander

Performing Arts Series

ECU School of Music

ECU Wellington B. Gray Gallery

Emerald City Big Band

Emerald City Collective

Emerge Gallery & Art Center

Farmers & Makers Market

Farmville Community Arts Council

Faux & More...Lisa Jordan

Greenville Brushstrokes

Greenville Choral Society

Greenville Civic Ballet

Greenville Museum of Art

Greenville Theatre Arts Center

HeARToscope

Jaycee Park Arts & Crafts Center

Katura Dance

L'Academie de Danse

Magnolia Arts Center

Makerspace of Greenville

Music Academy of Eastern North Carolina

Music House

NC Academy of Dance Arts

North Carolina Furniture School

Opus 126 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Painted Peacock

PCC Fine Arts Gallery and Symphony

Pitt County Schools Arts Education

Pitt County Senior Center

R. A. Fountain General Store

Smiles and Frowns Playhouse

Spazz Presents

The State Theatre

Tar River Community Band

Tar River Potters

West Side Strings School

Winterville Historical

and Arts Society

COUNTYWIDE

ARTS CALENDAR

Find all of your arts and cultural events.



www.emergegallery.com/events

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

Take a stroll! ArtWalks in Pitt County

Many towns and cities throughout the country choose one night a month to celebrate the arts in their community. Galleries, museums, restaurants and retail shops stay open late or offer specials to invite the larger community to experience the collective energy of the arts. Pitt County is no stranger to ArtWalks as Downtown Greenville has had a thriving ArtWalk for more than 20 years. The towns of Farmville and Ayden have joined in the tradition, hosting their own events and celebrations.



Enjoy Downtown Greenville's eclectic mix of restaurants and shops along your stroll. Downtown Greenville invites you to take a free ride on the Emerald Express through the district while you mix and mingle in the heart of Greenville. ArtWalks happen monthly on the First Friday from 5:00pm - 8:00pm.

Visit www.downtowngreenville.com for information about monthly events.



Come to downtown Farmville to experience glass blowing demonstrations at the ECU GlasStation. Farmville Community Arts Center invites you to visit their latest exhibit in the new EMD Gallery. Restaurants and eateries are open and ready to serve you! ArtWalks happen monthly on the third Friday from 6:00pm - 9:00pm.

Visit <https://www.farmville-arts.org/> for information about monthly events.



Downtown Ayden holds many of its community events at Veterans Memorial Park at 287-313 Fourth Street in Ayden. These events happen monthly on the First Friday from 4:00pm - 8:30pm

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/DowntownAyden> for information about monthly events.

'23-'24 SRAPAS Season

Family fare

The Last Firefly-

December 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

It begins with a light, a sliver, a flash, then comes a sound, a pulse, a beat, a crash like a giant hammer smashing through the sky, as Boom, son of Thunder sets out on his epic search for his father.

*Recommended for 8 yrs and older

123 Andrés- February 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Get ready to "Activate"- dance, sing and learn about being active in your community with 123 Andrés! Their catchy songs and lively performances will get the whole audience dancing, singing and learning.

Polkadots: The Cool Kids Musical- March 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Inspired by the events of The Little Rock 9, Polkadots serves as a colorful history lesson for children, reminding them that our individual differences make us awesome, not outcasts.

Get more information and tickets: <https://artscomm.ecu.edu/family-fare/>

ECU Central Ticket Office: 252-328-4788



All Performances Featured at ECU Wright Performing Arts Center
100 Founders Drive, Greenville NC, 27858

ECU StArts

—ECU Shares the Arts

StArts

The S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series is pleased to announce its newest initiative, ECU Shares the Arts - ECU StArts! The series has long been recognized on a national level for its stellar performances and as we move into this performing arts renaissance, it is the SRAPAS mission that all of Eastern North Carolina has access to the elevating power of these performances.

Through the generosity of private donors and administrative assistance from The Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge and ECU's College of Fine Arts and Communication, ECU StArts provides free-of-charge Alexander Series and Family Fare tickets to underserved members of our community through non-profit and student organizations. Let's make this community for everyone, ECU StArts!



Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar-

November 3, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Trey McLaughlin & The Sounds of Zamar have a unique place for themselves in the music industry through soul-stirring arrangements of contemporary gospel, musical theater, and rich original compositions.

THE S. RUDOLPH
Alexander
PERFORMING ARTS
Series

The Baylor Project-

February 16, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Marcus and Jean Baylor generate an eclectic sound at the intersection of jazz and gospel whose overall effect is spiritual, buoyant and feel-good music for all generations.

tenThing Brass Ensemble-

March 15, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

A fun and exciting collaboration between the ten-piece, all-female brass ensemble, tenThing accesses music through a diverse repertoire spanning from Mozart to Weill, Grieg to Bernstein, and Lully to Bartok.

Small Island Big Song-

April 6, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

With unique cultural connections between descendants of the seafarers, Small Island Big Song creates diverse contemporary styles of reggae, beats, grunge, RnB, folk, and spoken word for a powerful cause.

New Carolina Sinfonia-

May 25, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

This new professional orchestra gathers ECU faculty members, talented alumni, and other regional professionals, as a brilliant reflection of the vibrant and growing music community in Greenville, NC.

Get more information and tickets: <https://artscomm.ecu.edu/alexander-series/>
ECU Central Ticket Office: 252-328-4788

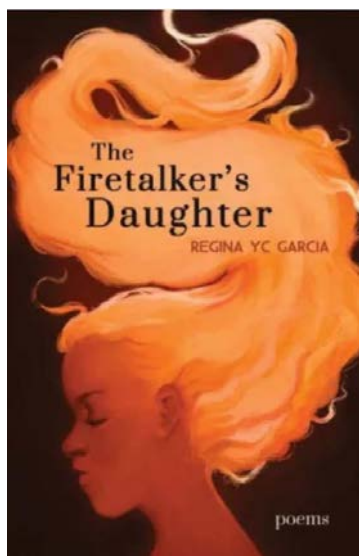


Artist Highlight: Regina YC Garcia

Regina YC Garcia is a poet, language artist, and English professor. She is a graduate of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she earned a BA in Speech Communication with a Concentration in the Oral Interpretation of Literature. She additionally earned an MA in Adult Education from East Carolina University, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Multicultural and Transnational Literature. She currently teaches English at Pitt Community College.

Regina's literary work primarily centers around issues related to family and culture, social justice, and human rights. Garcia's first book of poetry, "The Firetaker's Daughter," was released by Finishing Line Press in Spring 2023.

Regina YC Garcia reflects on being an artist in Pitt County: "I am really fortunate to be a Pitt County Writer and Language Artist. Often, I think about what I can do to promote my art in an area that does not always place emphasis on creating ample structural spaces for the community to experience the arts on an even larger scale with increased frequency. I think that's the nature of any artist, though, to reach for more, to build new worlds to exact their craft, to create connections between the self and the community.



However, I do recognize that “bigger” does not always dictate the effectiveness or impact that the arts have on the citizens of this community. For instance, Pitt County is ripe territory in which artistic production and performance possibly...surely... can allow for this rebirth and reconsideration of meaningful address to everyday life. In this are frequently born great opportunities for powerful artistic collaborations. For example, my own art invites the audience to consider, to reflect, to act, to dream, to hope...well, I hope it does. This urgency is heightened through collaboration with other types of artists, as well as with entities that concern themselves with the importance of the arts. The joy is that we have artists and entities like this in our area who deem art important and necessary. Entities such as Emerge (seat of the Pitt County Arts Council), area colleges and schools, and other organizations have made making and experiencing the arts more possible for artists.”



Regina concludes, “In Pitt County, the artist has the opportunity to give breath and hope and crucially, a more vibrant, aware, and inclusive community.”

The Food from the HeART Project was an idea envisioned by Brandon Qualls of Ford + Shep, Deborah Sheppard of HeARToscope, and Holly Garriott and Paula Rountree of Emerge Gallery & Art Center. This project is a refrigerator that serves as public art and a perishable foods distribution site accessible to the South Greenville Elementary School community. Through the generosity of the ECU Health Foundation and local entrepreneurs, Nicole and Brandon Qualls, Food from the HeART has become a reality and will be evaluated for possible future replication.

The refrigerator project provides healthy foods for students and their families to access as needed.

The colorful artwork was designed by Paula Jordan-Mayo, Chair of the Black Creatives of Pitt County, whose work was chosen through a call for artwork.





Brandon Qualls shared upon the initial stocking of the refrigerator, "Nicole and I are humbled by the support for the Food from the HeART Project. We are grateful for the generosity and partnership with ECU Health. We are hopeful that this project will continue to grow into other local schools to help combat the rising rates of food insecurity in Pitt County."



Allison Covington, Principal of South Greenville Elementary School, said, "It is amazing what the power of community can do. We are grateful for our community members coming together to support the students and families of South Greenville. The Food from the HeART project will make a positive impact on our community as we continue to tackle food insecurity. We are incredibly grateful!"

Seven Concerts in Seven Weeks

Winterville Historical and Arts Society utilized Rescue and Rebuild Grant funding administered by Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge to bring in local musicians, their bands, and ensembles, to provide some fun nights and afternoons of high-quality entertainment for people in our area.

The historic Winterville Depot proved to be a perfect concert venue for the Winterville Historical and Arts Society to host the seven concerts.

The series opened with a very enjoyable evening with the Steve Creech Quartet (first photo). Performances continued with Michael Stephenson and Friends (second photo), The Spiritualities and NuMynistree (third photo), Shannon Baker & Sometime Soon, Lightnin' Wells, and The Tar River Boys (fourth photo).

You ask, "So how did they accomplish all this as a team?"

Winterville Historical and Arts Society's Spring Concert Series, which began on April 11, and ended on May 23, was possible because their board devised a workable plan and then board members worked in harmony to make the concerts a success.





All board members were involved in one way or another whenever they were available, working as a team and pitching in to make it all work smoothly.



Behind the scenes, board member Jesse Riggs resurrected his skills acquired from assisting with stage lighting during his college days. With the assistance of board member Abbott Hunsucker, they rigged up overhead lighting to create a nice effect for the section of the room that was chosen to be the “stage area.”



As she had promised, Trish Worthington Cobb, who had devised and presented the scheme for this seven-concert series to the board, showed up before each concert to open the depot in time to greet each band and allow them to set up.



Each concert was well attended, with people enjoying a night out with good music in an intimate, unique, and historic venue. Many positive comments were expressed by attendees.

If you missed this spring’s concert series, mark your calendar for the 2024 Spring Concert Series.

Visit <https://www.wintervillehistory.org/> for more information arts organization.

Collaborations in the Arts

The Greenville Theatre Arts Center (GTAC) employed Rescue and Rebuild Grant funding administered by Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge to reestablish their staff, programs, and outreach capabilities. Terri Campbell-Payton, Program Director, has flourished in collaborating with fellow arts organizations and creating the peaceful, artistic environment desired by her own organization.

This spring, Terri performed with the ECU School of Theatre and Dance in their production of *Last Stop on Market Street*. The musical was presented to the entire community as part of ECU's Arts Smart program. Arts Smart is intended for school groups and is steeply discounted to support K-5 learners across a 13-county area.

Last Stop on Market Street is a children's book written in 2015 by Matt de la Peña and illustrated by Christian Robinson. Playwright Cheryl Wright premiered the book as a live musical in 2018 bringing the storybook to life with lyricists and composers Paris Ray Dozier and Lamont Dozier.





This colorful show was performed at ECU's Wright Auditorium by ECU Storybook Theater as well as at The Roxy, presented by the Greenville Theatre Arts Center. Both performances starred ECU students Isaiah Bussey as the character "C.J." and Terri Campbell-Payton as the character "Nana Teacake".



The momentum of the performances led to a wonderful start of GTAC's Summer Camp program, which served 25 students between the ages of 7-17. The camp focused on encouraging, empowering, and motivating youth to work on building their self-esteem, self-discipline, and self-trust through the five elements of fine arts. The program is based off of teaching movement with emotions and feelings through musical genres including but not limited to, jazz, hip-hop, afrobeats, and musical theatre. The Summer Production, "I am Somebody" concluded 8-week artistic healing program.



To continue the powerful outreach that GTAC has established, they are hosting "Live at the Roxy" each month. This open mic style event will highlight Greenville's colorful, creative community.



Visit <https://www.gtacnc.org/> for more information about this energetic arts organization.

Send a Child to Summer Camp

Since 2003, thousands of children have enjoyed immersive summer art camp experiences at Emerge Gallery & Art Center. The art camps have introduced a generation of Pitt County youth to handbuilding and wheel work in the pottery studio; photography and digital illustration in our darkroom/computer lab; jewelry work in our metals studio; plus painting, drawing, animating and even bookmaking.

Our summer art camps relate directly to our mission — to educate through the arts. Indeed, we aspire to inspire and create lifelong visual art learners, makers, and appreciators.

Another part of our mission is to make the arts accessible to the entire community. We take access seriously and have offered summer art camp scholarships for many years. The parents or guardians of campers apply for support and campers are hosted according to their interests, pending the availability of funds.

To ensure a scholarship pool large enough to accommodate anticipated applications, Emerge Gallery & Art Center will host a summer art camp scholarship drive this fall—launching on Giving Tuesday (November 28) and running through the end of the calendar year.

Gifts at any and every amount earmarked for the fund will be pooled, then allocated to youth in need who are currently living in Pitt County. If you would care to make a gift at this time, use the QR code on this page to give online, or send a check using the address in the back of the ArtZine with “scholarship fund” in the memo.

A full week of art camp costs \$240 per child. We've set a goal of \$10,000 for this campaign so that we can host four scholarship campers per week for all ten weeks of summer camp. We run three to five sessions each week to accommodate different age groups and interests, pre-kindergarten through high school.

A parent of a Mini Master who received a camp scholarship shared with us the following. "Zamiya really enjoyed her time with Emerge Arts. She always came home telling about the great things they did. This was the perfect camp for her because she loves art and it really fostered her abilities even at the age of 5. She was taught new things but was also able to draw freely. I would definitely sign her up again."

To learn more about summer art camp or the scholarship fund, please call Paula Rountree at (252) 551-6947 or email paula@emergegallery.com.

Save the Date for
Summer Art Camp 2024
June 3 - August 12



Scan this QR code with your mobile device to donate to our scholarship fund via our website.



Camp Instructor Gail Ritzer



Gail Ritzer has been an integral part of our summer camps for the last 15 years. Gail is a well loved teacher who brings her enthusiasm and talent to each group of campers.

Campers turned Volunteers

We are honored when a repeat art camper becomes a volunteer. Volunteers help Emerge Staff with a variety of tasks, such as set-up and clean-up during summer camps, as well as serving as assistants to Emerge instructors. This summer we have had several campers become volunteers. Hannah, Marlette, Maisy, and Abbe have been wonderful additions.



Pitt County Arts Council Strategic Plan: 2023-2028

The Board of Directors and staff of the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge sought to invest in the future of the organization by undertaking a strategic planning process that would identify areas for improvement within the organization's mission. This plan is designed to provide overall focus areas and objectives that can be implemented to best serve the community.

Focus Areas and Objectives

Serve all of Pitt County through the arts

- Outreach with all Pitt County communities
- Increase participation throughout the region

Be the voice for local artists and art lovers

- Increase the profile of Pitt County Arts Council
- Provide advocacy for arts programming and funding

Emphasize diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, accessibility, and belonging

- Lead an inclusive environment within the arts community
- Ensure multi-cultural representation

Amplify Pitt County as regional arts and cultural hub

- Coordinate resources to reach the community more effectively
- Expand public art opportunities

Prioritize organizational excellence

- Ensure financial sustainability in all initiatives
- Arrange for continued organizational capacity

Youth Arts Festival

The Youth Arts Festival began in 2005, on the campus mall of East Carolina University. In 2019, partnering with the City of Greenville and Emerge Gallery, the festival expanded and moved to Greenville Town Common to become more of an inclusive community festival.

The festival offers free demonstrations and hands-on art activities for youth of all ages. Everything from the potter's wheel to puppet making, playing instruments to blacksmithing, there is something new and exciting to learn and create. Artists of all types come from our region to volunteer and share their talents with our community.

The festival typically draws over 4,000 people, and the project leaders look forward to another great year with growing numbers of community partners and attendees. Proceeds from sponsorships and donations benefit the Pitt County Schools Arts Educators Fund. The fund will be distributed to Arts Educators to purchase supplies for their classrooms.





The Youth Arts Festival is a joint project with Emerge Gallery & Art Center, Greenville Recreation & Parks Department, East Carolina University's College of Fine Arts and Communication, and the Arts Education programs of Pitt County Schools.



This year's festival will feature visual, musical, and theatrical arts booths where children can participate in creative activities making their own masterpieces. There will also be performance-based activities including puppet making, storytelling, music, and interactive theater. Performances by groups from Pitt County Schools, East Carolina University, and community arts organizations will occur throughout the day at the amphitheater.



The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 10:00am – 4:00pm on Greenville Town Common, so mark it on your calendar now. The festival is free and open to the public. Parking is free.



Visit www.youthartsfest.com for more information on the festival or to become a sponsor of this inclusive event. We hope to see you at the 19th annual Youth Arts Festival!



Member Highlight

After nearly a quarter of a century in Greenville, Devinder and Steve Culver are still honing their North Carolina accents. On their arrival, Steve took up the position of Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences at East Carolina University, a position he held until 2022. He still teaches paleontology and the history of the Earth and conducts research on the effects of climate change on the North Carolina coast. Devinder immersed herself in the local community and works for the Greenville Police Department as the Community Projects Coordinator. Devinder's collaboration with Jane Austen Behan, the first board member of Emerge Gallery, and Dr. Cynthia Bickley-Green, Professor of Art Education at ECU, began in 2006 with the Youth Art Expressions Project. The group worked with Pitt County Schools' art teachers and students on different topics which reflected happenings in the community. The artworks created by the students were exhibited at East Carolina University, Greenville Mall, and in local schools, thus making the arts accessible to all. Please join the staff of Emerge Gallery & Art Center in welcoming Devinder as our new Board President.

According to Devinder, "The importance of art in all its forms cannot be stressed enough. Art is not only a reflection of our past and current values and culture, but it also has the power to change opinions and bridge those gaps which may at times divide us."

Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge Partners for 2023 - 2024

Individual Benefactors

Benefactor Level

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Mary Cotter

Devinder and Steve Culver

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Christie and Randall Martoccia

Nicole and Brandon Qualls

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Kelly and David Kurz

Joseph Lee

Karen Litwa and Steve Benson

Jennifer McKinnon and Jason Raupp

Erica and Chris Mizelle

Brooks O'Quinn

Lillian and Freddie Outterbridge

Myriah and Brian Shewchuk

Catherine and Stephen Spruill

Nicole and William Stokes

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Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge Partners for 2023 - 2024

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Miki Ragsdale and Kevin Morse
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Paula Rountree
Amanda Tilley
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Becca Bielak
Catherine Walker
Ann and Jordy Whichard
James Whitehead
Pamela Aldridge Yelverton
Wanda Yuhas

Family Level

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Kimberly Alford
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Rodney Colvin
Stan and Faye Armstrong
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Laura Neece-Baltaro
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Richard McLawhorn
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Nasreen Vohra
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Cecilia Moore-Cobb and
Donald English
Mary-Marshall and
Jimmy Morris
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Wendy Newcomb and
Richard Beattie
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Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge Partners for 2023 - 2024



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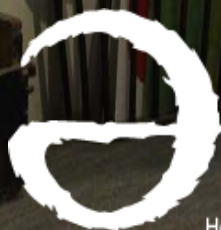
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