



2020-2021 Annual Report

In 2021-21 Raleigh Arts, with the support of the Arts Commission and the Public Art and Design Board, continued to build a robust community art program, implement new community engagement practices, supported arts and cultural organizations, furthered initiatives to address equity, access and inclusion and expanded access to the arts.

Arts & Cultural Organizations

Raleigh Arts managed more than \$2.4 million in annual grant awards and multi-year hybrid funding lease agreements in FY21 including \$1.8M awarded to 36 organizations in three Arts Commission grant programs: Operating, Program Support 1 & Program Support 2. To provide additional support to Raleigh nonprofit arts organizations during the pandemic, Raleigh Arts gained approval for temporary policy changes for the Arts Grant Program, developed capacity-building initiatives and programming opportunities for nonprofit arts organizations as well as offering one-on-one assistance to individual arts organizations.

COVID-19 Response and Relief Funding for the Arts: Raleigh Arts partnered with the United Arts Council of Raleigh & Wake County to develop relief funds for artists and arts and cultural organizations. North Carolina Arts Council joined Raleigh Art and United Arts for the Artist Support Fund, designed to support individual artists during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund distributed \$83,853 in grants to 62 individual artists in Wake, Chatham, Harnett, Johnston, and Lee Counties, with Raleigh artists receiving a minimum of 40k, the City's investment. United Arts regranted \$1M of Cares Act Funds to 53 organizations, of which 75.5% were Raleigh-based. Organizations were able to apply for up to 20% of their budget with a cap of \$50K. The average request was \$23,000 and the average grant was \$18,868.

Capacity Building Programs for Artists and Arts Organizations

Several convenings and capacity building programs helped local arts administrators and educators weather the pandemic:

- Arts Executive Directors met twice monthly and "Arts Education in Tumultuous Times" provided an ongoing series of virtual workshops for arts education organizations and teaching artists.
- Raleigh Arts, EmcArts, the Kenan Institute and United Arts developed an Adaptive Leadership Circle capacity building program to boost change management skills in arts leaders and provided a mutual support system to help them better navigate the pandemic. The program resulted in multiple organizational collaborations that continue beyond the program.
- Raleigh Arts provided scholarships for local arts leaders to attend the The Arts & Disability Ireland - From Access to Inclusion Summit.
- The City of Raleigh Arts Commission and the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County partnered for the sixth year to offer arts and cultural organizations the opportunity to join the Arts Learning Community for Universal Access.

Community Programs & Engagement

Raleigh Arts continued to build community programs to increase participation in the arts, provide safe, accessible art activities through the pandemic and engage local artists. Notable projects involved partnerships with Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources (PRCR) Parks and Community Centers including:

- Make Your Mark, an interactive community project by Anna Totten featuring art kiosks and sidewalk murals, at Worthdale Park, Roberts Park and Powell Drive Park.
- "Arts Day" project at Roberts Park featured outdoor art projects.
- Worked with Viola Davis and artist Anna Totten to create art kits that were distributed to children in SE Raleigh.
- The Summer Music Series, in collaboration with PRCR, presented a series of local music performances through video recordings that were available on the city website and social media channels to support local musical groups and provide musical remote concerts online.
- The Medal of Arts were awarded in a high-definition digital production that aired on June 8, along with a digital program.
- The 2021 Piedmont Laureate Kelly Starlings Lyon produced literary programs, workshops, podcasts and virtual discussions throughout the year including a Violin Vigil at Raleigh Little Theatre with the United Strings of Color.

Arts Centers: Sertoma Art Center's 2021 programming and exhibitions have successfully continued under enhanced COVID safety protocols, offering designated reduced capacity studio times. The pottery studio has seen record numbers of clay sales and studio usage as many express that the center has provided them a safe and comfortable place to work and create in a chaotic world. Staff has found ways to adapt programming by partnering with Pinecone Bluegrass and the NCCMI to offer free outdoor youth concerts.

Pullen Arts Center renovations were finally completed in Spring of 2021 and staff moved in and put the finishing touches in the studios in advance of the first summer session.

Exhibitions: The exhibition program was quick to pivot to online and virtual programming, allowing artists to participate during lockdown. In-person exhibitions resumed early in FY21 with a series of exhibitions that responded to the collective experience of the pandemic as well as to support larger community and Raleigh Arts goals related to racial equity and inclusion. Four Block Exhibitions included 28 artists and community partners including Black on Black Project and Arts Access.

Municipal Art Collection: In 2020-2021, eight new works by area artists were added to the Municipal Art Collection. Conservation was done on "Andy and Opie," "Martin Luther King, Jr.," "Jessie. "The Acorn", "Square Root of Two," "Toy Defense," "Immigrant Gate II" and "Canis Rufis."

Public Art

Raleigh Arts manages the public art program for the City, overseeing permanent and temporary art projects as well as artist-development programs like the Public Art Mentorship and managing 38 works of Public Art in the municipal art collection. Artworks are developed through the Percent for Art program (PA), donations, purchases and projects funded through inter-departmental partnerships.

The demand for arts programming has increased since the public art program was created in 2009 and program growth has accelerated since Council approved the Raleigh Arts Plan in 2016. In the first 10 years of the public art program, a total of eight large capital public projects were completed with a total budget of \$1M. From 2019-2021, the portfolio

grew to 20 active and completed public art projects totals \$3.45M. The temporary public art now includes several annual programs involving more than 100 artists.

In FY21 Raleigh Arts managed 19 active projects (15 PA projects and 4 COR partnership public art projects. Raleigh Arts also managed temporary projects, citizen-initiated public art projects and special projects.

Percent for Art Projects

The City of Raleigh has 38 works of public art in the municipal art collection. Three Percent for Art projects were completed and accessioned into the Municipal Art Collection in FY21:

- The art glass as John Chavis Community Center “Chavis Reclaimed” was completed in November 2020 and unveiled when the facility opened in June 2020.
- Light-based artwork, “Sonarc,” located at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts was accessioned by the Arts Commission in September 2021.
- The canopy artwork "Breath of the Gods" by Raleigh based artist Thomas Sayre was completed in July 2020 and accessioned in November 2020.

Currently the Percent for Art (PA) program has 14 completed projects and 16 projects in either community engagement, design, or installation phases. Active Percent for Art Projects:

1. Dix Park Plaza & Play
2. Biltmore Hills Park
3. Oberlin Road Streetscape Project
4. Fire Station 22 & Abbotts Creek Park
5. Civic Campus Phase 1
6. Blount-Person Two-Way Conversion
7. Poole Road Widening
8. Blue Ridge Road Widening
9. Six Forks Corridor Improvements
10. Barwell Road – South
11. Atlantic Avenue
12. Carolina Pines Avenue
13. Leesville Rd
14. Marsh Creek / Trawick
15. Law Enforcement Training Center
16. Devereaux Meadows

Temporary Public Art & Special Projects

Notable FY21 temporary public art projects include Oberlin Oral History Project and “A Space for Reflection” an exhibition of Black Lives Matter murals produced in collaboration with Shaw & Saint Augustine’s Universities and the Black-on-Black Project. Ten applications for Citizen-Initiated projects were reviewed by the Arts Commission and supported by Arts staff. Temporary public art programs including “Together Raleigh” bus shelter art, the signal box art program, Bike Rack Mural at Raleigh Union Station and Artbeats with RDOT and Art in Parks collaborations with PRCR created opportunities for more than 100 local artists.

Wake BRT New Bern Artist-in-Residence: The City of Raleigh’s first Artist-in-Resident, Dare Coulter, started her residency in FY21. Dare spent about a year working closely with the Wake Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) design team (architects, engineers, planners, city staff) to identify opportunities for public art in the Wake Bus Rapid Transit stations along the BRT corridors. A major component of the residency was conducting public engagement sessions to gather feedback from the communities near each station, to include the shared history and experiences of the community in the station artworks.

Public Art Mentorship Program: Raleigh’s first-ever Public Art Mentorship Program was developed in FY21 to grow Raleigh’s regional public art talent through a series of workshops, opportunities, and the chance to be mentored by nationally renowned public artists. The first 10 artists started in February 2021.