



2021-2022 Annual Report

Raleigh Arts, with the support of the Arts Commission and the Public Art and Design Board, continued to support artists and arts and cultural organizations, build a robust community art program, expand community engagement practices, and further initiatives addressing equity, access, and inclusion to ensure all residents and visitors feel a sense of belonging when engaging in the arts.

Arts Centers, Community Programs & Exhibitions

Arts Centers: Pullen Arts Center re-opened after a renovation and expansion project on September 1, 2021. This expansion included a campus re-design that successfully expanded and improved parking, increased accessibility, and enhanced vehicle and pedestrian traffic flow. The new Pullen North Campus has clear and inviting pathways between Arts Center, the Gregg Museum, Theatre in the Park, NCSU, and the surrounding neighborhood. The opening was celebrated with a ribbon cutting and studio open house on September 1, a family-friendly festival, and a media preview.



The Neighborhood Art Fund, in partnership with Housing and Neighborhoods, funded six projects:

- **Delta Ridge Art Project:** The community members put together and painted a Little Library House as the centerpiece activity for a gathering with painting activities and a book party for children.
- **Hidden Valley Neighborhood Sign:** Community gathering and workday to help with plantings, painting, and the installation of a new sign created by a local woodcarver.
- **Mordecai Picnic Art Project:** Artist Shannon Newby organized a make-and-take art activity for a large annual gathering that had been postponed because of COVID.
- **Trailwood Heights Backpacks:** Neighbors created 25 art backpacks for neighborhood children.
- **Stone Ridge Dance Party:** Neighbors hired a DJ for a dance party at their neighborhood gathering.

Community Collaborations and Partnerships

- **Chavis Juneteenth Celebration Art Activities:** Local artist Kiara Sanders created two paintings and worked with visitors to make 50 paintings on canvas.
- **Make Your Mark:** Two supply boxes were placed in the fall of 2021 to hold chalk for visitors to add color to local artists Anna Totten's sidewalk murals.
- **Piedmont Laureate:** Starling-Lyons (2021 Laureate, Children's Literature) and Heather Bell Adams (2022 Laureate Fiction) offered monthly workshops and presentations and shared writing and publishing advice

through bi-weekly blog posts. Starling-Lyons also offered monthly virtual office hours.

- **Shelley Lake Greenway Signs:** Sertoma Arts collaborated with Poe Magnet Elementary School art teacher, Corneille Little and her students to illustrate animal identification signs for the Shelley Lake Greenway loop.



Exhibitions: The Block Gallery at the Raleigh Municipal Art Gallery exhibited the work of 29 local artists, including 23 artists who identify as people of color, in four exhibitions in 2021-22. To give area curators an opportunity to showcase their work in a highly visible space, Raleigh Arts worked with three guest curators. 68 artists participated in the exhibition program at Pullen Arts Center, including 50 youth artists from the Raleigh Boys Club, Raleigh Girls Club, Zebulon Boys & Girls Club, Brentwood Boys & Girls Club, Wake Forest Boys & Girls Club, and “The Club” Teen Center. Sertoma Arts Center exhibited the work of more than 150 local artists in bi-monthly exhibitions in its gallery spaces including collaborations with Arts Access for their annual Series of Fortunate Events, the Professional Art Quilters Alliance South, and the Carolina Nature Photographers Association. Exhibitions at all Raleigh Arts venues have public hours, artist receptions, and artist talks.

Municipal Art Collection: The Municipal Art Collection has 608 fine art objects and 38 public artworks by local, state, and national artists. The Collection, which includes include paintings, prints, drawings, textiles, posters, and large-scale sculptures, is displayed throughout Raleigh in public buildings, parks, and other city-owned properties In 2021-2022, eight new works by area artists were added to the Collection and 13 works of art were installed in new locations. Conservation was completed on “Andy and Opie,” “Martin Luther King, Jr.,” “Jessie,” “The Acorn,” “Square Root of Two,” “Toy Defense,” “Immigrant Gate II” and “Canis Rufus.” In addition, eight artworks exhibited at the Duke Energy Center for the Performing arts for Black History Month Exhibition received such a positive response that they have been installed there permanently.

Arts & Cultural Organization Support

Through the Raleigh Arts Partner program, Raleigh Arts supported 36 non-profit arts and cultural organizations through grant support, 15 organizations as participants in the Arts Learning Community for Universal Access, and provided capacity building for hundreds of artists and arts administrators through workshops, presentations and scholarships.

Arts Grants: Raleigh Arts managed more than \$2.37 million in annual grant awards and multi-year hybrid funding lease agreements in FY22 including \$1.89 million awarded to 36 organizations in three Arts Commission grant programs: Operating, Program Support One & Program Support Two. 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. Raleigh Arts, through a partnership with the United Arts Council of Raleigh & Wake County and the NC Arts Council, continued to provide relief funds for artists and organizations through the Artist Support Fund, designed to support individual artists during and following the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund distributed \$100,094 in grants to 69 individual artists in Wake, Chatham, Harnett, Johnston, and Lee Counties in 2022.

Capacity Building: In the fall of 2021 Raleigh Arts partnered with the branding firm DRMTM to offer *Bold Arts Brands for New Times*, a free 3-hour intensive for 10 arts and cultural organizations about creating mission-driven brands to grow their participant and donor bases. Program participant Philharmonic Association was selected for \$15,000 in technical support to work with DRMTM to update its brand. The “How We See It” series, a racial equity education program offered with Triangle Friends of African American Arts hosted public workshops as well as monthly convenings for arts leaders of color in the fall and winter of 2021-12. Raleigh Arts also continued to host monthly executive director virtual coffee meetings and the “Arts Education in Tumultuous Times” convenings in partnership with United Arts.

Universal Access in the Arts: The Arts Learning Community for Universal Access doubled in size and offered two cohorts in 21-22 with 23 participants from 15 organizations. In preparation for the Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability coming to Raleigh in August 2022, Raleigh Arts completed the Arts Partner LEAD Conference Capacity Building Initiative including conference scholarships and technical assistance funding, Ablr accessibility webinars, and working with six Arts Partners to create Integrated Access Programming during the conference.

Public Art

Raleigh Arts manages the development of all City permanent and temporary public art projects as well as the Public Art Mentorship, Wake BRT Artist-In-Residence, and community-initiated public art process. Artworks are developed through the Percent for Art program (PA), donations, purchases, and projects funded through inter-departmental partnerships. In FY22 Raleigh Arts managed 18 active projects including 14 PA projects and four COR partnership permanent public art projects.

The portfolio of temporary and educational public art projects continues to grow. In FY22 Raleigh Arts:

- Managed art components of two educational projects with Raleigh Stormwater.
- Oversaw Fayetteville Street Kiosk Artwork with Raleigh Transportation.
- Teamed up with Commute Smart Raleigh and Raleigh Union Station to commission a mural at the Raleigh Union Station bike racks. The mural reflects the multi-modal connectivity of bike and rail and inspires the joy of cycling.
- Developed a public art solution to the SHIPO requirements for Raleigh Union Station.
- Revitalized the Public Art Mentorship program to include online resources that are free to all interested artists.
- Created program toolkits including a community engagement checklist specific to public art projects and the collection of historic and cultural information.
- Worked with Dix Park staff and the Conservancy to host the “Wings Over the City” exhibition, providing guidance on site selection, planning, and overseeing repairs and polishing.

Wake BRT Artist-In-Residence (AIR). The BRT AIR program was completed in Fall of 2021 when the final report and recommendations for the Wake BRT and New Bern Corridor public art projects were approved. Raleigh Arts began implementation with an artist selection process to hire North Carolina artists to create artwork along the Wake BRT: New Bern Avenue corridor. 11 local artists were selected to create 60 artworks that connect commuters, different people from different backgrounds, with the public memory of the Southeast Raleigh community. Raleigh Arts and Transportation provided technical support and hired community historians to work with the selected artists, many of whom are local artists without prior public art experience. The New Bern Corridor public art projects will be funded through the Wake Transit Art Funding Eligibility Policy. This funding program was developed by arts and transit stakeholders after the Wake County Transit Planning Advisory Committee (TPAC) initiated steps toward the formal development of a policy for integrating art into projects supported by Wake Transit tax revenues.