



**UNC
GREENSBORO**
College of Visual and
Performing Arts

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

2020-2021



Welcome to CVPA's 2020-2021 Community Engagement Report. Here you will find community programs for children and young adults and those who are young at heart. This report also includes information about our College's many community-based events and exhibits, including Greensboro Project Space, High School Virtual Dance Day, Lillian Rauch Strings Program, North Carolina Theatre for Young People, and more. Our community arts lessons and classes can be found under "educational programs" while our exhibits and festivals are located under "activities." All told, CVPA has over 20 community engagement programs and opportunities in art, dance, music, and theatre!

Community educational programs and activities are a way that CVPA and community partners collectively build ongoing, permanent relationships for social benefits and outcomes (see "partners"). All of these educational programs and activities are teaching CVPA students how to become community-based artists during their time in Greensboro and equipping them with skills for a career in the arts. CVPA's Community Engagement, under the direction of Adam Carlin, is a resource to support faculty and community engaged programs. I hope that these programs will spark your interest and creativity and cause you to become involved with our College!

**bruce d. mcclung, Dean
College of Visual and Performing Arts**

QUICK FACTS

During 2020-2021, UNC Greensboro's College of Visual and Performing Arts engaged with over

13,043 people in the community

through

22 community engaged programs

that engaged participants from

143 different schools in North Carolina.

This was made possible by

43 CVPA Faculty,

44 CVPA Master's and Doctoral Students,

and

413 CVPA Undergraduate Students.

6 programs were hybrid

1 program was face-to-face,

and

15 programs were virtual.

SPOTLIGHT:

'HEAR OUR VOICES': AN INCLUSIVE CELEBRATION OF NEW MUSICAL THEATRE

Article by Terri Relos

On Nov. 12th–14th, UNCG School of Theatre presented *Hear Our Voices: An Inclusive Celebration of New Musical Theatre*. The production was a brand-new song cycle, which consisted of unpublished music written and composed by BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), disabled, female and LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, Transgender, Genderqueer, Queer, Intersexed, Agender, Asexual, and Ally community) artists from all over the country.

The project was brought to life by UNCG Theatre faculty members Erin Farrell Speer and Dominick Amendum, both of whom coordinate the newly founded BFA Musical Theatre program for the School of Theatre. *Hear Our Voices* was recorded and available for on-demand viewing.

When the COVID-19 pandemic started in the spring of 2020, Speer and Amendum began to plan what the future could look like for their burgeoning musical theatre program and the upcoming fall musical:

“Instead of moving into the realm of ‘Zoomsicals’ like many programs have been doing, we realized we had an opportunity to pivot into something that would be a pedagogically sound learning opportunity for students,” said Speer, who directed the song cycle. In moving to a song cycle format, our students are learning to work in a recording studio environment and expanding their work on camera to include musical theatre work.”

Speer says there is intense interest in new musical theater right now from people who are a part of marginalized groups, noting that the response to the call for submissions from BIPOC, disabled, female, and LGBTQIA+ writers from all over the world was overwhelming.

“The Song Cycle format has given us an opportunity to use our School of Theatre platform and resources to support the work of emerging musical theater writers from marginalized communities,” Speer said.

The process for this production was unlike anything ever seen at the UNCG School of Theatre. The opening number was the only song to feature an ensemble-style performance, which Speer said led to an interesting challenge. “We pre-recorded all of the audio for the song on a closed set, one person at a time over the course of several days. Essentially it was like we were recording a Broadway cast album. Once the rough mix was ready, we spent five days filming the number outdoors around campus as a sort of ‘music video.’”

Speer also mentioned that since this production was filmed, which is atypical for a musical theatre production, they were fortunate to have the help of Michael Flannery, who teaches Acting for the Camera at UNCG. MFA Dance student Allison McCarthy was the choreography director on the project, and BFA Design Tech student Izzy Kitch designed the costumes.

Speer had this to say about *Hear Our Voices* and the exciting future of the UNCG Musical Theatre program: “As many of my colleague’s careers and artistic prospects have come to a standstill with the closure of Broadway and regional theatres, I know how fortunate I am to be able to safely create and collaborate right now. It’s such a gift to be able to raise up the voices of new musical theater writers in a way that feels joyous and inclusive. I’m pretty darn lucky to have landed here at UNCG, developing a new musical theatre program that can respond quickly to the changing demands of an industry in crisis. We’ve been known to call it a ‘musical theatre program for the 21st century,’ and we certainly have an opportunity here to live up to that name.”

SPOTLIGHT:

'A DIFFERENT VISION: THE WORD'S OUT'

Article by Robin Sutton Anders

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SEEN

The Industries of the Blind's massive building takes up an entire city block on Gate City Boulevard, but with its nondescript brick exterior, few people noticed it there. That all changed, however, with last year's installation of six larger-than-life paintings scrolled out across the building's façade. The 8x10-foot banners represent a three-year collaboration between the company's employees and UNCG students.

These paintings by students in the College of Visual and Performing Arts give insights into the triumphs and struggles of the Industries of the Blind's employees—over half of whom are blind. "It would be easy to have a mural showing the things we manufacture here, or of somebody wearing dark sunglasses walking a path with a cane in their hand," says Richard Oliver, the company's director of community outreach and government relations. "But that doesn't tell the whole story of who we are—or of the people who work here."

The banners tell the stories of employees like Afiya Jackson, who had to fight to keep her children when authorities tried to take them away, believing blindness would prevent her from caring for them. And Tony Totten, who was born with the ability to see and hear but lost both senses over time.

"The visibility of these banners shows employees that their stories are worth being heard—and are just as valid as anyone else's," says Mariam Stephan, Associate Professor of Art and Painting. "The paintings are an embodiment of their successes."

ALL HANDS ON DECK

At first, the goal was for six visual arts students to partner, one-on-one, with six employees to learn more about the employees' life experiences and to brainstorm ways to communicate them via art—both through a painting and an accompanying audio narrative to describe the painting.

"But like any exciting project, it began to snowball," says Adam Carlin, the College's Director of Community Engagement, who partnered with Oliver to bring the project to life. As the project grew, the art became a more interactive experience and more inclusive for the people it was representing.

Soon, music students created original scores to support the paintings and the audio narratives collected by art history students. Interior architecture students designed audio boxes with two buttons so that blind or low-vision passersby can easily walk up and listen to the narratives and music. And fellow School of Arts students created touch-friendly bronze relief sculptures to accompany each painting.

Eventually, the project involved more than 100 students—a number that continued to grow this year, as creative writing students joined in to interpret a second round of 10 paintings through fiction.

"These students are learning a lot about the importance of making art not just for a community, but in collaboration with a community," says Carlin. "That's an important part of community engagement, which is vital to our college's identity."

Stephan adds that the project raised the bar for how her students approach painting. "They had to think differently about the visual language in general," she says. "You can't make a literal picture of what it means to feel a cool breeze on your face. You have to learn how to incorporate non-visual experiences."

When she began to partner with Mary Martinez, a third-year art student, Afiya Jackson didn't know what to expect. She couldn't have imagined the final painting—an image of Jackson walking down a New Orleans street with her son and daughter. “We discussed colors, different shapes, and how I see things in a different way—not being able to visually see objects,” says Jackson. “We had conversations about my life and how I live independently, as well as how I can travel alone and with my small kids. I'm able to live my life as independently as anyone else in the community.”

STORIES BEHIND THE PAINTINGS

On his desk, Oliver maintains a growing list of employees eager to be represented in future rounds of paintings. For these employees, the opportunity to feel seen and heard is irresistible. “I'm sure this happens to people with many disabilities, but it's tough being out in public,” says Oliver, who is legally blind and has worked with the Industries of the Blind for 25 years. “You're at a restaurant with someone who isn't blind, and the waitstaff speaks to the person you're with rather than you to see what you want.”

That perception of helplessness is amplified by popular media. “A lot of times in TV and movies, blind guys are helpless. But that's not who we are. People here are truly independent and self-sustaining,” he says. “They are building careers to provide for their families and send their kids to college. That is the journey that UNCG is helping us to share.”

UNCG's Green Fund, a student-led and student-funded campus-based program that offers opportunities to students and employees to forward UNCG's sustainability mission, partially funded the project. The fund's committee said it was drawn to its “synergistic connections to the environment, economics, aesthetics, and social equity.” Support also came from a UNCG community-engaged scholarship grant.

Oliver hopes people driving by will be struck by the banners. He wants them to park in the Industries of the Blind's parking lot, get out of their cars, and go press every button so they can really get to know the stories behind the paintings.

“We are all in the world together striving to make it a better place for each other,” Jackson says. “My goal is to educate as many people as possible about blindness and to let them know that we live the same way they live—just a little bit differently.”





ACTIVITIES

EVENING WITH THE CREATIVE CLASS

A presentation forum on the arts with a panel of curated guest artists and scholars sharing their talent in an enriching evening of community, networking, and socially relevant discussion. Produced by UNCG School of Dance Professor Duane Cyrus.

SIGHT. SOUND. TOUCH.

CVPA's collaborated with Industries of the Blind (IOB) on the installation of a public art piece that tells the stories of the blind and low-visioned using sight, sound, and touch.

GREENSBORO PROJECT SPACE

Created by the School of Art, Greensboro Project Space (GPS) is an off-campus contemporary art center in Downtown Greensboro that acts as a bridge between students and faculty in the School of Art, and the Greensboro community. Half of our programs are by School of Art students and faculty, and the other half are split between a diverse range of communities and artists off-campus and on-campus.



UNCG ART TRUCK

UNCG Art Truck is a mobile art gallery, interactive and educational art space created and operated by the School of Art.





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THE CITY BILLBOARD

The City Billboard is a collaboration between Greensboro Project Space and The Forge. The City Billboard provides local artists, international artists, and community members a megaphone into the city of Greensboro. Highly visible on the corner of Eugene Street/Gate City Boulevard intersection, 36,000 daily commuters are greeted with a curated rotation of surprisingly uplifting, humorous and thought-provoking texts.

THE LAWN SIGN PROJECT

Students enrolled in Professor Leah Sobsey's Photographic Installation courses invite community members in this ongoing project to respond to two prompts: a time when they felt free, and a time when they felt their freedom taken away. The students interview participants, photograph them, then print their responses and black-and-white portraits on lawn signs that are installed in public spaces.

HEAR OUR VOICES

As part of a mission to center marginalized voices in American Theatre, UNCG's School of Theatre presents a song cycle focused on new work by BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and disabled writers.

ACTIVITIES



EDUCATION

NC YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

The North Carolina Theatre Arts Educators (NCTAE), in collaboration with the School of Theatre, North Carolina Educational Theatre Association (NC Thespians), and Triad increase and foster playwriting in North Carolina public schools through an annual playwriting competition and festival. The festival is produced by the theatre education students and staff in the School of Theatre and provides several young playwrights the opportunity to see their play come to life through a staged reading performance.

VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL DANCE DAY

High schoolers are invited to explore the School of Dance facilities and engaged with School of Dance faculty and students

NC THEATRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Since 1962, UNCG's North Carolina Theatre for Young People has performed live theatre for more than two million children in Greensboro, Guilford County, across the state, and throughout the region. Building on our excellent reputation for artistic and educational programming, we offer our audiences plays drawn from contemporary literature, classics, and original works. NCTYP offers outreach programs and touring productions bringing our expertise in theatre education and drama-in-education to area educators and community members.

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DRAMA IN EDUCATION

Professor Rachel Briley's Drama in Education class facilitates story dramas from across the globe with the third graders from Our Lady of Grace Elementary School.

PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM

Private lessons for all ages taught by School of Music students. This is also an opportunity for our undergraduate and graduate student population to gain valuable one-on-one teaching experience during their time at UNCG. Participating in private lessons will allow more Greensboro community members to experience the joy and accomplishment of gaining artistic and technical skills in music.

FRAME/WORKS

Conceived by Dr. Christine Woodworth, former UNCG Theatre faculty member, "Frame/Works" is a program designed to draw connections between scholarly examination and artistic practice.

ROGRAMS



EDUCATION

LILIAN RAUCH STRINGS PROGRAM

The mission of the Lillian Rauch Beginning Strings Program is to increase access to string instruction for underserved students.

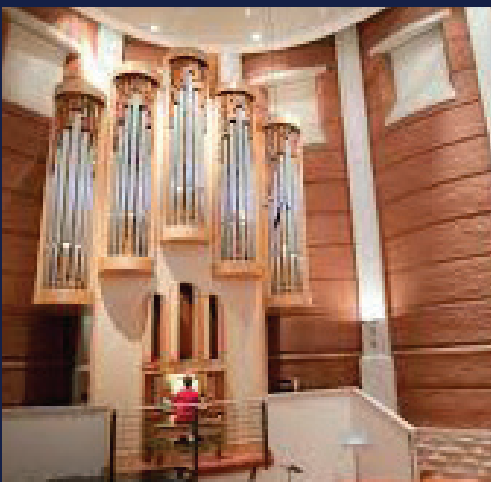
PECK ALUMNI LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The mission of the Peck Alumni Leadership Program is to provide private string instruction to underserved students and to promote leadership and service. The program is designed to increase access to string instruction and to empower students as agents of change in their community.

THE ONLINE MUSIC LEARNING COMMUNITY

In an effort to increase diverse role models for young students interested in learning string instruments, School of Music faculty Rebecca MacLeod and her graduate students created a series of instructional videos on Youtube that students and teachers alike could visit to find mentors from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

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VIRTUAL VOICE DAY

Virtual Voice Day is an opportunity to meet the voice faculty and students at UNC Greensboro. Student's gain access to resources related to auditioning virtually, Music Education and Music Performance at UNCG, Choir and Opera at UNCG, Frequently Asked Question Unlocked, and performances by our students and faculty. In addition to the virtual resources, students are given exciting "Zoom-Live" masterclass opportunities with our dynamic faculty.

VIRTUAL HIGH SCHOOL PIANO AND ORGAN DAY

High School Piano and Organ Day gives students an opportunity to grow as musicians, learning from faculty and fellow participants, and also to get a taste of life on a college campus.

DOUBLE REED DAY

This is a really great event to come learn reed-making and adjusting, to play some great double-reed chamber music and to get to work with some amazing Guest Artists and Faculty members on the UNCG campus!

ROGRAMS



EDUCATIONAL

DIGITAL CLARINET DAY

The 2021 UNCG Digital Clarinet Day included world-class guest artists, focused workshops on audition prep and performance anxiety, masterclasses, digital giveaways, performances, and more.

NC JAZZ GIRLS DAY

An annual event celebrating jazz women—past, present, and future—that is open to middle and high school girls interested in playing or singing jazz. This exciting event includes panel discussions, workshops, optional jam sessions, and mentoring free for participants.

OPERA OUTREACH PROGRAM

The UNCG Opera Theatre holds as a guiding principle that the cultural education of young children is of utmost importance to the development of their full potential. To this end, many activities throughout each year are dedicated to providing school children with the experience of a high quality operatic performance.

PROGRAMS

COLLEGIATE

INTERDISCIPLINARY ART AND SOCIAL PRACTICE MINOR

A minor in Interdisciplinary Arts and Social Practice provides students with a set of seminar and project-based experiences, which explore unique creative practices that engage the public sphere.



ARTS ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM

The Arts Administration Program develops the skills necessary for a career working in arts organizations, arts-related businesses, and in student's own creative endeavors. The program offers many opportunities to gain professional experience in arts administration on campus and in the community. The program includes a professional internship with a professional arts organization to make connections and to gain tangible work experience.



PROGRAMS

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

CVPA's Arts Administration program places students and graduates in experiential learning throughout the community and beyond in such arts organizations as

The Artists Bloc	Florida Studio Theatre	North Carolina Theatre
Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County	The Forge	Novant Health
ArtsGreensboro/NC Folk Festival	Garner Performing Arts Center	Piedmont Old Time Society
Artspace	GreenHill Center for North Carolina Art	Reconsidered Goods
Arts Plus	Greensboro City Arts	Repertory Company
Barista Craft Coffee	Programming	Reynolda House Museum of American Art
Bel Canto	Greensboro Opera	Sapphire Studios
Burning Coal Theatre Company	Greensboro Performing Arts	Sewanee Music Festival
Cabarrus Arts Council	Greensboro Project Space	Sheryl Oring
Center for Creative Economy	Greensboro Symphony Orchestra	Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art
Center for Visual Artists	Jacob's Pillow	Studio One
Centre Stage	Joye Movement	Triad Stage
Charlotte Ballet	Manifold Records	Triangle Wind Ensemble
City Arts	Mercy Hill Church (music programming)	TZ Studio
Creative Greensboro	Motorco	UNCG Special Collections
Dance Project	MUSEP Concert Series	University Concert and Lecture Series
Davis Shakespeare Festival	Music for a Great Space	Watauga Arts Council
Durham Independent Dance Artists	National Black Theatre Festival	Weatherspoon Art Museum
earspace	NC Squares	Wesleyan Teaching Studios
Eastern Music Festival	North Carolina Black Repertory Company	Wicked Whimsies
Elgin Symphony	North Carolina Museum of Art	Winston-Salem Symphony
Empower Dance Studio		

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The College of Visual and Performing Arts maintains community partnerships with

Bel Canto Company	Newcomers School
Downtown Greensboro Inc.	North Carolina Dance Project
For Freedoms	The North Carolina Young Playwrights Festival
The Forge	Students in Guilford County
GCS Summer Arts Institute	Sugarfoote Productions
Greensboro Day School	Triad Stage
Greensboro Opera	UBEATS: A BioMusic STEM Intervention for ESL
Greensboro Symphony Orchestra	William Mangum Fine Art
Guilford County School District Arts	Winston-Salem Symphony
Industries of the Blind	

CVPA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The CVPA Community Engagement Advisory Committee, which was convened in January 2021, includes a faculty representative from each School, a University member from outside the CVPA, a representative from the Weatherspoon Art Museum, and several community partners. In Spring 2021, the committee designed the first CVPA Community Engagement Grant, which will be administered annually beginning in Fall 2021 to faculty engaged in community based research, teaching, and service. In addition, the committee assess and problem solves unique needs for CVPA's on-going community engaged programs and assists in identifying new opportunities.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Adam Carlin	Director of Community Engagement / College of Visual and Performing Arts & Director of Greensboro Project Space / School of Art
Rachel Briley	Associate Professor / School of Theatre
Annie Jeng	Assistant Professor / School of Music
Duane Cyrus	Professor / School of Dance
Jennifer Reis	Assistant Professor / School of Art
Ann Grimaldi	Curator of Education / Weatherspoon Art Museum
Emily Janke	Director / UNCG Institute for Community and Economic Engagement Associate Professor / Peace and Conflict Studies
Maria-Elena Suprenant	Fine Arts Grants Curator / Guilford County Schools
Kelly McChesney	Public Art Director / City of Raleigh's Office of Raleigh Arts

CONTACT

For enquiries regarding community engagement in the College of Visual and Performing Arts, please email

Adam Carlin
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Adam Carlin is the Director of Community Engagement for the College of Visual and Performing Arts at UNC Greensboro where he supports and advocates for community engaged programs led by students and faculty and advances partnerships between the college and the community. Carlin is also the Director of Greensboro Project Space, an off-campus contemporary art center in Downtown Greensboro that acts as a bridge between students and faculty in UNC Greensboro's School of Art and the Greensboro community.

For more information about these programs and for updates, please visit: vpa.uncg.edu/community-engagement





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