



Each month, ArtsGreensboro brings you stories about artists, arts organizations and individuals whose lives are infused with creativity. Join us in celebrating our vibrant city!

ARTIST IN FOCUS

BY SAVANNAH THORNE



My name is Sav, and I am, *technically*, an Artist but sometimes I suffer terribly from imposter's syndrome.

With that out of the way, I guess we should start at the very beginning. One bright and shiny afternoon in the not-so-distant-land of 1998 my older, and much cooler, brother was watching a very cute, and very small me. As legend has it, a 'totally rad' girl called the house, and while my brother was attached to the land line in the opposite room, I decided this was the perfect time to very neatly strip down to my diaper, pull out my favorite Barbie magic markers, and design a new rug for our family room while wistfully humming lullabies to myself. Some 20 years later I am happy to report that very little has changed.

Since then I have had the pleasure of making many canvases for my friends, who have turned into family - and strangers, who have turned into my friends! My pieces are largely inspired by synesthesia, which is to say that music is still deeply entwined in my creation process. They are nothing more than an exciting menagerie of color gently poured, and sometimes aggressively thrown, at canvases. And yet, if you look long enough, there are entire worlds to be found, and explored, inside of my paintings. Feel free to judge that sentiment on your own, though, you can find my pieces hanging at Lumina Wine in Asheboro July 14th - August 30th, and in Greensboro beginning in September (perfect for the North Carolina Folk Festival!).

Savannah is a working artist and part time ArtsGreensboro staff member. Images courtesy of Savannah

ARTS ARE HAPPENING AT NORTH CAROLINA THEATRE CONFERENCE

BY ANGIE HAYS



Over here at the North Carolina Theatre Conference (NCTC), we are fired up. July is when we hold our annual Producing Gathering, a professional development conference where theater makers from across the state get together and swap stories, learn from each other, and lean on each other.

This year the Producing Gathering is being hosted in Greensboro, and almost 100 people will join us here from July 21 – 23. During their stay they will not only discover what's new in theatre in NC, but they'll also be reinvigorated by the collective energies of the remarkable creative group of artists and educators in this state.

That transference of knowledge and of energy is relationship building, it's community building, and it's what makes NCTC's programs effective. From the Middle and High School Play Festivals, to College Discovery Day, to the Theatre Admin Intensive, we're working to connect the dots between students, educators and professionals, to strengthen the entire theatre community in NC.

As a statewide service organization, our goal is to harness all that creative energy to advocate for theatre arts and theatre arts education, and to engage the next generation of artists and audiences.

Angie is the executive director of NCTC, Images courtesy of NCTC

ARTSGREENSBORO

2019 ARTSFUND-WE DID IT TOGETHER!

BY CATENA BERGEVIN



On June 19th during ArtsGreensboro's Annual Celebration, Campaign Chair Jada Monica Drew thanked our community for their generous support of the 2019 ArtsFund. Together we surpassed our annual goal by over \$15,000, to a grand total of \$865,500.

Why is ArtsGreensboro a vital partner in improving Greensboro's quality of life? It's simple – we elevate the arts by creating awareness and promoting the vibrancy of our city; we amplify the impact the arts have in building strong and thriving communities for all citizens; and we support arts organizations, artists, and teachers through grants, shared services, and technical assistance.

Each year, we organize a community-wide campaign to raise critical resources to support our arts community. **The annual ArtsFund is the city's largest alliance of public and private resources dedicated to serving the arts sector and making Greensboro a more creative, diverse and vibrant place to live and work.** Collectively, the arts are also an economic driver, contributing over \$162 million to our city's economy.

We are so thankful to the hundreds of individuals, corporations, and foundations who contribute their resources each year to the ArtsFund. We know that creative communities thrive and with your help ArtsGreensboro will continue to:

- Mitigate barriers to participation and support activities that increase access to the arts for all citizens.
- Embrace inclusion and diversity and cultural programming that is representative of Greensboro's multicultural community.
- Elevate the work of local artists and organizations; enhancing and expanding the artistic vitality of our city.
- Advocate for arts and culture as catalysts to economic development in Greensboro.

From the entire ArtsGreensboro family, **we thank you** for your annual support of the ArtsFund. Here's to looking ahead and working together to make our city a more dynamic, attractive, and colorful place to live and work.

Images courtesy of Doug Mokaren

MY ART STORY

BY JOSEPHUS THOMPSON

The Poetry Café has grown from a quarterly event in 2009 to a monthly event at the Triad Stage Cabaret, a weekly radio show on 90.1FM, a 11-episode television show on MY48 and a touring college experience over the past decade. Art imitates life and life always finds a way, I think that last part comes straight from "Jurassic Park", LOL. The road to being an artist is never an easy one, but it's one that is necessary. One that manifests and grows when you include community and build bridges along the way.



My artistic experience has been one of growth and dream chasing. No losses only lessons, where at each turn we must take what we have learned in order to make tomorrow better for ourselves and our communities. In 2019, this simple open mic brings together people using art, music, spoken word poetry and an idea that sharing who and why we are brings us closer. Makes us see one another through a different lens and not one that does not see color or religious difference or sexual preferences,

but one that makes us more tolerant of those differences and more accepting and understanding as we get to share a stage and space and life inspired by the art we love.

Subscribe on YouTube and Amazon Prime as we launch this month to continue to grow and build community. For More information about The Poetry Café visit ThePoetryCafe.org