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.

ArtsGreensboro is dedicated to elevating the arts by creating awareness and promoting the vibrancy of our city; amplifying the impact the arts have in building strong and thriving communities for all citizens; and supporting arts organizations, artists, and teachers through grants, shared services, and technical assistance. For more information visit artsgreensboro.org
I am a nationally recognized fine artist and a native of Greensboro, NC. My father is a self-employed Architect, and my mother is a Chemistry professor. Growing up, my mother Etta would take photographs of events, beautiful landscapes, and diverse people. My mom and dad taught me the meaning of beauty, appreciating different cultures, and the importance of giving back to the community. Growing up, I loved all the arts. As a child, I was obsessed with dance; as a teenager, I found refuge in the theater, and as an adult, I realized my passion for the visual arts. I attended my family's alma mater, Howard University in Washington, DC, and graduated with my BFA in Experimental Studio. After graduating, I moved to NYC and began teaching in the public schools. I knew I needed an advanced degree, so I enrolled and graduated from Pratt Institute with an MS in Art & Design Education. Eventually, I moved back to Greensboro to start a business and pursue my art education career.

When I returned, I opened a Bed & Breakfast in my grandmother's hometown, meant to house traveling artists. During that time, I was simultaneously an Adjunct Professor at NC A&T University. I ended up meeting my "soon-to-be" business partners of The Artist Bloc and TAB Arts Center Non-Profit, Darlene McClinton and Watricia Shuler. After leaving NC A & T, I decided to pursue two of my passions of art and travel. I began researching galleries in the areas I always wanted to visit.

I enlisted my sister, Thyrsa Gravely, as my art manager, and together we have shown and sold my work in at least eight states around the country. I am currently the Co-Founder and Executive Director of TAB Arts Center Non-Profit, Co-Owner of The Artist Bloc. I continue to travel and exhibit my work in galleries and private homes around the country.

To contact Sunny, please visit her website at sgravelyoriginals.com.
North Carolina entered Phase 3 of easing the current social restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Some of these easements include hotel meeting spaces, conference centers, and reception venues that may host functions, subject to reduced capacity limits of 30% or 100 people, whichever is less, according to North Carolina regulations.

With these lifted restrictions, we see more arts organizations hosting events again and beginning rescheduling events canceled due to COVID-19. Some events can proceed as planned, with only minor adjustments to a typical operation.

For instance, Casa Azul changed the format for their annual Dia De Muertos celebration. They will not have an opening event with live performances, however they collaborated with local artist Beka Butts to curate a Community Ofrenda which will be open to view November 1-15, 2020. Greensboro Project Space decided to continue with their Call of The Wild exhibition scheduled for November 3-14, 2020. To ensure proper social distancing, they will not hold a public reception. Some organizations have taken their events outside to comply with social distancing. For example, the Community Theatre of Greensboro is hosting The amOZing Race on November 14 & 15, 2020. Their members can have fun participating in an outdoor OZ themed scavenger hunt. It has been a long navigational process reopening and organizing events, but all groups respond and adhere to the guidelines as updated by Governor Cooper. We are all happy to be able to go out and participate in our active art scene!
On October 29, ArtsGreensboro kicked off its annual ArtsFund campaign using a Zoom webinar platform. Our sincere thanks to board member Skip Moore for assisting Marketing Manager Zizi Barhouma in navigating a mix of live presentations and prerecorded video. Board Chair Rebecca Buffington welcomed everyone and introduced our special guests, Community Foundation President Walker Sanders; Community Theatre of Greensboro Executive Director, Rozalynn Fulton; Development Committee Chair Nancy Radtke; Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs Sunny Gravely, Executive Director of TAB Art Center, and Ford Bowers, BB&T (now Truist) Greensboro Market President/Senior Vice President; and ArtsGreensboro President & CEO, Laura Way. Thanks to our friends at The Artist Bloc, Van Dyke Performance Space, SouthEnd Brewing Company, and LeBauer Park for the use of their facilities. And a big thank you to KPE Media for making the magic happen.

For 60 years, ArtsGreensboro has served our community as the largest alliance of public and private support for the arts. It is our commitment to our city, our citizens, our schools, and our neighborhoods. We are here because of the tremendous generosity of individuals, businesses, and foundations that know the value the arts bring to our city.

This year, ArtsGreensboro is launching an ambitious $1.5 million campaign to help the arts recover, rebuild, and reinvent. Our sincere thanks to everyone who continues to support the ArtsFund each year. Together we will keep the arts alive and thriving.

To show your support visit ArtsGreensboro.org or text ARTGSO to 44-321.
I would not consider myself an art authority. My family and I enjoy going to the Greensboro Symphony, attending a play at Triad Stage, going to concerts at the Carolina Theatre, and the Greensboro Ballet’s Nutcracker is a holiday tradition. Every year, I enjoy watching the Greensboro Opera’s “Write Your Own Opera” contest in partnership with Guilford County Schools. The NC Folk Festival is very special to the Bowers family. The community, music from all over the world, and just the energy makes it so enjoyable.

As a business leader, I know art and culture are essential to the recruitment and retention of talent for Greensboro businesses. Good schools, access to quality healthcare, and strong arts are essential to employees and their families. For me, in this community, having a wide array of opportunities to get out to participate and enjoy the arts, from ballet to blues, makes Greensboro a wonderful place to live and work.

The arts must be open and accessible to all parts of the Greensboro community. We must help ensure everyone in our community can participate and have meaningful access to the arts, in their neighborhoods, their schools, and in their lives.

I was a champion of ArtsGreensboro’s Summer4Arts Program (delayed one year due to COVID-19). The program will facilitate creative arts experiences for children and adults by partnering with organizations to bring organizations to neighborhood and families to brick and mortar locations such as the Community Theatre of Greensboro, GreenHill, African American Atelier, and many others.

As Honorary Co-Chair of ArtsGreensboro’s ArtsFund Campaign, I will bring my perspective as a community leader to help bring greater awareness of the arts’ value to our City. From economic development to educational outcomes for children, all of it is important. In such uncertain and stressful times, we all need the creativity, and sheer joy the arts can provide. I am happy to assist, along with my fellow Co-Chair, Sunny Gravely, to make sure we have the resources to continue to make a positive impact and provide resources to the artists and arts organizations in Greensboro.
The arts connect us as a community through shared experiences.

Cancellations and closures are a stark reminder of our new reality and its devastating impact on Greensboro’s artists and arts organizations.

Your gift today to the ArtsFund and the Reentry & Reinvent Campaign will ensure that when this crisis is over, the arts will be here to enliven our city for generations to come.

Please give today!

Ways to Give:

- Text ARTSGSO to 44-321
- Give online at artsgreensboro.org/support/donate-now/
- Mail a check to: ArtsGreensboro PO Box 877, Greensboro, NC 27402