The Transformative Nature of Community Engagement in the Arts

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Community Engaged Social justice Culturally responsive teaching Alternative learning venues Underserved populations
Community-Engagement & Service-Learning

- betterment of communities
- instruction of students
- mutually beneficial
- communally agreed
- collaboratively completed
- mutually beneficial
- exchange of knowledge and resources
- partnership and reciprocity
Demographic & Socioeconomic Context of West Greenville, North Carolina, USA
73% Childhood Poverty
52%

<$20,000 per family income
35% Experienced food insecurity as a child
50%
Of all violent crimes in Greenville occur here
394%

Higher mortality rate for lung cancer and HIV/AIDS than the rest of the county.
Building Hope Community Life Center (BHCLC)
Zy: JARMARCUS
D. J.
Batterson
ArtCycle
Installation
“The Eye of the Needle”
Spartanburg, SC
Jarmarcus Patterson works on a mural that he and other local teenagers painted on the side of the Building Hope Community Life Center in Greenville. The project was a collaboration between the center and ECU Student Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy.

Photograph by Cliff Howerton
Resilience Pre- and Post-Test Data

- 4% increase on measures of internal strengths
- 14% increase on measures of external strengths
TRANSFORMATION IN:

- our community partner,
- our university students, and
- our community youth
Community Partner

- Build trust
- Cross borders
- Understand the culture
- Best interest of the youth
- Willing to adjust
Community Youth

- Expand vision
- Debunk ill-conceived notions
- Experience new curriculum
- A new beginning
Completing a community-engagement endeavor in the arts

- **Explore** community need
- **Prepare** to address the need
- **Create** change through service
- **Learn** through reflection
- **Share** the project through presentation, publication, performance, or exhibition
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