

The Transformative Nature of Community Engagement in the Arts

Robert D. Quinn
School of Art & Design
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC, USA
quinnr@ecu.edu

Community
Engaged
Social justice
Culturally responsive teaching
Alternative learning venues
Underserved populations

TRANSFORMATION

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)





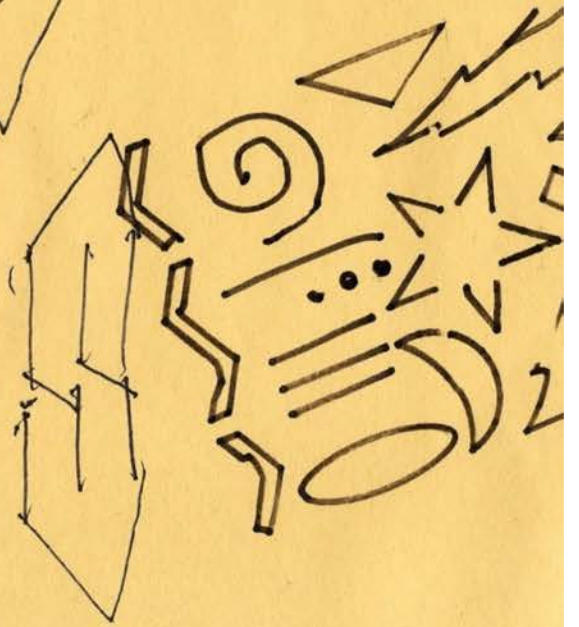
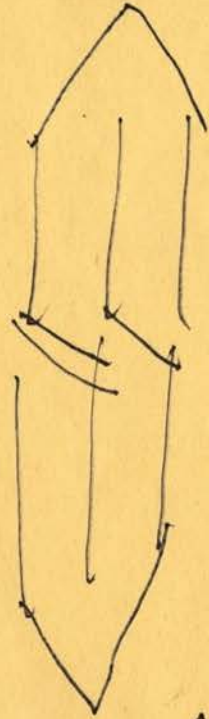
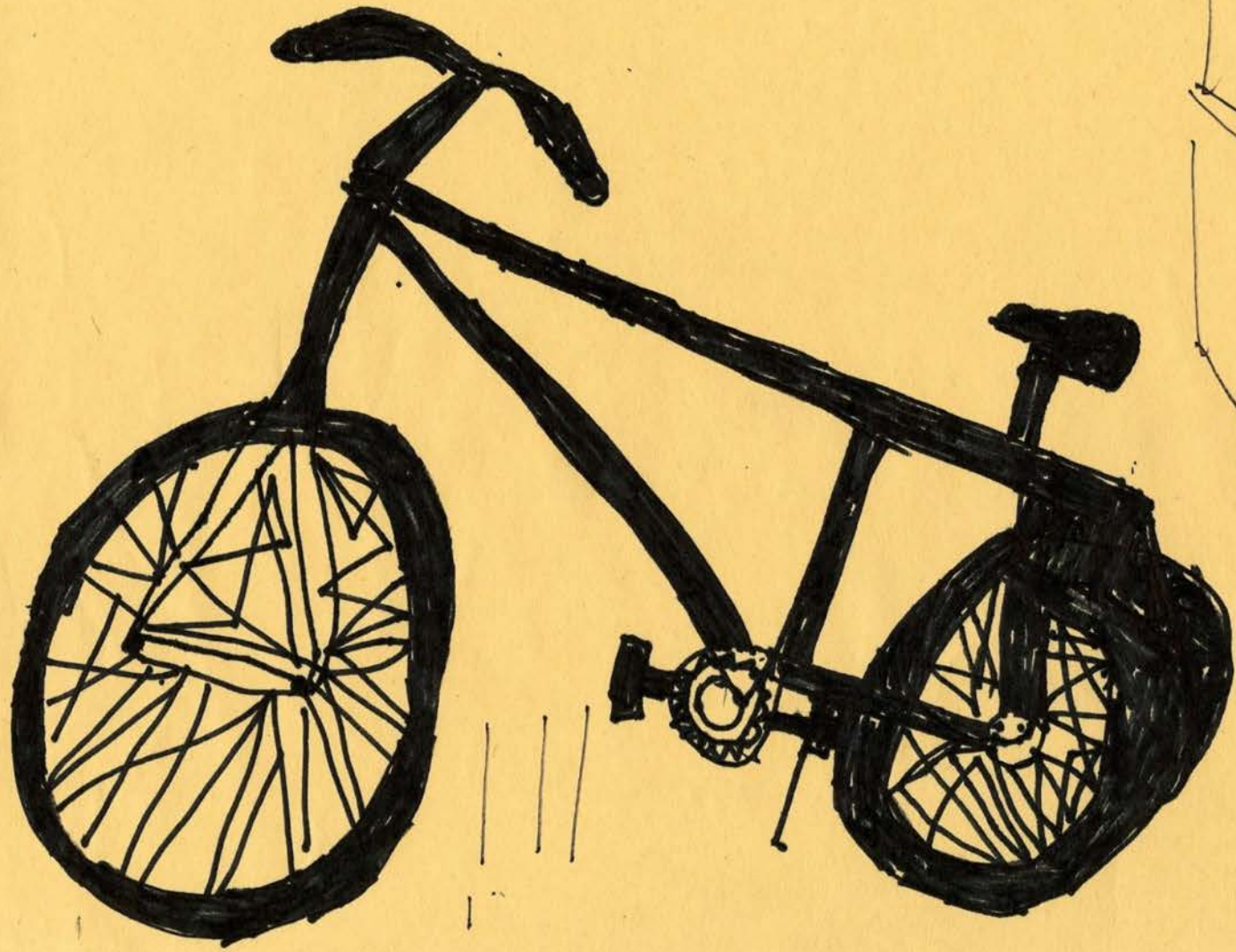




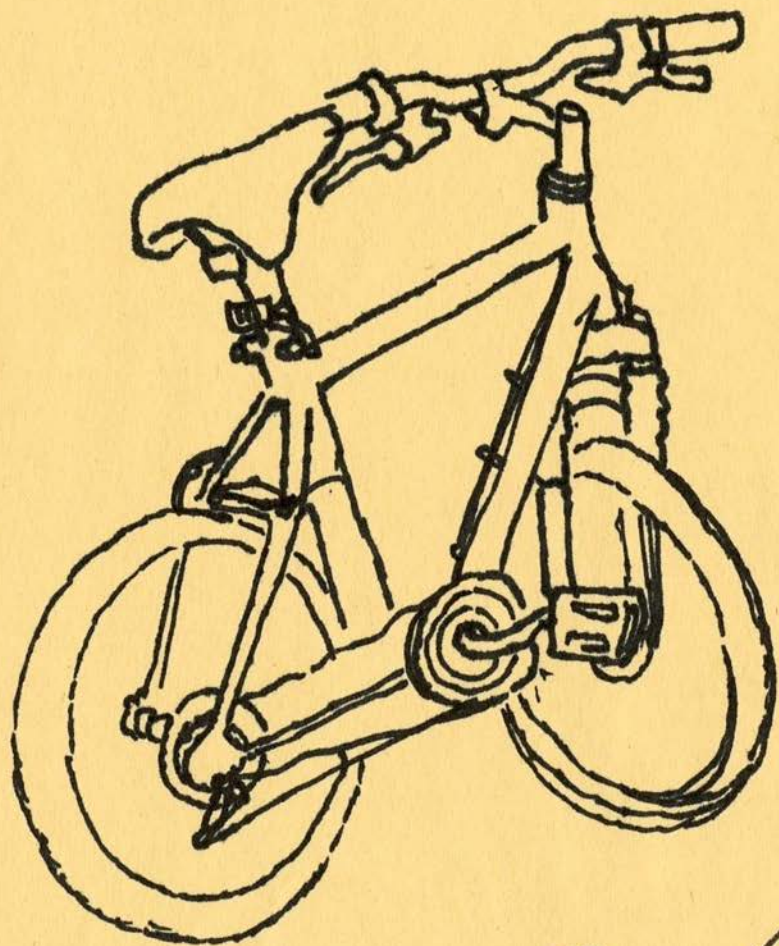






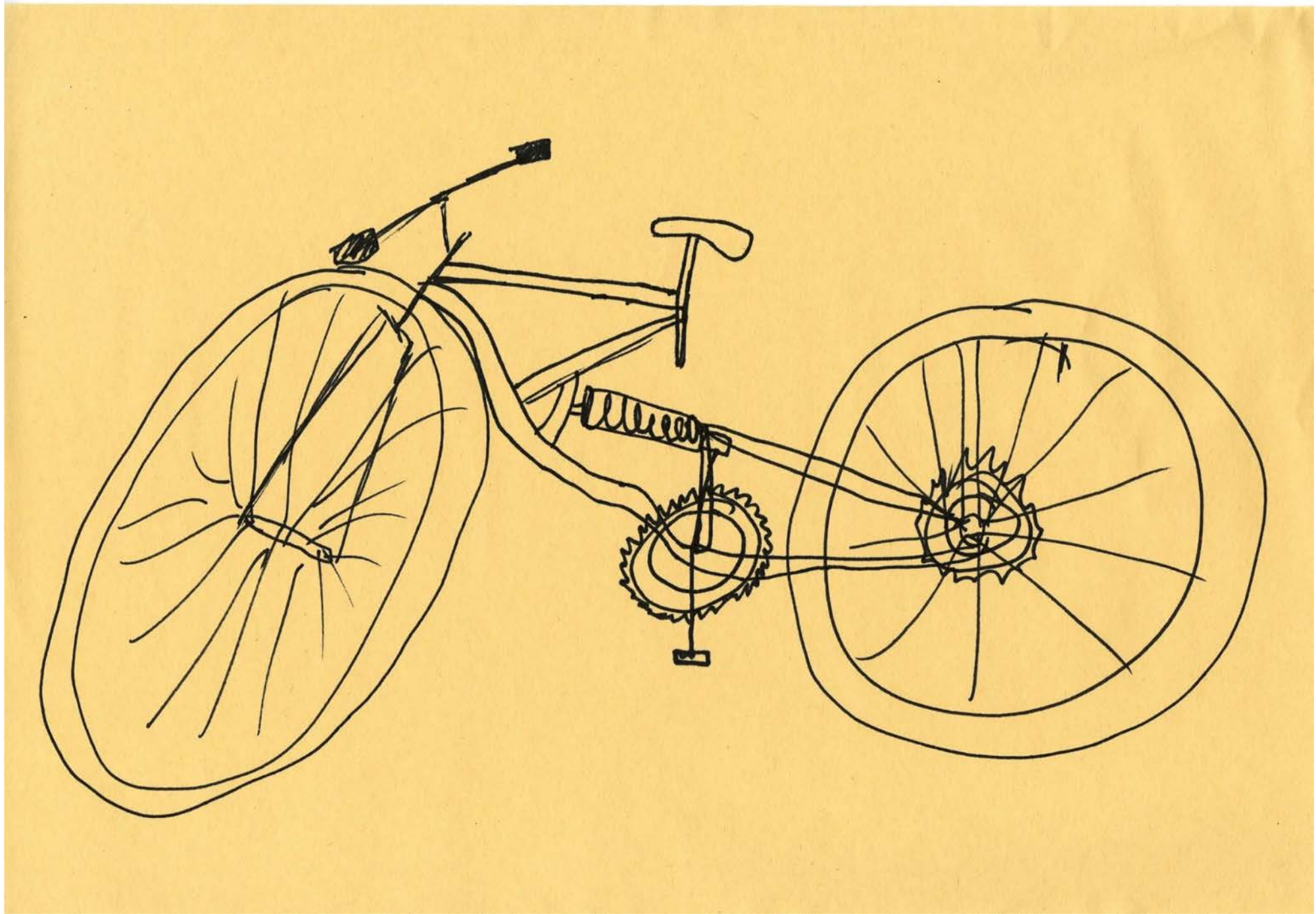


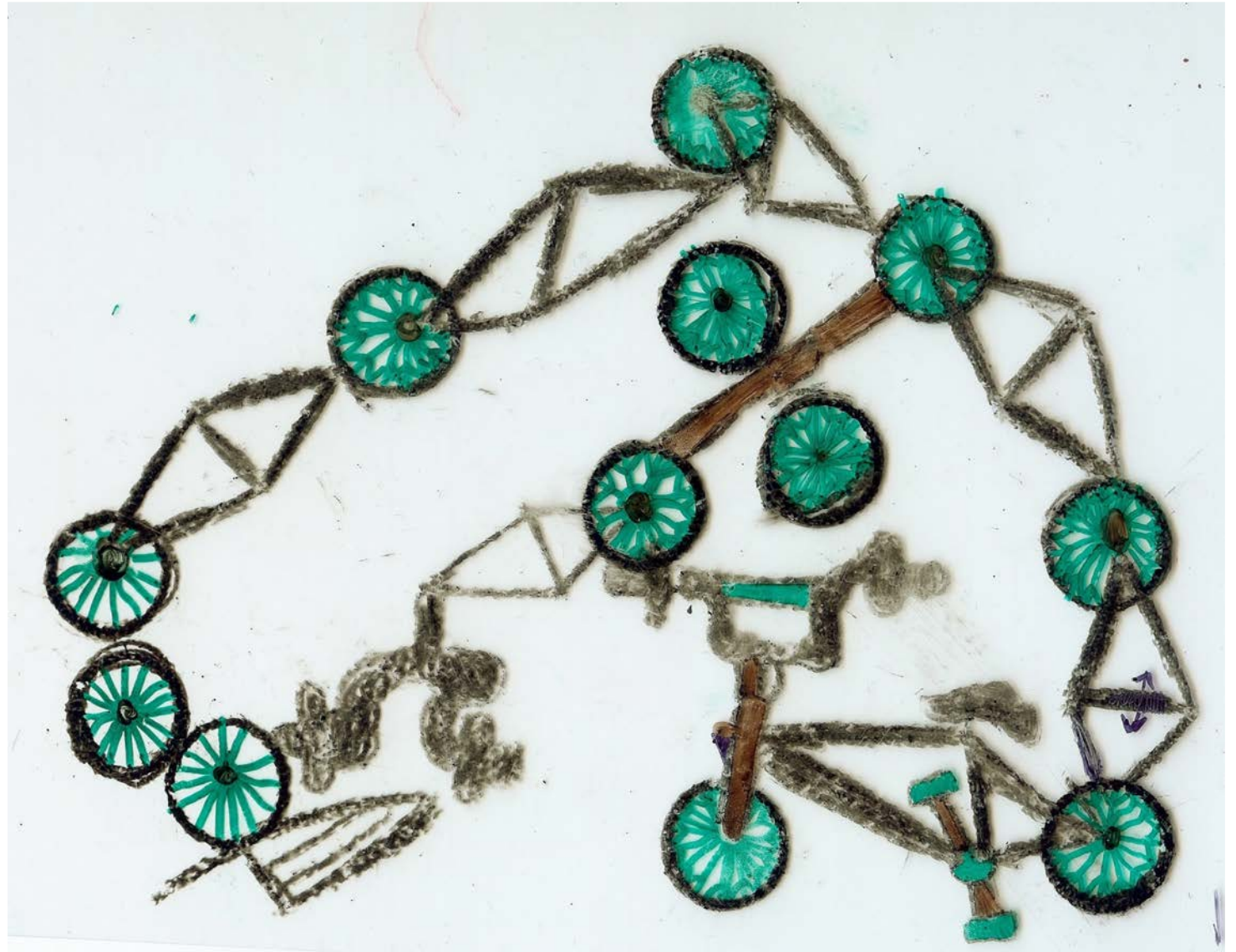




34: JARMARUS
J. J.
J. J. Patterson











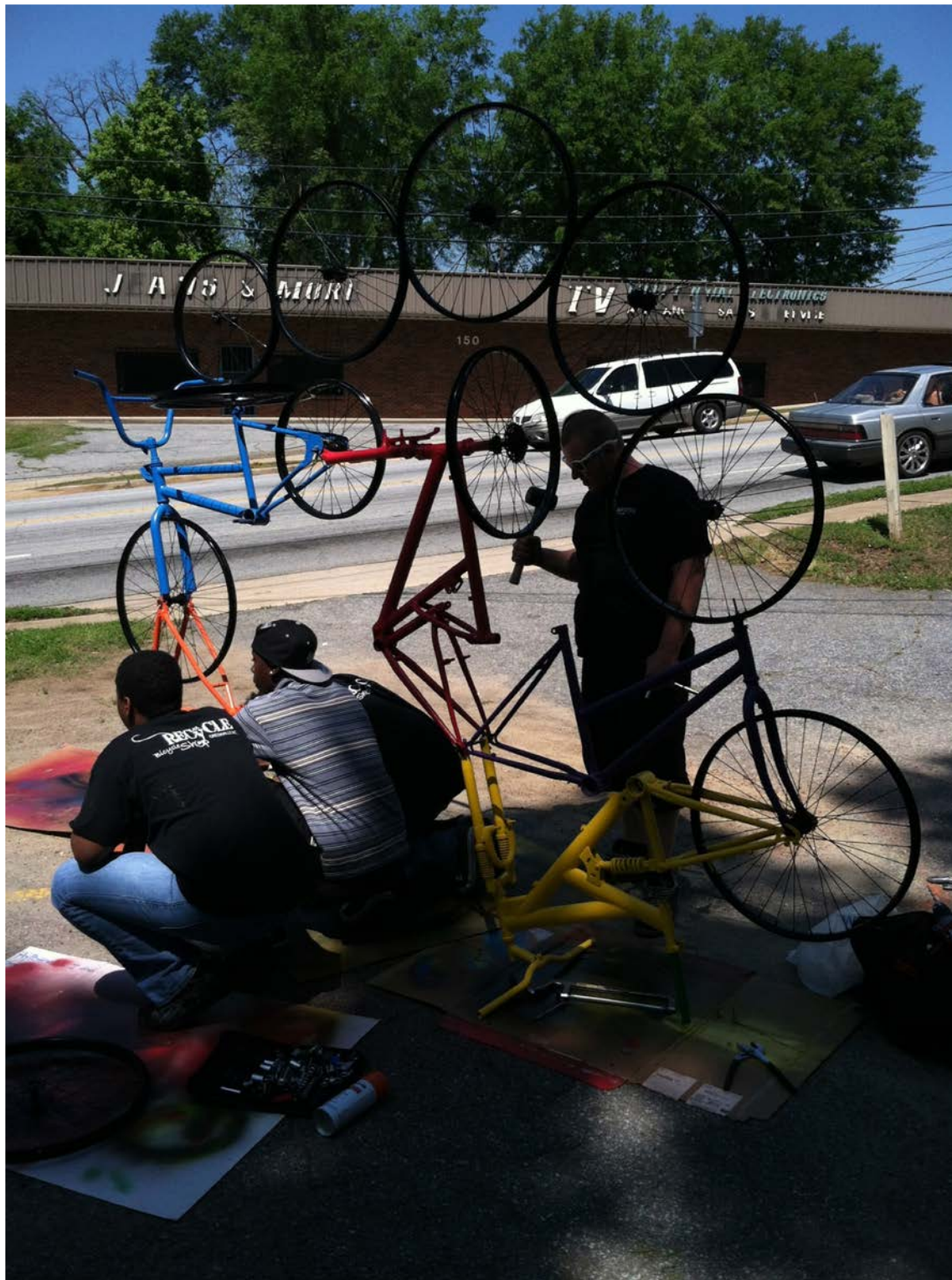






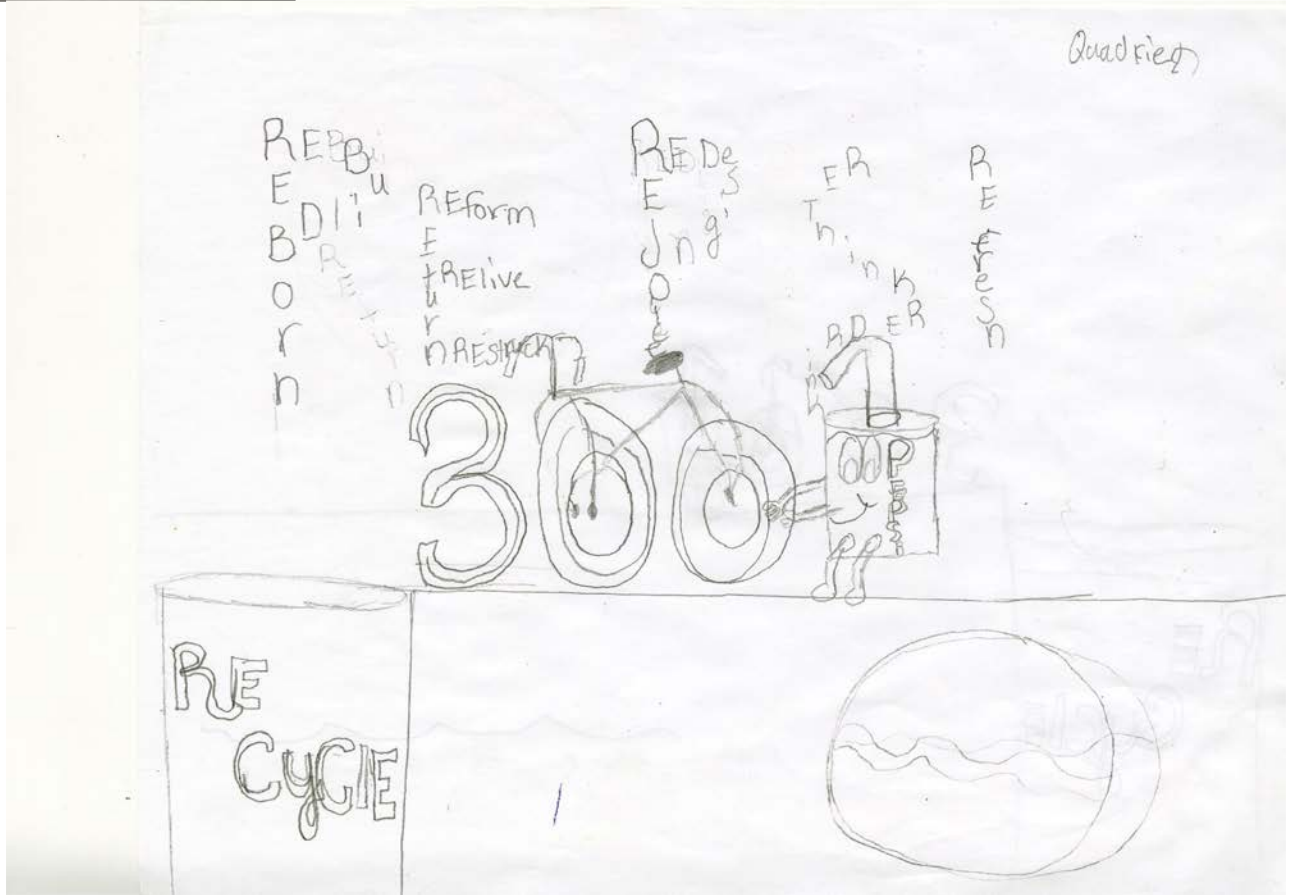


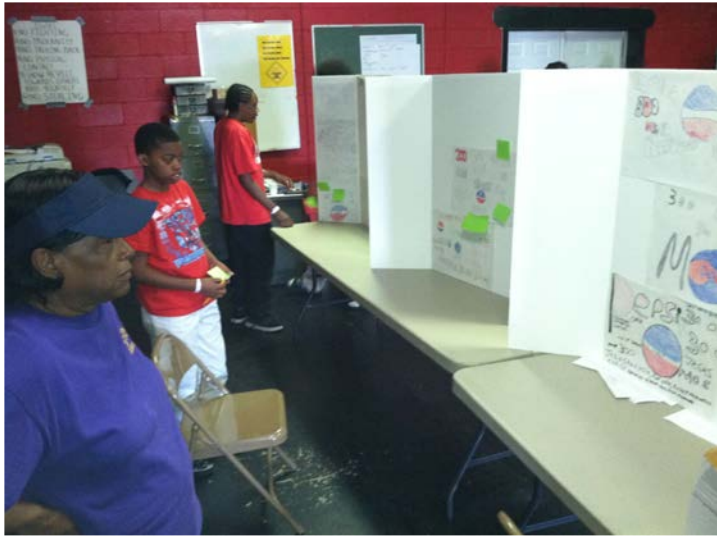




ArtCycle
Installation
“The Eye of the
Needle”
Spartanburg, SC

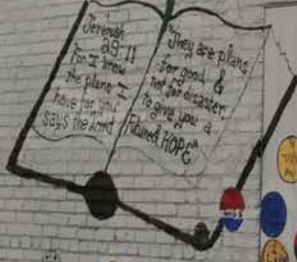














Jarmarcus Patterson works on a mural that he and other local teenagers painted on the side of the Building Hope Community Life Center in Greenville. The project was a collaboration between the center and ECU Student Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy. Story, page 8

Photograph by Cliff H









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

University Students

- Authentic
- Empowerment
- Out in the world

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

The Transformative Nature of Community Engagement in The Arts

Robert D. Quinn
School of Art & Design
East Carolina University
Greenville, NC, USA
quinnr@ecu.edu