

## Pieces of Now: Art, History, Community

### Presenters

- Paddy Bowman, Founding Director, Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education
- Carol Ghiorso Hart, Director, Greensboro History Museum
- Rodney Dawson, Curator of Education, Greensboro History Museum
- Virginia Holmes, Artist Activist, Haus of Lacks Arts Cooperative

### Session Description

*This is different from other exhibitions in the museum.*

*It is about NOW.*

*It is also unfinished, because we are in the middle of the story.*

What happens when a history museum takes on immediate local events through the arts? The Greensboro History Museum virtual exhibition "*Pieces of Now: Murals, Masks, Community Stories and Conversations*" demonstrates how paying attention to the local in the context of larger events and global artistic responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and Black Lives Matter marries the arts, arts education and history. From face masks to storefront murals demanding racial justice, 2020 has seen amazing expressions across the Gate City and the world. "*Pieces of Now...*" features street art created as part of last summer's Black Lives Matter protests along with photos, objects and video interviews with artists, organizers and protesters, among them many teachers.

In this live session, organized by Local Learning: The National Network for Folk Arts in Education, meet three people crucial to the museum's response to collect, connect and collaborate to create the exhibition and hear what they are learning about community engagement as a vital education tool. Participants will also engage with exhibition artwork to invite conversation about incorporating local arts, folklife and culture into arts education programs.

### Learning Objectives

The audience will learn how folk arts are contemporary, dynamic, local, and relevant to arts education.

The audience will learn how a history museum exhibition made art and history one and connected critical communities in a public space, allowing visitors to access and experience emotion and empathy for what is happening in their midst..

The audience will hear how different points of view and areas of expertise coalesced around community art and artists.

The audience will feel connected to each other, to history, and to the stories lifted up through *Pieces of Now*.

The audience will find a blueprint on how to use the “now” in arts education.

### **Session Outline and Summary**

Session speakers will share context about the exhibition, including how artists and activists were engaged, and preview the virtual tour of the exhibition. The session will explore the importance of documentation, community voices and community art as part of the museum’s education outreach; and discuss the artist/activist perspective. Panelists will also engage in an open discussion with each other and close the session with a Q and A for attendees.

### **Supplemental Materials**

[PowerPoint Slides](#)

JFE 2021 Creative Texts/Creative Traditions, features Pieces of Now article ([Journal Home](#))