We believe that art can open the door to conversation.

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation’s investment in inclusive public art is intended to share stories of diversity, equality, inclusion and equity as they relate to the people and places of North Carolina, especially those whose stories are often untold. We hope that this effort will catalyze community conversations that can result in a shared, and fuller, understanding of our common history—and common bonds—as North Carolinians.

Ten communities across North Carolina have been awarded Inclusive Public Art grants, totaling $450,000.

ZSR’s Inclusive Public Art initiative is one of three initiatives the Foundation is supporting under its Exploratory, Visionary Ideas Strategy as part of All For NC: Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation’s Framework for Grantmaking and Learning. ZSR’s Exploratory Visionary Ideas Strategy will evolve over time, supporting different initiatives from year to year.

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation (ZSR) is committed to improving the quality of life for all North Carolinians. ZSR is a statewide, private, family foundation that has been a catalyst for positive change in North Carolina for more than 80 years. In June 2018, the Foundation announced All For NC: Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation’s Framework for Grantmaking and Learning. Headquartered in Winston-Salem, NC, ZSR has invested $589 million into North Carolina. To learn more about ZSR and its Framework, visit zsr.org.

On the reverse side is an alphabetized list of Inclusive Public Art sites with brief descriptions. Please visit our microsite for more extensive descriptions of each project: zsrinclusivepublicart.com
1. Asociación De Mexicanos En Carolina Del Norte (AMEXCAN)  
Greenville  
This project will lift up the story of migrant farmworkers in Eastern North Carolina by creating a mobile sculpture—a school bus that includes art (inside and outside) and audio that will share stories from migrant workers themselves. The bus will have a permanent home in a public park, but also will travel to schools and other community events, as well as to farmworker camps.

2. City of Rocky Mount  
Rocky Mount  
The City of Rocky Mount will work with the Black Light Project to create eight, permanent, large-scale photographic installations in multiple, prominent, public locations around the City. The installations will highlight the contributions of African American males. Through a community nomination process, the stories of “everyday heroes” will be uplifted, creating counter-narratives to the images of Black males that often are portrayed in mainstream media.

3. Eastern Carolina Christian College  
Roanoke Rapids  
This project will tell the story of Mrs. Sarah Keys Evans—a young, African American woman in the Women’s Army Corps, who refused to move to the back of the bus in Roanoke Rapids on August 2, 1952, was arrested, and whose legal battle was seminal in the fight for equal rights. The proposed artwork will tell this important story through eight mural panels and two bronze plaques mounted on two semi-circular brick walls. It will be located in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, an active community space in Roanoke Rapids.

4. El Futuro, Inc.  
Durham  
This project will depict the contributions, story and struggle of the Latinx community through a mural in Durham’s emerging Reuse Arts District in the Lakewood neighborhood. The neighborhood houses the organization, El Futuro. The mural will be adjacent to a community garden and will be integrated into the practice of the organization, which focuses on mental health and trauma within the Latinx community.

5. Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe  
Hollister  
This project will tell the story of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe and facilitate conversations surrounding the Tribe’s identity within the context of colonialism, segregation, and political climates of the past. Through the process of creating two distinct murals, the project team will continue to engage the community in discussions about identity, while also highlighting the contributions and achievements of native residents despite historical challenges.

6. Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum  
Wilmington  
This project honors five of the regiments of the United States Colored Troops (USCT), who were victorious in the Battle of Forks Road during the Civil War, through the creation of a figurative cast bronze sculpture with impactful audio elements. This commemorative sculpture will be used to tell the under told narrative of the USCT at the battle’s historic site in Wilmington.

7. Rowan-Cabarrus Community College  
Salisbury  
The goal of this project is to increase levels of community engagement and social cohesion through individual storytelling that highlights how racial, cultural, and ethnic diversity of communities makes them stronger and more resilient. This will be done by constructing audio-enabled benches, strategically located within public spaces throughout Rowan County, that tell community members’ stories of the past and present in their own voices.

8. The Church Mouse Ministries, Inc.  
Robbinsville  
This project will celebrate the achievements and recognition of the women of the Snowbird Cherokee community through a collaborative mural located in the town center of Robbinsville. The community-engaged process will continue to build relationships and trust across lines of difference while celebrating this under told and important story.

9. United Arts Council of Catawba County  
Hickory  
This project will tell the story of “The Untouchables” football team’s legacy of victory in the 1960’s during the era of segregation at an African American high school in Hickory. The community will celebrate this incredible achievement through a sculptural archway and mural placed strategically at the entrance of the team’s former field.

10. Center for Design Innovation at UNC School of the Arts & Winston-Salem State University  
Winston-Salem  
This project seeks to honor the history of the African American communities displaced and segregated by the construction of Interstate 40 and redlining in the City of Winston-Salem. Through a community engagement process, project leaders will lift up narratives related to the former Kate Bitting Reynolds Memorial Hospital, a public medical facility that served African Americans in Winston-Salem. A large-scale photo-mosaic mural will be placed in a central location in East Winston.

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