

## Expansion of the arts connects the community

By Megan Henderson

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GLADE SPRING, Va. - Cecelia Pippin loves clay, but what really makes her happy is sharing that love. As one of seven artists whose work is housed at the Glade Spring Town Square Center for the Arts (TSCA), she will be participating in artist workshops to help educate the community in art and pottery.

Pippin was a resident of Abingdon, Va. until she decided to move to Glade Spring two months ago. Pippin found a new home for her work from her previous ceramics studio at TSCA. In Pippin's eyes, Glade Spring's revitalization has empowered people of all ages to be creative, and she intends to build on that creativity.

Pippin's space in TSCA is "The Pottery," located down a set of stairs where visitors and Pippin alike are reminded to "Watch Your Head" due to a low supporting beam. Pippin likes to take the sign both literally and figuratively.

"TSCA is a beautiful, old building which inspires me the second I walk through the door," Pippin said, "As I've walked through The Pottery's six rooms over the past two months, I imagine the unlimited possibilities for ceramics students and their teachers, and I think about resident ceramic artists using The Pottery for creating more and more Appalachian masterpieces."

Pippin has already been a part of several projects to engage the Glade Spring community. Pippin's hosted a pottery class for community members and participated in Glade Fest 2014 by doing street demonstrations on pinch pots.

"It's important that all communities spread and emphasize the arts - visual art, movement and dance, music, performance art, theater, and literary art," Pippin said, "With the current underemphasis on art in the public schools, it is incumbent on the community, town, or city to incorporate the arts into its civic activities."

Just up the road from Glade Spring, Emory & Henry College is in the process of building an arts center of their own. The Woodrow W. McGlothlin Center for the Arts is expected to be completed in mid to late April 2015.

While TSCA is a completely renovated building in the Glade Spring Town Square, Emory & Henry's art center is a newly constructed facility with a budget of over twenty million dollars. Both facilities house different types of art, but the major goal of each project was expansion.

Emory & Henry already has an arts building, Byars Hall, as well as several other facilities such as the Studio Theater, but as the college grows, Vice President for Business and Finance Dirk Wolmoth wants the college to expand.

"This is more than just a theatrical venue. It's for music and has an art gallery. The lobby itself can be used for entertaining guests. It provides lots of opportunities for students to participate," Wilmoth said.

The Woodrow W. McGlothlin Center for the Arts will also be the new home of Emory & Henry College's radio station, WEHC. The Center will be combining several art forms, as well as expanding to provide room for growing campus media. The building is a necessity as Emory

& Henry College expands, but it also gives the arts a larger emphasis on campus and in the community.

Community members are welcome to attend theater productions in Emory & Henry's "Black Box" Studio Theater, but the space is small and seating limited. The new Center for the Arts will feature a small black box theater as well as an auditorium theater larger than the Wiley Auditorium.

While Emory & Henry features the 1912 Gallery, King University in Bristol, TN contains a Museum of Fine Arts on campus for students. The museum has also worked to build an online gallery so that works presented in the museum under the Caldwell Collection can be seen through their website, not just in person.

"The collection is also a community resource. A portion is on constant display in the E.W. King Library at no cost to visitors. Regional artists draw on the collection for inspiration, creating such events as the Artistic Reflections II event that premiered musical compositions based on the visual aspects of the works." The King University Museum of Fine Arts's website said.

While Emory & Henry College is starting with a fresh building the college, Glade Spring and King University are all expanding on projects already in place. Expanding the arts has become a stronger goal in these three, small communities.

"By using this facility [TSCA], I hope to encourage people to give pottery making a try. It's fun, meditative, and very relaxing. I and the other resident artists plan to teach lots of classes. TSCA is an art school and an art gallery," Pippin said, "I hope to work with people who are considering 'art making' as a career - these people are entrepreneurs and they are the life of our community."

Pippin believes that art is important because it lifts people up and is a civilizing influence on humanity. Artists and community members hope art's continued growth in Glade Spring, as well as surrounding areas, will leave a positive impact on the public.

Picture: Cecelia Pippin teaching community members at a pottery class at TSCA

