



GREENSBORO'S COFFEE CUP COLLABORATIVE

The Coffee Cup Collaborative is a community-based public art project designed to celebrate the unique history of the City of Greensboro and the advancement of the American civil rights movement through the momentous lunch counter sit-ins of 1960. This project reflects the simple request and courage of four NC A&T students who sat at the all-white counter in Greensboro's downtown Woolworth's to ask for a cup of coffee on February 1, 1960. On that Monday afternoon, the sit-in movement began in Greensboro and in the days that followed, spread to 30 cities in 8 states.

The Coffee Cup Collaborative is a joint effort between the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the International Civil Rights Center and Museum and Action Greensboro's synerG group to provide a gateway for the public to share and honor those that paved the way for America's desegregation. Each cup is unique, each designed by a different artist and each accompanied by a quote to demonstrate the courage of the Greensboro Four to take a stand and make a difference. Funding for this project was provided by: American Express, the Bell Foundation, the Bicentennial Committee, Future Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro and Nexsen Pruet.

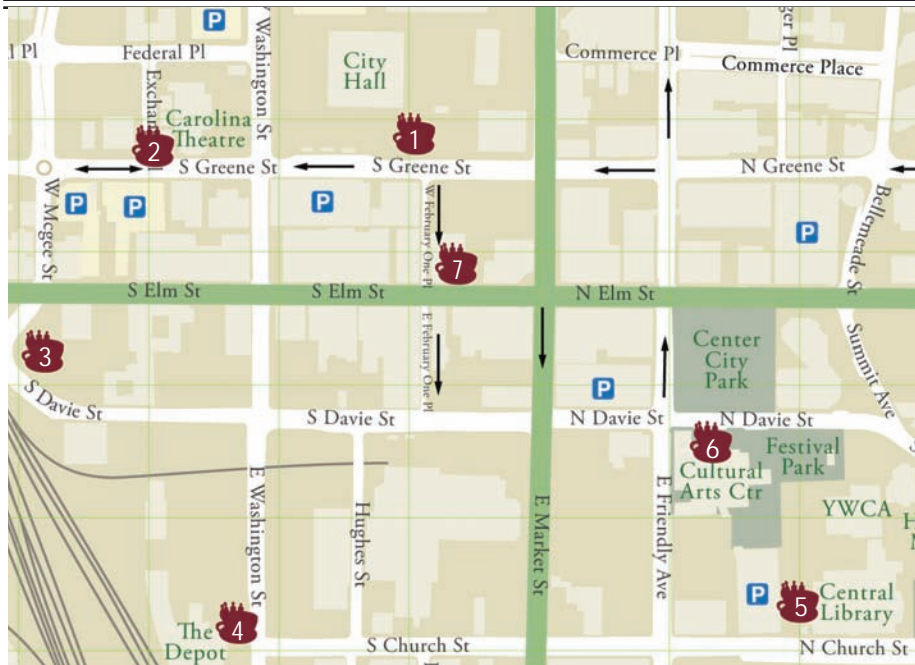
We invite you to explore each cup, looking for inspiration and understanding from one of Greensboro's most important moments in our national history. For more information on the sit-in movement, visit www.SitInMovement.org.



Investing In Our Creative Community

336-373-7523 ~ www.uacARTS.org





COFFEE CUP COLLABORATIVE WALKING TOUR



GOVERNMENTAL PLAZA: "OVERCOME" BY RODNEY BENNETT

S. Greene Street

"I wanted not only to tell the story of the Greensboro Four, but the civil rights movement as a whole by depicting what I considered some of the vital moments in the struggle for freedom and equality for all people." Artist Rodney Bennett

Site Quote: "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgement that something else is more important than fear." ~ Ambrose Redmoon



CAROLINA THEATRE: "SPOONS" BY LEO MORRISSEY

310 S. Greene Street

"My sculpture incorporates three simple and recognizable images: a coffee cup, spoons, and profiles of individuals. Singularly not remarkable, together symbolically important: The cup represents the historically important sit-in, the profiles are of students, and the spoons represent the nature of students as individuals and as a group to stir things up." Artist Leo Morrissey

Site Quote: "It is in the American tradition to stand up for one's rights – even if the way to stand up for one's rights is to sit down." ~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy



HAMBURGER SQUARE: "PEARL OF EQUALITY" BY TIMOTHY DANIEL

Corner of S. Elm and McGee Streets

"The idea of the sharp, stony oyster guarding its precious treasure came to me almost immediately as a way to symbolize the whole 'Eyes on the Prize' feeling of the civil rights struggle. The oyster's shell would represent the old status quo, and the flesh and pearl would represent the wonderful bounty awaiting those persistent enough to seek it." Artist Timothy Daniel

Site Quote: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." ~ Margaret Mead



THE DEPOT: "AWAKE" BY KURT GABRIEL

236 E. Washington Street

"It is such a powerful moment to capture: when someone realizes something just isn't right and decides to do something about it. This thought animated my design. A cup of coffee to wake up the world to injustice." Artist Kurt Gabriel

Site Quote: "History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again." ~ Maya Angelou



GREENSBORO CENTRAL LIBRARY: "EDUCATION" BY GREGORY COLLETON

219 N. Church Street

"To visually express the oppression of African Americans within educational institutions, I utilized pencils to represent the universal tool for knowledge. I conveyed anger, frustration and pain by having the pencils aggressively penetrate the cup. On the saucer, words are written to represent the progression of civil rights and the reachable ideals of optimism, resolution and justice." Artist Gregory Colleton

Site Quote: "I have learned that success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed." ~ Booker T. Washington



CULTURAL ARTS CENTER: "IN THE FACE OF STRANGE FRUIT" BY DERRICK MONK

200 N. Davie Street

"It's titled 'In the Face of Strange Fruit' because of the types of struggles that blacks have had to face before and after the civil rights movement. Working in my studio, I was listening to a Billie Holiday Song 'Strange Fruit' and became inspired by its lyrics, the emotions of the era and aesthetic qualities. The small faces of fruit shaped like music notes signify the ancestors who gave their lives for future generations to learn that hatred solves nothing." Artist Derrick Monk

Site Quote: "He who is different from me does not impoverish me – he enriches me." ~ Antoine De Saint-Exupery



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CENTER & MUSEUM:

"CUP OF FREEDOM" BY CHARLES JENKINS

Corner of February 1 Place & S. Elm Street

"I put the guys sitting down at the top of the cup, like it's a counter, and I put under them an American flag. The flag was there because they were doing it for freedom - the freedom to sit and drink coffee, without having to worry about race." Artist Charles Jenkins

Site Quote: "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of it's creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are treated equal.' I have a dream that one day ... the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood." ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.



GREENSBORO COLISEUM COMPLEX:

"A CUP OF COFFEE, PLEASE" BY JAY ROTBERG

1921 W. Lee Street

"I created the inside of the diner, with the counter and stools. Two figures sit brooding over their coffee, each with its back to the other across the floor. The counter is interrupted in two places, divided by narrow walls that represent the structural dividing lines between the races. Such walls would be easy to overcome but would require one to turn and acknowledge the other figure. The question is: How far has the wall come down? We have further to go, beyond the lunch counter." Artist Jay Rotberg

This location is outside the downtown business district and not within comfortable walking distance.

Site Quote: "Democracy is not the law of majority but the protection of the minority." ~ Albert Camus

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