

A Collective: Working Towards a Better Place  
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This body of work, *A Collective: Working Towards a Better Place*, is comprised of points along my timeline that embody the way I have come to connect with people face to face. I realized these connections are important for our well-being. I took a step back and pondered the individuals and places that have influenced me in the past to create three series, *The Family Table*, *Conversations over Coffee*, and *Post Soccer Game Refreshments*. This led me to consider how I could create opportunities to work within my community to help build a positive space. Working within the ECU ceramics community guided me to the participation of *Stone Soup*. Further investigation inspired me to create *Community Lunch*, an event to bring people together and contribute to a cause.



A Collective: Working Towards a Better Place

A Thesis

Presented to the Faculty of the School of Art and Design

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Master of Fine Arts

by

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## DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis research to my daughter, Grace Mae McLelland. I hope you never meet a stranger and your future is full of kindness, determination and love.

Thank you to my family and friends. Immense thank you to my parents Bruce and Suna, for their unconditional love and support. I would not be who I am or where I am without their guidance and love throughout the years.

Thank you to my partner Jacob, for basically putting his life on hold for me so I could pursue this degree. Thank you for helping raise an amazing human, for being there for me, questioning all my decisions, and for being there for Grace.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES .....	vii
LIST OF PLATES .....	viii
INTRODUCTION .....	1
CULTURAL LENS .....	3
Role of Pottery .....	3
The importance of the Craftsperson Today .....	5
DESIGN RESEARCH OVERVIEW .....	6
PROJECT TOPICS AND STORIES .....	8
<i>Family Table</i> .....	8
Importance of Eating at Home .....	8
Influences and Stories .....	9
<i>Conversations Over Coffee</i> .....	14
Historical Significance of the Coffee Shop .....	14
Influences and Stories .....	15
<i>Post Soccer Game Refreshments</i> .....	21
Historical Significance of the Saloon .....	21
Influences and Stories .....	22
<i>Stone Soup</i> .....	32
Influences .....	32
The Event .....	34
Results .....	38
<i>Community Lunch</i> .....	39

Influences .....	39
The Event .....	41
Results .....	45
Outcomes .....	48
Reflection .....	48
CONCLUSION.....	50
WORK CITED.....	51
APPENDIX .....	53
A: Wood Fire Kiln and Process .....	53
Clay .....	54
Fire Log .....	55
B: Stone Soup Story .....	57
C: <i>Tteukguk</i> .....	59
Bowl Design .....	60
D: COVID-19 Timeline and Governor Cooper Executive Order 121 .....	61

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure A: Home Table .....	12
Figure B: Inside The Dancing Turtle Coffee Shop.....	16
Figure C: Coffee Pour Over in Use .....	17
Figure D: Women’s Soccer Team .....	24
Figure E: Fireball Bottle .....	25
Figure F: The Process of Making the Bottle.....	25
Figure G: The Neck and Shoulder (The Top) Altered .....	26
Figure H: The Top Placed on the Body .....	26
Figure I: The Top Cut to Size .....	27
Figure J: The Body Altered to Fit Top .....	27
Figure K: The Bottom Cut to Size .....	28
Figure L: Stone Soup Bowl-a-thon .....	33
Figure M: <i>Stone Soup</i> Postcard .....	35
Figure N: <i>Untitled</i> : Rirkrit Tiravanija .....	40
Figure O: Poster for <i>Community Lunch</i> .....	43
Figure P: Greenville Branch Profile .....	46

## LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: <i>Family Table</i> .....	12
Plate 2: <i>Family Table (Detail)</i> .....	13
Plate 3: <i>Conversations over Coffee I</i> .....	18
Plate 4: <i>Conversations over Coffee II</i> .....	19
Plate 5: <i>Conversations over Coffee IV</i> .....	20
Plate 6: <i>Post Soccer Game Refreshments</i> .....	29
Plate 7: <i>Post Soccer Game Refreshments II</i> .....	30
Plate 8: <i>Post Soccer Game Refreshments III</i> .....	31
Plate 9: <i>Stone Soup Preview</i> .....	36
Plate 10: <i>Detail of Bowls for Stone Soup</i> .....	37
Plate 11: <i>Community Lunch Preview</i> .....	44
Plate 12: <i>Inside Community Lunch Package</i> .....	47
Plate 13: <i>Packed Donation Bowls</i> .....	47
Plate 14: <i>Bowl for Community Lunch</i> .....	60

## INTRODUCTION

Community is the places and people who were, are, and continue to be a part of my daily life. They have influenced who I am today. People within these spaces are there for each other and help out whenever possible. It can be shaped from family, work, a passion, or a combination. They can overlap. As individuals, we are not limited to just one, but can be a part of many. Within our communities, we can also work together as a collective to achieve goals.

As a Korean American, I was fortunate to have a big family even though I was an only child. My parents focused on making sure I was involved in community activities and had a strong social network inside and outside of my home. Part of my mother's family came to the United States and lived with us for several years. During this time, eating was a communal event. While this was many years ago, living with my parents left a lasting positive impact.

I have been working with clay for the last 15 years. When I was at UNC-Wilmington, I established a much larger community and family than I ever could have imagined. My community there nurtured me and provided opportunities all over the world. Developing networks of relationships makes me look at my life as a timeline of events that have influenced me. If you put pottery into context, you can investigate form, meaning, use, and function to help determine social and cultural ideas. Ceramics is an indicator of time. Thinking about my timeline, I want the work to reflect and give context to the people and places I encountered.

In this body of work, *A Collective: Working Towards a Better Place*, are points of my timeline that embody the way I have come to connect with people face to face. I realized these

connections can be important for our well-being. This led me to consider how I could create opportunities to work within my community to help build a positive space in a fast-paced world.

I have chosen to take a step back and think about the individuals and places who have influenced me in the past. I focused on my family life, when I worked at The Dancing Turtle Coffee Shop, and my soccer community as means to express how I have gotten to where I am, places where I felt I connected and engaged with people on a regular basis. Using these people and places as impetus, I created three bodies of work: *The Family Table*, *Conversations over Coffee*, and *Post Soccer Game Refreshments*.

Community can be both internal and external. Internally, we feel a part of something, and externally we are physically there. I wanted to engage more with the community I live in and be an active participant to make it a better place. For the past six years the Ceramics Guild participated in an event called *Stone Soup*. While at ECU, I have had the opportunity to be involved, learn about how this event reaches out to the people of Greenville, and help execute the event.

After participating in this established event, I wanted to see if I could find a way to create my own event to contribute to the community in a positive way. My hope was that *Community Lunch* could be a way to bring together a diverse group of people and share a meal. Creating an event like this felt important to me because it presented a safe way to learn about each other and engage with people in a community.

## CULTURAL LENS

### The Role of Pottery

Throughout history, the craftsperson was an essential and integral part to the function of society. “Pottery, specifically, was essential to the well-being of the common people” (Yanagi 103). It was made for dining, food storage, and preserving crops until the next harvest or season. Pottery provided a way of building community and working together for survival.

Over time, “industrialization changed how the craftsperson worked” (Yanagi 107). Trade expanded and there was contact with people across the globe. The production of materials did not have to come from your land. “Living a life that depended on the resources around you changed due to the increased access of new materials” (Leach 91). There was a move away from community and working together. The potter was no longer a necessity because “companies mass-produced wares and sold them at lower prices” (Yanagi 103). The advancement of technology negated the use for storage in pots to storage in refrigerators and ice boxes. The use and need for pottery shifted.

This advancement of production and technology put many potteries out of business because they could not sell wares cheaply enough and still make a profit. Economic hardships also contributed to the closing of potteries. As a result, “companies and tradesmen flooded the American market with accessible wares that looked like expensive and decorative imported pottery” (Haddad 55-7). For example, “for the person who never visited China could purchase Chinese blue and white

wares and look like they were cultured or had expanded their minds, but never knew where the pottery was crafted or who made it” (Haddad 54).

Even though there was a decrease in the amount of potteries, by 1965 making pottery became accessible through other avenues. “In the United States, 78 million veterans had used the GI education benefits” (Bound and Turner 785). “This flooded classrooms across the US with 2.2 million former military members attending colleges or universities” (Bound and Turner 785).

Some contemporary potters who took this opportunity said they chose Pottery either as an elective or just to try something different and never looked back. Taking an academic path was another way you could learn about making pottery and it re-emphasized the artistic potter.

Pottery taught in school gained more popularity due to well-known potters like Daniel Rhodes, Cynthia Bringle, and Val Cushing.

Today, as more potters gain popularity in the US, people are becoming increasingly aware of handmade objects. Customers appreciate individualistic pottery and want to “buy local” and support their neighbors. With better paying jobs available, consumers can afford to move away from cheaper, streamlined store-bought pots to unique handmade pottery that may connect to a story, time, or place.

For me, rather than just fulfilling individualistic desires, I also want to develop a sense of community. I realized that pottery paired with foods and or drinks can be used as a way to engage with people, enhance a moment, or create an environment which makes that moment

memorable through its ritualistic or special use. My hope is that I can create pottery that signifies compassion and specific moments when we are working together to create a better place.

### The Importance of the Craftsperson Today

Today, there are many platforms in which people can see artwork without ever meeting the maker. These include websites, Esty, Facebook, or Instagram. An online consumer trusts that the craftsperson is knowledgeable and is uploading and selling a well-crafted item. While this allows things to be accessible to a wider audience, it has changed how consumers and communities interact with the maker and their work, much like in history when trade routes expanded. With the push to order things online, the craftsperson now holds an even larger responsibility to be honest and true through these avenues. Ideally, the customer has the opportunity to meet the maker and can continue the relationship through these platforms as well as in person.

## DESIGN RESEARCH OVERVIEW

There are different types of intimate moments in the day. Thinking back to the people and places who have influenced me, I realized I want ceramics to be a part of the experience of shaping my communities. While handmade ceramics are not a necessity, I believe they can enhance a moment. The use of the ceramics would not be the same without the time and place, and the moment would not be the same without the ceramics.

When considering the work in the thesis, I contemplated specific moments when I felt personally engaged with someone within my community. The moments that stood out to me were at the dinner table, the years when I worked at The Dancing Turtle Coffee Shop in Hatteras, North Carolina, and time spent with my soccer team on and off the pitch. These times were hubs for people to come together. At the dinner table, I looked at my own experiences of having a Korean mother and an American father to influence the things I would make for the table.

Working at the coffee shop I was able to be immersed in a community. This place was such an essential part of many people's lives in the small town of Hatteras. Working there also allowed me to learn about coffee and its provisions.

The cultural service of bars has a lot of similarities to coffee shops, as places for gathering and enjoying someone's company. Specifically, I cherish my time spent with my soccer community on the pitch and celebrating (or wallowing) afterwards at a bar. Participating and working at different bars, talking to other bartenders, and consuming Fireball, Jameson, and Kentucky

Gentleman with others influenced the forms I made for the whiskey sets. Each series was made for more than one person to use. They reiterate the idea of engaging with others leading to stronger communities.

## PROJECT TOPIC AND STORIES

### *Family Table*

#### Importance of Eating at Home

Two years ago, I gave birth to Grace Mae. Raising her makes me question my actions in order to provide her with the best life. In the beginning, my doctor emphasized nourishment, routine, and no screen time if possible. This made me realize how much I was on my phone. As a family we decided to try and not use phones in front of Grace, especially at the table. We also wanted to have dinner together as many nights as possible.

Research from the American College of Pediatricians in 2014 shows that “families and people who eat together at least three times a week have healthier eating patterns, contribute to family traditions, and have better social interactions with others” (Anderson 1). “Over the past three decades family time at the dinner table and family conversations have declined by 30% due to increased distractions such as television watching, smartphone apps, and text messaging” (Anderson 1). This reiterates the importance of eating together. Having Grace made me want to revisit my family practices and look deeper into my childhood.

## Influences and Stories

Dinner was the meal that most often brought my family together. In the early 90's, my maternal grandmother came from Korea and lived with us. Eventually, my Aunt and Uncle also came over. The house became very full for a few years. Lots of food was cooked in the kitchen. There was English and Korean being spoken in the house and never a quiet moment. We had two refrigerators in the house, one in the kitchen and one in the garage where we kept all the Korean food. Looking back, this was a very special time. While we did not always have meals together, I was always eating with my family or neighborhood friends. Our table was a landscape of ceramic dishes, we had our individual "plate" which was a bowl for soup, accompanied by a rice bowl, and an array of side dishes (refer to Figure A). My family is what inspired me to make *Family Table*. (Plate 1). I now realize this was the start to learning about and understanding the importance of being together and what a community can mean.

Most of the items in *Family Table* were hand built and then wood fired (refer to appendix A for more information about kiln and firing). The process of hand building was important to me because it allowed me to slow down my making process and consider the purpose of each item. My table growing up was different than most American tables. Our table had *banchan* or small plates of various foods that go on the table to signify the beginning of the meal. I remember at least one kind of kimchi, marinated vegetable, usually spinach, fish roe, or marinated beef. There was always a rice bowl, usually accompanied by salty seaweed cut up into squares. I loved making any variation of *gimbap*, *gim* meaning seaweed and *bap* meaning rice. This is when you

put rice into the seaweed and add toppings and roll it up and eat it. Breakfast or lunch with my mom usually was accompanied by some sort of soup (Plate 2).

Looking back, I now appreciate how important it was for me to have these communal gatherings at the table. Socializing and sharing food at the dinner table brought value and importance to me as an individual. Without the openness of my parents accepting others into our house, my sense of community would be very different.



Figure A: Home Table



Plate 1: *Family Table*



Plate 2: *Family Table* Detail

## *Conversations Over Coffee*

### Historical Significance of the Coffee Shop

“Coffee houses became one of the great pleasures in Britain, where people met to talk about business and news, read papers, and often watched people” (Spencer). It was not only a place to socialize; “this culture encouraged sobriety, rational thought, and articulate political discussions” (Spencer). Some will say that the coffee house changed the course of history because it was a place to discuss political topics and how government should be.

“In the late 17<sup>th</sup> Century, coffee shops made their way to America” (Spencer). Much like Britain, they became hubs of “intellectual trading and business” (Spencer). While coffee shops today do not have the same power as they may have once had, they are still common places for people to get together or become a part of one’s routine.

## Influences and Stories

In 2004 I started working at The Dancing Turtle Coffee Shop in Hatteras NC, owned by Edie Coulter. Hatteras is a small fishing village. The coffee shop was located on the main road (one of two roads in Hatteras), across the street from the harbor where many charter boats were docked. Due to this, many boat captains and mates stopped in the mornings and evenings. Other locals stopped in throughout the day (refer to Figure B). Working here I always found out what was happening in the water, always knew the weather, and what the surf was doing. I would hear stories about crazy tourists or how many fish were caught that day. This was part of the culture of Hatteras.

I served a lot of coffee beverages. I had close to the same 50 people as customers for about two years. Working at the coffee shop made me feel like I was an important part in the daily routines of many people. A lot of these relationships developed into friendships outside of the coffee shop and helped strengthen my ties with people in the community. I realized from working here that coffee was the common thread that I shared with a lot of people. Not only did I gain an appreciation of different ways to serve coffee but also enjoyed my time spent with others drinking coffee.

I made a series of coffee sets, *Conversations over Coffee*, consisting of a water pitcher, “pour over” with catch tray, mugs, creamer jug, and sugar jar (refer to Plate 3, 4, 5). I chose this way of making coffee because it takes time. When you make coffee with a pour over, typically one is not rushed, but has a moment to sit and engage in the process of pouring the water over the

coffee and letting it seep (refer to Figure C). The sets are made with multiple mugs to encourage having a cup with someone else. Typically, one is not instantly part of a community; it takes time to develop these relationships. One must start somewhere, and I found having coffee with someone is a great way to begin or continue these relationships that can built into community.



Figure B: The Dancing Turtle Coffee Shop

<https://foursquare.com/v/dancing-turtle-coffee-shop/4bb20ff9f964a520afb53ce3>



Figure C: Coffee pour over in use.

<https://www.seriousseats.com/2014/06/make-better-pourover-coffee-how-pourover-works-temperature-timing.html>



Plate 3: *Conversations over Coffee Set I*



Plate 4: *Conversations over Coffee II*



Plate 5: *Conversations over Coffee Set IV*

## *Post Soccer Game Rituals*

### Historical Significance of the Saloon

Historically, saloons were known for “congregating and socializing outside of the home” (Kingsdale 472). “These places were “urban liquor dispensaries that also sold beer and distributed cheap or free lunches” (Kingsdale 477). “It was a neighborhood center, an all-male establishment and a transmitter of working-class and immigrant culture” (Kingsdale 472). It provided a place for self-expression, meeting others, and familiarity. Different kinds of saloons attracted different types of people. Some saloons were grandiose and provided for businessmen and politicians (Kingsdale 476, 82). Others were dark, damp, and in the slums. They were rowdy, dirty and full (Kingsdale 476). The purpose of saloons was dictated by the people who frequented them.

Today, saloons are commonly called bars and still share similar qualities. Typically, these businesses are open to anybody over the age of 21, no matter one’s gender, race, or class, as long as you can pay. I find neighborhood bars are for pleasure amongst people in a community. They can be places for individuals to relax or let loose after a day of work. They can provide excitement and a comradery that is unique to the establishment. Bars provide a common place for people to meet for many occasions. For me, they were a place to rejoice or commiserate after soccer games.

## Influences and Stories

While I lived in Wilmington, NC, I decided to revisit a sport that was once a very important part of my life: soccer. What was a one day a week event quickly turned into four days a week. This was an important part of my daily routine for five years before moving to Greenville, NC. The soccer community in Wilmington was a tight group. There were various leagues ranging from Women's League, Co-ed, to Under 40, and Over 40. Once I started one, I quickly found I participated in multiple leagues, playing with the same core group of people (refer to Figure D). This led to seeing the same crew multiple days a week. We not only participated on the pitch together, but also celebrated or went out afterwards. This meant that I also was a regular at certain places during the week. The place I was most fond of going was The Duck and Dive (The Duck). We went every Thursday after the Women's League game. Our first beverage was served neat, typically a 2-3 oz pour of Fireball accompanied with a pint of snakebite (half Guinness half cider). Eventually, The Duck sponsored our team. This is an example of a way one community can overlap into another. Our presence as a soccer community at The Duck every Thursday led us to know the place, the owners, and the people who worked there. We advertised for them and frequented their bar over others, and they paid for our registration and jerseys. This is significant because it shows how we worked together to help each other out.

This community convergence brought me to make a series of whisky sets in remembrance of fond times spent with my soccer community. Each set consists of a bottle, a funnel, and cups

(refer to Plate 5, 6, and 7). The bottles for the sets were influenced by the shape of a fifth of Fireball (refer to Figure E). The bottle was made in three sections: the neck and shoulders (the top), the body, and the bottom. The top and body were thrown and altered (refer to Figure F, G, H, I, and J). The bottom was cut out from a slab of clay (refer to Figure L). Once leather hard (this is when the clay has stiffened but is still malleable), the parts were attached. Working with different parts to create a whole piece, such as the bottle, was also reminiscent of how it takes time and steps to build and create something, much like a relationship.



Figure D: Women's Soccer Team: I have been playing with the women standing in the back row since 2013. This was the core of my soccer community.



Figure E: Fireball Bottle

<https://www.thedrunkpirate.com/fireball-cinnamon-whisky/>



Figure F: The Process of Making a Bottle: Altering the Thrown Body



Figure G: The Neck and Shoulder (the Top) Altered



Figure H: The Top is Placed on the Body



Figure I: The Top Cut to Size



Figure J: Body Altered to Fit Top



Figure K: The Bottom Cut to Size



*Plate 6: Post Soccer Game Refreshments*



*Plate 7: Post Soccer Game Refreshments II*



*Plate 8: Post Soccer Game Refreshments Set III*

## *Stone Soup*

### Influences

I wanted to find a way that I could participate in my community to make a positive impact. Each year the ECU Ceramics Guild participates in a charity event, Stone Soup, by making bowls (refer to Figure L) to raise money for the St. Paul's Food Pantry. This past year, I also had the opportunity to work with the diligent and compassionate people behind the scenes and help organize the Stone Soup event in April 2020. We met three times over the course of 6 months to plan.

This annual event started 7 years ago. It was originated from the old wives' tale of *Stone Soup* (For the full story of Stone Soup refer to appendix B). Each year it has gotten more responses. "The event helps 135 households of various sizes in the Greenville community and feeds about 350-600 people each week" (Tisdale).



Figure L: Bowl-a-thon party, hosted by coordinators of Stone Soup and ECU Ceramics Guild. Participants gathered together and threw bowls for the event. Lunch was provided by St. Paul's Church.

## The Event

Stone Soup is a one-day event/fundraiser that is held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Greenville, NC) in April. It is a lunch or dinner meal of soup, salad, bread and dessert. Patrons can come and purchase a ticket which includes a handmade bowl to symbolize the event and the meal for \$25. The soups are donated by local chefs and restaurants and bowls are crafted by local makers from Greenville and surrounding areas. The money is used to help fund the volunteer-based food pantry at St. Paul's (refer to Figure M for advertisement postcard). More information can be found at [www.stonesoup-enc.org](http://www.stonesoup-enc.org)

This event not only helps sustain the food pantry at St. Paul's; it brings people in the community together to enjoy a meal. This presents an opportunity to meet someone new in the community who you may not have met otherwise. It also “spreads awareness of food insecurities in the Greenville area” (Stone Soup).

In helping to promote the event, I chose to showcase a bowl from each of the makers in the ECU Ceramics Guild and the ART 2115 class (See Plate 9 and 10). People could purchase a bowl for \$25 and 100% of the price would go to the Stone Soup fundraiser.



# STONE SOUP

A Meal to Benefit St. Paul's Community Food Pantry

WED. APRIL 8TH  
11AM - 2PM -AND- 5PM - 7PM

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PARISH HALL  
401 E. 4TH ST. - GREENVILLE NC

Featuring Chef's creations from Greenville's Best Scratch Kitchens

aTavola! Market Café  
Café Duo  
Christy's Europub  
Dickinson Avenue Public House  
Ford + Shep  
Great Harvest Bread Company  
Longhorn Steakhouse  
Nino's Cucina Italiana

Scarborough Fare Catering  
St. Paul's own Larry Barbour  
Starlight Café  
Texas Roadhouse  
The Market at Coastal Fog  
The Rickhouse  
The Scullery Coffee House & Creamery  
Village Point Market

The meal can be enjoyed in or to take out

**\$10** meal = soup, drink,  
dessert + salad

**\$25** meal + choice of handmade  
pottery mug or bowl

1 SERVING = GROCERIES FOR LOCAL FAMILY

For more information:

EMAIL: STONESOUPENC@GMAIL.COM

WEB: STONESOUP-ENC.ORG

Dinnertime children's options available - Age 8 and younger eat FREE

Figure M: Image of postcard for the Stone Soup event.



Plate 9: *Stone Soup Preview*



Plate 10: Detail of two Stone Soup bowls

## Results

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak (for more information about COVID-19, refer to Appendix D), this event was canceled. However, on the one night the MFA Thesis Show was open, we were able to collect \$80 to donate to St. Paul's.

## *Community Lunch*

### Influences

This project is a combination of *Stone Soup* and the influence of Rirkrit Tiravanija. I was inspired by the event and how it brought people together to help others who are not as fortunate. I wanted to create a one-time event to benefit the community. Rirkrit, a Thai artist who “pioneered relational aesthetics (focusing on the interactions between people and their surrounds and less on the object), investigated ways to reconnect with his Thai roots” (“Artworks”). “In his piece, *Untitled*, he created an interactive installation that revolved around his own personal identity and history” (“Artworks”). Tiravanija created a mobile kitchen and brought it into various galleries, where he “cooked traditional Pad Thai for exhibition visitors to eat” (“Rirkrit Tiravanija”)(refer to Figure N). This created a place of social engagement and invited the viewers to activate his work. My hope was that *Community Lunch* could provide a place simultaneously facilitating social engagement and helping the community.



Figure N: *Untitled* by Rirkrit Tiravanija

<https://tiffobenii.wordpress.com/participation/rirkrit-tiravanija/>

## The Event

I was presented with the opportunity to organize an event at the WonderBox in Farmville, NC, a neighboring town to Greenville, on March 23, 2020. The WonderBox is a public art space, encased in glass, approximately 8 ft tall and 4ft wide. My idea was to create an event in and around the WonderBox, serving my favorite soup, *tteokguk* (refer to Appendix 5 for more information about *tteokguk* and stories). I made 85 handmade bowls specifically for the soup (refer to Appendix 5 for more information on the bowls). The visitor would choose one and bring it up to the WonderBox where I would be serving the soup, then sit at one of the communal-style tables. The long tables were chosen to help initiate eating with other people. Once diners were ready to leave, they could take the bowl home as a token of the event. *Community Lunch* would be free to anyone that would be willing to come and participate, in hopes everyone would feel comfortable to attend. If someone was willing to donate to the event, all the donations would go to the Soup Kitchen of Farmville.

I choose to work with the Soup Kitchen because it is a volunteer-based kitchen and continues serving through the help of donations (Heath). The helpers were mostly people from the church or people in the community. Janet Heath, who coordinates the Soup Kitchen, said there are about 16 churches who take a couple of days out of each month to help, with most workers being older women (Heath). It provides a free lunch to about 30 people Monday through Friday all year (Heath). The monetary donations go to purchasing canned goods, meats, paper supplies, and general bills for the kitchen (Heath).

With the help of Linda Adele Goodine, we were able to promote the event through the Art Council in Farmville, the Chamber of Commerce, the local paper, and putting up posters around downtown Farmville (refer to Figure O for poster). In Wellington B. Gallery, I choose to set up a preview for the event. This allowed me to promote the event to a wider audience outside of Farmville (Refer to Plate 11).



All donations go to Soup Kitchen of Farmville, NC

# Community Lunch

March 23, 2020 | 12-1:30 pm | The WonderBox  
Main St. Farmville, NC  
All are welcome!

Figure O: Poster for *Community Lunch* event.



Plate 11: *Community Lunch Preview*

## Results

As a result of an unforeseen circumstance, the Covid-19 outbreak, the *Community Lunch* event was canceled. Because of the epidemic, many people lost their jobs and the need for places like the Soup Kitchen in Farmville are in higher demand. However, due to NC Governor Cooper's Stay at Home Mandate (see Appendix D for Cooper's official Stay at Home Mandate) and the severity of the epidemic, the Soup Kitchen in Farmville was forced to temporarily close. As a result, I chose to move *Community Lunch* online as the *Community Lunch Project*. I performed an Instagram Takeover on my own account as @communitylunchproject, promoted it through my personal Facebook account, Heather Lee McLelland, and set it up as a website, communitylunchproject.com. I chose to do the takeover rather than starting a new page because I already had a community of "followers" (comprised of friends, family, and people I have met over the years; I state followers because that is how Instagram and Facebook label it) established through these sites. Grace and I promoted two bowls a day for two weeks, and each bowl had an asking donation price of \$50 (She insisted in being in the videos). 70% of the asking price, \$35, would go to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina (CENC), Greenville Branch. This money would provide "175 nutritious meals" (Food Bank Covid-19). I chose this organization because it was exempt from the Stay at Home Mandate and continues to work through these unpredictable times. The Greenville branch provides for 5 counties: Greene, Pitt (which also provides food for St Paul's), Lenoir, Edgecombe, and Wilson (refer to Figure P to view Greenville Branch Profile). On the Friday of each week I announced the collective total made for the week and sent it into the Food Bank of CENC. This was a way as a collective to contribute to the community through this pandemic. Each package that was sent out contained a

bowl, a handprinted thank you card, and an information sheet about the Greenville Branch (Plate 12 and 13).

## 2018-2019 GREENVILLE BRANCH PROFILE

In the 34 counties the Food Bank services, nearly 600,000 individuals are unable to consistently access enough nutritious food to live a healthy, active life. Hunger is an epidemic, affecting more than just the families living at or below the poverty line. Food insecurity has emerged as a defined reality for hundreds of thousands Americans who cannot keep food on the table. The Food Bank works every day to nourish people while building solutions to hunger through programming and partnerships, empowering North Carolina communities to thrive.

Counties served: Greene, Lenoir, Pitt, Edgecombe, and Wilson

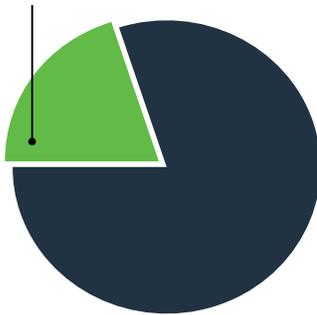
### THE NEED Total population<sup>1</sup>: 390,888

Food insecurity <sup>1</sup>	
Number of people who are food insecure	79,340
Percentage of people who are food insecure	20.2%
Children under 18 who are food insecure	20,640
Percentage of children under 18 who are food insecure	24%
Individuals over 65 who are living below the poverty level <sup>2</sup>	6,596

Hunger <sup>3</sup>	
Number of children receiving free/reduced school meals	40,528
Percentage of children receiving free/reduced school meals	51.9%
Unemployment <sup>4</sup>	
Percentage unemployment June 2019	5.6%

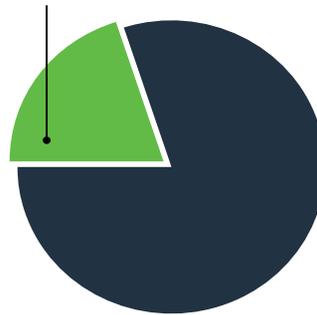
**20.2%**

79,340 people are food insecure in the Greenville service area.



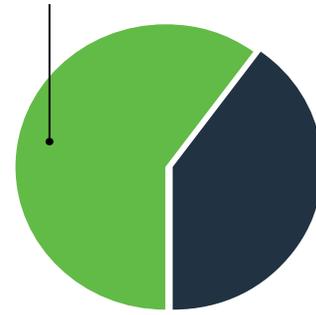
**24%**

20,640 children under 18 are food insecure in the Greenville service area.



**51.9%**

40,528 children receiving free/reduced school meals in the Greenville service area.



### ADDRESSING NEEDS

Total lbs. of food distributed by the Food Bank in 2018-2019	82 million lbs.
Total meals provided from this branch	5,331,076 meals
Total lbs. of food distributed from this branch	6,397,291 lbs.

### TOP AGENCIES

The Anointed Ones Church  
Christian Fellowship Homes  
Churches Outreach Network

Kennedy Baptist Children's Home  
You Need Help Outreach



<sup>1</sup>Feeding America Map the Meal Gap 2016  
<sup>2</sup>files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/documents/files/NC%20County%20Aging%20Profiles%202016.pdf  
<sup>3</sup>dpi.state.nc.us/docs/fbs/resources/data/freereduced/2016-17/freereduced.xlsx  
<sup>4</sup>ncommerce.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=041CGg7cPHs%3D&tabid=1849&mid=4733

Figure P: Greenville Branch Profile



Plate 12: Inside of *Community Lunch* package.



Plate 13: Donation Bowls packaged and ready for delivery.

## Outcomes

This particular project was a positive learning experience. I alone could not donate to the cause, but it was the collective effort of the community I am a part of re-posting, commenting, tagging, and donating that enabled us to donate \$1,100 to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. This amounts to 5,500 meals at the Greenville Branch. The website continues to be online for an additional month to accumulate more sales. This shows me that people are willing and wanting to find ways to help each other out at whatever capacity they can even when they may be struggling or adjusting themselves.

## Reflection

By altering this project and taking it online, I have learned a lot about staying connected via cyber avenues. I realized that virtual relations can have a positive impact and are a part of our future. It is a way to stay connected with others who may no longer be a direct part of your community and it provides a much larger scope to reach out to. In doing the videos to promote the donation bowls, my daughter Grace was very excited to be a part of them and this made me question at what capacity will technology will be used for in the future. Because of the pandemic, social distancing, and the Stay at Home Mandate, using different apps on the phone were ways to keep in touch with distant family and friends. This was challenging for me because I felt distracted by the phone and computer in my daily home interactions trying to keep up with

postings, the website, and donations. I will continue to try and find a balance that works for my family's wellbeing and work routines.

I also concluded that engaging with other people can be hard and awkward. Strangely, I felt a slight relief when I found out the event was canceled. Being put into new and unfamiliar situations can cause anxiety. Sometimes having the comfort of your home to connect with someone online can be a much easier way to start a conversation that can lead to a face to face interaction. While I know these ideas have been known, tested, and accepted worldwide, I still want to hold onto face to face interaction and connections. I believe that there has to be a balance.

## CONCLUSION

In the beginning of March, the outbreak of COVID-19 greatly affected my routine in ways I could not have imagined. This has changed my life, how people participate in the community, and how we engage with each other. My life shifted from going to school, seeing other people, and actively engaging within the community to the complete opposite. Most of my communication with others is now limited to cell phones, video chats, and emails. The choice to physically feel and touch others and objects without fear has been taken away. This raises questions about our mental health and our senses. While the internet provides us with ways of communicating and connecting, it changes how we engage and participate in the community.

For me, this was especially challenging because the constant attachment to the cell phone or computer was what I was trying to avoid. This is what triggered the work, *A Collective, Working Towards a Better Place*. I wanted to revisit and look at ways in which I built relationships and in turn strengthen the communities I am a part of. I do not want my family, friends, or other people to think whatever is happening on the screen is more important than engaging with them.

We continue to learn and persevere through these unknown times of COVID -19 outbreak.

Continuing to stay connected through the internet will contribute to our resources and knowledge to create strong communities. I am thankful and lucky to have such an amazing community of people to be with online and in person.

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## Appendix A

### Wood Fire Kiln and Process

Firing with wood is one of the oldest methods of firing pots. As cultures have advanced and changed, so have our methods of firing and preparation. We now have the convenience of speed, readiness, and choices. Despite these advancements, I still feel connected to wood firing because, above all other firing methods, it allows me the greatest degree of participation in the process. This includes sourcing and processing the wood, stacking and loading the kiln, and contributing to the firing.

The wood kiln at ECU is a variation of an Anagama. There are three tiers within the kiln to fill with pots. For the last two firings I was able to stack the kiln with the help of other students and participants. This was crucial for me because it allowed me to see exactly how and where pots were going in the kiln. Unloading the kiln, I was able to see how the flame and heat affected the work to create the interesting and unique surfaces.

Firing the kiln at ECU required a team of four firing leaders and multiple helpers. We estimated firing for four days: three days to get up to temperature, holding it for 8 hours, and one day of down firing. The four days were split up into six-hour shifts, with one leader being present at each shift.

We chose to finish the firing by using the reduction down-fire method. This is a controlled cooling cycle. After we fired the kiln to peak temperature and held it for 8 hours, we stoked the

fire a final time and closed up any places where air could get into the kiln. This included: the chimney, by pushing the damper in at increments until finally closed; all primary air ports; secondary air ports; mouseholes (ports under the grate to allow air into the coal bed) by bricks, and any cracks were sealed with a wet clay slip mixed with sand to help with shrinking. The door was closed off with bricks but left with a small opening to allow for the insertion of small thin sticks of wood. The side stoke holes were left available to open to add wood as well. Once there was no smoke coming from the kiln, we added sticks until there was smoke again (usually two sticks, depending on size). This is an indication that the kiln is in reduction as it is cooling. When you add the sticks, it makes the temperature drop because you are reducing the amount of oxygen in the kiln. We looked for the temperature to rise again at a consistent rate (watching the pyrometer) or no smoke coming from kiln. Then we added more sticks (once we added the sticks, it coincided with a temperature drop). We maintained the cycle of down-fire cooling until we reached 1400 degrees F.

## Clay

I chose to work with NC wild clay, the Dark Star clay body from Star, NC. In a conversation with Takuro Shibata, I found out this clay is a combination of clay materials and local clays from the Star area that produces this iron rich clay body, named Dark Star. Clay samples are sent to Duke University to test for lead and safety for handling. Each of their clay bodies has received the nontoxic seal (Shibata 2020). From various test firings, I found in an oxidized firing (where there is more oxygen present in the firing) the clay becomes a brick red color but if the firing is

reduced (starving the kiln of oxygen to force the iron particles to the surface of the wares) can produce deep shades of burgundy, purples, grays, and black.

## Firing log

Hour	Time	FrontTop	Back Top	Back Mid	Chimney
1	6:15am	116	100		Fire
2	7:00	156	134		77 Fire
3	8:00	199	167		97 Fire
4	9:00	298	247	123	217 closed off back, moved fire in
5	10:00	289	252	152	147
6	11:00	306	261	160	121
7	12:00pm	287	268	177	103
8	1:00	308	273	174	95
9	2:00	398	321	186	93
10	3:00	470	413	243	96
11	4:00	522	460	284	101 Blocked top primary air
12	5:00	552	486	306	104
13	6:00	521	483	325	107
14	7:00	605	580	360	107
15	8:00	684	609	398	110
16	9:00	747	642	415	112
17	10:00	827	729	465	117
18	11:00	822	743	493	121
19	12:00am	874	754	500	122
20	1:00	980	836	531	127
21	2:00	1032	867	563	134 All ports on left side closed at this point
22	3:00	1050	905	602	143
23	4:00	1128	966	637	149
24	5:00	1150	1002	696	156
25	6:00	1214	1070	752	170
26	7:00	1286	1126	798	182
27	8:00	1372	1192	857.8	193
28	9:00	1477	1261	904	210
29	10:00	1589	1365	1005	239 bottom cone 010, 09, 08 down start body redux: close all ports
30	11:00	1818	1467	1107	223 started side stoking out of BR: open up 3 bottom primary and center
31	12:00pm	1690	1520	1237	287 middle kiln, cone 010 down
32	1:00	1637	1540	1336	324 middle kiln, cone 09 down
33	2:00	1725	1587	1419	349
34	3:00	1773	1645	1521	402
35	4:00	1796	1689	1591	426 back kiln, cone 010 down, 09 half, 08 soft
36	5:00	1810	1723	1692	476 back kiln, 07 bending, front 4 bending
37	6:00	1805	1732	1701	524
38	7:00	1779	1705	1701	524 passives out, pot pushed in side stoke, stopped side stoking to let coals burn down
39	8:00	1815	1783	1666	555
40	9:00	1886	1812	1678	595
41	10:00	1917	1832	1769	587
42	11:00	1863	1841	1839	608 11:30: cone 6 halfway middle front, plugged up center primary
43	12:00am	1850	1836	1914	610 12:15: only three bottom primary ports open, try to stall front, heat back 12:45: opened up two more secondary air ports, four open ;
44	1:00	1872	185	1930	559
45	2:00	1843	1843	1960	646
46	3:00	1942	1885	1963	719 cone 4 down front bottom, 4 halway at middle front
47	4:00	1982	1924	1975	720 4:15: cone 4 down front middle, soft on top
48	5:00	2023	1953	2005	
49	6:00	2023	1979	2033	737 cone 8 down front bottom, cone 6 down front middle
50	7:00	2024	1980	1994	717 closed two primary air
51	8:00	2062	1992	1974	682
52	9:00	2068	1998	2006	700

53	10:00				
54	11:00	2089	2034	2011	754
55	12:00pm	2135	2052	225	838 12:45: open up one passive on right side, closed off primary air
56	1:00	2082	2052	2037	712 open up one primary
57	2:20	2036	2023	2080	776 Cone 6 down in back, 8 soft 2:50: open up left passive
58	3:00	2011	2005	2056	987
59	4:00	1999	2005	2030	942 Cone 9 soft (not sure where), put right passive in
60	5:00	2029	1994	200	900 Cone 09 soft in back
61	6:00	1962	1973	1960	942
62	7:00	1950	1955	1957	920
63	8:00	1944	1944	1920	878
64	9:00	1968	1948	1939	917
65	10:00	1933	1955	1980	947
66	11:00	1961	1960	2020	972
67	12:00am	1945	1946	1969	779
68	1:00	1954	1946	1969	861 1:30: put in all passives and the front is looking more glossy
69	2:00	1930	1942	1998	790
70	3:00	1931	1937	1955	783 back starting to get shinny
71	4:00	1987	1955	1960	815 pulled two middle passives, accidently dropped a brick in fire box
72	5:00	1990	1952	1934	763
73	6:00	1996	1958	1937	725 plugged up passives, opened up rest of bottom row primary air
74	6:45	2100	Final St	closed up all all peeps and openings, slow and gentle to close in damper, made super tight with adding another damper ontop.	
75					
76	8:00	1911	1919	1880	828 down fire 1-2 pieces of wood
77	9:00	1862	1865	1833	816
78	10:00	1834	1830	1780	791
79	11:00	1784	1784	1752	778
80	12:00pm	1991	1778	1714	783 Too much wood, spiked temp?
81	1:00	1725	1724	1670	755
82	2:00	1684	1680	1631	737
83	3:00	1651	1637	1584	713
84	4:00	1600	1595	1540	695
85	5:00	1558	1555	1502	666
86	6:00	1515	1513	1456	649
87	7:00	1466	1476	1420	629
88	8:00	1410	1412	1389	610

## Appendix B

### Stone Soup Story

There are many variations of the story of Stone Soup, but the core idea stays the same, that people come together to create a better place. This version of the story I liked best. It is from a Montessori school.

**The story of Stone Soup:** On a cold winter day, a hungry traveler came to a village and knocked on each door to see if anyone had a morsel of food to spare. Each household told the traveler the same frustrated response, they were hungry also and barely had enough food to feed the family.

The traveler went to river to quench his thirst and found a discarded cauldron. He picked it up, built a fire and put a stone in the soup and started stirring it. A curious hungry villager was watching from their window and went over to ask what the traveler was making. They told the villager, “Stone soup, would you like to have some? I have plenty to share.” The villager was puzzled by the generous offer but accepted and went and fetched a carrot from their cupboard to add to the soup.

Another villager came out and also asked what the traveler was doing, and also accepted the invitation to feast on the stone soup. Soon, one by one, all the villagers came out and accepted the invitation and added their small portion to the soup. The stone soup was now full of wonderful savory flavors and everyone gathered around the cauldron and warmed their hands. Everyone started singing and spirits began to lift in anticipation of the nourishment to come.

The entire village feasted on the soup. They all agreed to work together as a village to have many more feasts and never to let anyone go hungry again.

[www.unitedmontessori.com/blog/thanksgiving-classroom-stone-soup/](http://www.unitedmontessori.com/blog/thanksgiving-classroom-stone-soup/)

## Appendix C

### Tteokguk Soup

*Tteokguk*, a sliced rice cake (*tteok*) soup (*guk*), is a traditional Korean soup served during the celebration of the Korean (Lunar) New Year (but is also available to eat throughout the year). In the past, during this time “families would hold a ritual for their ancestors with a table full of traditional food, including *tteokguk*, and always serve it to any visitors on this day who stopped by” (Hyun-chul). Households would use ground rice, steam it, and make it into long thick coils, *garaetteok*. “The white *tteok* signifies purity and cleanliness” (Hyun-chul). Its shape is symbolic, “representing longevity in life” (Hyun-chul). Once sliced at an angle, “the oval shape was representative of coins, wishing for wealth and prosperity” (Hyun-chul). Eating *tteokguk* “represents praying for a good year and adding one more year to a person’s age” (Hyun-chul).

There are slight variations of the soup; the one I grew up with was a clear beef broth soup, made by heating up a little oil and adding the sliced beef, seasonings (salt, pepper, and *hondashi* (a dry soup base), and about four cups of water. After the broth was boiling, my mom would add the *tteok*, and boil till tender (we bought frozen *tteok*). Then she would drop an egg into the pot and mix. She would serve the soup piping hot in a large bowl. It was topped with hand crushed dried seaweed and chopped scallions. I ate this soup a lot, usually for breakfast or lunch. I remember the steam and smells hitting my face and I was always too impatient to wait and would burn my tongue.

## Bowl Design

The design was made with the intent of serving *tteokguk*. The bowls were made out of Dark Star clay, which provides a nice dark backdrop for the sliced rice cakes in the soup to stand out. Not knowing how many people would show up to the *Community Lunch* event, I decided to make a smaller version of the large bowls I remember eating out from when I was a child. I mainly did this because I did not want to be wasteful. People could always come up for seconds, thirds or fourths, rather than waste the soup if they did not like it. I also knew I could make more bowls with a smaller form and therefore could accommodate more people.

The form itself was wide and shallow. The wide shape allowed for the steam and smells to really embrace your face when you go to take a spoonful. The smell is fresh, earthy, and soothing. The sides are shallow, allowing the soup to cool faster. The bowl is designed with a foot so you can hold the bowl from the bottom and the rim without burning yourself.



Plate 14: Bowl for Community Lunch

## Appendix D

### COVID-19 Outbreak and Governor Cooper's Mandate

In January 2020, the news of Coronavirus (COVID-19) affecting people in China began to make headlines around the world. Other countries also confirmed cases of similar symptoms. By the end of January, the World Health Organization declared a global health emergency.

March 13<sup>th</sup>, President Trump declares a national emergency.

March 13<sup>th</sup>, ECU extends Spring Break for another week.

March 15<sup>th</sup>, CDC recommends no gatherings of 50 or more people.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, ECU changed to alternative teaching and course delivery through online resources

April 29<sup>th</sup>, Governor Cooper extends "Stay at Home Order" till May 8<sup>th</sup>.

On March 27, Governor Roy Cooper of North Carolina signed Executive Order 121 (attached below). It was a "Stay at Home Order" starting on March 30, 2020 at 5pm until April 29, 2020. It directed people to stay at home except to visit essential businesses, to exercise outdoors, or to help family members. Specifically, the order bans the gatherings of more than 10 people and directs everyone to physically stay at least 6 feet apart from others.

For more information, please refer to [www.nc.gov/covid-19/covid-19-executive-orders](http://www.nc.gov/covid-19/covid-19-executive-orders).



# State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER  
GOVERNOR

MARCH 27, 2020

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 121

## STAY AT HOME ORDER AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR NORTH CAROLINA IN RESPONSE TO INCREASING COVID-19 CASES

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 116 which declared a State of Emergency to coordinate the State's response and protective actions to address the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) public health emergency and to provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors located in North Carolina ("Declaration of a State of Emergency"); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia pursuant to Section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5207 (the "Stafford Act"); and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States pursuant to Sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. § 1601, *et seq.* and consistent with Section 1135 of the Social Security Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 1320b-5), declared that the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States constitutes a national emergency, retroactive to March 1, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned has issued Executive Order Nos. 117 – 120 for the purposes of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the people of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 25, 2020, the President of the United States, pursuant to Section 401 of the Stafford Act, approved a Major Disaster Declaration, FEMA-4487-DR, for the State of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 27, 2020, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ("NCDHHS") has documented 763 cases of COVID-19 across 60 counties, and has identified the occurrence of widespread community transmission of the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, hospital administrators and health care providers have expressed concerns that unless the spread of COVID-19 is limited, existing health care facilities may be insufficient to care for those who become sick; and

**WHEREAS**, to mitigate community spread of COVID-19 and to reduce the burden on the state's health care providers and facilities, it is necessary to limit unnecessary person-to-person contact in workplaces and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, such limitations on person-to-person contact are reasonably necessary to address the public health risk posed by COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, some areas of the state have seen more rapid and significant spread of COVID-19 than others, and some but not all local authorities have taken steps to address community spread of the illness in their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c)(i), the undersigned has determined that local control of the emergency is insufficient to assure adequate protection for lives and property of North Carolinians because needed control cannot be imposed locally because not all local authorities have enacted such appropriate ordinances or issued such appropriate declarations restricting the operation of businesses and limiting person-to-person contact in workplaces and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c)(ii), the undersigned has determined that local control of the emergency is insufficient to assure adequate protection for lives and property of North Carolinians because some but not all local authorities have taken implementing steps under such ordinances or declarations, if issued, in order to effectuate control over the emergency that has arisen; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c)(iii), the undersigned has determined that local control of the emergency is insufficient to assure adequate protection for lives and property of North Carolinians because the area in which the emergency exists spreads across local jurisdictional boundaries and the legal control measures of the jurisdictions are conflicting or uncoordinated to the extent that efforts to protect life and property are, or unquestionably will be, severely hampered; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c)(iv), the undersigned has determined that local control of the emergency is insufficient to assure adequate protection of lives and property of North Carolinians because the scale of the emergency is so great that it exceeds the capability of local authorities to cope with it; and

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order No. 116 invoked the Emergency Management Act, and authorizes the undersigned to exercise the powers and duties set forth therein to direct and aid in the response to, recovery from, and mitigation against emergencies; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.10(b)(3) authorizes and empowers the undersigned to delegate any gubernatorial vested authority under the Emergency Management Act and to provide for the subdelegation of any authority; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c) in conjunction with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.31(b)(1) authorizes the undersigned to prohibit and restrict the movement of people in public places, including by: (a) imposing a curfew; (b) directing and compelling the voluntary or mandatory evacuation of people from an area; (c) prescribing routes, modes of transportation and destinations in connection with evacuation; (d) controlling the movement of persons within an emergency area; and (e) closing streets, roads, highways, and other areas ordinarily used for vehicular travel, except to the movement of persons necessary for recovery from the emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c) in conjunction with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.31(b)(2) authorizes the undersigned to prohibit and restrict the operation of offices, business establishments and other places to and from which people may travel or at which they may congregate; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(c) in conjunction with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.31(b)(5) authorizes the undersigned to prohibit and restrict activities which may be reasonably necessary to maintain order and protect lives and property during a state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(a)(2), during a Governorially declared State of Emergency, the undersigned has the power to “give such directions to state and local law enforcement officers and agencies as may be reasonable and necessary for the purpose of securing compliance with the provisions of this Article”.

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED:**

**Section 1. Stay at Home**

1. **Stay at home or place of residence.** All individuals currently in the State of North Carolina are ordered to stay at home, their place of residence, or current place of abode, (hereinafter “residence”) except as allowed in this Executive Order. To the extent individuals are using shared or outdoor spaces when outside their residence, they must at all times and as much as reasonably possible, maintain social distancing of at least six (6) feet from any other person, with the exception of family or household members, consistent with the Social Distancing Requirements set forth in this Executive Order. All persons may leave their homes or place of residence only for Essential Activities, Essential Governmental Operations, or to participate in or access COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations, all as defined below.

Individuals experiencing homelessness are exempt from this Executive Order, but are strongly urged to obtain shelter that meets Social Distancing Requirements. Individuals whose residences are unsafe or become unsafe, such as victims of domestic violence, are permitted and urged to leave their home and stay at a safe alternative location.

2. **Prohibited and permitted travel.** Only travel for Essential Activities as defined herein is permitted. People riding on public transit must comply with Social Distancing Requirements to the greatest extent feasible. This Executive Order allows travel into, within, or out of the State to maintain COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations and Minimum Basic Operations.
3. **Leaving the home and travel for Essential Activities is permitted.** For purposes of this Executive Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following Essential Activities:
  - i. **For health and safety.** To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members or persons who are unable to or should not leave their home (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional or veterinarian.
  - ii. **For necessary supplies and services.** To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members or persons who are unable or should not leave their home, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, groceries and food, household consumer products, supplies they need to work from home, automobile supplies (including sales, parts, supplies, repair and maintenance), and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences or places of employment.
  - iii. **For outdoor activity.** To engage in outdoor activity, provided individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements and Mass Gatherings, as defined below, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running, golfing, or biking. Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas. However, public playground equipment may increase spread of COVID-19, and therefore shall be closed. These activities are subject to the limitations on events or convenings in Section 3 of this Executive Order.

- iv. **For certain types of work.** To perform work at businesses authorized to remain open under Section 2 of this Executive Order (which, as defined below, includes Healthcare and Public Health Operations, Human Services Operations, Essential Governmental Operations, and Essential Infrastructure Operations) or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Executive Order, including Minimum Basic Operations.
- v. **To take care of others.** To care for or assist a family member, friend, or pet in another household, and to transport family members, friends, or pets as allowed by this Executive Order. This includes attending weddings and funerals provided individuals comply with Social Distancing Requirements and Mass Gatherings as set forth below.
- vi. **Place of worship.** Travel to and from a place of worship.
- vii. **To receive goods and services.** To receive goods and services provided by a COVID-19 Essential Business or Operation.
- viii. **Place of residence.** To return to or travel between one's place or places of residence for purposes including, but not limited to, child custody or visitation arrangements.
- ix. **Volunteering.** To volunteer with organizations that provide charitable and social services.

**Section 2. COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations**

In order to slow the spread of COVID-19, it is necessary to reduce the instances where individuals interact with one another in a manner inconsistent with the Social Distancing Requirements set forth below. Many of those interactions occur at work. At the same time, it is necessary that certain businesses, essential to the response to COVID-19, to the infrastructure of the State and nation, and to the day-to-day life of North Carolinians, remain open.

- A. In light of the above considerations, non-essential business and operations must cease. All businesses and operations in the State, except COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations as defined below, are required to cease all activities within the State except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined below. For clarity, businesses, including home-based businesses, may also continue operations consisting exclusively of employees or contractors performing activities at their own residences (i.e., working from home).
- B. All COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations are directed, to the maximum extent possible, to direct employees to work from home or telework.
- C. For purposes of this Executive Order, a COVID-19 Essential Business and Operation includes the following businesses, not-for-profit organizations and educational institutions.
  - 1. **Businesses that meet Social Distancing Requirements.** Businesses, not-for-profit organizations or educational institutions that conduct operations while maintaining Social Distancing Requirements:
    - a. Between and among its employees; and
    - b. Between and among employees and customers except at the point of sale or purchase.

2. **Businesses operating in CISA identified sectors.** Businesses, not-for-profit organizations or educational institutions operating in the federal critical infrastructure sectors as outlined at <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19> or any subsequent guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that amends or replaces said guidance.

3. **Healthcare and Public Health Operations.** Healthcare and Public Health Operations includes, but is not limited to: hospitals; clinics; dental offices; pharmacies; laboratories and laboratory service providers; public health entities, including those that compile, model, analyze and communicate public health information; pharmaceutical, pharmacy, medical device and equipment, and biotechnology and agricultural biotechnology companies (including operations, research and development, manufacture, and supply chain); organizations collecting blood, platelets, plasma, and other necessary materials; obstetricians and gynecologists; eye care centers, including those that sell glasses and contact lenses; dietary supplement retailers; naturopathic healthcare providers; home healthcare services providers; local management entities/managed care organizations (LME/MCO); mental health and substance use providers; other healthcare facilities and suppliers and providers of any related and/or ancillary healthcare services; and entities that transport and dispose of medical materials and remains.

Specifically included in Healthcare and Public Health Operations are manufacturers, technicians, logistics, and warehouse operators and distributors of medical equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), medical gases, pharmaceuticals, blood and blood products, vaccines, testing materials, laboratory supplies, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting or sterilization supplies, and tissue and paper towel products.

Healthcare and Public Health Operations also includes veterinary care and all healthcare services provided to animals.

Healthcare and Public Health Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of healthcare, or public health operations broadly defined. Healthcare and Public Health Operations does not include those businesses ordered to close by Executive Order No. 120.

4. **Human Services Operations.** Human Services Operations includes, but is not limited to: long-term care facilities; child care centers, family child care homes; residential settings and shelters for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness; transitional facilities; home-based settings to provide services to individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, seniors, adults, and children; field offices that provide and help to determine eligibility for basic needs, including food, cash assistance, medical coverage, child care, child support services, vocational services, rehabilitation services; developmental centers; adoption agencies; businesses that provide food, shelter, social services, transportation and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals, individuals with physical, intellectual, and/or developmental disabilities, or otherwise needy individuals.

Human Services Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to the delivery of human services, broadly defined.

5. **Essential Infrastructure Operations.** Essential Infrastructure Operations includes, but is not limited to: food and beverage production, distribution, fulfillment centers, storage facilities; construction (including, but not limited to, construction required in response to this public health emergency, hospital construction, construction of long term care facilities, public works construction, school construction, and essential commercial and housing construction); building and grounds management and maintenance including landscaping; airport operations; operation and maintenance of utilities, including water, sewer, and gas; electrical (including power generation, distribution, and production of raw materials); distribution centers; oil and biofuel refining; roads, highways, railroads, and public transportation; ports; cybersecurity operations; flood control; solid waste and recycling collection and removal; and internet, video and telecommunications systems (including the provision of essential global, national and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

(including the provision of essential global, national and local infrastructure for computing services, business infrastructure, communications, and web-based services).

Essential Infrastructure Operations shall be construed broadly to avoid any impacts to essential infrastructure, broadly defined.

6. **Essential Governmental Operations.** Essential Governmental Operations means all services provided by the State or any municipality, township, county, political subdivision, board, commission or agency of government and needed to ensure the continuing operation of the government agencies or to provide for or support the health, safety and welfare of the public, and including contractors performing Essential Governmental Operations. Each government body shall determine its Essential Governmental Operations and identify employees and/or contractors necessary to the performance of those functions.

For purposes of this Executive Order, all first responders, emergency management personnel, emergency dispatchers, legislators, judges, court personnel, jurors and grand jurors, law enforcement and corrections personnel, hazardous materials responders, child protection and child welfare personnel, housing and shelter personnel, military, and other governmental employees working for or to support COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations are categorically exempt from this Executive Order.

This Executive Order does not apply to the United States government. Nothing in this Executive Order shall prohibit any individual from performing or accessing Essential Governmental Operations. Nothing in this Executive Order rescinds, amends, or otherwise modifies Section 2 of Executive Order No. 120.

7. **Stores that sell groceries and medicine.** Grocery stores, pharmacies, certified farmers' markets, farm and produce stands, supermarkets, convenience stores, and other establishments engaged in the retail sale of groceries, canned food, dry goods, frozen foods, fresh fruits and vegetables, pet supplies, fresh meats, fish, and poultry, prepared food, alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages, any other household consumer products (such as cleaning and personal care products), and specifically includes their supply chain and administrative support operations. This includes stores that sell groceries, medicine, including medication not requiring a medical prescription, and also that sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations.
8. **Food, beverage production and agriculture.** Food and beverage manufacturing, production, processing, and cultivation, including farming, livestock, fishing, forestry, baking, and other production agriculture, including cultivation, marketing, production, and distribution of animals and goods for consumption; and businesses that provide food, shelter, services and other necessities of life for animals, including animal shelters, rescues, shelters, kennels, and adoption facilities.
9. **Organizations that provide charitable and social services.** Businesses as well as religious and secular not-for-profit organizations, including food banks, when providing food, shelter, social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, individuals who need assistance as a result of this emergency, and people with disabilities.
10. **Religious entities.** Religious facilities, entities, groups, gatherings, including funerals. Also, services, counseling, pastoral care, and other activities provided by religious organizations to the members of their faith community. All of these functions are subject to the limitations on events or convenings in Section 3 of this Executive Order.
11. **Media.** Newspapers, television, radio, film, and other media services.
12. **Gas stations and businesses needed for transportation.** Gas stations and auto supply, sales, tire, auto-repair, roadside assistance and towing services, farm equipment, construction equipment, boat repair, and related facilities and bicycle shops and related facilities.

13. **Financial and insurance institutions.** Bank, currency exchanges, consumer lenders, including but not limited to, pawnbrokers, consumer installment lenders and sales finance lenders, credit unions, appraisers, title companies, financial markets, trading and futures exchanges, affiliates of financial institutions, entities that issue bonds, related financial institutions, and institutions selling financial products. Also insurance companies, underwriters, agents, brokers, and related insurance claims and agency services.
14. **Home improvement, hardware and supply stores.** Home improvement, building supply, hardware stores, and businesses that sell building materials and supplies, electrical, plumbing, and heating materials.
15. **Critical trades.** Building and construction tradesmen and tradeswomen, and other trades, including but not limited to, plumbers, electricians, exterminators, cleaning and janitorial staff for commercial and governmental properties, security staff, operating engineers, HVAC, painting, cleaning services, moving and relocation services, landscaping and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences and COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations. This includes organizations that represent employees.
16. **Mail, post, shipping, logistics, delivery, and pick-up services.** Post offices and other businesses that provide shipping and delivery services, and businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, goods, vehicles or services to end users or through commercial channels.
17. **Educational institutions.** Educational institutions including public and private pre-K-12 schools, colleges, and universities for purposes of facilitating remote learning, performing critical research, or performing essential functions, provided that the Social Distancing Requirements set forth below of this Executive Order are maintained to the greatest extent possible. This Executive Order is consistent with and does not amend or supersede prior Executive Orders regarding the closure of public schools.
18. **Laundry services.** Laundromats, dry cleaners, industrial laundry services, and laundry service providers.
19. **Restaurants for consumption off-premises.** Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, but only for consumption off-premises, through such means as in-house delivery, third-party delivery, drive-through, curbside pick-up, and carry-out. Schools and other entities that provide free food services to students or members of the public may continue to do so under this Executive Order when the food is provided for carry-out, drive-through or delivery. This Executive Order is consistent with and does not amend or supersede prior COVID-19 related Executive Orders restricting the operations of restaurants and temporarily closing bars.
20. **Supplies to work from home.** Businesses that sell, manufacture, or supply office supply products or other products needed for people to work from home.
21. **Supplies for COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations.** Businesses that sell, manufacture, support, or supply other COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations with the service or materials necessary to operate, including computers, audio and video electronics, household appliances; payroll processing and related services; IT and telecommunication equipment; elections personnel and election-related equipment supplies; hardware, paint, flat glass, electrical, plumbing and heating material; sanitary equipment; personal hygiene products; food, food additives, ingredients and components; medical and orthopedic equipment; optics and photography equipment; and diagnostics, food and beverages, chemicals, soaps and detergent.
22. **Transportation.** Airlines, taxis, automobile dealers, transportation network providers (such as Uber and Lyft), vehicle rental services, paratransit, trains, marinas, docks, boat storage, and other private, public, and commercial transportation and logistics providers, and public transportation necessary to access COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations.

23. **Home-based care and services.** Home-based care for adults, seniors, children, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness, including caregivers such as nannies who may travel to the child's home to provide care, and other in-home services including meal delivery.
24. **Residential facilities and shelters.** Residential facilities and shelters for adults, seniors, children, pets, and/or people with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, victims of domestic violence, people experiencing homelessness, substance use disorders, and/or mental illness.
25. **Professional services.** Professional services, such as legal services, accounting services, insurance services, professional engineering and architectural services, land surveying services, real estate services (including brokerage, appraisal and title services) and tax preparation services.
26. **Manufacture, distribution, and supply chain for critical products and industries.** Manufacturing companies, distributors, and supply chain companies producing and supplying essential products and services in and for industries such as pharmaceutical, technology, biotechnology, healthcare, chemicals and sanitization, waste pickup and disposal, agriculture, food and beverage, transportation, energy, steel and steel products, petroleum and fuel, mining, construction, communications, as well as products used or commonly sold by other COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations.
27. **Defense and military contractors.** Defense and military contractors that develop products, processes, equipment, technology, and related services that serve the United States military, national defense, and national security interests.
28. **Hotels and motels.** Hotels and motels, to the extent used for lodging and delivery or carry-out food services.
29. **Funeral Services.** Funeral, mortuary, cremation, burial, cemetery, and related services. These services are subject to the limitations on events or convenings in Section 3 of this Executive Order.
30. **Additional COVID-19 Essential Retail Businesses.** Additional COVID-19 Essential Retail Businesses are:
  - Electronic retailers that sell or service cell phones, computers, tablets, and other communications technology;
  - Lawn and garden equipment retailers;
  - Book stores that sell educational material;
  - Beer, wine, and liquor stores;
  - Retail functions of gas stations and convenience stores;
  - Retail located within healthcare facilities;
  - Pet and feed stores.

D. All COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations shall, to the extent practicable, maintain the Social Distancing Requirements set forth in this Executive Order.

E. "Social Distancing Requirements" as used in this Executive Order means:

- a. maintaining at least six (6) feet distancing from other individuals;
- b. washing hands using soap and water for at least twenty (20) seconds as frequently as possible or the use of hand sanitizer;
- c. regularly cleaning high-touch surfaces;
- d. facilitating online or remote access by customers if possible.

- F. Businesses excluded from the list of COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations set forth in this Executive Order who believe that they may be essential may direct requests to be included to the North Carolina Department of Revenue (the "Department"). The Department may grant such request if it determines that it is in the best interest of the State to have the business continue operations in order to properly respond to this COVID-19 pandemic. The Department shall post on its website a point of contact and procedure for businesses seeking to be designated as essential. A business that has made a request to the Department to be included as a COVID-19 Essential Business or Operation may continue to operate until that request is acted upon.
- G. Businesses that are not COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations are required to cease all activities within the State except Minimum Basic Operations, as defined below. Businesses that are not COVID-19 Essential Businesses and Operations should comply with Social Distancing Requirements, to the maximum extent possible, when carrying out their Minimum Basic Operations.
- As used in this Executive Order, "Minimum Basic Operations" include the following:
- i) The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, preserve the condition of the business's physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or related functions.
  - ii) The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.
- H. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Executive Order, the businesses, not-for-profit organizations and educational institutions that were ordered closed by Executive Order Nos. 118 and 120 shall remain closed.

### **Section 3. Mass Gatherings**

For the reasons and pursuant to the authority set forth above:

A. Section 1(a) of Executive Order Nos. 117 and 120 is rescinded and replaced as follows:

1. A mass gathering is defined as any event or convening that brings together more than ten (10) persons in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, or any other confined indoor or outdoor space. This includes parades, fairs and festivals.
2. A mass gathering does not include normal operations at airports, bus and train stations, medical facilities, libraries, shopping malls and centers. It also does not include any COVID-19 Essential Business or Operation as defined in this Executive Order.
3. Notwithstanding the above, and in an effort to promote human dignity and limit suffering, funerals are permitted to include no more than fifty (50) persons, while observing Social Distancing Requirements to the extent practicable.
4. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 166A-19.30(a)(2), -19.30(c) the provisions of this section shall be enforced by state and local law enforcement officers.

The remainder of Executive Order Nos. 117 and 120 continue to be in effect.

### **Section 4. Local Orders**

A. The undersigned recognizes that the impact of COVID-19 has been and will likely continue to be different in different parts of North Carolina. Urban areas have seen more rapid and significant spread than most rural areas of the state. As such, the undersigned acknowledges that counties and cities may deem it necessary to adopt ordinances and issue state of emergency declarations which impose restrictions or prohibitions to the extent authorized under North Carolina law, such as on the activity of people and businesses, to a greater degree than in this

Executive Order. To that end, nothing herein is intended to limit or prohibit counties and cities in North Carolina from enacting ordinances and issuing state of emergency declarations which impose greater restrictions or prohibitions to the extent authorized under North Carolina law.

- B. Notwithstanding the language in paragraph (A) of this Section, no county or city ordinance or declaration shall have the effect of restricting or prohibiting COVID-19 Essential Governmental Operations of the State as determined by the State.
- C. Nothing in this Executive Order rescinds, amends, or otherwise modifies Section 2 of Executive Order No. 120.

**Section 5. Savings Clause**

If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, this invalidity does not affect any other provision or application of this Executive Order, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are declared to be severable.

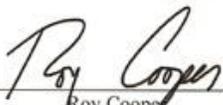
**Section 6. Enforcement**

- A. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(a)(2), the provisions of this Executive Order shall be enforced by state and local law enforcement officers.
- B. A violation of this Executive Order may be subject to prosecution pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(d), and is punishable as a Class 2 misdemeanor in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-288.20A.
- C. Nothing in this Executive Order shall be construed to preempt or overrule a court order regarding an individual's conduct (e.g., a Domestic Violence Protection Order or similar orders limiting an individual's access to a particular place).

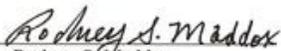
**Section 7. Effective Date**

This Executive Order is effective Monday, March 30, 2020, at 5:00pm, and shall remain in effect for thirty (30) days from that date or unless repealed, replaced, or rescinded by another applicable Executive Order. An Executive Order rescinding the Declaration of the State of Emergency will automatically rescind this Executive Order.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roy Cooper  
Governor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rodney S. Maddox  
Chief Deputy Secretary of State



