“A great community effort. I love the affirmations on the wall and I am happy that my great grand daughter was able to participate in the mural. What a great experience for a 6 year old!”

- Glenwood Resident
Over the summer, we at the CC-ED have been working on a mural painted on the side of the RIZ Mart in Glenwood at the corner of Glenwood Ave. and Grove Street. Greg Porter, the owner of the building, contacted Travis Hicks (CC-ED Director) about creating a mural for the building’s north wall in 2013.

With UNCG faculty Chris Thomas, Stoel Burrowes, Tommy Lambeth, and Hicks, the Art and Interior Architecture (IARc) departments came together to work on a design for the mural. CC-ED member Joy Troyer was a key collaborator in this project. She took part in Glenwood’s neighborhood holiday bazaar in December 2013 and gathered community feedback. She invited members of the community to contribute ideas of what they would like to paint on the wall. Over the course of the spring 2014 semester, over 100 Art and IARc students at UNCG took part in charrettes to further the design. Combined with information gathered from meetings with the Greater Glenwood Neighborhood Association, the CC-ED worked to make the mural a reality.

This summer we refined the design based on the idea of a bicycle path throughout Glenwood and Greensboro. That idea was contributed by a young Glenwood resident in a sketch. Elizabeth Leonard and Anuj Patel took the reins on this project and began developing variations of the initial sketch. After deciding on the final design, we along with children from Morning Star Academy, Hope Academy, and residents of Glenwood worked hard to execute the mural.

Funding from Avery Dennison and the donation of paint by Sherwin Williams were instrumental in the success of the mural, for which there was a ribbon cutting on July 25. YES! Weekly, WFMY, and WXII covered the mural and the event that was attended by over 100 people. A diverse group of people cut the ribbon to mark the completion of this community-engaged project.

Did You Know?
Over 100 people collaborated on the design and execution of the Glenwood Grove mural.

Tiny Houses @ the IRC
by Natalie Johnson

Tiny houses are popping up all over America and all over the world. Most people have chosen this way of life to simplify, but here in Greensboro there is a group of people who see it as a way to improve their lives forever. Every Thursday at 2:00pm in the conference room of the Interactive Resource Center, I meet with this group. At the CC-ED we have been doing research on what it would cost to build a model in the next year. We are working on connecting with other groups to make this project a reality.

The Servant Center
by Natalie Johnson

The Servant Center is nestled in heart of Glenwood. It works with disabled veterans to help them with their medical needs and help them find work. They have a few buildings that are falling apart and are hopefully going to be replaced by a new administrative center. The CC-ED’s part in this new build is to help them program what they will need in the new space. We are getting certification to survey people, then we will begin work during the upcoming semester.
GreenHill Artquest has reached out to the CC-ED to help redesign a transitional space that can be used for multiple purposes and age groups at GreenHill. While GreenHill itself was founded in 1974, Artquest wasn’t envisioned until 1992 and was not open to the public until 1996. According to GreenHill’s website, their goal was to create a space “where families and children can become engaged in the process of creating and learning through art.”

CC-ED members Tuan Vo, Rebecca Hale, and Angela Glorio have taken on this project and the three of them created individual design options for the space. Together, they have been working with Artquest to determine the most efficient design strategies based on the studio’s expressed needs and desires. One of the most important aspects of the design options is creating a way to redirect people when they enter the space. Having had our first critique, we’ve been given feedback on how to improve our designs and will continue to improve them for the final critique on August 1.

On a hot May afternoon we met for the first time in the new space for the Center for Community-Engaged Design. The space was plain with white walls and dirty floors...a blank canvas. We talked about what needed to be done so we could start making the space our own. Individually we came up with ideas about what we wanted to do with the space. Then as a group we shared our ideas and chose aspects that we liked from various schemes. From there we made several lists of what needed to be done and how we would accomplish each task.

The next week we got some materials and began patching the walls from where there had been partitions so that we could paint the space. Once patching was complete we began painting the space, first taping off accent areas and stripes. By the fourth week of work the painting was done, and then we had to clean up the floors. It took us two days of scrubbing to get all the goo off the floors, but once it was done we set up the tables and settled in. Overall the bulk of the work took about a month, although over the past two months we have added more details to the space, like some lovely donated blue chairs and a few shelves from Ikea.

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Thank you for reading this first issue of community design MATTERS, the newsletter of the Center for Community-Engaged Design. Over the summer I have been fortunate to work with eleven UNCG Interior Architecture students (pictured here) through the CC-ED. The first assignment of the summer was to work on the CC-ED storefront at 842-B W. Lee Street. Students came up with designs for the space and then spent a few weeks to clean, paint, and furnish the space. While there is still work to be done on the CC-ED’s storefront space, the space has been functional for the past two months. As soon as students had tables, chairs, and meeting spaces, they began to take on a variety of projects in and around Greensboro.

These students and I have identified a number of community partners and community-engaged projects for the CC-ED. Students have already worked on projects with the Interactive Resource Center, The Servant Center, GreenHill, Community Housing Solutions, Cottage Grove Initiative, and in the Glenwood neighborhood. The CC-ED completed the Glenwood Grove Mural project on July 25, thanks to collaboration of, and assistance from, the following: Avery Dennison, Sherwin Williams, C. Greg Porter, Glenwood Coffee + Books, Glenwood Branch Library, Greater Glenwood Neighborhood Association, Hope Academy, Morning Star Academy, Weaver Academy, RIZ Mart, YES! Weekly, Glenwood is Awesome, UNCG Departments of Art and Interior Architecture faculty and students, UNCG University Relations, and the dozens of people who touched the mural with their hands, hearts, time, talents, words, encouragement, and support.

I invite you to consider how you or your organization might become involved in our community-engaged work. The CC-ED could benefit from your advice and wisdom, community expertise, resources, time, energy, or all the above. If you would like more details, contact me at tlhicks@uncg.edu. Find out about future CC-ED events on our facebook page. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Travis Hicks, Director • Center for Community-Engaged Design
Assistant Professor • Department of Interior Architecture • UNCG