

2020

YEAR IN REVIEW

HERE'S OUR YEAR IN REVIEW HIGHLIGHTING
HOW OUR COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS MADE
US READY TO RESPOND IN 2020 AND
COLLECTIVELY CONTINUE OUR RESILIENT
PLACE-BASED WORK WHILE REFLECTING
ON RACIAL EQUITY AND ULTIMATELY
REMEMBERING THAT THE SUCCESS OF
THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS DRIVEN BY THE
PASSION, PRIDE, AND HARD WORK
OF THE NEIGHBORS THEMSELVES.



READY

We began 2020 ready to get things done together. We were spending a lot of time with our young creative neighborhood experts at Hardy Elementary in their art class designing a cleaner, safer, and more inviting intersection at Dodson and Glass Street.

Community power sharing was on display at the first community-led meeting (**Good Neighbor Network**)* of the year, setting the tone and revving our engines as we looked at each other's focus areas to offer support where needed.

We had no idea what our year was actually going to look like and how the bonds in the room on a cold night in February would be strengthened.



*Throughout this review click on **bold snippets of text** to navigate directly to corresponding pages of content.

RESPOND

As COVID-19 entered our city, we decided we could still use our art-driven processes to keep our community connected during a season of social distancing and isolation.

We quickly got to work! Although we weren't spending much time in the office, we managed to virtually connect. We started a weekly **East Chattanooga Meet + Eat Zoom** inviting stakeholders and residents to share resources and support one another.

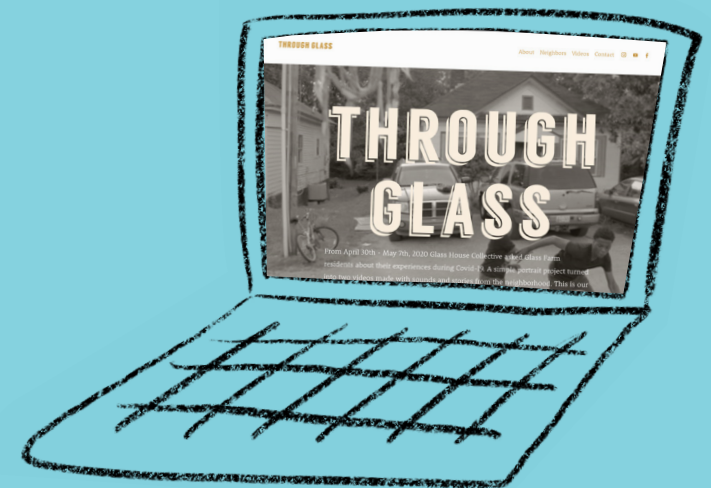
We found a way to continue supporting Hardy Elementary through the arts. We created an **Art Anywhere Kit** in partnership with Art120. Together we raised funds and provided art supplies to 500 students. We also created a free **How-To Guide** for others to replicate.



GHC Creative Strategist, Erika Roberts, jumped online and launched the GHC **Blog Takeover + Reflection** that challenged readers to check in on themselves and also reflect on the state of our country in the midst of two pandemics, one caused by a virus and the other by racial injustice.

When we were all sheltering in place, we utilized the healing power of the arts to connect with our neighbors even from a distance. What began as “Pandemic Portraits”, featuring porch and window portraits of Glass Farm residents, soon turned into a mini documentary, **“Through Glass”**, and its companion visual poem, **“Rhythm Of Life.”**

In the midst of all of the uncertainty and turmoil, we were delighted to brighten up our block with a newly-restored **neon sign** at 2513 North Chamberlain.



RESILIENCE

Our community has been a food desert for decades and in the middle of the pandemic the Save A Lot opened! The long-awaited sidewalk improvements are in place around the Dodson Avenue/Glass Street intersection, and the street trees will be planted soon. This year, we continued to reimagine this shared public space, focusing on connectivity, safety, and beautification.

We kicked off the Glass Street Gateway work with a **Planning By Doing workshop**, in partnership with Chattanooga Design Studio and American Institute of Architects. Teams of residents, artists, architects, and community partners came together (masked, outside, and at a safe distance) to create public design solutions focused on specific community priorities.

The fence near Hardy Elementary now has some bright fence art reminding passersby to slow down. The sidewalk in front of East Chatt Rec Center is now home to an outdoor art gallery as well as sidewalk art promoting pedestrian safety. We are excited to celebrate the installation of an **asphalt mural** and more community-led projects this spring. The new grocery store and permanent and temporary infrastructure improvements exemplify years of community engagement and resident action.



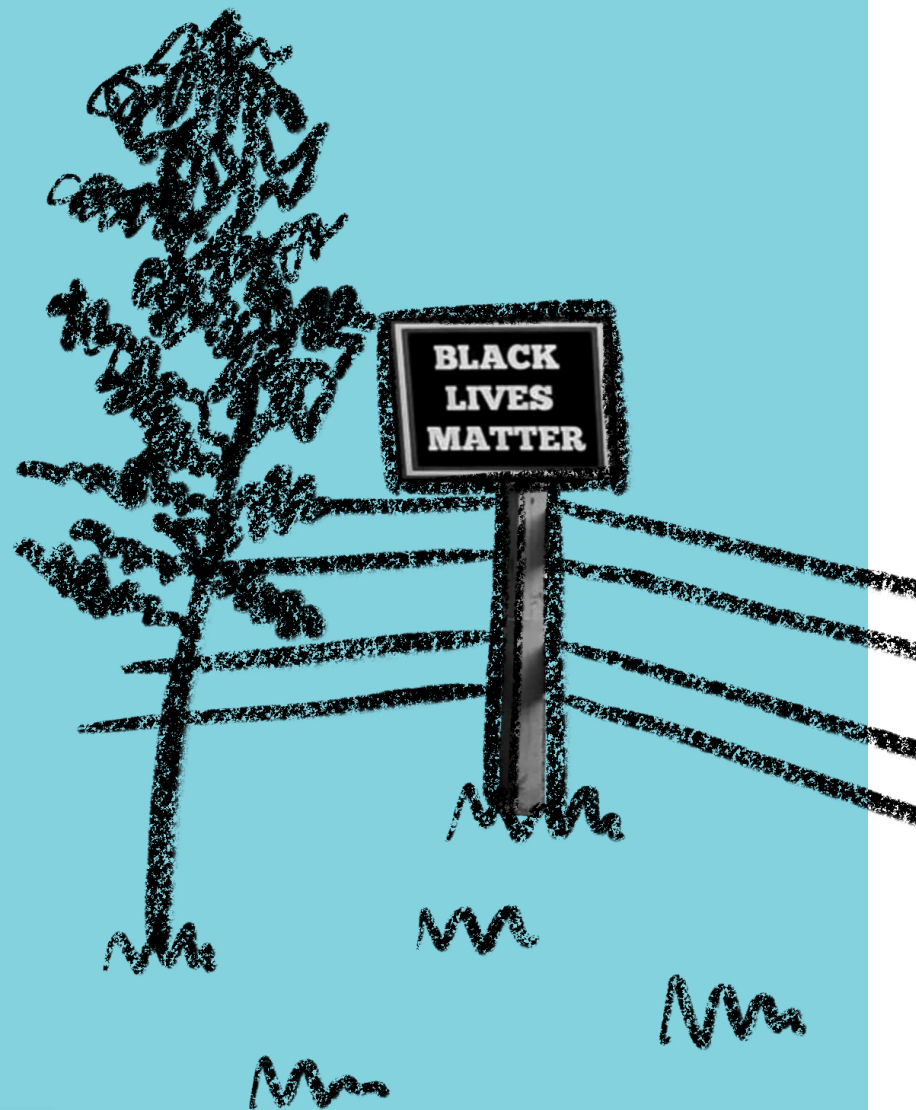
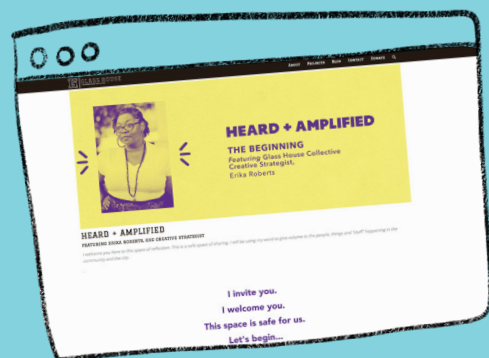
BLACK LIVES MATTER.

PERIOD.

2020 forced us to pause and examine our role and responsibilities in confronting the racial injustices that plague us. Some of us were protesting in the streets while others placed Black Lives Matter signs in their yards. Erika's Takeover + Reflection blog series expanded into **Heard + Amplify**, a monthly conversation series where she speaks with community leaders and amplifies their voices. We

made our values clear this summer with a **statement of solidarity**. Our staff and board went through an extensive racial equity training and we continue to work together to put our learnings into action. We ended the year announcing our newest guiding light, the **GHC Community Advisory**

Council. This council will be made of residents, business owners, and church leaders helping to make decisions and provide GHC program oversight. These leaders will also dive into the next round of **SWAY: The People's Guide to Community Organizing**.



REFLECTION

REMEMBER

As we close out the year, it's important to remember the resilience, grit, and pure magic of our neighbors. These initiatives happened because of them. Not us. We recognize their hard work and celebrate their wins together.

In a beautiful display of neighbors looking out for one another and strengthening our community, an East Chattanooga resident, NeTasha McClure, installed a **food pantry** near the Dodson and Glass intersection while the grocery store was still under construction.

Purpose Point Community Health Clinic opened at 2800 North Chamberlain! This faith-based charitable health clinic serves residents in East Chattanooga and Hamilton County by providing physical, mental, social, and spiritual care rooted in compassion and love. The clinic is inside of **The Village Church** 2800, which is also home to a **community garden** in partnership with City Farms Grower Coalition and is currently providing free training and supplies for backyard gardens.

Compelled to take action against racial injustice on a hyper-local level, Glass Farm residents created yard signs proclaiming "Black Lives Matter". Their campaign quickly grew, and over 500 signs were printed and distributed throughout the city.



We were thrilled to see **Save A Lot**, **All Good Coffee Shop and Used Book Store**, **Millennial Nail Bar**, **The Hemp Flower Shop & CBD Store**, and **green|spaces' Build It Green** program bringing activity and customers to the Glass Street area in 2020.

After spending weeks planning a **COVID-safe art parade**, neighbors were alerted the day before the event that the City planned to cancel due to an

increase in cases. Community members decided to make it happen on their own. Residents, supporters, and partner **ReachOne TeachOne** paraded through the streets of Glass Farm, handing out massive balloons and goodie bags filled with masks, art supply kits, journals, informative resources, school supplies, and bubbles.

Glass Street business owner Tina Stewart, along with her daughters, Rosalyn and Kahla, organized a **drive-thru nativity scene** complete with modern themes that took travelers through the story of Mary's visit with Gabriel to a fully-produced live manger scene. Residents, business owners, and nonprofit partners came together to decorate the 2500 block of Glass Street and spread holiday cheer. Rosalyn told us that using creativity to intentionally involve Glass Street stakeholders was also a way to "realize what we can get done together if we work together with a vision for the community". We couldn't agree more.





WHAT A YEAR!



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THANK YOU!
STAFF, BOARD, NEIGHBORS,
PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS, &
LOCAL BUSINESSES