

# Press Release

**Contact:** Marshall Reese  
917 363-5216/917 626-0598  
press@schoolofgoodcitizenship.org

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Middle Class Temporary Monument Fourth Ward Marshall Park  
Democratic National Convention 2012

## **BRINGING A NEW PUBLIC ART TO CHARLOTTE**

For over one decade Brooklyn-based artists LigoranoReese have installed temporary public artworks at the political conventions, starting in 2008 in Denver and Saint Paul with massive melting sculptures carved in ice of the word *Democracy*. The series continued in 2012 with sculptures of the words *Middle Class* in Charlotte and Tampa and in 2016 with *The American Dream* in Cleveland and Philadelphia.

The artists began looking to North Carolina in Fall 2018, not just because Charlotte was to be the site for the Republican Convention but as a model for a new kind of public artwork that builds community partnerships. Since their last visit to Charlotte in 2012, they realized that what's going on in North Carolina is not just about representation and voting rights but is part of a bigger story reflecting the aspirations and hopes of the city's residents for a more just future.

"From the get go," according to Ligorano, "our goal was to reach out and to bring in, to think of, to speak to, and to listen with diverse audiences and communities. For us, the key issues here in Charlotte are also the key issues across the country. The way they are articulated in North Carolina has profound impact everywhere." For almost an entire year, LigoranoReese met artists, art curators, public interest groups, and city historians in an attempt to learn the cultural landscape of the city.

LigoranoReese founded a local Advisory Board, hired Charlotte-based curator and arts advocate Jonell Logan as Project Manager, and partnered with Charlotte cultural and educational organizations including

- Community Building Initiative

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- Johnson C. Smith University
- International House
- Latin American Coalition
- League of Women Voters
- Levine Museum of the New South
- The Light Factory
- University of North Carolina-Charlotte
- Working Films.

## REIMAGINING PUBLIC ART IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

Though the artists originally intended for the School to bookend the Republican Convention through the month of August, the Coronavirus has forced them to revise and adjust their plans. "It's very hard to conceive of an art work that is about meeting people, having discussions, and reaching an understanding when it's dangerous to meet face to face," say Reese. "We had to rethink our approach to bring people together with new technologies like Zoom."

*The School of Good Citizenship* revolves around 5 key events occurring online (possibly in the Fall in person depending on health guidelines).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July-August

*Seeing Voices: Community (Un)Heard* Workshops at The Light Factory consist of three workshops over 7 weekends on the use of photography and personal diary to reflect on what is happening around us. The finished work will be on exhibit in an online gallery at the completion of the program. Local photographers and artists Hector Vaca Cruz, Julio Gonzalez, d'Angelo Dia and Renee Green are instructors. Over 20 participants from North Carolina have enrolled.

August 20-November 6, *Counting UP! What Does Your Ballot Look Like* opens at the Levine Museum of the New South. This North Carolina statewide open-call exhibition focuses on voting rights and will be on exhibit until election day. A jury has selected 20 artists from North Carolina to exhibit their work. The show will be on exhibit online and in the second floor rotunda of the museum.

August 24-27, *I Once Was Lost, Now Am Found* is a livestream internet series of spoken work performances and virtual choir concerts of songs of redemption featuring over 100 performers from Charlotte and other parts in the U.S. These internet performances will take place every evening as a counterpoint to the Republican Convention in Jacksonville. LigoranoReese have assembled a team of videographers and new theater professionals to realize this work. This work will be streamed on multiple websites including Facebook LIVE.

October 2-3 The School of Good Citizenship continues with a Drive-In of 2 film programs on climate justice and immigration organized by Wilmington, NC-based Working Films. Filmmakers will be present at the screening virtually.

October 10

The School of Good Citizenship concludes with a Civic Saturday sermon at the University of North Carolina-Charlotte less than 3 weeks out from the general election in conjunction with Citizen University based in Seattle.

For more information... <http://schoolofgoodcitizenship.org>

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School of Good Citizenship Charlotte Advisory Council members are: Susan Brenner, Keith Cradle, PhD, Suzanne Fetscher, Patrice Funderburg, June Lambla, Massie Minor, Sonya Pfeiffer, Mary Saunders.

Instagram [@SchoolofGoodCitizenship](#), Tweeting [@SchoolofGC](#)  
#ligoranoreese, #publicart, #SchoolOfGoodCitizenship

## **LIGORANOREESE**

**Nora Ligorano** and **Marshall Reese** collaborate as **LigoranoReese**. Their artwork examines society through images and sound from print, television, internet, and radio. They have exhibited at the Biennial of Contemporary Art, Cartagena, Colombia, Catharine Clark Gallery, Kent Fine Art, MIT MediaLab, Museum of Arts & Design, Jim Kempner Fine Art, New York Public Library, and Lincoln Center. They have received funding from the Jerome Foundation, Puffin Foundation, NYFA, NYSCA, NEA, and been in residence at the MacDowell Colony, Montalvo Arts Center, and Djerassi Resident Artists Program. They are represented by Catharine Clark Gallery and Jim Kempner Fine Art.

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