

Remarks

Barbara Peck

Grounded Here re-dedication

May 23, 2017

Good morning and thank you all for coming.

And thank you to everyone at the Boys and Girls Club for hosting this re-dedication of Grounded Here. I am sorry the weather couldn't have cooperated so we could have been outside on its new site. When Grounded here was commissioned, our intent was to honor Ashe Street, a street that once stood at the heart of the Warnersville neighborhood. So perhaps it is actually appropriate that we are gathered here in this beautiful new Boys and Girls club, located at the site of the former JC Price School, and which holds in its lobby an exhibit that recognizes the history of Warnersville and its importance to the community. Going forward, this facility may hold a similar significance for Warnersville residents, and if that is the case, having Grounded Here located just outside is even more meaningful.

We are happy to have with us this morning two people who were integral to this project.

Juan Logan is the artist who created Grounded Here. Juan worked with community residents to learn more about the importance of Ashe Street and the history of Warnersville to help him as he designed the artwork when we commissioned him to create it back in 2010. Thank you, Juan, for returning to Greensboro to help us honor Grounded Here's new home.

Nick Johnson is a local stonemason, and worked carefully and with pride to recreate the artwork as it was originally designed. From photos and measurements, Nick was able to turn a pile of stone, stored here by the Boys and Girls Club until such a time that the site would be ready, into the beautiful installation just outside.

Nick has followed in the footsteps of his father, who was also a mason. Born and raised in Greensboro, Nick attended Page High School and played football for their and for NC A&T State University. He graduated, found work away from Greensboro with a well-known construction company, but eventually returned to his home town. We are thankful to have found Nick, and that he agreed to help us re-build Grounded Here on this site.

When we decided to re-locate Grounded Here to the Boys and Girls Club, we needed Juan Logan's input and advice on how to site the artwork. We appreciate the time and effort that

Juan put into returning to Greensboro on several occasions to ensure that the new location was the right one.

Born in Nashville, Tennessee, Juan Logan now lives and works in Belmont, North Carolina. His artworks address subjects relevant to the American experience. At once abstract and representational, his paintings, drawings, sculptures, installations, and videos address the interconnections of race, place, and power. They make visible how hierarchical relations and social stereotypes shape individuals, institutions, and the material and mental landscapes of contemporary life.

Juan Logan is currently the Conservation Manager at [the Vollis Simpson Whirligig Project](#). This project is actively restoring thirty-one large-scale sculptures created by artist Vollis Simpson for the city of Wilson, NC. Logan has shown extensively nationally and internationally, has had numerous solo exhibitions, and executed many private and public commissions. Logan's works can be found in private, corporate, and public collections, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Gibbes Museum of Art, the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Memphis Brooks Museum, the Zimmerli Museum of Art, the Weatherspoon Art Museum, and the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art. Most recently, his piece *Some Clouds are Darker* became part of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Thank you, Juan, for joining us here today.