



**For Immediate Release**

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**Durham 150 Awards Additional Grants as Part of the City of Durham's Sesquicentennial**  
*Application Closes Following Third Funding Round With 75 Grants Awarded Already This Year*

**June 5, 2019 (DURHAM, N.C.)** — The Durham 150 convening committee is proud to announce it has awarded all funds dedicated to its grants program, supporting individuals and organizations requiring assistance to bring their anniversary-related community event or project to fruition. In the third round of funding, the convening committee awarded 28 grants totaling \$29,250. All initiatives awarded align with the mission, vision and at least one of the four themes of Durham 150. As all \$100,000 of the grant program has been awarded, the application process is now closed.

"It has been a rewarding experience overseeing the grants program, seeing firsthand the diversity and inspirational projects happening in our community," said E'Vonne Coleman, chief operating officer of Discover Durham and co-chair of the Durham 150 grants committee. "We're pleased to have the 75 recipients contributing to the sesquicentennial commemoration, as well as our community for years to come."

With this announcement, the convening committee has awarded a total of 75 grants after three rounds of applications. To have received funding, projects or events must occur in Durham; tie to the larger Durham 150 commemoration; primarily serve the people of Durham (with the exception of regional, statewide, or national efforts that may benefit a substantial portion of people in the Durham area); align with and support at least one of the four themes of Durham 150; identify a clear target audience; be open to the public; and occur within the 2019 calendar year. Projects may take longer than 2019 to be completed, but they must start this year. Grant funding ranged from \$250 to \$2,000.

The four themes of Durham 150, previously defined by the convening committee, are at the foundation of Durham's story and will be recognized throughout the yearlong commemoration. The themes are: history and education, innovation and entrepreneurship, social equity and robust democracy, as well as arts and leisure. Of the 75 grants awarded, 22 fell under the theme of history and education, nine were projects of innovation and entrepreneurship, 24 focused on social equity and robust democracy, and 20 encompassed art and leisure.

The **A.J. Fletcher Foundation** generously agreed to sponsor the history and education grants as well as those falling under the arts and leisure theme. **The Rotary Clubs of Durham** has jumped in to proudly support the social equity and democracy grants. Innovation and entrepreneurship grants are enthusiastically sponsored by **Wexford Science + Technology**.

In alphabetical order, the projects or events that received funding:

- 10<sup>th</sup> Annual "Promoting Human Excellence" Banquet – will recognize and honor members of the Durham community who are working to establish social equity and robust democracy through their contributions to good government, interfaith dialogue, humanitarian service, business, leadership, education, environmental preservation, youth achievement, cultural enrichment and health awareness.

- 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Juneteenth Celebration – includes a young professionals and entrepreneurs networking event and festival with speakers and historians detailing the significant role of the Hayti community and Black Wall Street played in Durham's 150-year history.
- A Muslim Scene – will explore media, cuisine and cultural dress that reflect the diversity within the Durham Islamic community. The discussion will engage attendees on the state of improving the Durham community for greater progress and equality among all people.
- Always the Dream is Freedom Durham Women Activists – an interactive exhibit and mini-magazine project that will amplify the stories of women whose activism has shaped and is shaping our Durham community. The exhibit will tell the stories of 8 to 10 women through photographs, artwork and text.
- Audio Under the Stars – will create community around audio storytelling through producing, curating and sharing audio stories. It includes mentoring and supporting producers and offering a platform, creating a transcendent, community-based artistic experience through a summer-long audio festival.
- Baseball for All: Concert for a Field of Dreams – will benefit the Miracle League Field, kicking off the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. It will help draw attention to and assist in raising funds for the new Durham field for the Miracle League of the Triangle.
- Black Genius Time Capsule Burial and Processional – will be a half-day event in celebration of Black Durham's achievements, political struggle and resilience to oppression. The event will take place on Saturday, June 15 to coincide with the national Juneteenth holiday and the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first enslaved Africans brought to the Americas.
- Black Music Month Celebration – North Carolina Central University and BUMP: The Triangle are partnering to present the third annual celebration of Black Music Month, shining a spotlight on the power and meaning of African American music and its role in the life of Durham. Performances will include the Gateways Brass Collective, Joy Harrell Goff, an NCCU Choral Ensemble and BUMPS's Black Music Month Youth Choir.
- Braggtown Reunion – the 11<sup>th</sup> annual event will educate residents about the history of the neighborhood.
- Brazilian Day NC Festival – will take place at Durham Central Park on September 8 and will fill a gap in the cultural events available especially for the Latinx community. Attendees of all ages will be exposed to many aspects of Brazilian culture through entertainment and activities. There will also be health and legal services targeted specifically to the Latinx community.
- Country Soul Songbook – will be a live concert and community event taking place on November 24 at North Star Church of the Arts. The event will involve numerous Durham musicians and songwriters, presenting a two-hour performance that sonically demonstrates the bridges, cross-pollinations, and intertwining of country, soul and Americana music.
- Curious History of an Old New Art Center – will include information about the rich history of the building and old Parrish Street, through the production of a five-minute video and a glass display.

- DOCTA Together Tennis – Durham 150 – Durham-Orange Community Tennis Association (DOCTA) – Durham 150 is a special event that will celebrate Durham’s sesquicentennial by providing diverse and inclusive outreach and engagement to a minimum of 150 youth and adults in Durham who would like to learn and play tennis. DOCTA will share the history of tennis in Durham and invite local celebrity players to participate.
- Chamber Music of 1869 – Mallarmé Chamber Players will present a concert of chamber music that could have been heard in 1869, the year of the City of Durham’s incorporation. These works would have all been considered new music of the time, scored for violin, piano and horn. The concert will take place on September 8.
- Durham Community Concert Band Marches On – will commission a piece of music to be written by a local composer in celebration of Durham’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A composer will be contracted in the fall to write a new composition to premiere at a future concert.
- Foster Street Festival for Arts Entrepreneurship – will be a one-day event at two primary locations in downtown Durham showcasing the innovation and entrepreneurship displayed by a group of artists and artisans who first came together in 2006 to find a way to offer their crafts to the Durham community. The event will be a collaboration between The Durham Craft market, Cecy’s Gallery/Art Market Durham, Cricket Forge, and the Artisan Market at 305.
- Full Frame School of Doc – is a completely free program, including meals, serving primarily 12 to 15 lower-income Durham public high school students who participate in a five-week intensive summer course taught by professional documentary filmmakers. The School of Doc students will share their work at the end of their program in a free, open-to-the-public screening in the Full Frame Theater and again the following April at the Full Frame Documentary Film Festival.
- Gaspard & Dancers’ 10<sup>th</sup> Season – a two-night concert will feature two new works inspired by the United States policy against political asylum seekers. The production is slated for September 27 and 28, with discussion about possibly having a free performance for Durham Public Schools.
- National Night Out & 2020 Census – the proposed free event is a fusion of the 2020 Census Kick-off, the National Night Out (NNO) opening ceremony and national NNO activities.
- National Pupusa Day Celebration – a celebration the second Sunday in November typically celebrated in El Salvador and in cities where there is prominent representation of the Salvadoran diaspora. It will be the first such celebration to date in Durham or North Carolina and highlight the immigrant spirit of social innovation and entrepreneurship that exists in Durham.
- Project Graduation of Durham, NC – a safe, supervised, substance-free, all-night acknowledgement of achievement and education for Durham’s public high school seniors. The event is free for all DPS graduates and will include scholarship drawings, dancing, fellowship, games and physical challenges.
- Quiet No More: A Choral Celebration of Stonewall – The Common Woman Chorus (CWC) of Durham and the Triangle Gay Men’s Chorus (TGMC) of Raleigh will present a monumental concert on June 22. The event will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall uprising, the catalyst for the

modern LGBTQ+ movement for civil rights and the inspiration for the annual celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride.

- READ-a-Palooza Block Party – a summer reading block party with free pizza and popsicles featuring favorite book characters. Many free books that are diverse and inclusive will be distributed.
- Take Back the Streets/Stop the Violence March – Love and Respect has held an annual “Take Back the Streets/Stop the Violence March” for the last 17 years on the 1600 block of Angier Ave. The event will hold a street march through the East Durham neighborhood starting and ending at the community center where lunch will be provided.
- The Durham College Legacy Project – two well-known historians, John Schelp and Andre Vann, will each do an inspiring talk on August 10 during the 2019 Durham College Reunion. The talks will center on Durham’s history as it relates to recognizing the tremendous impact Durham college graduates, under the stellar leadership of visionary and trailblazer Dr. Lucinda M. Harris, founder of Durham College, have and continue to have on the City of Durham, the region and the world. Schelp and Vann will lead a city tour after the talk.
- The Stagville Memorial Project – will hold three events to begin promotion for the creation of a memorial. There will also be three to four community listening events to hear from Durham residents regarding hopes and ideas for such a memorial.
- West End/Lyon Park Legacy of Durham’s 150 – the event will explore the history of the West End/Lyon Park community and demonstrate its connection with the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration of Durham. Six of the 150 names of changemakers named by the Sesquicentennial Honors Commission were members of the West End/Lyon Park community.
- Youth Explosion – will celebrate the youth of the city and will enable all residents to come together and assist the children in ensuring they are well equipped to begin the school year with supplies to enhance their education experience. It will also highlight the rich history of some of the youth and adult residents of Durham who were killed and injured during the Hamlet train wreck in 1911.

**The City of Durham** is the presenting sponsor of the Durham 150 year of celebration, which is also supported by Discover Durham, the Museum of Durham History and the generous contributions of Durham residents, businesses, and organizations. **Durham County** is also a major sponsor.

All four themes will be on display at the Durham 150 Closing Ceremony on November 2 at DPAC (Durham Performing Arts Center). For more information about Durham 150 and other events, visit [www.Durham150.org](http://www.Durham150.org).

#### **About Durham 150:**

Durham 150, the official commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the City of Durham’s incorporation in 1869, is a yearlong celebration. The mission of Durham 150 is to recognize Durham’s past, present and future with a year of events, activities, and community engagements to celebrate Durham’s rich history and highly promising future. A diverse group of Durham residents has been identified to coordinate Durham 150 efforts to encourage civic engagement, widespread community participation, and the values of shared prosperity.

[Subscribe](#) to the Durham 150 e-mail lists for updates about events, opportunities, fundraising, and more. Visit [Durham150.org](http://Durham150.org) to find a calendar of events or email [contact@durham150.org](mailto:contact@durham150.org) for more ways to get involved. Join the #Durham150 conversation and follow [@DurhamNC150](#) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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