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News Release

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Share! Durham awards 13 Ninth Street businesses with \$70,932 in sign & façade grants; <http://bit.ly/1wUV51m>

City of Durham Awards 13 Grants to Ninth Street Merchants

A Total of \$70,932 to be Awarded for Improved Signs and Façades

DURHAM, N.C. – Soon 13 Ninth Street District businesses will have improved signs and façades thanks to a City of Durham grant designed to improve the pedestrian environment and shopping experience in this area.

In September 2014, the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development began accepting sign and façade grant applications from businesses in the Ninth Street Commercial Corridor, which is bordered by Ninth Street, Green Street, Iredell Street and West Main Street and includes the sections of Perry Street and West Markham Avenue within this area as well as Safeway Street.

The grant program, which provides matching funds to businesses to improve their signs and façades, is part of an overall effort to improve the business climate and aesthetics in one of Durham's most vibrant and historic commercial districts. The following businesses were selected to receive grants, which are performance-based with no funds to be disbursed until projects are completed.

Signs Only

- Bruegger's – \$2,500
- Zola's Craft Gallery - \$861.25
- Blue Corn Cafe– \$2,412.38

Signs and Façades

- Wavelengths – \$2,428.76
- The Regulator Bookshop – \$1,736.25
- Dain's Place – \$15,424.00
- White Star Laundry –\$5,888.38

Façades Only

- Ninth Street Flowers (9th Street Dance/Playhouse Toy Store) – \$6,407.42
- Bernard's Formalwear – \$4,134.75
- Barnes Supply – \$5,450
- Cozy – \$2,479.50
- Elmo's Diner – \$5,059.50
- Atelier N Fine Jewelry – \$16,150

Another significant part of the Ninth Street District improvement effort has been the \$625,000 streetscape improvement project that began in 2014, which is now substantially complete and due to be finished in early 2015. This streetscape improvement was a public-private redevelopment project between the City of Durham and CPGI Regency, LLC to address infrastructure challenges along Ninth Street. Project parameters in the street right-of-way included decorative historic-style street lighting; concrete sidewalks, street furniture, and updated trash receptacles on both sides of Ninth Street; handicap accessibility ramps per Americans With Disabilities Act standards; concrete curbs, gutters and drive aprons; and street milling and striping.

For additional information the City's Sign and Façade Grant, visit <http://bit.ly/1wmezwd>. For additional information on the City's Ninth Street Streetscape Project, visit <http://bit.ly/1x4V4qk>.

About the Office of Economic & Workforce Development

Guided by the City's Strategic Plan, the Office of Economic & Workforce Development helps ensure that Durham has a strong and diverse economy by increasing the city's tax base through several revitalization initiatives, including new development efforts in the central city area. The department also plans and promotes cultural awareness and events, identifies and recruits target industries as well as assesses and trains Durham residents to fill new jobs. For more information, visit <http://www.DurhamEconomicDevelopment.org>.

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