



CITY OF DURHAM
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News Release

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For Immediate Release: September 24, 2015

Durham Civil Rights History Mural Dedication October 3rd

What: Durham Civil Rights History Mural Dedication Ceremony

Who: [City of Durham Office of Economic and Workforce Development](#), [Cultural Advisory Board](#), [Public Art Committee](#), and [Village of Wisdom](#)

When: Saturday, October 3, 2015, from 10 a.m. to noon

Where: Parking lot beside [Durham Arts Council](#)
110 Morris Street
Durham, N.C. 27701

Fast Facts:

- Durham residents are invited to celebrate the completion of the [Durham Civil Rights History Mural Project](#) during the Durham Civil Rights History Mural Dedication Ceremony next Saturday. The ceremony will honor Durham's civil rights history foot soldiers through music, dance, contests, and more. The event will feature guest speakers and a performance by the [African American Dance Ensemble](#).
- The ceremony culminates two years of work, which began in 2013 when 30 diverse community members, ages 15-65, came together during a 16-week period to engage in Durham's civil rights history through a series of lectures, music performances, research, and design workshops.

- The project began with a series of educational lectures led by Dr. Benjamin Speller and included North Carolina General Assembly Representative Mickey Michaux, Pauli Murray Project Executive Director Barbara Lau, North Carolina Central University Coordinator of University Archives/Instructor of Public History Andre Vann, veteran Civil Rights activist Vivian McCoy, North Carolina Senator Floyd B. McKissick, and North Carolina Central University Department Chair of Mass Communications Dr. Charmiane McKissick-Melton.
- This group then gathered what they discovered into a collaborative mural design, and beginning in late June 2014 with the help of the greater Durham community, painted a 2,400 square foot mural in downtown Durham under the direction of muralist Brenda Miller Holmes.
- The \$20,000 funding for the mural project was supported by [Cultural Master Plan](#) implementation funds designated for public art, as provided for that purpose by the City of Durham and Durham County.
- Additional sponsorship for the Durham Civil Rights History Mural Dedication Ceremony are: The Cactus Group, Susan Cervantes, Duke University Office of Durham and Regional Affairs, Duke University Health System, Duke University Office of the Vice Provost for the Arts, The Green Family, Hayti Heritage Center, The Holmes Family, The Isaacs Family, Renee Leverty, Mechanics and Farmers Bank, North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, Carl Webb, and Wells Fargo.
- For more information about the mural project and dedication ceremony next month, contact Brenda Miller Holmes at (831) 227-5724 or by [email](#).

About the City of Durham Office of Economic and Workforce Development

Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the [Office of Economic and 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.

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