



CITY OF DURHAM
Office of Public Affairs
101 CITY HALL PLAZA
DURHAM, NC 27701

News Media Contact:

Amy Blalock
Sr. Public Affairs Specialist
(919) 560-4123 x 11253
(919) 475-7735 (cell)
Amy.Blalock@DurhamNC.gov
<http://Facebook.com/CityofDurhamNC>
<http://Twitter.com/CityofDurhamNC>
<http://Instagram.com/CityofDurhamNC>
<http://YouTube.com/CityofDurhamNC>

News Release

For Immediate Release: April 3, 2017

Share! #Durham now seeking artists for three new public art projects; new artist website & listserv launched

Durham Ratchets Up Public Art Program with New Calls for Artists

Submission Deadlines are April 11, 17 & 30; New Artist Website & Listserv Launched

DURHAM, N.C. – Local and regional artists are now invited to apply for new public art projects sponsored by the City of Durham.

The City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, General Services Department, and the Public Art Committee of the Cultural Advisory Board are launching three new public art projects around Durham.

THE FENCE 2017, the largest photography public art project in the world, is coming to Durham this August thru November across from City Hall. The Public Art Committee and the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development recently applied for [Durham to become the sixth city in the country to display the exhibit](#), and Durham was selected this past January to host the project. "This project will serve to bring a collection of world-class art to Durham to inspire feelings and thoughts in an eclectic mix of our residents," said Chris Ogden, chair of the City's Public Art Committee. "It is also a terrific opportunity for regional photographers to get exposure with over 4 million viewers world-wide and with international museum curators, private collectors, gallery owners, book publishers, and editorial photography directors. We are thrilled to bring this opportunity to Durham." Artists are now invited to submit to the juried show a series of three-to-five images that relate to one of seven categories: Creatures, Food, Home, Nature, People, Play, and Streets. Submission guidelines are available on the [City's website](#) and the deadline to apply is **April 11**.

The ***Neighborhood Park Mural Project*** will place community-inspired murals on several blank walls of the City's park bathrooms. The General Services Department recently renovated several of the bathrooms in the parks, which then presented a clean slate for mural art. "Our goal is to bring together artists and community members in the creation of murals that celebrate the culture and history of Durham's neighborhoods, while also drawing attention to the facilities available at the City's parks," said Jina Propst, assistant director with the City's General Services Department. The first mural is expected to be located at Southern Boundaries Park. The winning application will receive a \$2,500 commission fee and \$2,500 in material costs. The Call for Artists is available on the [City's website](#) and the deadline to apply is **April 17**.

The **Art Alcoves at City Hall Plaza** project will bring three large-scale outdoor pieces of visual art just outside the steps of downtown's City Hall. The City is soliciting applications to commission an artist to submit a triptych design (i.e. a panel divided into three sections) for three alcoves facing City Hall Plaza. The alcoves are located in the Frontier Communications building directly in front of the main entrance to City Hall, and each alcove measures over 10 feet tall. The selected artist will be paid a commission fee of \$1,000 and the City will cover installation costs. Submission guidelines are available on the [City's website](#) and the deadline to apply is **April 30**.

Each of these public art projects will be funded through the City's Project Fund for Public Art—a program of the City's Capital Improvement Plan—and annual operating budget allocations to commission permanent and temporary installation of works of art.

To further help artists connect with opportunities, the City has also now launched a [Durham Calls for Artists](#) page on its website, which lists a number of upcoming opportunities for artists in and around Durham. Artists and other stakeholders who would like to be notified of current and future art-related opportunities and news can now subscribe for alerts through the [Cultural and Public Art mailing list](#).

For more information about the City's Public Art Program, visit the City's [public art page](#). Artists interested in more information about the program may also contact Senior Economic Development Coordinator Brian Smith with the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development at (919) 560-4965, ext. 15205 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.

About the City of Durham General Services Department

The [General Services Department](#) creates, manages and maintains City properties to provide best value to the Durham community. The core business functions include: Administration/Business Services, Facilities Operations, Landscape Services, Urban Forestry, Real Estate, Project Management, Cemeteries, and Keep Durham Beautiful. As guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), General Services serves as a steward of the City's physical and environmental assets. Through annual and long-range facility planning activities, the department plans, provides, and maintains the City's facilities infrastructure, which supports the community's quality of life and serves as a foundation of a healthy economy.

About the City of Durham Public Art Committee

The [Public Art Committee](#) is appointed by the [Cultural Advisory Board](#) to serve as an advisory body to the Durham City Council and the City Manager. Its functions include assisting the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development on matters relating to public art; implementation of the Public Art Policy; reviewing proposals for public art projects brought to it by the City administration; and advising on commissioned and donated public art works.

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