



News Release

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Artists Selected for West Ellerbee Creek Trail Pedestrian Tunnel

Trail Grand Opening Ceremony Set for March 22

DURHAM, N.C. – More public art is coming to Durham next month...this time on the [West Ellerbee Creek Trail Phase II](#) Pedestrian Tunnel.

The City of Durham Office of Economic and Workforce Development, General Services Department, Durham Parks and Recreation, Public Art Committee, and Artist Selection Committee have chosen Triangle-based artists [Dare Coulter](#) and [Jonathan Massullo](#) to design and install urban public art along the entrances to the West Ellerbee Creek Trail Pedestrian Tunnel. The interior of the tunnel will be designated as a “free expression” space, providing trail users with a canvas for artistic expression.

The Call for Artists, issued in January 2018, encouraged local and regional artists to submit their qualifications for the project. An Artist Selection Committee composed of representatives from the Public Art Committee, Durham Open Space and Trails Commission, Recreation Advisory Committee and various municipal departments met to select the two finalists last week.

Coulter is a sculptor, muralist, and artist who creates pieces with the aim of healing, feeling or celebrating. At 24 years old, Coulter has won more than 60 awards, most recently having placed first premium at the North Carolina State Fair for a ceramic sculpture. She was also awarded the Jo Ann Williams Artist Fellowship via the Black-on-Black project in 2017. Coulter currently lives in Fuquay-Varina and works to create positive imagery of people of color and aspires to have a mural on every continent within the next five years.

Massullo is an artist from Virginia. He holds a bachelor’s in Education and a master’s in Studio Art. Massullo creates artwork in diversity of media including oil, spray paint and ink, and in a variety of styles ranging from surrealism, illustration and abstraction to realism. His works explores themes such as history, truth, and the balance between loss and hope. Massullo currently lives in Raleigh, where he teaches middle school art.

The new pedestrian tunnel public art installation is part of the larger 1.5 mile greenway trail project now underway that connects Phase I of the West Ellerbee Creek Trail, which currently terminates at Westover Park near Guess Road, to the North/South Greenway on Stadium Drive. The new extension which is now in the final month of construction follows West Ellerbee Creek, crosses Guess Road at a new pedestrian signal, passes under I-85, crosses North Pointe Drive at a new four-way intersection, and ends on Broad Street at Stadium Drive. Once complete next month, trail users will be able to access a previously unseen section of West Ellerbee Creek, artwork in the I-85 pedestrian underpass, shopping on the North Pointe Drive, residential communities, and Durham’s existing trail network.

Durham residents and trail enthusiasts are invited to check out this new public art installation, and celebrate the completion of this project, by attending the West Ellerbee Creek Trail II Grand Opening Celebration set for Thursday, March 22 at 5:30 p.m. at Westover Park, located at 1900 Maryland Ave.

To further help artists connect with opportunities, the City has 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 sign up 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 webpage](#). Artists interested in more information about the Public Art 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 Durham Parks and Recreation

[Durham Parks and Recreation](#) (DPR) provides opportunities for the Durham community to 'Play More' by connecting the Durham whole community to wellness, the outdoors, and lifelong learning. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), DPR strives to help residents discover, explore, and enjoy life through creative and challenging recreational choices that contribute to their physical, emotional, and social health. To learn more, visit DPR [online](#), and follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), or call (919) 560-4355.

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](#) builds and maintains City properties to make Durham a great place for people to live, work, and play. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department's core functions include the acquisition and sale of properties, design and management of new construction and renovation projects, building maintenance, landscaping and urban forestry services, cemeteries management, sustainability and energy management, and supporting the nonprofit [Keep Durham Beautiful](#).

About the City of Durham Public Art Committee

The [Public Art Committee](#) serves as an advisory body to the Durham City Council and the City Manager, and 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; and reviewing proposals for public art projects brought to it by the City administration; and making recommendations to the [Cultural Advisory Board](#) regarding project approvals.

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