



# News Release

For Immediate Release: April 3, 2018

## **Durham Seeks Public Art Submissions for Black Wall Street Gardens** *May 4 Submission Deadline*

DURHAM, N.C. – Local and regional artists are now invited to [apply](#) for a new public art project to be displayed in the newly renovated Black Wall Street Gardens in downtown Durham.

The City of Durham Office of Economic and Workforce Development, in collaboration with the City's General Services Department and the Durham Cultural Advisory Board's Public Art Committee, invite qualified North Carolina artists or artist teams to submit qualifications to design, fabricate, and install public art in the newly renovated Black Wall Street Gardens, which is a greenspace located at 102 W. Main Street.

The plaza is now undergoing lighting, landscaping, and walkway improvements to further enhance the greenspace as a pedestrian-friendly social gathering space. Two walkways will traverse the greenspace, converging in the center to form a larger, paved center area. This center provides a space for moveable seating, table, and the site for the permanent art installation. Candidates are expected to create a work of art inspired by one or all of the following themes: inclusivity, diversity, community, activism, creativity, entrepreneurial spirit, and progress.

Application materials include: statement of interest, annotated samples of previous work relevant to project, project personnel resume(s), and references. The deadline for submission is May 4, 2018, and North Carolina residents over the age of 18 are eligible to submit to the call for art. Full submission guidelines, project details, and submission portal are available [here](#).

To further help artists connect with opportunities, the City has created a [Durham Calls for Artists](#) webpage, which lists 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 also sign up for alerts through the [Cultural and Public Art mailing list](#).

For more information about the City's Public Art Program, visit the [public art webpage](#) or contact Senior Economic Development Coordinator Brian Smith with the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development at (919) 560-4965, ext. 15205 or [Brian.Smith@DurhamNC.gov](mailto:Brian.Smith@DurhamNC.gov).

### **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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