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News Release

For Immediate Release: May 10, 2018

49th Annual Bimbé Cultural Arts Festival Set For May 19

National Recording Artists Sisters with Voices (SWV) Scheduled to Perform

- Who:** Presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina in partnership with Durham Parks and Recreation
- What:** 49th Annual Bimbé Cultural Arts Festival
- When:** Saturday, May 19 (noon – 8 p.m.)
Bimbé Weekday Events: May 15-18 (various times and locations in Durham)
- Where:** Rock Quarry Park, 701 Stadium Drive, Durham (Rain or Shine)
Free parking is available at the Durham County Stadium, 750 Stadium Drive, Durham
- Note:** See the attached press kit for more details.

Fast Facts

- The 2018 Bimbé Cultural Arts Festival is presented by Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina in partnership with Durham Parks and Recreation.
- The National Award Winning Bimbé Cultural Arts Festival is one of the oldest cultural festivals and celebrations of music, art and dance in North Carolina.
- It was founded by students from North Carolina University and Duke University.
- The Festival will begin with a tribute to the elders (residents ages 55 or better) by the late Chuck Davis' African American Dance Ensemble.
- This year's festival will feature National Recording Artists Sisters with Voices (SWV).
- The Bimbé Marketplace will include 40 cultural art, merchandise, educational vendors along with 19 food vendors.
- There will be activities for all ages including a Family Fun Zone including crafts, book mobile, a video game truck, face painters and The Home Depot.
- The event is free and open to the public. Participants are not allowed to bring food, coolers, alcohol or pets to the festival. Seating is not provided and participants are encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

- The Pre-Bimbe Weekday activities include a Hip Hop Panel Discussion, Community Block Party, Basketball Classic (Durham Police Department vs. Durham Fire Department) and Teen Glow in the Dark Pool Party.

New This Year

- **Sonofsimba**, a live artist will be painting to the music throughout the festival. All live art will be available for purchase upon request.
- **Handicap parking** will be offered for those with handicap placards. Additional handicap parking will be located at the Durham County Stadium. A shuttle will be available for them and who rode with them to the festival.
- **The Blue Green Machine BYOB:** Participants can bring their own bottle for water refills from the Blue Green Machine, a mobile system that cools and dispenses on-demand drinking water. Free water bottles will be given out while supplies last.
- **Natural Health & Beauty Corner | Sponsored by Organeyez'd Stylez Salon:** Learn about the natural side of life! There will be experienced professionals doing hands on demonstrations, presenting information, and suggesting products anyone can use to live more naturally including Hair Care, Skin Care, Massage Therapy, Oils & Herbs, Eat & Grow.
- **Book Giveaway and Registration:** The Durham County Library will be on site with their awesome Bookmobile. Participants can take advantage of this mobile service, where they can register for a library card and even receive a free book while supplies last. Get your very own library card on site!
- **Tribute to the late Ernie Barnes:** Children, teenagers, adults, and mature adults are invited to re-enact the dance scene from the iconic painting “The Sugar Shack” by world famous artist Ernie Barnes. Mr. Barnes is from Durham and attended North Carolina Central University.

Contact Cynthia Booth the day of the festival at 919-389-4941 for a press pass, information, and/or interview.

About Durham Parks and Recreation

Durham Parks and Recreation provides opportunities for the Durham community to Play More by connecting our whole community to wellness, the outdoors, and lifelong learning. To learn more about Durham Parks and Recreation visit us [online](#), follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), or call 919-560-4355.

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