



News Release

For Immediate Release: May 31, 2018

Durham Selects Local Artists for Neighborhood Park Mural Project

Seven Local Artists to Install Murals at Parks & Traffic Signal Boxes

DURHAM, N.C. – Public art is on its way to neighborhood parks and street intersections now that seven local artists have been selected to install murals at five City parks and two traffic signal boxes.

The City of Durham General Services Department, Durham Parks and Recreation, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and the Durham Cultural Advisory Board's Public Art Committee have selected artists Sarahlaine Calva, Cornelio Campos, Dare Coulter, Will Dove, and Jermaine Powell to install murals at East End Park, Garrett Road Park, Sherwood Park, Solite Park, and Whipporwill Park. Artists Bethany Bash and Candy Carver have also been selected to install murals on traffic control boxes at the intersection of Anderson, West Main, and 15th streets as well as the intersection of East Chapel Hill, Morris, and West Main streets.

Issued in April 2018, the Call for Artists encouraged local and regional artists to submit their qualifications to this project. An Artist Selection Committee comprised of representatives from the Public Art Committee, Durham Recreation Advisory Commission, local artists and business owners, Durham Parks and Recreation, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, and General Services Department met to select the finalists last week.

The upcoming park murals, expected to be completed later this summer, mark the second iteration of the Neighborhood Park Mural Project. In spring 2017, Durham artists Julia Gartrell and Julienne Alexander created a mural at Southern Boundaries Park as part of the project's pilot initiative. In addition to supplementing the diversity of the City's growing public art collection and supporting the facilities available at City parks, the Neighborhood Park Mural Project aims to engage local artists in the creation of murals that celebrate the culture and history of Durham's neighborhoods.

About the Artists

[Sarahlaine Calva](#) is a Raleigh-based artist who holds the goal of reflecting the positive and diverse creative influences of Durham in her bright, colorful work. Calva will be installing a mural on the newly renovated bathroom facility at East End Park.

[Cornelio Campos](#) is a Durham-based artist and long-term resident who seeks to use his paintings as a tool for education and catalysts for conversation. Campos will be installing a mural at Solite Park.

[Dare Coulter](#) is a sculptor, muralist, and artist who creates pieces with the aim of healing, feeling, and celebrating. Her goal is to create positive imagery of people in color through her work. Coulter currently lives in Fuquay-Varina and will be installing a mural on the newly renovated bathroom facility at Whipporwill Park.

[Will Dove](#) is a lettering artist and illustrator who lives in downtown Durham. Dove's inspiration stems from the legacy of hand-painted murals and signage, particularly vintage tobacco and retail advertisements.

Dove will be installing a mural on the newly renovated bathroom facility at Sherwood Park.

[Jermaine Powell](#) is a visual artist who draws inspiration from the desire to craft beautiful environments in which his son can grow and play. Powell, who lives in Fuquay-Varina, is committed to creating art that will be functional aspect within the community and a vision of positive development; he seeks to “wow” visitors to Garret Road Park with his upcoming installation on the newly renovated bathroom facility.

[Bethany Bash](#), a painter who lives and works in Durham, has been selected to install a mural on the traffic control box found at the intersection of Anderson, Main, and 15th streets. Bash values working with the community to create engaging installations.

[Candy Caver](#), a Durham-based artist and educator, has been selected to install a mural on the traffic control box found at the intersection of Chapel Hill, Morris, and Main streets. With over 20 years of creative experience, Carver plans to create a dynamic, vibrant installation in the heart of downtown Durham.

To further help artists connect with future public art opportunities, the City has a [Durham Calls for Artists](#) page on its website, which lists a number of upcoming opportunities. Artists and other stakeholders who would like to be notified of current and future art-related opportunities and news can 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](#). Artists interested in more information about this neighborhood mural park project 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 Brian.Smith@DurhamNC.gov, or Project Manager Jessica Kemp within the City’s General Services Department at (919) 560-4197, ext. 21234 or Jessica.Kemp@DurhamNC.gov.

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 Durham Parks and Recreation

[Durham Parks and Recreation](#) provides opportunities for the Durham community to ‘Play More’ by connecting the whole community to wellness, the outdoors, and lifelong learning. To learn more, 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 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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