July 7, 2014

Ms. Ann Gray
City Clerk
City of Durham
101 City Hall Plaza
Durham, NC 27701

Dear Ms. Gray

I am writing to you as chair of the Cultural Advisory Board (CAB.)
The CAB has a two-year term, with the ability to reapply for one additional term.

We received eight qualified applicants for six openings on the Board. During the June 18th, 2014 CAB meeting, the members of the board discussed each written application.

Based on that discussion, I am writing to ask you to forward to the City Council our recommendations for the six vacancies on the Cultural Advisory Board.

The CAB recommends the reappointments of Frank Konhaus and Cynthia Mebane-Watts to second terms. Both have been outstanding members of the board, with active service on subcommittees.

While the board believes that any of the remaining applicants could be good additions to the board, it is the opinion of the board that four of the applicants would bring diversity of experience, and interests, that would strengthen the board over the next two years.

Margaret DeMott has a long professional history of involvement with the arts through her position with the Durham Arts Council, The Arts Council has been an active partner with the CAB. With Sherry DeVries ineligible to serve another term on the board, Ms. DeMott would serve a useful liaison function with that organization, in addition to bringing her knowledge of local cultural organizations and her professional experience in the administration of public art projects, cultural planning and grant writing.

Dorothy C. Brown's demonstrated interest in issues related to children and her experience with grant writing both link well to the board's interest in increasing its focus on cultural opportunities for young people and in seeking outside funding partners for initiatives, including public art projects.

Tess Mangum Ocana will bring experience in concert planning and management. Her academic background in ethnomusicology will strengthen the board's depth in

intercultural and multicultural planning.

Charlene Reiss has been involved in a number of local arts initiatives in the performing and visual arts over the past twenty-five years. Her academic background in public administration and non-profit management would bring expertise on those matters in a year in which the board will be increasing its focus on assisting local non-profit cultural organizations in developing their management systems and financial planning.

All eight applicants for the six available vacancies appear to have strengths that they could bring to the board's deliberations. The board recognizes the City Council's capability in making selections that will advance the Council's priorities. We look forward to serving with whomever the City Council chooses to appoint.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Best regards,

Renee Leverty

Renee Leverty
Chair,
Cultural Advisory Board