



CITY OF DURHAM
Office of Public Affairs
101 CITY HALL PLAZA
DURHAM, NC 27701

News Release

News Media Contact:

Amy Blalock
Public Affairs Manager
(919) 560-4123 x 11253
(919) 475-7735 (cell)
Amy.Blalock@DurhamNC.gov
<http://Facebook.com/CityofDurhamNC>
<http://Twitter.com/CityofDurhamNC>
<http://Instagram.com/CityofDurhamNC>
<http://YouTube.com/CityofDurhamNC>

For Immediate Release: August 11, 2017

Share! International photography exhibition series #TheFENCE comes to #Durham; public invited to 8/18 opening ceremony: www.thefencedurham.com

Durham Welcomes International Photography Exhibition, The FENCE

Opening Ceremony August 18; Exhibition On Display August 18 – November 2017

DURHAM, N.C. – The FENCE, the largest annual outdoor public art photography exhibition in the world, is coming to the Bull City and residents are invited to join the City of Durham at an opening ceremony next week.

The City's Public Art Committee, Office of Economic and Workforce Development and General Services Department are welcoming [The FENCE: Durham](#) with an opening ceremony on Friday, August 18 at 4 p.m. on the Orange Street Mall, which is located between East Chapel Hill Street and West Parrish Street in downtown Durham. The installation will soon encompass the block surrounding the City's Chapel Hill Street Parking Garage, beginning on West Chapel Hill Street to North Mangum Street to West Parrish Street to Orange Street to Alley 26.

Mayor William V. "Bill" Bell will give opening remarks along with other speakers who will share the importance and relevance of public art to increasing quality of life as well as creating and maintaining a community's sense of place. Attendees will then be given guided tours of the works appearing on The FENCE and provided with refreshments. Several of the featured artists will also be present to answer questions and share insights about their bodies of work printed on The FENCE.

"We could not be more excited to welcome The FENCE to Durham. This outdoor public art exhibition brings a world-class collection of emotion and thought-provoking art to heart of

downtown Durham, showcasing both regional and international artists,” said Chris Ogden, chair of the City’s Public Art Committee. “The FENCE has truly been a community endeavor. We’re grateful to our local photography organizations who spread news of this terrific opportunity, all the photographers who shared their work through our submission call, our dedicated jury members who contributed their time and expertise, our volunteers enabling the use of the installation to springboard other related programming, and our wonderful partners in Brooklyn and throughout the Triangle who helped us share this work to an ever-growing audience.”

Almost 250 photographs from a diverse roster of 50 photographers hailing from around the globe, including 10 local Triangle-based artists, are represented on the Durham installation this year. Each artist submitted a series of three-to-five images comprising a body of work relating to one-of-seven thematic categories: Creatures, Food, Home, Nature, People, Play and Streets. Each series is supported by printed artist statements and biographies, allowing viewers to experience a series of museum-like shows at their leisure. More than 4 million people will view The FENCE exhibitions in Brooklyn, Boston, Atlanta, Houston, Santa Fe, Durham, and Denver.

[The FENCE: Durham](#) will be on view from August 18 through November 2017 while a variety of related programming will also occur in downtown Durham during that time, including [CenterFest Arts Festival](#), [Third Friday Durham](#) and the [Click! Photography Festival](#).

For more information about [The FENCE: Durham](#), including featured artists, volunteer opportunities, opening ceremony, and how residents can vote for the People’s Choice award, visit [The Fence: Durham website](#).

For more information about the [City’s Public Art Program](#), 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.

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.

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](#) creates, manages and maintains City properties to provide best value to the Durham community. The core business functions include: Administration/Business Services, Facilities Operations, Landscape Services, Urban Forestry, Real Estate, Project Management, Cemeteries, and Keep Durham Beautiful. As guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), General Services serves as a steward of the City's physical and environmental assets. Through annual and long-range facility planning activities, the department plans, provides, and maintains the City's facilities infrastructure, which supports the community's quality of life and serves as a foundation of a healthy economy.

###