



**CITY OF DURHAM**  
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## News Release

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For Immediate Release: March 13, 2017

**Share!** #Durham offers new matching grants program for cultural arts organizations; April 23 application deadline

## Durham Offers New Matching Grants Program for Cultural Arts Organizations

*April 23 Application Deadline*

DURHAM, N.C. – Non-profit cultural arts representatives interested in attending professional development training should apply now for a new City of Durham grants program.

The City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development and Cultural Advisory Board are launching the [Cultural Arts Capacity Building Grants Program](#) to fund scholarships for arts and cultural organization representatives in Durham to attend professional development training. The program will provide individual grants up to \$2,300 to be awarded through a competitive application process governed by the Cultural Advisory Board. Grant awardees must provide a minimum one-to-three match (i.e. one recipient dollar for every three grant dollars) and completed applications must be submitted by the April 23 deadline.

According to Senior Economic Development Coordinator Brian Smith with the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development, the goal of this new program is to help organizations build their staff capacity so they can continue contributing to Durham's economic development. "The Board has regularly heard from Durham arts organizations that they would like to attend professional development training, but are often unable to afford it," Smith said. "This program is intended to further build the capacity of Durham's cultural economy by helping cultural arts representatives attend such development opportunities as workshops, master classes, coaching sessions, retreats, and seminars."

The program is funded by the [Durham Cultural Master Plan](#), a joint program of the City of Durham and Durham County approved by the Durham City Council and Durham County Board of Commissioners in 2004. The Cultural Advisory Board and the City's Office of Economic and Workforce Development are implementing this grant program as a part of the Master Plan's goal of building the capacity of Durham's existing cultural organizations, events, festivals, and artists. "Durham is on its way to being known as a destination city for arts and culture. This grant program will be especially useful for the numerous small and medium-sized arts and cultural organizations that make Durham distinctive," said Cultural Advisory Board Chair Dan Ellison.

Applications and full program guidelines can be found on the [Cultural Arts Capacity Building Grants Program](#) website. Cultural arts representatives interested in more information may also contact Smith at (919) 560-4965, extension 15205 or by [email](#).

#### **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 Cultural Advisory Board**

The [Cultural Advisory Board](#) 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 and advising the City regarding the implementation of the Cultural Master Plan; promoting economic and workforce development through arts and culture including the recruitment and retention of cultural non-profit organizations and for-profit cultural businesses; and advising and advocating for funding for local arts and cultural organizations and facilities.

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