



# News Release

For Immediate Release: October 16, 2018

## **Explore the Faces of First-Time Voters at New Photography Exhibition** *Amplify! Youth Voices and the Future Opens October 19*

DURHAM, N.C. – Some of the voices and perspectives of Durham youth will now be shared through a new photography exhibition focused on encouraging students to engage in direct action by volunteering with community organizations and participating in the electoral process.

[Amplify! Youth Voices and the Future](#) features photographic images of current students and recent graduates of the North Carolina School of Science and Math (NCSSM), who will be voting for the first time in the election this fall or in 2020. Their portraits will be hung at NCSSM, outdoors along Alley 26, and in the lobby of Durham City Hall.

This new installation will be unveiled at [Third Friday](#) on October 19 in downtown Durham. Community members are invited to participate in the project by interacting with the students' photo campaign and idea board at the unveiling event. The students involved in this project, along with their instructor, will also be recognized at the Durham City Council meeting on Monday, November 5 at 7 p.m. by Mayor Steve Schewel – the evening before the general election.

According to Liz Peeples, instructor of Humanities at the NCSSM who also served as the director for the Project Team, the focus of this project is to amplify the perspectives of young residents. "The perspectives featured in this exhibition are focused on the broader community and national and global issues that these voters and future voters feel are important to address, not partisan politics or endorsements of specific candidates," Peeples said. "The issues at the center of the project are defined by the students who are featured and who helped design the art and project. More broadly, the project seeks to validate the perspectives of young people in the community and engage the community in conversation about their concerns and ideas."

Project photographers were Kim Gray and Logan LaBo, and [Taylor Cashdan](#) was the project's graphic designer. [Amplify! Youth Voices and the Future](#) was supported by sponsors [Alley Twenty Six](#), [Austin Laurence Partners](#), [Bootstrap Advisors](#), [Downtown Durham Inc.](#), [City of Durham Public Art Program](#), [Eno Ventures](#), [NCSSM Fine Arts Series](#), [NCSSM Foundation](#), and NCSSM Student Life. The NCSSM student leadership team for this project included Marco Allen, Emile Charles, Leo Jimenez, Lindsey Mancini, Rachel Niemara, Abdul-Rakeen Yakubu, and Anne Yokote.

For more information about the [Amplify! Youth Voices and the Future](#), visit the project website at <https://amplify.ncssm.edu/home>.

### **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, cultural and public art

management, and supporting the nonprofit [Keep Durham Beautiful](#).

### **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. To further help artists connect with opportunities, the City has a [Durham Calls for Artists](#) page on its website, which lists a number of upcoming opportunities for artists in and around Durham. Artists and other stakeholders who would like to be notified of current and future art-related opportunities and news can now sign up for alerts through the [Cultural and Public Art mailing list](#). For more information about the City's Public Art Program, visit the City's [public art webpage](#). Artists interested in more information about the Public Art program may also contact Special Projects Manager Stacey Poston with the City's General Services Development at (919) 560-4197, ext. 21254 or by [email](#).

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