

Intentional Planning and Decision-Making

OBJECTIVE: We need to be intentionally involved in determining our community's future and ensuring that development serves residents. We need equitable, sustainable, and proactive solutions to systemic issues to ensure that our future benefits residents who have been ignored, pushed out, and harmed by the status quo.

BACKGROUND: Currently, residents feel growth is happening too fast and is not benefiting many existing residents and neighborhoods, particularly in Black and Hispanic/Latino communities. As housing costs skyrocket in central neighborhoods inhabited by lower-income renters and Black homeowners one generation ago, residents see that our remaining available land is often developed with one type and cost of housing (i.e., expensive single-family dwellings), located far from needed services or amenities, and without a connected transportation system. Many residents feel left out of a development process that could end up pushing them out of the communities they have lived in for generations. Some people in Durham do not see themselves fitting into Durham's future and are worried they will be left out of it. There is little clear and accessible information about how community growth and development occurs and if there is opportunity to meaningfully change an outcome. Many feel that City, County, and private investments do not address the systemic or long-term issues residents face. The way people are treated and how information is shared during engagement around new development leaves residents feeling unheard and undervalued.

We want community members to be able to participate in a timely and meaningful way in development decisions that will affect residents' daily lives and the future of Durham as a whole. We want comprehensive solutions to issues rather than temporary fixes that are costly and ineffective. We believe that how we invest, who and what we invest in, and who makes these decisions reflects our community values. We want to see intentional long-term investments in people and places that promote inclusion, connection, and well-being for all Durham residents, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

Quotes from Durham Residents

"We have a unique opportunity to be an example of what happens when intention meets attention meaning we can make the choice to be focused on our development of communities are now marginalized and truly have a Durham that works for most not a select few."

"Would like to see homes developed, but also people-what's being done to build the people? if community is empowered, they have a sense of dignity. people from here fear that the people that built this city will be left out"

"McDougald Terrace dealing with a short-term Band-Aid effect without a long-term solution."

"We're in the middle of crisis of displacement for more vulnerable residents. People are being pushed out of city so fast, that the people who should be at the table won't be here to provide their input "people most effected, won't find out about this until too late"

"Thoughtful growth and investment in existing spaces/buildings in the community to make them healthy, safe, beautiful, and accessible to all"

"High rise, high priced condos keep going up downtown Compare that to the homeless people living under overpasses in downtown and to what is happening in McDougald Terrace is the perfect illustration of Durham's priorities"

"Native Durham residents being left out of the city's progress--Stagville Plantation descendants--rebuilding of communities destroyed by 147"

"Plans that are intentionally focused on not extracting the soul & character of POC communities during revitalization."