

Affordable and Intentional Activities and Events

OBJECTIVE: We need cultural and recreational opportunities, events, and activities that are affordable to all Durham residents, particularly those with low incomes, families, children, youth, seniors, and Black and Hispanic/Latino residents. We need to intentionally invest our taxes in recreational opportunities that prioritize and benefit those in the community who would otherwise be unable to participate. Free or reduced-cost recreational and cultural resources need to be widely advertised, clearly communicated, and easy to access.

BACKGROUND: For many low-income families who struggle to balance their budgets every month, recreation is often the first thing cut. This leaves children and young people without enriching and necessary ways to play, learn, and grow in their communities. Even with adjusted fees, some of Durham's poorest residents cannot access Parks and Recreation programming because of long waiting lists, difficult processes for reserving spaces and applying for programs, and a lack of effective communication about available opportunities. Likewise, large cultural institutions, such as the Museum of Life and Science and the Durham Arts Council, provide programming and host events that many residents feel are exclusive and prohibitively expensive.

We want a system of creating recreational opportunities that prioritizes those who have the fewest resources and options. We want residents to have an active role in determining how public money is spent on public spaces, recreational opportunities, and cultural events.

Quotes from Durham Residents

"They want these kids to have a Play More pass when you have parents struggling to pay for rent and food each month. \$10 to \$15 a month is a lot because they need to pay for gas. Yeah, it's a sliding scale but your version of sliding scale is not my version of sliding scale."

"There are all kinds of cultural and sports activities available in Durham-- but ONLY for the affluent. How come HIS children don't get to see shows at DPAC or Durham Bulls games? Make it a *reward* for attendance & grades. Support the kids who seek to excel in SPITE of what may be happening at the HOUSE."

"How can we make opportunities for low-wealth people to enjoy the cultural offerings in Durham: American Underground, DPAC, and Durham Bulls?"

"Need to make the process for using community spaces easier to use. No credit cards, clear contact info that is the same across the system"

"More stuff for teens. More up to date basketball courts and sponsorships to have the opportunities to expand horizons (DPAC plays, engage swaps)"

"The Museum is down the road but there's a fee."