

Inclusive and Intentional Senior Opportunities

OBJECTIVE: We need to value, design for, support, and include senior residents in shaping Durham, particularly seniors who are Black, Hispanic/Latino, houseless, living in public housing, without digital access, or who have physical or mental disabilities. We need to ensure that seniors are able to stay in the homes and communities they have helped build. We need to create intentional intergenerational spaces where older adults can live their full lives within communities, and where those communities can benefit from the wisdom of elders.

BACKGROUND: Older adults in Durham do not see new development and government initiatives designed to fit their needs as they age, such as public transportation; access to senior care homes, healthcare, and clinics; and one-story homes. Older adults living on fixed incomes are at a greater risk of displacement from their homes as property taxes and upkeep costs increase. They find they can no longer remain in their current homes and have extreme difficulty finding other housing, such as senior living residences, in their neighborhoods. Those who cannot afford to retire may encounter age discrimination and a lack access to affordable opportunities to learn new skills. When assistance is available for seniors, it is not communicated effectively, mostly making use of digital formats, leaving some older residents without essential information.

We want seniors in Durham to live in and remain connected to their neighborhoods as they age, and to have the freedom to move around without a car. We want seniors to have easy access to tools and resources necessary to thrive through all stages of life. This includes access to all relevant care; job, volunteer, or civic opportunities; appropriate housing; and information. We want older residents to feel valued and empowered, and to have a place in Durham's future.

Quotes from Durham Residents

"Our seniors are who shaped Durham. Can we afford to forget them and their contributions to Durham's success?"

"More affordable housing for seniors, in good condition, rent under 1k. Fixed income minimum wage, they can't afford to stay - could fix homelessness"

"Elderly people are showing up at the hospital b/c they cannot live alone and have no resources"

"Heated pools and facilities for elderly near Duke - This needed in South Durham - there needs to be an equitable spread of clinics and facilities across Durham"

"Housing for the elderly, safe travel for the elderly, housing affordability for seniors, placement of senior housing"

"More news in the community needs to get out to the senior community such as morning glory"

"Don't overlook poor and old people!"

"Senior Citizens: educating them on resources, help not be displaced by gentrification. ("Resources" meaning who to call when you need help, if your family doesn't live nearby?)"