Celebrating 61 Years
of Creating Community Through the Arts

HIGHLIGHTS OF FISCAL 2015 YEAR
July 2014 – June 2015
DURHAM ARTS COUNCIL

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- DAC Building and DAC downtown arts events and programs attracted attendance of over 351,696 generating visits from local, regional, and multi-state visitors. Durham Arts Council is the 4th most visited facility in downtown Durham (just below DPAC).

  In FY15, DAC and its audiences as a single organization produced over $9.7 million in economic impact in Durham (per Arts and Economic Prosperity calculator report – Americans for the Arts).

- Provided free public access to the Durham Arts Council building seven days a week year-round; operated 24,035 hours, producing and hosting 4,952 arts programs and community events in the building.

- Provided over $1 million in direct income to artists, arts organizations, arts administrators and arts-related vendors in our community, supporting in full or in part over 500 arts-related jobs.

- Produced 2 Durham Art Walks – fall and spring – with a combined record number of participating artists and business sites; 38 business sites downtown and over 450 artists showcased.

- Mounted 15 gallery exhibitions at DAC and 2 exhibitions at the Durham Convention Center that showcased the work of 40 visual artists.
Coordinated the regional Congressional High School Art Competition with Congressman Price's office.

Provided exhibition, performance, teaching, career development, and artwork sales opportunities to over 1,400 visual artists, film artists, literary artists, and performing artists through DAC Exhibits, Durham Art Walk, CenterFest, DAC School, DAC CAPS Program, Piedmont Laureate Program, Artist workshops, and Emerging Artists Program.

DAC Grant Programs supported arts organizations in Durham through $462,931 in grants to 42 arts organizations (Cash grants = $173,852; Space grants = $289,079; total up 2% from last year's $454,740). Awarded $23,000 to 16 artists through the Emerging Artists Grant Program. Increased organizations receiving grants from 32 to 42.

2015-16 Durham Arts Council Season Grant Recipients

African American Dance Ensemble
American Dance Festival
The Art of Cool Project
Arts for Life
BUMP The Triangle
Carlota Santana Spanish Dance
Carolina Wren Press
Choral Society of Durham
The Durham Art Guild, Inc.
Durham Central Park
Durham Children’s Choir
The Durham Community Chorale
Durham Community Concert Band
Durham Family Theater
Durham Savoyards, Ltd.
The Durham Symphony Orchestra
El Centro Hispano
Full Frame Documentary Film Festival
Gaspard and Dancers
KidZNotes
Legacy Repertory Company
Little Green Pig Theatrical Concern
Mallarmé Chamber Players
Manbites Dog Theater Company
North Carolina Arts in Action
The Scrap Exchange
Southern Documentary Fund
St. Joseph’s Historic Foundation
Terreirode Arte e Cultura
Threshold
Walltown Children’s Theatre
Young People’s Performing Company

Programming provided by DAC grantees plus DAC arts programs collectively served audiences of over 1,000,000 citizens and visitors.

Provided 320 arts residency programs that served 24,053 students in Durham, Orange, Granville, Chatham and Person Counties through the DAC Creative Arts in Public/Private Schools Program (CAPS). CAPS continues to grow through expansion into surrounding counties and expanded partnerships with DPS Schools and community partners. CAPS supports core academic curriculum through arts-based learning.
- DAC School on-site provided 50,766 student hours of hands-on arts instruction through over 613 visual and performing arts classes, camps, lessons and workshops for 4,193 youth and adults. Summer camps served 1,248 children. DAC Clay Studio at Northgate Mall enrolled a record 597 students.

- Produced the 40th Annual CenterFest Arts Festival featuring 140 artists from 16 states, 72 performing groups on 6 stages, plus community showcase, food and Kids Zone. A record 26,377 visitors attended the festival. Economic impact of $1.5 million for the festival this year.

**LEADERSHIP AND PLANNING**

- **SmART Initiative** – DAC secured one of only 5 arts-based economic development grants from the State of NC – North Carolina Arts Council in 2012 and has led a process to develop a major arts-driven economic development project downtown. DAC organized a team of over 25 key partners from the public and private sector in Durham and has led a major planning process with internationally noted public art/urban design artist Mikyoung Kim, who was selected through a competitive national RFQ process that attracted applications from 32 top design teams from across the country. DAC worked with Mikyoung Kim, North Carolina Arts Council, and the community to create the SmART Vision Plan – connecting the cultural hubs/districts in downtown Durham through key elements of public art, design lighting, wayfinding systems, outdoor enhancements and green space improvements. The SmART Vision Plan focuses on the North/South Corridor of Blackwell/Corcoran/Foster Streets to create an Arts and Entertainment District. The final Vision Plan was presented to the community on June 30, 2015. Fundraising efforts have begun to implement early projects in the 10 year vision plan.
• Durham Arts Council provided affordable performance, rehearsal, meeting and office space for 62 arts and cultural organizations, making it possible for these organizations to create, present and share their artistic work with the community.

• Durham Arts Council continued to build support networks and services, offering professional development information and opportunities for the arts community.

• Durham Arts Council continued to lead community arts advocacy, ensuring that the arts are "at the table" on major community projects, and supported national and statewide arts advocacy initiatives. DAC continued its support of major initiatives of the Durham Cultural Master Plan; a 15 year plan which guides arts and cultural development in Durham. DAC led creation of this plan in 2002 -2004.

• In FY 15 DAC launched Strategic Planning to envision its future programs and services. Focus groups, online surveys, interviews and board discussions are guiding the process.
The Durham Arts Council building is a City-owned facility that has been managed and programmed by the Durham Arts Council since 1978. This is the oldest building in continuous public service in Durham. Built in 1906 as the original high school for Durham, it then served as City Hall from 1926 – 1977. Durham Arts Council enlivened the building with the arts in 1978 and launched a major capital campaign in partnership with the City, County, State and private donors to renovate the building, creating a professional, first-class arts center which was completed in 1988. The Durham Arts Council building is the home for the arts in downtown Durham, serving nearly 400,000 visitors and hosting over 5,000 arts and community events, classes, meetings and celebrations each year. Open seven days a week, the DAC provides a venue and support for the entire community and our Durham arts organizations to explore, experience, create and celebrate the arts.

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