

# Durham Cultural Advisory Board

## AGENDA

**Wednesday, April 15, 2026**

**3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**Location: City Hall, 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, NC 27701**

For meeting link or information, please email [dcab@durhamnc.gov](mailto:dcab@durhamnc.gov)  
at least one day prior to the meeting date. To learn more about how to join the meeting,  
visit: <https://durhamnc.gov/452/Durham-Cultural-Advisory-Board>.

### Durham Cultural Advisory Board Members

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Javiera Caballero, At-Large City Council Member | Joseph Jordan, Chair       |
| Karim Baer                                      | Barbara Lau                |
| Curtis Berzofsky, Student Member                | David Long                 |
| Pamela Bond                                     | Joey G. Medrano            |
| Emily Wynn Ensminger                            | Margaret McNab, Vice Chair |
| Santos Flores                                   | Andrew Nurkin              |
| Marylu Flowers-Schoen                           | Laura Ritchie              |
| R. Scott Frawley                                | Aya Shabu                  |
|   | Vanessa Smart              |

- I. **Call to Order & Guest Introductions** (3:00 p.m. - 3:05 p.m.; 5 minutes)
- II. **Adjustments to the Agenda**
- III. **Public Questions** (3:05 – 3:10 p.m.; 5 minutes)
- IV. **Approval of Minutes** (3:10 – 3:15 p.m.; 5 minutes)
  - a. March 18, 2026 DCAB Meeting Minutes
    - i. *Presenters: Jordan (Chair), McNab (Vice Chair)*
- V. **Old Business** (3:15 – 3:25 p.m.; 10 minutes)
  - a. Staff Updates (3:15 – 3:20 p.m., 5 minutes)
    - i. Durham Cultural Roadmap
    - ii. City Updates
    - iii. ARPA ILA with City and County
      1. St. Joseph’s Historic Foundation & Durham Arts Council
      2. Cultural Roadmap’s ARPA Funding
    - iv. County Updates
  - b. Survey Results for 2026 Joint DCAB & PAC Annual Retreat (3:20 – 3:25 p.m., 5 minutes)
    - i. *Presenters: City Staff, Joseph Jordan (Chair), Margaret McNab (Vice Chair)*

- VI. **New Business** (3:25 – 4:30 p.m.; 65 minutes)
- a. Update Budget FY27 for City of Durham (3:25 – 3:30 p.m., 5 minutes)
    - i. Presenters: *Joseph Jordan (Chair), Margaret McNab (Vice Chair)*
  - b. Durham Next (3:30 - 3:40 p.m., 10 minutes)
    - i. Presenters: *City Staff, Durham Next Staff*
  - c. Festivals & Special Events Grant Presentation (3:40 - 4:00 p.m., 20 minutes)
    - i. Presenters: *City Staff, Margaret McNab (Vice Chair) and Laura Ritchie (Member)*
  - d. Advocacy Committee Updates (4:00 – 4:10 p.m., 10 minutes)
    - i. Presenters: *Karim Baer, Barbara Lau, and Laura Ritchie (Members)*
  - e. New Member Application Review & Recommendations (4:10– 4:25 p.m., 15 minutes)
    - i. Vote on Vacancy
      1. Joseph Jordan (Chair) term ending June 2026
      - ii. Chair & Vice-Chair roles/responsibilities overview from Chair & Vice-Chair. Accepting in-meeting nominations now for Chair & Vice-Chair vote for FY2027. Nominations submitted via email up to one week prior to the May 20, 2026 DCAB meeting.
  - f. DCAB’s Community Connections (4:25 – 4:30 p.m.; 5 minutes)
    - i. Presenters: *Jordan (Chair), McNab (Vice Chair), interested DCAB Members*
- VII. **Adjournment**
- a. Next Steps, Final Thoughts and Closeout (4:30 p.m.)
    - i. Presenters: *Jordan (Chair), McNab (Vice Chair)*
  - b. Next meeting:
    - i. Date: May 20, 2026
    - ii. Location: City Hall, 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, NC 27701
    - iii. Time: 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
    - iv. Agenda Topics:
      1. DCAB Chair & Vice-Chair vote

For updates on City of Durham’s Cultural & Public Art Program, visit:  
<https://www.durhamnc.gov/450/Cultural-Public-Art-Development>

For updates on Durham County’s Public Art Program, visit:  
<https://www.dconc.gov/county-departments/departments-a-e/engineering-and-environmental-services/dco-public-art>

#### **Documents**

- DCAB’s 2026 Calendar
- DCAB Acting Task Forces, Committees, and Groups
- DCAB’s 2025 Goals
- FY25 Festival & Special Event Contracting Status Report

**FY2026 Calendar - Upcoming DCAB's Monthly Meetings for 2025-2026 Term**

May 20, 2026 (3:00 – 4:30 p.m.)  
City Hall, 101 City Hall Plaza, Durham, NC 27701

June 17, 2026 (3:00 – 4:30 p.m.)  
Virtual

**Durham Cultural Advisory Board's Standing Committees, Task Forces, and Groups**

*Festivals & Special Events  
Standing Committee*

1. Joseph Jordan
2. Margaret McNab
3. Andrew Nurkin
4. Laura Ritchie
5. Curtis Berzofsky

*Advocacy Standing Committee*

1. Barbara Lau
2. Karim Baer
3. Laura Ritchie
4. Margaret McNab
5. Joseph Jordan
6. Emily Ensminger

## **2025 DCAB Goals**

### **DCAB's Goals**

As of 2023, DCAB adopted priorities to shape and inform the year ahead, with specific focus on the Durham Cultural Roadmap. Based on inputs from board members, staff, and elected officials, DCAB established the following priorities:

- Advocate for more city and county funding and support for arts and culture in Durham
- Support the implementation of a new Cultural Roadmap
- Strengthen and improve relationships with artists, arts and cultural organizations, communities, neighborhoods, and people of Durham.
- Support and strengthen the work of the Public Art Committee

DCAB also adopted the following as core values to guide their work:

- DCAB will act as stewards of the Durham Poet Laureate program.
- DCAB defines historically excluded communities as any group of people (by gender, ability, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or other identity) who have been or are currently underrepresented either numerically, systemically, in ways of power, in positions of authority, or in adequacy of resources in Durham's arts and cultural social structures.

### **DCAB's Identified Future Needs**

- Continued engagement by City and County leadership, residents, and community leaders throughout the planning process to robustly inform the Durham Cultural Roadmap.
- Budgeted investment in FY25 to support the Durham Cultural Roadmap's identified goals, initiatives and strategies, throughout plan's initial implementation.
- Partnerships and alignment with all City and County departments working in the arts & cultural sector.
- Poet Laureate honorarium increases to align with a living wage and to match similar peer cities' poet laureate programs.
- Increasing staff to implement adopted Durham Cultural Roadmap's goals.
- With assistance from the Public Art Committee, define best practices for public art & private development in the updated Unified Development Ordinance

**FY25 RFP for Festival & Special Event Contracting Status Updates.**

Total Economic Impact: \$8,559,527

Total Tax Revenue: \$683,892

Total Audience: 136,657

Local Tax: \$238,101

# of Artists/Performers: 1,633

State Tax: \$444,791

Estimated amount organizations spent on services, goods, and full-time employees, in addition to audience members' spending while attending the events. Estimated with the assistance of Discover Durham, or through the Arts & Economic Prosperity calculator available through the Americans for the Arts. Data reported reflects 20 of the 22 events funded.

**Outstanding Deliverable Reports**

| Organization                          | Festival                     | FY25 Final  | Due      |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| St Joseph's Historic Foundation, Inc. | Hayti Heritage Film Festival | \$17,596.40 | 2/3/2026 |
| St Joseph's Historic Foundation, Inc. | CELEBRATE HAYTI!             | \$18,568.40 | 2/3/2026 |

**FY26 RFP for Festival & Special Event Contracting Status Updates**

19 contracts are under review by the City Attorney's office.

4 Contracts are submitted for execution by the Director/City Manager.

10 Contracts are included in an agenda item scheduled to be considered by the City Council on 3/16/26. These contracts are for events that occurred before February 1, 2026. State law requires that the contracts be ratified by the City Council before execution.

### Durham Cultural Advisory Board Membership Term Updates

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>KARIM BAER (City-appointed)</b><br/>Currently serving: First Term.<br/>First term ends on June 30, 2027.<br/>Second term would end on June 30, 2030.</p>   | <p><b>DAVID LONG (City-appointed)</b><br/>Currently serving: First Term.<br/>First term ends on June 30, 2026 (reapplied for a second term).<br/>Second Term would end on June 30, 2029.</p>                    |
| <p><b>PAMELA BOND (City-appointed)</b><br/>Currently Serving: First Term.<br/>First term ends on June 30, 2027.<br/>Second term would end on June 30, 2030.</p>  | <p><b>MARGARET McNAB (City-appointed)</b><br/>Currently serving: Second Term.<br/>Second term ends on June 30, 2026 (reapplied for a third term, which would end June 30, 2029).</p>                            |
| <p><b>EMILY WYNN ENSMINGER (City-appointed)</b><br/>Currently serving: First Term (Vacancy Position)<br/>First term ends on: June 30, 2027.<br/>Second term would end on June 30, 2030.<br/>Eligible for a third term, which would end on June 30, 2033.</p> | <p><b>JOEY G. MEDRANO (City-appointed)</b><br/>Currently serving: Second Term.<br/>Second term ends on June 30, 2028.<br/>Eligible for a third term, which would end on June 30, 2031.</p>                      |
| <p><b>SANTOS FLORES (City-appointed)</b><br/>Currently serving: First Term.<br/>Term ends on June 30, 2027.<br/>Second term would end on June 30, 2030.</p>  | <p><b>ANDREW NURKIN (County-appointed)</b><br/>Currently serving: Second Term.<br/>Second term ends on June 30, 2027.</p>   |
| <p><b>MARYLU FLOWERS-SCHOEN (County-appointed)</b><br/>Currently Serving: First Term<br/>Term ends on June 30, 2029.<br/>Second term would end on June 30, 2032.</p>   | <p><b>LAURA RITCHIE (City-appointed)</b><br/>Currently serving: Second Term.<br/>Second term ends on June 30, 2027.</p>   |
| <p><b>R. SCOTT FRAWLEY (City-appointed)</b><br/>Currently Serving: First Term (Vacancy Position)<br/>Term ends on June 30, 2027.<br/>Second term would end on June 30, 2030.<br/>Eligible for a third term, which would end on June 30, 2033.</p>            | <p><b>AYA SHABU (City-appointed)</b><br/>Currently serving: Second Term.<br/>Second term ends on June 30, 2028.</p>   |
| <p><b>JOSEPH JORDAN (City-appointed)</b><br/>Currently serving: Second Term.<br/>Second term ends on June 30, 2026 (not reapplying for a third term).</p>  | <p><b>VANESSA SMART (City-appointed)</b><br/>Currently serving: Second Term.<br/>Second term ends on June 30, 2027.<br/>Eligible for a third term, which would end on June 30, 2030.</p>                        |
| <p><b>BARBARA LAU (City-appointed)</b><br/>Currently serving: Second Term.<br/>Second term ends on June 30, 2028.<br/>Eligible for a third term, which would end on June 30, 2031.</p>   | <p><b>CURTIS BERZOFKY (Student Member)</b><br/>Currently serving: First Term.<br/>First term ends on June 30, 2026.<br/>Second term would end on June 30, 2027.<br/>Eligible for four one-year terms total.</p> |