



**For Immediate Release
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**Durham Arts Council launches
\$1 million Culture and Arts: Invest to Restart ARPA Grant Program, supporting
Durham’s Arts and Cultural Sector in Post-Pandemic Recovery and Growth
in partnership with the City of Durham**

DURHAM, NC—Durham Arts Council (DAC) is pleased to launch the **Culture and Arts: Invest to Restart ARPA Grant Program which will provide \$1 million to support arts and cultural organizations and artists in Durham**. This program is funded through the federal American Rescue Plan funds allocated to the City of Durham. Durham Arts Council, a 501(c)3 non-profit local arts agency, has designed and will administer this grant and training program to support non-profit arts and cultural organizations, small businesses, and individual artists in their post-pandemic recovery and growth. The program will support the Durham arts and cultural community through cash grant support and free training to support career skills and business capacity development.

This program will span two years beginning in November 2023 and running through 2025. ***“This American Rescue Plan funding will support Durham’s Creative Sector recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic and catalyze new economic growth. We are grateful to the City of Durham for this vital ARPA support”*** stated Durham Arts Council Executive Director, Sherry DeVries. More information on this grant opportunity and other DAC grant programs is at <https://durhamarts.org/grants/> or call 919-560-2720.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS – CULTURE & ARTS: INVEST TO RESTART

Eligibility to apply: To be eligible individual artists must live in the City of Durham and provide documentation of consistent artistic practice and financial loss due to COVID. Arts and cultural nonprofit organizations and small businesses in the arts/cultural sector must be based in the City of Durham. All beneficiaries of these programs must provide documentation of financial loss due to the COVID pandemic. **The application portal opens November 28, 2023 and first round grant applications are due January 15, 2024 at <https://durhamarts.org/grants/>.**

Culture & Arts: Invest to Restart grant and training program will support and be in compliance with the stated objectives, regulations and pillars of the federal American Rescue Plan Act which governs funds to local municipalities and sub-recipients. For this program the pillars and goals for the funds granted to the Durham arts and cultural sector are to:

- Restart arts & cultural organization/business, venues, artist businesses – ensuring recovery and survival post-pandemic.

- Provide positive arts and cultural experiences for Durham residents.
- Grow in attracting and increasing tourism.
- Thrive as a creative business.
- Employ and retain talent in the Durham workforce; and
- Generate positive economic growth.

The Need for ARPA funded support for the Durham Arts & Cultural Sector

The arts and cultural sector of Durham is a key economic driver and partner in making Durham a vibrant, successful community that attracts and supports a diverse and talented workforce. [Durham's non-profit arts and cultural sector contributes \\$233,059,155 million annually to Durham's economy, supports 3,246 FTE jobs, and provides 2.3 million arts/cultural experiences to attendees each year.](#)¹

Durham's arts and cultural sector came to a grinding halt in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. **Surveys of the sector conducted by the Durham Arts Council showed revenue losses after 18 months exceeded \$21 million and 98% of organizations surveyed reported difficult to extreme impact. Over 2 million arts experiences/event attendees were lost and the economic impact that these create.** These losses grew further during the 2022 Omicron surge that continued to impact revenues and programming across Durham's arts and cultural organizations, businesses and artists. [A report by the Center for Civil Society Studies indicated that the Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation nonprofit sector is expected to take nearly 2.5 years to recover from the pandemic.](#)²

Post-pandemic in 2023, the Durham arts and cultural sector is recovering but has still not fully regained its pre-pandemic audiences, sales, staffing and overall capacity to create and share vibrant visual, performing and literary arts with the community locally, regionally and nationally.

Program Components:

1. Cash Grant Awards for Arts & Cultural Organizations and Small Arts/Cultural Businesses:

DAC plans to award \$285,000 in grants to nonprofit 501c3 arts and cultural organizations, and small businesses in the arts and cultural sector. Grant awards will range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 depending on level of economic loss experienced by the organization/business as a result of the pandemic. These grants will focus on helping applicants rebuild their capacity and sustainability to operate and provide programs and services in Durham.

2. Training Programs and Cash Participation Fees for Arts & Cultural Organizations, Small Businesses, and Individual Artists:

DAC plans to award \$525,000 to Arts and Cultural 501c3 nonprofit organizations and small businesses in the arts/cultural sector, and to Individual Artists for participation in a series of training workshops to rebuild and advance their business and artistic practice post-pandemic. **This training will be provided at no cost to the approved arts and cultural organizations and arts business, and to individual artist applicants, and training is funded through the**

¹ Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 – Americans for the Arts – local study commissioned by Durham Arts Council- published 2023 https://durhamarts.org/economic_impact/?_gl=1*1hcgyl3*_ga*NTUwOTE4ODASLjE2NjM0MTU3MDg.*_ga_J56H1MZY41*MTY5OTk4OTczNS4xMDluMS4xNjk5OTg5ODkyLjAuMCAw&_ga=2.55257448.2141074421.1699904554-550918809.1663415708

² Center for Civil Society Studies. "COVID-19 JOBS UPDATE, JANUARY 2021: Nonprofit Jobs Still Down by Nearly 960,000 as of January, Time to Full Recovery Increases to 2 Years" <http://ccss.jhu.edu/january-2021-jobs/>

ARPA program. Each approved applicant will be provided a cash participation fee following their completion of a program(s). Participation fees to the applicants will range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The program provides free training and payment for their participation time. DAC anticipates providing training sessions for up to 70 arts/cultural organizations and small businesses and up to 80 individual artists.

Additional In-Depth Training:

The application for training support will also include the opportunity to participate in Diversity/Equity/Access/Inclusion training, or to request follow-up in-depth training that DAC will contract with an approved trainer and provide for the approved arts and cultural organization, business, or artist from the ARPA funds. Eligible examples include extended training on board development, fundraising, technology, or training support for an individual artist in their artistic field. This will be provided at no cost to the arts/cultural organization, business or artist.

As funding is available, DAC may also allow organizations, businesses, and individual artists to apply for funding to attend conferences, workshops not already offered through this ARPA program, master classes or other training specific to their art form/business focus.

Focus on Equity and Diversity:

DAC strives to distribute grant funding to support and equitably represent the diversity of Durham. Durham's population is 57% Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and 43% White. Minority owned businesses, organizations, and artists will be eligible for additional funding added to the base grant.

Diverse review panels made up of content knowledge experts, community members, and organization or artists peers will review and score applications for grants and training programs depending on level of economic loss experienced by the organization/business as a result of the pandemic, and their expressed needs and goals to build post-pandemic recovery and sustainability.

DAC will encourage minority owned businesses and organizations to apply and will assist them with additional support in the application process. DAC will partner with Hayti Heritage Center/St. Joseph's Historic Foundation and other community agencies to build minority owned businesses and organizations recruitment and support for the program.

Other Program Components:

The ARPA funds will also support a two-year grants manager position to help administer the program, fees for training providers, and equipment and administrative support.

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About Durham Arts Council



The Durham Arts Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and local arts agency dedicated to supporting the arts in Durham and the entire Triangle Region in North Carolina and has served the community since 1954. Each year DAC serves nearly 400,000 visitors and program participants, over 2,000 artists, and more than 300 arts and cultural organizations through classes, artist residencies, exhibits, festivals, grants programs, technical support, arts advocacy and information services.

Durham Arts Council, Inc. is a catalyst in the cultural development of Durham - it leads, inspires, and promotes excellence in and access to the creation, experience and active support of the arts for all the people of our community. For more information call 919.560.ARTS or visit our website at www.durhamarts.org