



Durham Appearance Commission

Cultivate visual appeal & recognize the benefits of good design, which enhance quality of life.

2018 Annual Report

Date: February 20, 2019

To: Joint City-County Planning Committee
Durham City Council
Durham County Board of Commissioners

From: Michael Miller, Chair, Durham City-County Appearance Commission

Subject: 2018 Durham City-County Appearance Commission Annual Report

Introduction. The Durham City-County Appearance Commission is an advisory board whose mission is to *cultivate visual appeal and recognize the benefits of good design, which enhance the quality of life for the residents of the City and County of Durham*. The Commission members are appointed by both the City Council and Board of County Commissioners. Commission members have a variety of backgrounds including architecture, landscape architecture, interior design, contractor, and city planning, as well as citizens interested in design and appearance issues. The Commission meets the third Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room GA on the ground floor of City Hall. This report provides a summary of the Commission's work in 2018.

General Accomplishments for 2018. The commission had four sub-committees to align our goals for 2018. The committees are Golden Leaf Awards, Design Policy, Digital Outreach, and Education and Enhancement. In addition to these four focus areas we continue efforts to align with other agencies and organizations, private and public, to coordinate the activities and programs that improve the appearance of Durham City and County.

Golden Leaf Awards. The intent of the Golden Leaf Awards is to recognize new developments, buildings, and landscaping in Durham County that provide positive attributes to our built environment. The commission maintains the Golden Leaf Awards website (www.durhamgoldenleaf.com) where all submittals are displayed and voting for People's Choice awards takes place. The 2018 Golden Leaf Awards Program had 26 entries in seven categories. Eight awards were presented. The Keep Durham Beautiful Award was presented in conjunction with the Keep Durham Beautiful non-profit, volunteer organization working in partnership with the City of Durham General Services Department and Durham County. The Sustainability Award was presented in conjunction with the Durham City-County Environmental Affairs Board. All winners were recognized at an awards reception held at the Durham County Administration Building on April 19, 2018.

UDO Review. The committee has reviewed UDO/Comprehensive Plan updates, discussed with the entire Commission, and prepared a memorandum. We sent the City Council and County Commissioners

our thoughts regarding Expanding Housing Choices and have participated as a stakeholder in the Durham Downtown Wayfinding Project.

Mission Statement/Interlocal Agreement/By-laws. In 2018 we revised the By-laws to reflect the changes in the Inter-local agreement that were approved in 2017.

Education and Engagement. This committee was formed to reach out to the professional design community as well as the community-at-large to engage in discussions about built design issues. In 2018, they hosted an event “Garden to Glass.” They are targeting to do two events a year.

Overall Commission Goals for 2018-2019.

- Host the 2019 Golden Leaf Awards on April 18, 2019
- Host 2 educational events
- Develop and maintain sponsorships
- Build a robust digital outreach platform (e.g. enhanced website, re-tool social media, develop contact list, post blog articles etc.)
- Participate in Expanding Housing Choices and development of new Comprehensive Plan

The Appearance Commission looks forward to another year helping to make Durham a better and more beautiful place to live and work.

Durham City-County Appearance Commission members (as of 12/31/2018). Michael Miller (Chair), Lyn McClay(Vice-Chair), Erik Mehlman (Secretary), Jessica Braverman, Richard Crawford, Charles Douglas, Miguel Jackson, Frederick Jernigan, Anne Lebo, Leslie Mason, Pamela Porter, Mitch Tuchman, Ellen Weinstein.

Recommendation. To receive the Annual Report.

Staff Contact. Kayla Seibel, AICP, Senior Planner, Durham City-County Planning Department

Sincerely,

Michael Miller, Chair