

# Strategic Youth Initiatives + Office on Youth 2020 Update

PRESENTED TO: DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON JANUARY 4, 2021



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[durhamnc.gov/OfficeOnYouth](https://durhamnc.gov/OfficeOnYouth)



@YouthSpeakDURM

# Presentation Flow

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- Strategic Youth Initiative origins
- Grounding in values + vision
- Office on Youth goals + progress
- The work ahead

# City-County Strategic Youth Initiative Origins

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- Follows in long legacy of efforts to address barriers to youth success (*recent e.g., 2012 IBM Smarter Cities Challenge; 2014-16 Youth Opportunity Initiative*)
- Initiated December 2017, w/hiring of City-County Youth Initiatives Manager
- Housed in City's Office on Youth (OOY), in City Manager's Office, with direct link to County Manager's Office
- **Goals of the initiative have become the goals of the OOO**
- Scope is primarily City and County youth services, for ages 5-24 years



## CITY-COUNTY YOUTH INITIATIVES MANAGER



- Youth voices absent in local government
- Youth services not coordinated
- Youth not connecting to services
- Centralized support needed to address these challenges

- Enhance/create channels for engaging youth voices in local policy-making
- Support City + County youth services and TA needs
- Develop strategies to prioritize use of City/County resources
- Maintain map/inventory of programs
- Develop/collect performance measures
- Develop tools that connect youth and families to resources
- Review new funding requests, provide rec's to City/County
- Manage OOH, coordinate w/other programs

- 1. Increase opportunities for equitable youth engagement
- 2. Strengthen impact of City/County-supported youth services
- 3. Develop OOH org. capacity to support Goals 1 and 2

# Office on Youth: What We Believe

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- ALL young people in Durham have the right to have the resources and support they need to thrive, but not all do
- Dismantling racism, sexism, adultism, and other “-isms” is required if we want all young people to succeed and thrive
- Young people are impacted by the now and future. They should have a role in decision making for policies, programs and services
- The experiences of young people and families, especially those most excluded, should guide our decisions and plans
- When we work as a collective, we are more effective at achieving shared goals

**Our vision:** All young people in Durham are their whole, healthiest selves and have the power and platforms to lead positive community change.

**Our mission:** We create new spaces and structures for Durham youth to be co-creators and decision-makers in local government.

We partner with Durham's young people, their families, and other people who support youth. We work together to find ways that local government programs and systems can better support all children and youth ages 5-24 years.



# Goal 1

Create new opportunities for young people ages 13-24 years to fully participate in local government planning and decision making



# Durham Youth Engagement Network

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- Over 225 County, City community org. providers
- Active YODurham listserv
- Hosted: Youth engagement roundtable, social events, youth engagement conference/trainings



**Next: Convene providers to share/organize around listening project priorities;  
Continue expanding and nurturing listserv**



# Consultation to County + City Depts.

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- Advised departments on how to create authentic youth engagement opportunities
- Supported departments in creating new decision making positions for young people
- Connected and supported about 20 youth in new positions, almost all youth of color
  - County Non-profit Award Program Selection Committee (County Budget and Management Services)
  - YRBS Focus Group Project facilitator (County Dept. of Public Health)
  - Comprehensive Plan engagement (City-County Planning Department)
  - New staff, Youth Listening Project ambassadors, Seen in Quarantine Challenge (City Office on Youth, County supported)
  - Participatory Budgeting Steering Committee (City Budget and Management Services)
  - Neighborhood Matching Grants Selection Team (City Neighborhood Improvement Services)
  - Public Arts Committee (City General Services)
  - *Youth Advisory Council (DPS Foundation)*
  - *UNC Adolescent Health Working Group*

**Next: Listening project results will highlight other priority depts/projects; Consultation role will expand in coming years**

# Durham Youth Commission

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- 15 high school-aged youth; shifted to advocacy focus
- New recruitment methods to ensure more representation of identities and experiences
- Training and skill building
- Relationship building with elected officials

**Next: Restructure youth commission to better align with new OOH priorities and needs emerging from the listening project (e.g., consultation to departments)**

# Goal 2

Through collective processes with diverse stakeholders, develop and implement strategies that strengthen the impact of City and County supported programs, policies, and services for children and youth ages 5-24 years



# Youth Listening Project - Purpose

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- Understand how to better engage and communicate with youth and their families
- Understand the barriers/facilitators for participating in youth services
- Find solutions that could guide our work, set priorities for OOY and other depts./orgs



# Youth Listening Project - Process

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- Audience: youth (13-24 years); caregivers (of 5-24 years); service providers
- Youth-adult partnership; youth leadership roles
  - 3 OUY youth staff; 5 youth ambassadors; youth-adult board
- Prioritized marginalized identities/experiences
  - Youth of color; LGBTQ+ youth; immigrant/migrant youth; youth who are not working and not in school; and youth who have experienced economic hardships, houselessness, and interactions with law enforcement
- Reduced barriers to participation
- Collaborative, community-rooted





# Youth Listening Project - Progress



- Selection process to hire consultants (Summer/Fall 2019)
- Team- and capacity-building (Winter 2019)
- 7 community events, over 600+ responses to determine focus areas: *Activities and Programs; Welcoming Spaces; Diversity; Youth Leadership; Safety; Transportation*
- 13 listening sessions (Winter/Spring 2020)
- Sensemaking and report writing (Spring-Fall 2020)
- 3 “reflecting back” sessions (Fall 2020)
- **Finalize and release report, share widely (Winter 2021)**

**Next: Identify OOH priorities, work with depts/partners to advance recs; Convene partners around shared priorities; Develop/launch new funding program for community orgs to advance recs**



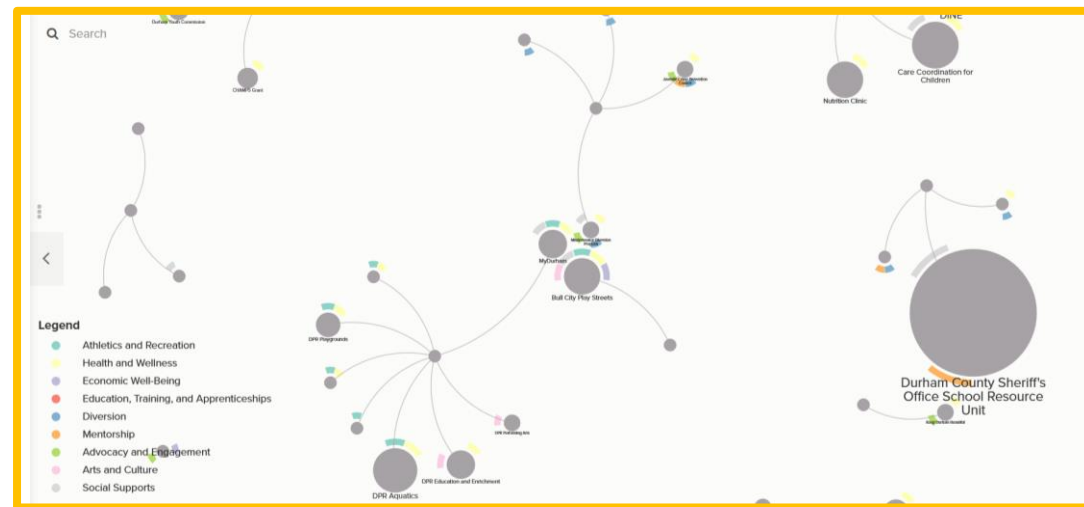
# New OOH Grant Funding Program!

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- **Purpose:** To fund initiatives, led by community based organizations/groups, that advance the priorities identified in the youth listening project
- **Total Funding:** \$100,000 (\$88K allocated to OOH from County Non-Profit Award Program, \$12K from existing strategic youth initiative funds in OOH)
- **Process:** Community/youth leadership in development and implementation; City and County departments engaged
- **Scope:**
  - To be determined by youth-adult board w/extensive review of listening project results
  - Also informed by: priorities of the County's non-profit program; City's Participatory Budgeting - Cycle 2 non-profit funding program; and current COVID realities and needs for families
- **Timeline:** RFP to be released spring 2021; initiatives funded July 2021-June 2022

# Youth Services Landscape + Inventories

City-County Youth Services Inventory +  
relationship mapping tool (Kumu)



**Next: Officially launch updated DNOC youth services page;  
Complete Kumu inventory to the extent possible, share with depts.**

Durham Network of Care  
Youth Services page updates

**BULL CITY ONLINE RESOURCE GUIDE** Durham Network Of Care

HOME SERVICES LIBRARY LEGISLATE LINKS INSURANCE SUPPORT & ADVOCACY MY ACCOUNT

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 25 YEARS (YOUTH)** Add To Favorites

[Update Listing](#)  
[Add New Agency](#)

**ALL RESOURCES** +  
Click here for a list of all the resources on this page.

**ARTS AND CULTURE** +  
Resources that provide opportunities for youth to create and experience art. Also includes resources that offer cultural or place-making events.

**CRISIS SERVICES** +  
Resources that provide aid during a dangerous or life-threatening situation, or in the event that a basic need is not being met.

**DIVERSION** +  
Resources that are associated with youth and the criminal justice system. Includes diversion programs; programs that support youth who have had interactions with the justice system, and programs that educate youth about police officers and the courts.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD** +  
Resources that support early childhood education and development, typically for ages 0-8 years.

**ECONOMIC WELL-BEING** +  
Resources that promote prosperity and economic well-being, such as those related to workforce development, job placement, fiscal literacy, and savings programs. Also includes programs aimed at assisting youth experiencing homelessness/houselessness.


**EDUCATION, LITERACY, AND TRAINING** +  
Resources that support youth in attaining credentials and general learning and literacy. Includes generalized education aimed at providing skills in a particular area. Also includes programs that provide support for currently enrolled students who may be struggling, youth who have dropped out/been pushed out of school, or youth in the process of re-engaging. Includes training programs that provide short-term educational opportunities for learning specific skills.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS** +  
Resources that support physical health, environmental health, safety, and mental and behavioral health.

**MENTORSHIP** +  
Resources that connect youth with services and resources through mentoring and case management. Particularly focused on programs that have a relational

# Connecting Young People to Resources





**YODurham Text**  
A one-way text line for young people in Durham under 25.

**Get occasional texts about resources available to you in Durham.**

Texts could be about food and employment assistance, supplies, social and emotional health, events, and more.

**Stay connected to Durham's resources.**

Sign up:  
**DurhamNC.gov/YODurhamText**

Or text "yodurham" to  
919-213-0691

- New Instagram Account (>360 followers)
- YODurham Text Line (>140 members)
- Via youth ambassadors and service providers
- DPS Community Schools Institutional Support Team

**Next: Expand text line, Instagram membership, and youth network; support emerging needs from Community Schools**

# Amplify Experiences + Needs of Young People

- E.g., supporting youth organizers in hosting Summit for School Safety; new art-based zine (2021); voice message line for youth to share virtual learning experiences with DPS; Seen in Quarantine Challenge

DURHAM YOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE INITIATIVE  
SUPPORTED BY THE OFFICE ON YOUTH AND MADE IN DURHAM

**ARE YOU A DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS MIDDLE OR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WANTING TO SEE CHANGES IN YOUR SCHOOL? \$25 GIFT CARDS FOR ALL WHO PARTICIPATE!**

#BLACKSTUDENTS MATTER

## YOUTH SUMMIT ON SCHOOL SAFETY

Students from Durham Public Schools are invited to learn from each other's experiences. This virtual engagement session will lead to action on what young people can do to make our school safer.

**Monday, July 20th 2020, 6pm-8pm**  
**Register at: [bit.ly/dpsyouthsummit](https://bit.ly/dpsyouthsummit) for the Zoom Link**

**Youth led and organized.**  
Contact w/ Questions:  
Aissa Dearing, Elijah King, Jay Rahim  
[aissa.dearing@gmail.com](mailto:aissa.dearing@gmail.com), [elijahking@gmail.com](mailto:elijahking@gmail.com), [jamil.rahim@gmail.com](mailto:jamil.rahim@gmail.com)

## DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS STUDENTS AND FAMILIES: SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT VIRTUAL LEARNING WITH DPS BEFORE SEPT. 24

### WAYS TO SHARE

*What has virtual learning been like for you and your family?  
What do you need the most right now from DPS to feel supported and to succeed?*

#### 1 CALL 919-213-0691 AND RECORD A MESSAGE

Students ages 13+ and caregivers can leave an anonymous 1-3 min message about their experience on the City of Durham - Office on Youth phone line. All messages will be shared with DPS. Line closes at midnight on Sept. 17.

[durhamnc.gov/OfficeOnYouth](https://durhamnc.gov/OfficeOnYouth)

#### 2 WRITE A PUBLIC COMMENT

A public comments form will be available in the 'Meeting Notice' a week before the next Board meeting on Sept. 24th: [tinyurl.com/dpsboe0924](https://tinyurl.com/dpsboe0924)

#### 3 EMAIL THE BOARD

[BOE@dpsnc.net](mailto:BOE@dpsnc.net)

Have an idea for a digital hangout event for young people?  
Need resources and help to pull it off?

**PITCH YOUR IDEA AT:  
SEEN IN QUARANTINE CHALLENGE**

Record a short video of your idea and post it on twitter or instagram. Tags: [@youthspeakDURM](https://twitter.com/youthspeakDURM) [#DurhamSeenInQuarantine](https://twitter.com/DurhamSeenInQuarantine)

**DEADLINE: MAY 8, 2020**

**WINNING IDEAS WILL BE FUNDED BY THE CITY OF DURHAM OFFICE ON YOUTH!**

Challenge is open to young people in Durham ages 12-24 years.  
**More details: [DurhamNC.gov/SeenInQuarantine](https://DurhamNC.gov/SeenInQuarantine)**

[eYouthSpeaksDURM](https://twitter.com/youthspeakDURM) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/youthspeakDURM/) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/youthspeakDURM/) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/youthspeakDURM)

**Next: Continued work based on emerging needs; youth-centered, youth led annual event**





Thank you!