

Arts in the Triangle

RALEIGH • DURHAM • CHAPEL HILL • SMITHFIELD

This is So Durham: “Insider” Arts

Though Durham’s largest arts venues regularly play host to Broadway shows and major exhibits, Durham is distinguished by its colony of hundreds of working artists and unique intimate performance venues. To really get to know Durham’s arts scene can take years, but the itinerary below will give you a good start.

Exhibits and performances change regularly; please visit the venues’ websites or call in advance for the most up-to-date information, and check out <http://www.durhamartscalendar.com> for additional arts-related events happening in Durham.



HERE IS A SAMPLE ITINERARY.

FRIDAY: **Breakfast**

Mad Hatter Bakeshop and Café

1802 W Main St., Ninth Street District, Durham, NC • 919.286.1987 • <http://www.madhatterbakeshop.com>

A local “guilty pleasure” favorite serving pastries all day, as well as breakfast items, organic salads, sandwiches, wraps and of course, specialty cakes and desserts. Open Mon-Sat, 7am-9pm; Sun, 8am-3pm.

Or visit one of the [other restaurants](#) open for breakfast in the Ninth Street District.

FRIDAY: **Morning**

Ninth Street District

Two blocks west of Duke East Campus between Club Boulevard and Main Street, Ninth Street is a funky and eclectic shopping and dining district near Duke around historic Erwin Mill, including several art galleries:

- **Arete Frame Gallery:** 717 Iredell St. • 919.286.7607 • <http://www.areteframegallery.com> Custom framing with a gallery of prints and original art. Open M-F, 10am-6pm; Sat, 11am-4pm.
- **Craven Allen Gallery:** 1106.5 Broad St. • 919.286.4837 • <http://www.cravenallengallery.com> Features work by Durham and NC artists. Open M-F, 9:30am-6pm; Sat, 10am-4pm.
- **Nancy Tuttle May Studio:** 806 Ninth St. • 919.286.2097 • <http://www.nancytuttlemay.com> Studio of local artist. Open M-F, 9:30am-12:30pm; Sun, 2-4pm; other times by appointment only.
- **Outsiders Art Collectibles:** 718 Iredell St., Ste. C • 919.451.3231 • <http://www.outsiders-art.com> Showcases the work of Southern artists with non-traditional training. Open Tues-Sat, 11am-6pm.
- **Zola Craft Gallery:** 626-B Ninth St. • 919.286.5112 • <http://www.zolacraftgallery.com> Handcrafted jewelry, art, and fine crafts. Open Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, 12-5pm.

FRIDAY: Lunch

Watts Grocery

1116 Broad St., Ninth Street District, Durham, NC • 919.416.5040 • <http://www.wattsgrocery.com>

Bon Appétit writes that chef Amy Tornquist is “known for her distinctive North Carolina-style cuisine; she makes her own bourbon-laced pimento cheese at Durham’s hottest restaurant.” Also features Durham-inspired art by local artists. Open Tues-Fri, 11:30am-2:30pm; Tues-Sat 5:30pm-10pm; Sat-Sun, 11:30am-2:30pm.

Or visit one of Durham’s many other [local favorite restaurants](#).

FRIDAY: Afternoon and early evening

Durham is home to several artist collaborations, many of which have open studio hours. As time permits, choose one or visit several. The three listed below are all located in Downtown and easily accessible by the Bull City Connector, a fare-free bus route connecting Duke University West Campus and Downtown including Golden Belt that runs from 6:30am to midnight, M-Sat.

On the Third Friday of each month, dozens of arts venues including the ones below open their doors for tours, special exhibitions and opportunities to meet the artists. Visit <http://www.thirdfridaydurham.com> for more information.

Bull City Arts Collaborative

401-B1 Foster St., Downtown Durham • <http://www.bullcityarts.org>

Downtown arts collective that includes exhibition space and three studios producing commissioned work, collaborative projects, and retail artworks. Open Wed, 4-7pm; Sat, 10am-1pm; Third Fridays, 6-9pm.

Durham Arts Place

305 E Chapel Hill St., Downtown Durham • 919.491.4625

Gallery focusing on group shows for young artists arranged by guest curators with diverse skills and interests. Includes Dirty Durham, which provides free studio space for local musicians and artists. Open the third and fourth Friday evening of every month and by appointment.

Golden Belt Artist Studios

807 E Main St., Downtown Durham • 919.967.7700 • <http://www.goldenbeltarts.com>

Studios of dozens of painters, jewelry-makers, photographers, mixed-media artists, and others in a creatively restored seven-acre historic mill campus. Golden Belt also includes [LabourLove](#) and ROOM100 galleries. Open Mon-Sat, 10am-7pm; Sun, 12-6pm.

FRIDAY: Dinner

Beyú Caffé

335 W Main St., Downtown Durham • 919.683.1058 • <http://www.beyucafe.com>

A local hotspot that runs the gamut from early morning coffeehouse to popular lunch café to late night lounge, offering locally sourced menus, live jazz music, cocktails, spirits, and more. Open Mon-Thur, 7am-11pm; Fri, 7am-12:30am; Sat, 8am-12:30am; Sun, 10am-3pm.

Or visit one of the many [other restaurants](#) in Downtown Durham.

FRIDAY: Evening/late night

Durham's live music scene is growing by leaps and bounds. Depending on the evening, check out a performance at any of the venues below or discover other [Durham nightlife](#).

The venues below are private clubs requiring membership to enter, which can be obtained for a nominal fee at the door. Please check with the venues for more information and applicable age restrictions.

Casbah

1007 W Main St., Downtown Durham • 919.687.6969 • <http://www.casbahdurham.com>

Live music venue and event space in the Brightleaf District of Downtown Durham. See website for shows and ticket information.

Motorco Music Hall

723 Rigsbee Ave., Downtown Durham • 919.901.0875 • <http://www.motorcomusic.com>

500+ person capacity venue within short walking distance to the restaurants and bars of Downtown. Open Tues-Fri, 5pm-2am; Sat, 12pm-2am; Sun, 12pm-6pm. See website for shows and ticket information.

Talk of the Town

108 E Main St., Downtown Durham • 919.682.7747

Enjoy grown-up entertainment in Downtown Durham with, depending on the night, live music, a DJ, or both. Open Wed-Fri, 5pm-2am; Sat, 8pm-2am.

The Pinhook

117 W Main St., Downtown Durham • 919.667.1100 • <http://www.thepinhook.com>

Live music venue featuring patio, nightly drink specials, open mic nights, and more. Open Mon-Thur 5pm-2am; Fri, 4pm-2am; Sat, 6pm-2am. Check website for show schedule and ticket info.

SATURDAY: Brunch

Piedmont

401 Foster St., Downtown Durham • 919.683.1213 • <http://www.piedmontrestaurant.com>

Condé Nast Traveler listed Piedmont on its Hot List of the world's newest, hottest, sexiest restaurants, calling the eatery's rustic Italian and French influences "...an appealing combination of farm-fresh earnestness and contemporary style." Open for brunch Sat-Sun, 10am-3pm.

SATURDAY: Morning

Durham Craft Market

530 Foster St. (across from Durham Farmers' Market), Downtown Durham • <http://www.durhamcraftmarket.com>

Open-air market which offers a rotating slate of approximately 35 artisans. They represent many different categories of craft, all of which are handmade in the Durham area. Open Sat, 8am-12pm, April through mid-November.

The Scrap Exchange

923 Franklin St., Durham • 919.688.6960 • <http://www.scrapexchange.org>

Clean industrial discards available for creative reuse. Gallery showcases artists using reusable materials or concepts. Several craft classes throughout the year. M-F, 11am-5pm; Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 12-5pm.

Downtown Public Art Stroll

To view these sculptures and murals, start at Durham Central Park and proceed south along Foster Street. Foster Street becomes Corcoran Street, then turn left on Parrish Street. This list represents just a small selection of the public art in downtown; visit <http://www.durhamarts.com> for more.

- **Durham Central Park:** 502 Foster St. – Includes dozens of art pieces including works by Michael Brown and Andrew Preiss, as well as the George Watts Hill Pavilion for the Arts adjacent to the Liberty Arts Warehouse.
- **“The Arts in Durham”** – Mural By Emily Weinstein: 401 Foster St. (on the side of Piedmont restaurant)
- **“Pauli Murray and True Community”** – Mural By Brett Cook: 313 Foster St. Part of a 5-mural series honoring Durham native and activist Pauli Murray, the first African-American woman ordained to the Episcopal priesthood. ([More info](#))
- **“The Major”** – Sculpture By Michael Waller & Leia Foushee: CCB Plaza (Corcoran Street at W Parrish Street) The two-ton bronze bull created at Durham’s George Watts Hill Pavilion for the Arts is a downtown landmark and makes a great photo.
- **Parrish Street sculptures** – Parrish St. between Corcoran and Church Sts. Six historical marker sculptures document the history of Durham’s Black Wall Street. ([More info](#))

SATURDAY: Lunch

Toast

345 W Main St., Downtown Durham • 919.683.2183 • <http://www.toast-fivepoints.com>

An authentic Italian paninoteca, or sandwich shop, with a focus on local produce, fresh artisanal breads, and house-cured meats and cheeses. Open M-F, 11am-8pm; Sat, 11am-3pm.

Or visit one of Durham’s many [other restaurants](#) in Downtown or near Duke’s campus.

SATURDAY: Afternoon

Duke University Campus

In addition to many pieces of public art, Duke’s campus is home to galleries, an [internationally acclaimed art museum](#), [incredible public gardens](#), and more that can take days to explore. These are only a few of Duke’s hidden gems; depending on the time available, choose one or several:

- **Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University** • 1317 W Pettigrew St, Durham, NC 27705 • 919.660-3663 • <http://documentarystudies.duke.edu>

Maintains four galleries of revolving exhibitions related to documentary arts. Open M-Thur, 9am-7pm; Fri, 9am-5pm; Sat, 11am-4pm; Sun 1pm-5pm.

- **John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary and International Studies** • 2204 Erwin Rd., Duke University West Campus • 919.684.2765 • <http://www.jhfc.duke.edu>

Includes a public gallery housing rotating exhibits as a response to Dr. Franklin’s life and teachings. Hours vary by exhibit; contact center for schedule.

- Louise Jones Brown Gallery • 101 Bryan Center, Duke University West Campus • 919.684.2911 • <http://www.duu.dukegroups.duke.edu/visarts>

Exhibits of works by international artists. Open M-F, 9am- 9pm; Sat-Sun, 10am-6pm.

Touchable Art Gallery, Duke Eye Center

2351 Erwin Rd., Duke Eye Center • 919.684.0401 • http://www.dukehealth.org/eye_center

Gallery designed for a hands-on experience of art for the visually impaired and blind. Contact for details.

SATURDAY: Dinner

Broad St Café

1116 Broad St., Ninth Street District, Durham • 919.416.9707 • <http://www.thebroadstreetcafe.com>

A favorite local restaurant and live music hotspot. Mon, 11am-3pm; Tues-Wed, 11am-11pm; Thur, 11am-12am; F-Sat, 11am-2am; Sun, 5pm-10pm.

Or visit one of Durham's many other [local favorite restaurants](#).

SATURDAY: Evening

Select a show at one of the places below, or check out one of Durham's other performance venues.

Manbites Dog Theater Company

703 Foster St., Downtown Durham • 919.682.3343 • <http://www.manbitesdogtheater.org>

Professional, non-profit theater company producing new and challenging theatrical events and supporting rising playwrights, directors, actors, and artists. Performances: 8:15pm, matinees: 3:15pm; check website for ticket information and show schedule.

Duke Performances

Markham Ave. and Broad St., Ninth Street District • 919.660.3356 • <http://www.dukeperformances.org>

Explores the full range of the performing arts through several annual series, from the traditional to the forward-leaning, embracing programming from diverse cultures and disciplines through presentation and education. See website for tickets and schedules.

SATURDAY: Late night

Fullsteam Brewery

726 Rigsbee Ave., Downtown Durham • 919.682.2337 • <http://www.fullsteam.ag>

Fullsteam Brewery is Durham's second craft beer brewery and is devoted to a "plow to pint" philosophy of using local produce to make their beers. The facility is also home to a tavern open nightly with frequent live music on weekends.

