

DECEMBER 2019

DURHAM FOR ALL

Year in Review



2019 Victories!

2019 was a big year for Durham For All. We concluded our **Decriminalize Durham** campaign with a celebration of our co-governance work with our newly-elected D.A. and Sheriff. And we launched our **Economy for All** campaign to democratize Durham's economy by fighting for affordable housing, **participatory budgeting** and an economic development policy that will put **People First**.

We piloted a bold new organizing model called **Black the Vote!** And we grew a base of over 350 dues-paying members as we launched our new **membership model**. All while securing **electoral wins** for the \$95 million affordable housing bond and for city council and mayoral candidates who support our values and vision!

Read through our newsletter for more details, and flip to the end for a sneak peak of **what's up next!**

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We closed out our Decriminalize Durham campaign...

Last year we fought the criminalization of drugs, immigration and poverty in our communities—and we won! We secured commitments from progressive district attorney, sheriff and judicial candidates and then turned out voters to power them to victory.

Moving into 2019, we worked with our allies to create the Transformative Justice League, a co-governance model where leaders impacted by the criminal justice system worked directly with our new D.A. and sheriff in their first 100 days in office. This led to major transformations in Durham's criminal justice policy: 12% fewer people in jail, shorter stays, improved conditions, and an end to collaboration with ICE.

In April, we closed out the campaign by celebrating the work of our TJL leaders in the first 100 days!



TJL members prepare to tour the county jail

... and launched our new Economy for All campaign!



D4A members and allies at our Power to the Polls

Right now wealthy corporations and developers exert enormous power over Durham, pushing wages down, rents up, and people out. This May we launched our "Economy for All" campaign to fight back!

We threw down around a participatory budgeting project that allows Durham residents to vote directly on our budget. Through our #BlackTheVote project, we held hundreds of conversations across Durham about our affordable housing crisis and a \$95 million affordable housing bond that will tackle it head-on. And we contacted over 15,000 voters to pass the bond and elect candidates committed to our vision.

Now we are working with our electeds on a People First policy that will leverage taxpayer incentives to promote living wages and equitable development and help build an Economy for All!



Marc facilitates a discussion of participatory budgeting

"Finally, an opportunity for my immigrant community"

My name is Marc. Part of my youth was spent in Stamford, CT, in a melting pot of hard-working immigrants seeking to achieve the American dream. But my Haitian immigrant community was never invited to be part of decision-making processes for the city of Stamford. We were kept in the shadows, while others made decisions that impacted our lives.

I first heard about participatory budgeting through my involvement with Durham For All. I was thrilled to learn that residents could vote on issues that directly impact our communities. All Durham residents 13 and older can vote in PB, regardless of citizenship or immigration status. Finally, here was an opportunity for my immigrant community to make our voices heard.

This year D4A worked with the city of Durham to develop and implement a **\$2.4 million participatory budgeting project.**

Durham residents were invited to submit ideas for changes we wanted to see in our communities. Volunteers developed those ideas into full policy proposals. Then in May, we voted directly on how to spend \$2.4 million—**proportionally, the largest PB project in North America!**

Our members texted residents, doorknocked neighborhoods, and hosted community conversations to help **turn out more than 10,000 voters.** Together, we voted to fund a new LGBTQ+ Youth Center, improved bus shelters, accessibility ramps, and new technology for our public schools.



BLACK THE VOTE

Over the past years, D4A has conducted a series of bold experiments to unleash the political power of working-class and people of color voters. This year we launched a new project to #BlackTheVote! **We reached over 1,000 Black voters in Durham** using a unique relationship-driven distributed organizing model:

6 volunteer coaches

led teams of

3-4 POC leaders

who each contacted over

150 Black voters

in majority Black neighborhoods

to build deep relations
and bring more people
into the political process



"Black The Vote changed my mind about electoral politics"

My name is Maya and I'm a coach with Black The Vote. For many years, I didn't see the point of investing in an electoral system that didn't seem to invest much in Black folks. Getting involved with Black the Vote changed my mind.

Since July I've coached a team of leaders as we knocked doors, held face-to-face conversations, listened, asked questions, and built deep relationships with Black voters in precinct 46.

Through organizing, listening, and encouraging folks to step into their power in the face of hopelessness, I've come to see how we can use electoral politics to build power for Black folks in Durham. I am honored to be part of that work.



"I've lived in Durham for five years and never heard anything about how to get involved with local politics. Then I had the young people from Durham For All invite me out to this march. I love the energy at these events. It makes you want to get out and fight. It makes you believe that you can be part of something."

-Raquel, precinct 46 voter

“

The most humbling thing about my coaches and leaders is that over half of them had never organized before. But they all share a similar hunger for the work. That's why I love my team: we want to win, and learn, and figure out how to build political power while doing it."

-Ociele Hawkins

D4A Neighborhood Organizer



ELECTION WINS!

We canvassed, called & texted over 15,000 voters to elect:



Javiera Caballero
Durham City Council



Jillian Johnson
Durham City Council



Charlie Reece
Durham City Council



Steve Schewel
Durham City Mayor



And passed a \$95 Million Affordable Housing Bond that will ensure:

- 1,600 new affordable units
- 800 affordable units preserved
- 1,800 homeless families in permanent housing
- 400 affordable home ownership opportunities
- 2,8000 low-income renters and homeowners stabilized in their homes

“Our work's not done!

Now that the bond's been passed, the most crucial phase of the work begins: ensuring that the implementation process centers those most impacted. We're also working with electeds on a People 1st Policy that will leverage city incentives to promote living wages, affordable housing, racial equity and worker rights.”

-Kaji
D4A Member



My name is Nahid. When I moved to the U.S., I struggled to find community. Systemic racism and white people's complicity made it hard to cultivate real connection.

Last year, my dear friend Hiva asked me to join her in Durham. I made the move and immediately felt at home. I feel like I can show up in every space here as my full self, a queer Iranian immigrant.

Hiva also introduced me to Durham For All. I joined D4A's #BlackTheVote project because I wanted to fight back against the systems of oppression that make us feel isolated. But I worried I would come across as an outsider: new to town, unable to vote in the U.S. and a white-presenting person door knocking in a black community.



Will you join us as a member?

**We launched membership
in May and have over 350
dues paying members!**

D4A Members:

- Pay membership dues
- Agree to our vision
- Live, work, or study in Durham

**Read more and join us at:
bit.ly/d4amember**

In the first week, I sat with a black elder on her front porch, and we shared our stories of isolation, longing, and hope. I told her that I'm an Iranian immigrant. She smiled and said, "So you have even more reasons to fight." I felt seen and deeply connected.

In D4A, I've found a political home, a place to cultivate authentic relationships and work together with a clear strategy to win liberatory power for our people.

I became a D4A member because I want to help fund my political home. D4A wants to become fully member-funded, so that we from the grassroots fund our liberation.

Membership launched in May, and I'm now one of over 350 dues-paying members! Our goal is 400 members by the end of 2019.

Let's share our stories and fight together for a Durham for all. Will you join me as a member?



WHAT'S UP NEXT?

2019 was a big year for Durham For All—but 2020 will be an even bigger one for our city, state, and country!

**Will you donate
to support our
work in 2020?**

DONATE

bit.ly/d4adonate2020

or make checks payable to:
Durham for All
PO Box 25352
Durham, NC 27702

STAY IN TOUCH

www.durhamforall.org

**& SEE YOU
NEXT YEAR!**

2020 is a pivotal election year in North Carolina. In addition to being a battleground for the presidency, virtually every statewide race is on the ballot—including the governorship, three state Supreme Court seats, the Attorney Generalship, and a US Senate seat critical to winning Democratic control of Congress. Many of these races are won or lost by razor thin margins, and voter turnout in Durham is crucial to securing statewide wins.

That's why we've set a bold goal to mobilize 17,000 people of color in Durham who didn't vote in the 2016 election. Voter suppression, racial oppression, and marginalization systemically suppress the political power of our communities. By bringing thousands of voters into the 2020 elections, we won't just win back North Carolina—we'll build the progressive political majority to decisively shift power over the next decade.

We'll also continue to develop our distributed organizing model, expand our membership, and deepen relations across race and class. To support that work, we've set a goal of raising an additional \$5000 this year. Can you make an end-of-year gift to help us win big in 2020?

Durham For All is a 501(c)(4) organization and contributions are not tax deductible.