

DURHAM FOR ALL

2023: Year in Review

The Year of Partnerships

It has been an honor and a privilege to lead Durham for All (D4A) to new heights with a dedicated team of staff and members. The ingenuity, passion, and grit that we all bring to the work has allowed us to imagine and achieve new possibilities even in the face of hardships.

One emphasis of our work in 2023 was to build and strengthen alliances that we so urgently need in the face of Durham's rapid and inequitable growth and the political assaults coming from the NC General Assembly. We established a new partnership with **Bike Durham** and deepened our existing partnership with **People's Alliance** through cohosting a candidate forum. In a new demonstration of co-governance, we facilitated several dialogues between our **elected allies** and **Durham residents** about the budget process and the importance of people power in determining how our public dollars are spent. And finally, we partnered with our close and long-time strategic ally, **Carolina Federation**, in order to increase the size of our voter outreach program by sixfold!



Intro by
Whitney Maxey
Executive Director

Table of Contents:

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| 2023 Campaigns | p. 2 |
| D4A in Action | p. 3 |
| Tribute to Jillian Johnson | p. 4 |
| Looking Ahead | p. 4 |



This newsletter highlights the ways in which we built power and achieved important gains to make headway in tackling the challenges our communities face. It also illustrates the community we are building to carry out our mission of having a base of 10,000 Durhamites that are able to win transformative change in the streets, at the ballot box, and in the halls of power.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work in the Durham organizing community that aims to have political power rooted in the multiracial working class that works alongside of and together with government to provide highly progressive solutions to meet the challenges of the present and the future.

Boost the Budget

March - June

In our fight for an equitable and just Durham, local budgets have the most immediate impact on our lives. *Boost the Budget* sought to do a few things: increase **residents' knowledge** of the city budget; **uplift the voices of Black, Brown, and working-class people** in the budget process; **identify budget items** that Durham residents wanted to see more money for; **spread the word** on thoughts that D4A and our base have about the budget.

Through community events with council members and house meetings with our members and their neighbors, we gained clarity about what Durhamites wanted to see in the budget, and the differences on City Council regarding Durham's most pressing issues: **public safety, housing, and the economy**. We shared these learnings further through our emails, social media posts, and canvassing conversations with people at the doors.

Forward Together

July - November

Our experiences from *Boost the Budget* informed our July endorsement process, and our *Forward Together* campaign in the fall.

Forward Together Endorsements:



Khalilah Karim



Javiera Caballero



Carl Rist



Leonardo Williams

For City Council At Large

For Mayor

Forward Together endeavored to get our four endorsed candidates elected because we believe they represent the kind of **shared vision and collaborative leadership that Durham needs for its next chapter**.

We mobilized voters in 10 of the largest and fastest growing precincts in Durham through doorknocking, social media ads, and printed flyers. We also cohosted a candidate forum with the People's Alliance and Bike Durham.

We are proud of the race Khalilah ran!

Leadership Development:

Growing the leadership capacity of our membership is crucial to our mission of building a grassroots, multiracial movement. This year, our members led our organizing work, with support from staff, through three campaign teams:

Event Planning



Kyle Warren-Love



Briana Burroughs



Stephena Digsby



Robin Magee

Endorsements

Activation



Elizabeth Himeles



Haley Garvis



Ali Khorasani



Willow Kaplan

2023 By the Numbers



28,082

doors knocked and 3,790 conversations about the budget and the municipal elections



273

community members attended a D4A event (Budget Talks and Candidate Forum)



158,104

people reached through social media ads about our events and endorsed candidates



596

dues-paying members, 38 of whom joined us this year



D4A in Action

February



D4A staff and board retreat

March



Budget Talk #1: Intro to City Budget
May

April



Budget Talk #2: Municipal Bonds

Learning about the budget process together!

May



House Meeting at sumi's

In July we ran a membership drive: 46 people joined D4A or renewed their membership!

"I really appreciate D4A for giving space to their members to voice their concerns and actually hear them out. I loved the Budget Talk meetings both as an opportunity to meet like-minded people and as an example of how D4A properly gives everyone their time to use their voice."

Jonathan
new D4A member

"The most authentic presentation of City Council business I've ever heard! And I have been hearing them for 40+ years!"

Tom
Budget Talk attendee

June



Staff and members at the June 5th Budget Hearing

In July and August, the endorsement team interviewed candidates and brought their recommendations to the membership body for a vote.

"The endorsement meeting is a safe space to discuss candidates, especially because the discussion goes beyond "are you with this candidate or not." Supported by our shared core values, we can be in an open and respectful dialogue around our potential disagreements. You don't see that kind of safe space everywhere."

Stephena
D4A member leader

September



Candidate Forum in collaboration with:



Voter outreach started in August!

October

"When you really listen to what people care about locally, you can actually build a lot of trust and a relationship in a short amount of time. When we connect people's concerns to our candidates' platform, I can feel that they will actually go vote and hopefully create change down the line in Durham."

Chip
D4A canvasser

December



End of Year Party: The Get Down

Paid Canvasser Program in partnership with:



Thank You Jillian for Paving the Way

Elected to City Council in 2015 with a campaign team that went on to found D4A, Jillian Johnson says farewell after 8 years as a groundbreaking council member. While the far right on the state level restricted municipalities' ability to enact transformative agendas, Jillian helped inspire a local multiracial movement to win left-progressive governing power in Durham and beyond. Jillian has been at the forefront of building a collaborative approach to local governance that partners with working-class centered social justice movements to implement our vision for a more equitable and just Durham.

Here are just a few progressive initiatives that Jillian's leadership has made possible:

Comprehensive affordable housing plan: A multi-year \$160 million housing plan for working people. www.foreverhomedurham.com

Transformative community safety approaches: Durham's Community Safety Dept. houses violence prevention initiatives like the H.E.A.R.T. program. www.durhamnc.gov/4576/community-safety

Expanding democratic participation: Through Durham's participatory budgeting program, residents 13+ years old propose and vote on projects that the city should fund. www.pbdurham.org

November 2015



Election Night Victory Party

June 2023



City Council Public Hearing on the Budget

Looking Ahead

We are heartened by our accomplishments this year and the love, support, and effort that our members and allies continue to pour into our work. **Without D4A's members and supporters, our work would remain nothing more than a dream.**

As we turn our sights on 2024, we look forward to new possibilities and growing our people power through organizing and leadership development.

We are especially looking forward to taking our work with Carolina Federation to a new level. Durham for All's ability to fight for securing a multiracial democracy in North Carolina significantly grows through our work with Carolina Federation. This fight is paramount, as we are still squarely situated in a high stakes political period. Durham has an irreplaceable role to play in achieving a multiracial democracy in our state: Through building a progressive majority in and outside of local government, we can model what's possible for cities and counties in our state. Additionally, since Durham is the North Carolina city with the highest percentage of people in support of a multiracial democracy, it is incumbent on all of us to harness this support towards changing who controls our state.

A stronger and more united Durham will be a key part in having a state government that's committed to a North Carolina where every person and every child can flourish.

SIGN UP TO VOLLUNTEER!

bit.ly/d4avolunteer-2024

We have crucial work to do in 2024. Fill out the volunteer interest form and we will follow up next year with opportunities that match your interests!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

"I get really excited when I see how we bring people into the process of creating a political community. I want to be dedicated to building out a group that is fighting for safety, community, and getting people the things they need."



Haley
D4A member