

SEPTEMBER 2024



NEWSLETTER

DCLT Welcomes Donna Myers: A Community Champion Leading as Our New Board President



Donna Myers

Durham Community Land Trustees (DCLT) is excited to welcome Donna Myers as our new Board President. Donna's connection to Durham began in 2009 when she moved to the city and immediately felt it would be her forever home. A significant marker of that was achieving her

dream of homeownership, which became a reality when she and her spouse purchased their DCLT home in the West End in 2017. Since then, they've planted roots—welcoming their son, River, getting to know their neighbors, growing a garden, and becoming active participants in various community-led

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initiatives and projects. Donna's passion for community engagement extends beyond her role as a DCLT homeowner. Over the years, she has worked and volunteered with several organizations focused on clean water, river protection, conservation land management, and nature-based solutions for water quality and

Bringing Durham Home

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Board members Donna Myers and Charlie Ebel took a moment during their volunteer shift at last year's Centerfest to snap a quick photo!

management. Her true calling, however, lies in her dedication to Durham-based organizations that emphasize affordable housing, sustainable transportation, and access to nature for all. A strong believer in the shared equity homeownership model, Donna is committed to demystifying land trust homeownership, making it more accessible to others in the community. Donna joined DCLT's Board of Directors in 2020, serving as an owner/tenant board member, and has now stepped into the

role of Board President. She is eager to onboard new board members who are not only passionate about affordable housing but also committed to advancing DCLT's mission of creating thriving, equitable communities. "Durham has an amazing community and history that constantly informs DCLT's work," Donna says. "DCLT strives to be comprised of staff, board, committee members, and volunteers who are mission-aligned, but even more importantly, represent our varied and diverse community, not only in

identity but in experience and values." As DCLT continues to grow, Donna's leadership will play a key role in shaping our organization's future. We are thrilled to see her take on this expanded leadership role and are confident that her vision, passion, and experience will help drive the organization to new heights. If you are interested in serving on DCLT's board and helping us create sustainable, affordable housing in Durham, complete the interest form at <https://forms.gle/79mce3q4q7LwYaMJ6>.



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Community Gathers for Creek Restoration Open House in Hayti: Ideas Flow for a Greener Future



Community members came together for a successful Community Open House focused on the restoration of the creek in Hayti. The event provided an opportunity for residents to share their visions and ideas for transforming the neglected waterway into a vibrant, safe, and accessible green space. One resident shared, "It's inspiring to think of this space as more than just a creek—it could be a place where families gather, kids explore nature, and we all come together to enjoy the beauty of our neighborhood." The project's goal is to restore the creek not just environmentally, but socially, by creating a space that fosters connection among neighbors while improving the ecosystem. Attendees of the open house left feeling empowered, knowing their input will directly shape the future of this vital community resource.

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Ashe Street Community Garden Flourishes: A Growing Space for Connection and Healthy Living

This June, DCLT proudly kicked off NeighborWorks Week by revitalizing the Ashe Street Community Garden, a once-overgrown plot of land that is now thriving thanks to the dedication of staff and volunteers. What started as a project to bring the garden back to life has blossomed into a vibrant, sustainable space that serves as a hub for the community. Since the initial efforts, DCLT staff members and volunteers have continued to nurture the garden, and their hard work is paying off. More than just a place to grow food, the Ashe Street Community Garden has become a symbol of togetherness. It provides a beautiful, shared space where neighbors can gather, connect, and promote healthy living. The garden is living proof of DCLT's commitment to creating sustainable environments that strengthen the community.



Fresh from the Ashe Street Community Garden! Check out these cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, basil, and sage recently harvested by our amazing team and volunteers. This beautiful, thriving space is bringing our community together, one plant at a time!

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From Donors to Partners: Uniting for a Thriving and Equitable Durham

In the heart of Durham, amidst its vibrant community initiatives, lies a contributor of hope and transformation: the Durham Community Land Trustees (DCLT). For many donors, their journey to becoming champions of DCLT's mission begins with a simple realization - the desire to make a lasting impact in their community.

The reasons donors choose to support DCLT are as diverse as the community it serves. Some are drawn to its commitment to social justice and equity, while others are inspired by its innovative approach to affordable housing. For many, it's the tangible impact they witness firsthand - families finding stability, neighborhoods revitalized, and communities thriving.

Whether it's through word of mouth, community events, or personal experiences, donors continue to flock to DCLT, drawn by its unwavering dedication to building a brighter future for Durham. As they join hands with DCLT, they become not just donors, but partners in a movement towards a more equitable and inclusive community for all.



#BringingDurhamHome

Visit <https://dclt.org/about-dclt/ways-to-support/> to donate today!