

## DDAAHS Steering Committee

### Lew Myers, Chair

Lew Myers is a Principle and Director of Business Development at the award winning architecture firm, The Freelon Group. Myers serves on the boards on both state and local organizations such as NC State University's Industrial Extension Service, the Center for Community Self-Help, the NC Institute of Minority Economic Development, the Museum of Durham History, Preservation Durham and Downtown Durham, Inc.

### Dr. Faye Calhoun

Dr. Faye Calhoun has recently retired from her position as Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor of Graduate Education and Research however remains active in the community. Prior to that role, Dr. Calhoun served as Interim Director of the North Carolina Central University Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute, Director of Collaborative Research and Deputy Director of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse at the National Institute of Health and other achievements in the research of spirituality and alcohol abuse disorders.

### E'Vonne Coleman-Cook

E'Vonne Coleman-Cook is an arts consultant and motivational speaker as well as Vice-President of the Durham Convention and Visitors Bureau. Coleman-Cook formally served as Assistant Director of Duke University Office of Continuing Studies and Summer Session, Executive Director of the Durham Arts Council, Special Assistant to the Chairman at the National Endowment for the Arts and numerous other leadership roles in the arts nationwide.

### John Compton

John Compton serves the preservation community with extensive knowledge and experience as a historic preservationist. Compton succeeded as the former Executive Director of Preservation Durham, Hickory Landmarks in Hickory, NC, and Director of Restoration at Old Salem in Winston-Salem, NC and as a historic preservationist for the Metro Nashville Historical Commission in Tennessee.

### Minnie Forte-Brown

Minnie Forte-Brown is the Chair of Durham County Public School Board of Education and advocate for education and community service. Forte-Brown is a retired university communications professor at North Carolina Central University and serves on state and national board of education organizations

including the NC Council of the Status of Women and the Gang Advisory Task Force appointed to her by Governor Bev Purdue.

#### Deborah Giles

Deborah Giles currently serves as the Director of the Department of Equal Opportunity and Equity Assurance in Durham, NC. Giles has over 30 years experience assisting socially and economically disadvantaged doing contract business with the city, get a fair opportunity to obtain city government contracts.

#### Dr. Rhonda Jones

Dr. Rhonda Jones is an Assistant Professor at North Carolina Central University and directs the graduate Public History program. Dr. Jones served as the HBCU/Duke faculty fellow working manuscript, which centers on philanthropic activity during the civil rights movement. Prior to joining the faculty at NCCU, she served for three years as a Post-Doctorate researcher for the "Behind the Veil" oral history project at the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University.

#### Dr. Ben Speller Jr.

Dr. Ben Speller is recognized as an authority and consultant in historic preservation, institutional research, African-American history and archival preservation. Dr. Speller currently serves as the North Carolina Advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He is the former Dean of the School of Library and Information Sciences at North Carolina Central University, Charter Chair of the NC Network of African Americans for Historic Preservation, former President of the St. Joseph's Historic Foundation, current co-chair of the Parrish Street Advocacy Group's History Committee, member of the NC National Register Advisory Committee and numerous other board and chair positions in history and historic preservation.

#### Starla Tanner

Starla Tanner is the Director of Government and Community Relations in the Office of the Chancellor at North Carolina Central University. Tanner previously served in government relations as senior staff for the NC Department of State Treasurer, the NC Department of Insurance and the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

### C. Eileen Watts Welch

C. Eileen Watts Welch is the Executive Director of Advancement at the Center for Child and Family Health. Welch was formally the Associate Dean of External Affairs at Duke University's School of Nursing, bookstore and publishing entrepreneur and Director of Development for the INOVA Health System Annual Fund, Vice-Chair of the Durham Chapter of Links, and is a founding member of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's (AACN) Professional Development Officers Organization just to name a few. She often lectures on subjects such as African American Philanthropy, Volunteer and Non Profit Board Management and Women as Donors.

### Carl Webb

Carl Webb is owner of Forty/AM a community development and marketing communication consulting firm. Webb is a successful real estate developer and advertising and communications entrepreneur who founded Webb Patterson Communications and was a former partner of Greenfire Development. Webb continues to play a vibrant role in the public sector serving on boards such as Greenfire Development, Downtown Durham Inc., Parrish Street Advocacy Group, Preservation Durham, Durham Tourism Development Authority and the Triangle Community Foundations just to name a few.

### Sara Young

Sara Young is the Urban Design Planning Supervisor for the City of Durham's Planning Department. With a background in architecture, Young is a certified planner responsible for maintaining design guidelines for Durham's built environment reviewing development submittals in specific districts for architectural and streetscape design issues, developing form-based codes and other design-based plans such as gateway plans, plans for downtown development and rehabilitation in historic districts.