

THE HUM

The newsletter of Durham County Library
Humanities Programming

WOMEN RUN DURHAM KICKING OFF THE CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Women Run Durham, held March 1, 2022 at the historic Hayti Heritage Center brought together several community leaders for discussion on female leadership, the Durham Community, how we reached this place of leadership and what the future may look like. To say the leaders involved in the event were **inspiring** would not do them justice.

Looking across the audience of nearly 70 people one could see people nodding their head in agreement, applauding, or giving an affirmative "mm hmm" as the leaders fell into a natural flow of discussion and shared their powerful viewpoints,

CONTACT: CELESTE HOLTZMANN

HUMANITIES
& ADULT PROGRAMMING
COORDINATOR - DURHAM
COUNTY LIBRARY

(919) 560-0268
CHOLTZMANN@DCONC.GOV



experiences, and well-earned wisdom. The **genuine care and concern** that these women have for the people of Durham, the youth, and the wellbeing of all was obvious as they answered questions, shared stories, and offered advice.

From the beginning of the conversation, a shared sentiment was that women being in positions of (cont. next page)

“What I think it means for me is that this is becoming normal, it’s not going to be a thing. **We are normalizing women in positions that we have not traditionally held.** And I’m so glad that the bull city is out in front making it a normal thing for women to be in power.”
-Durham Mayor Elaine O’Neal

Supported by



DURHAM COUNTY
Library



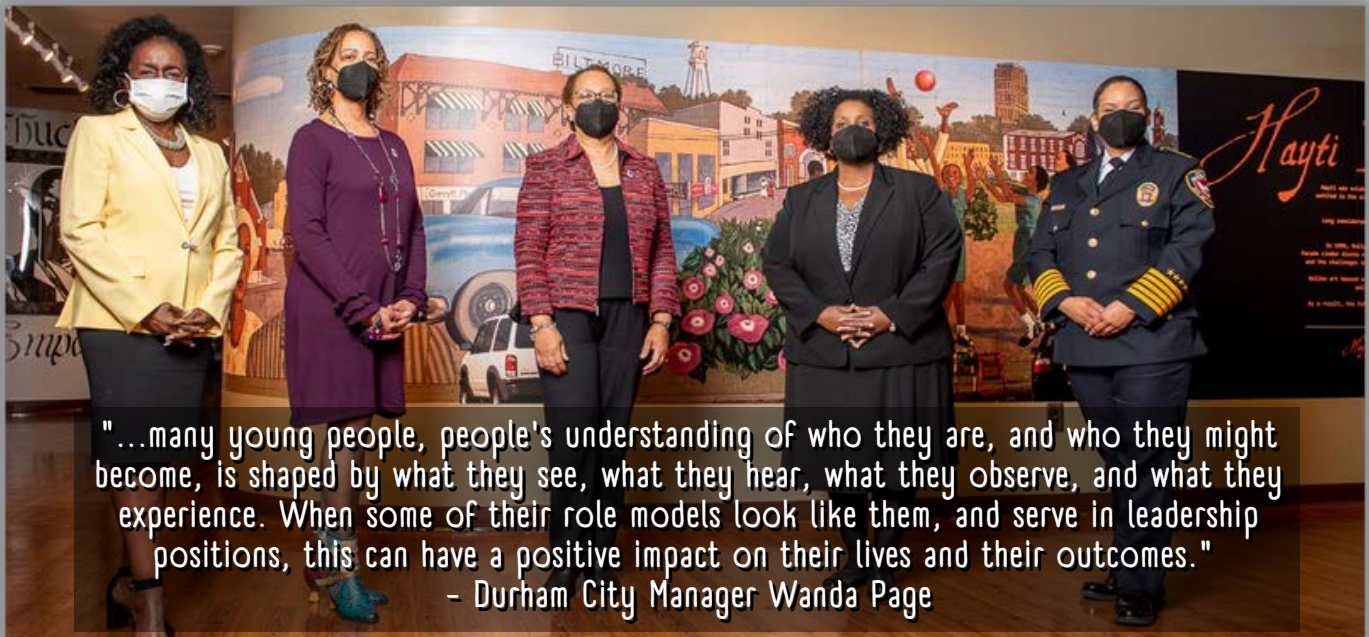
DURHAM
LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

leadership is not going to continue following the course of history that showed women leaders as an exception or an anomaly. But rather that female leadership is becoming **normalized** with Durham being on the forefront of this movement.

Many of these positions held by this panel only seated their first female leader within

"...it's also a glimpse into the future, right? **Because we are not a one off. We are not a blip on the screen.** We are here to stay, to inspire, and lead." -Chief of Durham Police Patrice Andrews

the last **30 years**. This recent history of a steady increase of female leadership in Durham is certainly worth recognizing!



"...many young people, people's understanding of who they are, and who they might become, is shaped by what they see, what they hear, what they observe, and what they experience. When some of their role models look like them, and serve in leadership positions, this can have a positive impact on their lives and their outcomes."
- Durham City Manager Wanda Page

Pictured left to right: Chair to the Durham County Board of Commissioners Brenda Howerton, Durham Mayor Elaine O'Neal, Durham City Manager Wanda Page, Durham County Interim Manager Claudia Hager, and Chief of Durham Police Patrice Andrews. Not pictured: Event Moderator ABC 11 News Anchor Amber Rupinta
Photo Credit: Steven Paul Whitsitt Photography

The importance of providing an example for future leaders by investing mentorship and time into the community was also on the forefront of this conversation. A call was

made for all of us to help **build the future of the community** through investing in each other whether it's reading with a child or mentoring someone in your field.

"I would have never dreamed of being present for such a monumental event. There would have never been enough time to be fulfilled with **their empathy, compassion, dedication and love for their city.**" -Anon. survey response

The conversation had more thoughtful moments than could ever be squeezed in here, so please keep an eye out for the **release of the event recording** so that everyone can hear directly from our Durham leaders! durhamcountylibrary.org