



BE CONNECTED DURHAM
& BEYOND INC

919-622-6789
beconnecteddurham.com
815 S. Roxboro Street Studio 302 Durham NC 27707

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It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of and in partnership with the Hayti Reborn Project. We believe the Hayti Reborn Project is the large scale model for what we do at the small scale, as posited by **adrienne maree brown**, author of *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*:

“A fractal is a never-ending pattern, infinitely complex and self-similar across different scales. Fractals are created by repeating a simple process over and over in an ongoing feedback loop, indicating how we are at the small scale is how we are at the large. The patterns in our society repeat at scale, suggesting a structural echo that has been the foundation of our practices from the individual to families to communities and on to local, regional, national, and global governing bodies. Where there are two or more social change agents gathered together, what we practice at the small scale sets the tone for the whole system.”

This partnership with the Hayti Reborn Project is essential for changing the trajectory of the feedback loop that has left generations of people pushed to the margins, displaced, and with no foundational sense of belonging resulting in lack of socio-economic, emotional, mental, and spiritual mobility. Hayti Reborn has far-reaching restorative and healing impact for the Hayti community *and beyond*.

About Be Connected Durham & Beyond

Be Connected Durham is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization centered in abolition, anti-racism, and creative strategy for establishing infrastructural equity. We provide curatorial and communication design and direct services that connect disparate audiences for social benefit; bridging access gaps using the arts, culture, music, and socio-political advocacy as the vehicle for real, lasting system change. We present the Fayetteville Street Corridor (FSC) Fellows Project, designed to build a replicable equitable engagement model, acknowledging the creative genius of our neighbors who find ways to survive, thrive, and engage even when access to information or opportunity is limited. These barriers still leave gaps in access, information, and opportunity, requiring community-rooted imagination and innovation where historically, society has suffered "crisis of imagination and innovation."

About the FSC Fellows Project

The project mission is to address systemic barriers related to public engagement and emphasizes participation from 5,000 Black, Brown, and Indigenous people across the intersections of age, LGBTQ+ identity, and ability with an emphasis on residents and business owners living and operating in the historic Hayti community-- those most adversely impacted by the City of Durham's capital development project decisions.

The Project intentionally seeks input from The People whose lived experience is most likely to guarantee the best possible solution to the existing problems within our communities. The people are our ambassadors, researchers, and placemakers who will fulfill the implementation of the Hayti Community's Third Friday equitable engagement series through 2030. This, in alignment with our community member-led, qualitative data collection approach for impacting Durham, North Carolina's contribution to the US Census 2030. As championed by Spirithouse NC, the US Census is a way-finder for descendants of enslaved African peoples whose culture(s), technologies, and traditions have been co-opted and erased by the fractals making up Greco-Roman and European colonization.

We acknowledge the harmful feedback loop that has erased and co-opted the vibrant business and cultural mecca that was the thriving Hayti community in Durham, North Carolina; one, that influenced a model for self-determination founded upon the principles of Sankofa and Ubuntu in Black communities throughout the United States of America. One, that also proves equitable systems or systems of even exchange existed before colonization.

Vision

The FSC Fellows Project fosters a high degree of connectivity and trust among our neighbors through storytelling. Acknowledging each other as invaluable contributors to society no matter the status is paramount when working to reclaim, restore, and revitalize marginalized communities. Because of this critical role we play in shaping the change we want to see, Fellows dream of building a five-point access arts ecosystem in three predominantly Black and Brown neighborhoods; instilling remembrance, abundance and celebration that will result in a reborn sense of belonging, safety, and security. Storytelling as the vehicle for change drives The People to transform ourselves in order to transform our world.

Based on its community development strategies, Hayti Reborn is a critical partner as we work to improve mobility for those adversely impacted by processes from which we have been excluded.

Regards,



Angel Iset Dozier, Ed.M | Founder & CEO