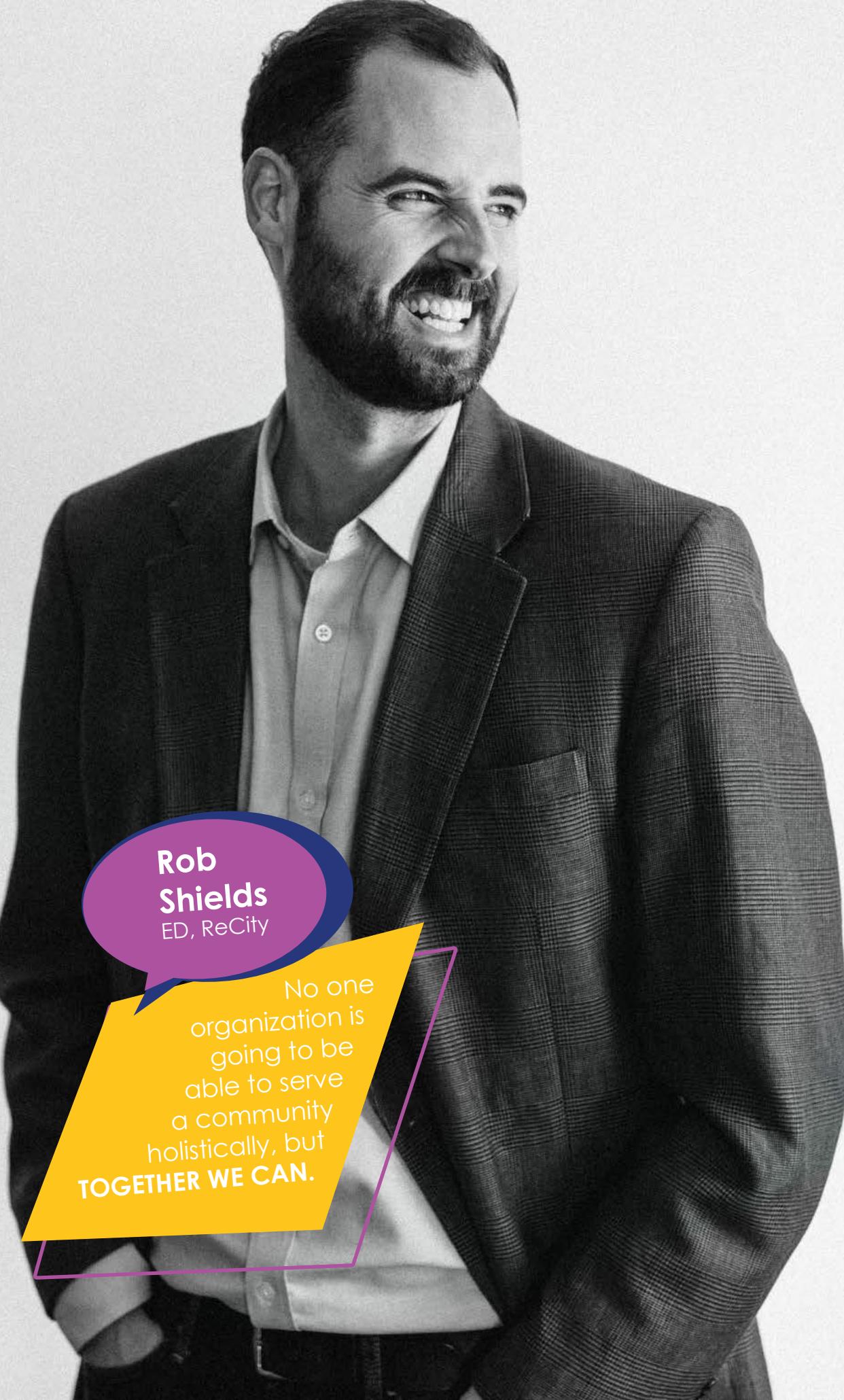


WE BELIEVE  
IN  
*Gurham's*  
ORECITYNETWORK

EST. 1869

2019 IMPACT REPORT

# 2019 IMPACT REPORT



**Rob  
Shields**  
ED, ReCity

No one organization is going to be able to serve a community holistically, but **TOGETHER WE CAN.**

3 years ago, a group of faith leaders in Durham asked a bold question: what would it look like if the whole community came together as a community to solve its toughest challenges? The attempt to answer that question led to what is now ReCity--a social impact hub that houses a network of over 40 nonprofits, businesses, and faith communities all committed to building a more just city, together.

While the word together gets used a lot around here, we are all still individuals doing what's necessary to create change. Each one of us has a role to play, sometimes in the shadows away from the limelight.

It might feel like the work we do, both big and small, can go unnoticed. But the very nature of what our partners do means that they're a "hero" to someone out there. All of the nonprofits and mission-driven businesses that create ReCity touch and shape the lives of the people they serve. And by building authentic community through shared space, our partners get to become heroes to each other.

Real community is the result of proximity plus intentionality. Sharing space, services, and values is the key to accelerating partnerships. While we do everything we can to set our partners up for success at ReCity, ultimately it's up to them to show up, listen and build trust with each other. That's when impact happens.

So join me in celebrating the individuals and organizations who have come together over the past year to create connections and to build something worthwhile for the people they work with and the people they serve. Here at ReCity, we are so grateful to be the catalyst for this growth and support. I'm inspired by this incredible group of leaders who are reimagining what's possible for their community, and locking arms to do the hard work side by side.

We're three years in, but we're just getting started.



**Cecilia  
Polanco**  
Owner,  
So Good Pupusas

**I think ReCity's role  
is as an interrupter.**

There's a lot of growth and progress happening in Durham and you start to think, am I part of that progress? What ReCity has done is said, "Wait, what about the people who are not at the table?" ReCity showed me it believed in me and championed what I was doing, every step of the way.



rewriting the story of our city together

**MISSION**

Building capacity to drive collective impact

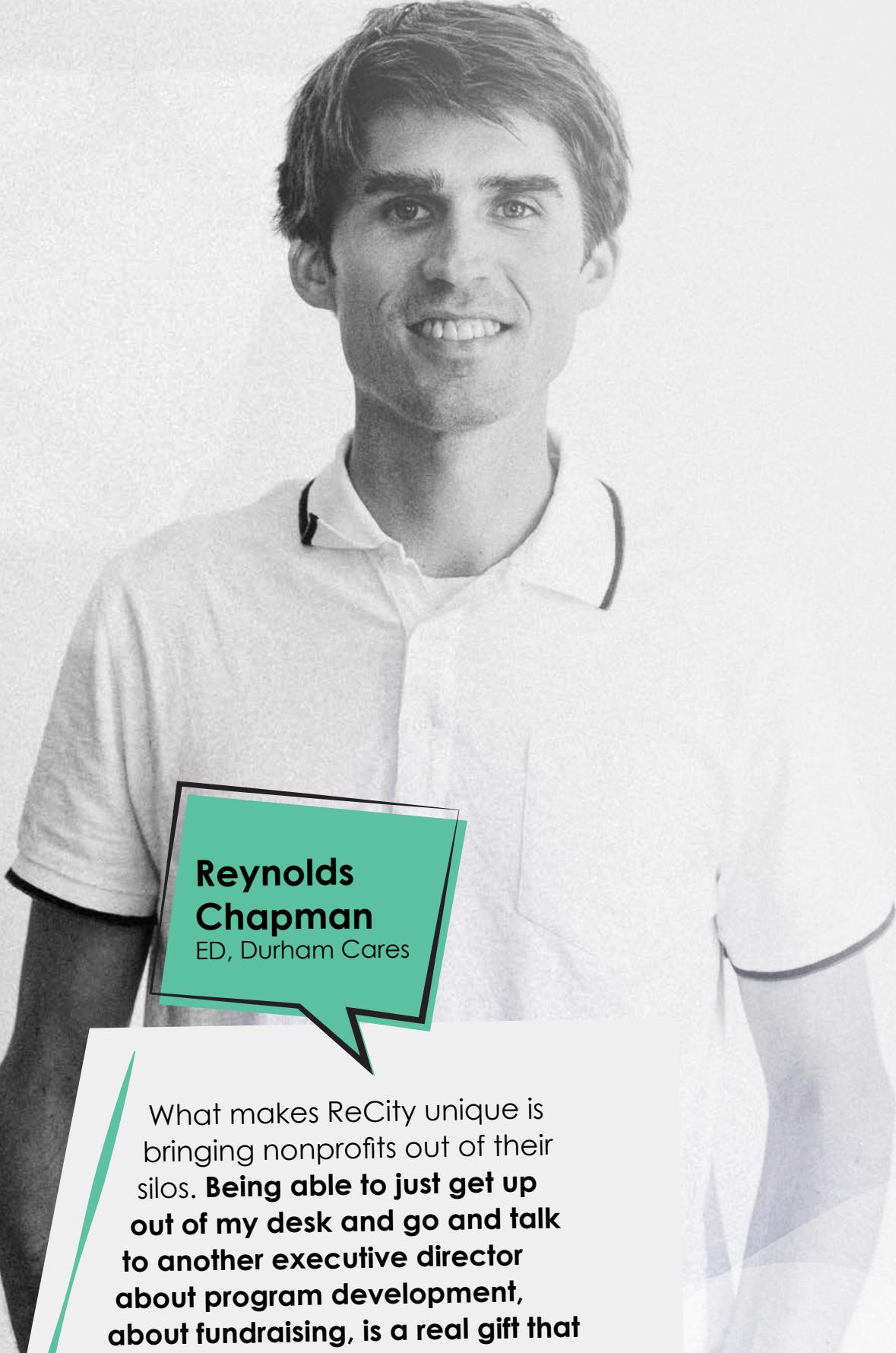
**VISION**

Thriving communities, rooted in justice

**VALUES**

Justice that restores  
Power of proximity  
Developing leaders  
Serving the whole person  
Fairness & impartiality towards all  
Empowering communities

# RE CITY CULTURE



What makes ReCity unique is bringing nonprofits out of their silos. **Being able to just get up out of my desk and go and talk to another executive director about program development, about fundraising, is a real gift that can't be overstated.**

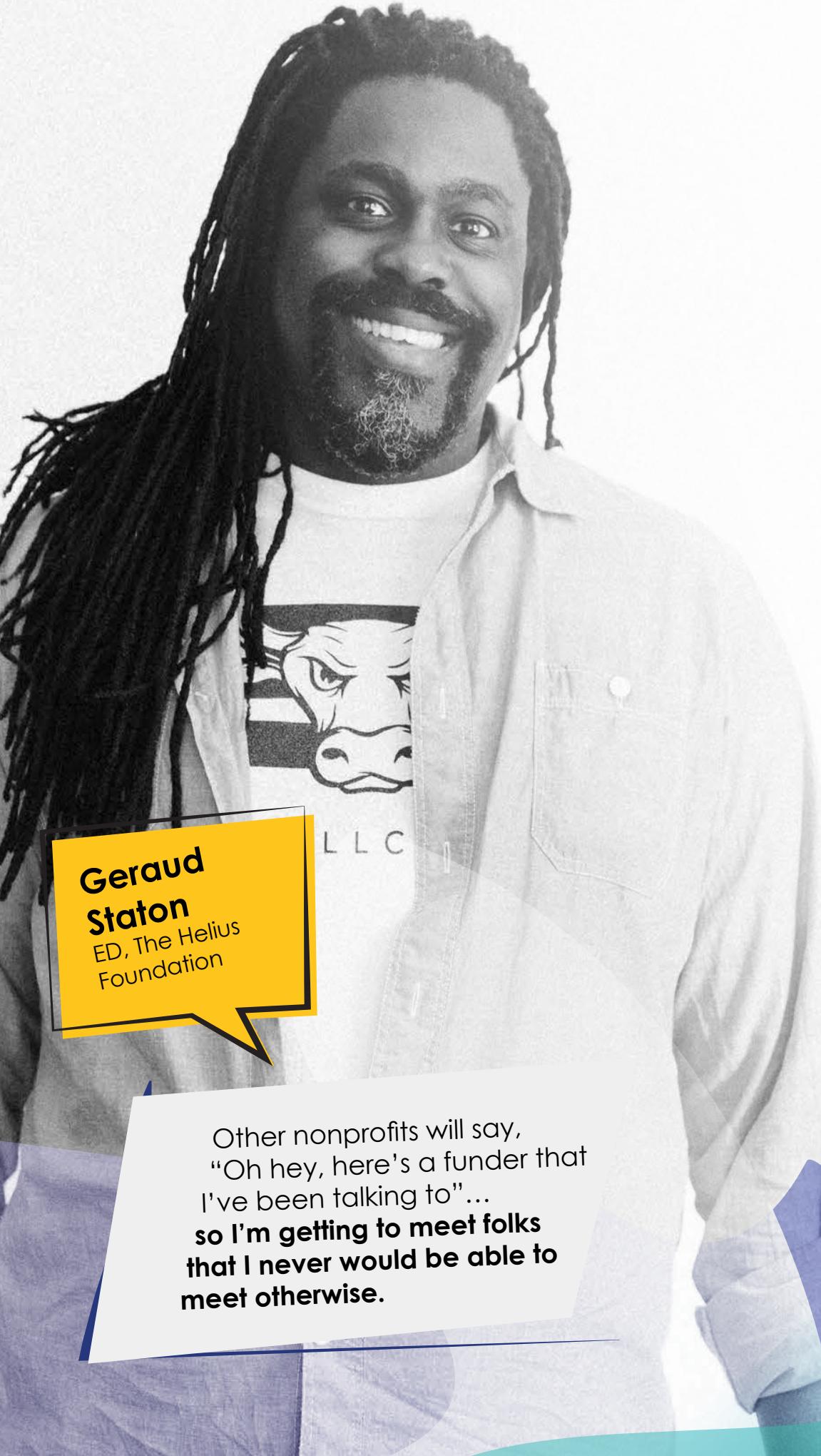


of ReCity partners think ReCity is creating value for the constituents it serves.

of ReCity partners think that partner organizations are adding value to each other's work.

of ReCity partners believe being a part of ReCity has increased their organization's capacity to achieve its mission.

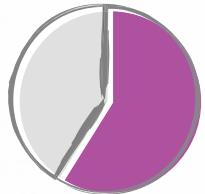
# NETWORK STATS



**Geraud Staton**  
ED, The Helius Foundation

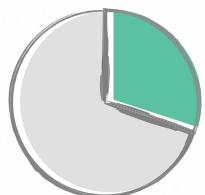
Other nonprofits will say,  
“Oh hey, here’s a funder that  
I’ve been talking to”...  
**so I’m getting to meet folks  
that I never would be able to  
meet otherwise.**

## Nonprofits



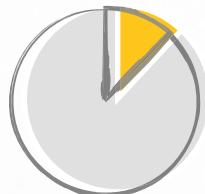
**59%**

## Businesses



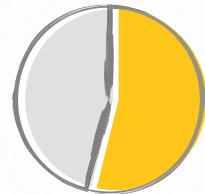
**30%**

## Faith Communities



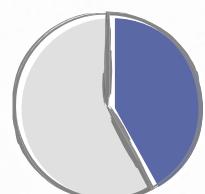
**12%**

## Organizations Led by People of Color



**54%**

## Organizations Led By Women



**42%**

# NETWORK SUPERLATIVES

## Coworking On Purpose

Change happens at the speed of trust, which is why we put such an emphasis on relationships. Here are some fun facts about our partners:

Best Person to be Stranded on an Island With



StepUp Durham

**Elizabeth  
Butler**

Most Upbeat



H.E.A.R.T.S.

**Tameka  
Brown**

Most Likely to Win a Nobel Peace Prize



DurhamCares

**Reynolds  
Chapman**

Most Contagious Laugh



NCWorks NextGen

**Alexis  
Franks**

Best Storyteller



The Helius Foundation

**Geraud  
Staton**

Most Caffeinated



The Summit Church

**Kevin  
Derby**

Most Collaborative



Partners for Youth Opportunity

**Julie  
Wells**

Most Connected in Durham



Communities in Partnership

**Camryn  
Smith**

Most Energetic



Six:Eight Church

**Dorrell  
Briscoe**

Always on the Hustle



PYO, DurhamCares, H.E.A.R.T.S.

**Miriam  
Valle**

Most Likely to Pick Up and Move to a New Country



Root Media

**Steve & Reiley**

Most Likely to Work an Entire Week on the ReCity Porch



Community Food Strategies

**Gini  
Knight**

# RESTORATIVE HOUSING

## A New Approach to Durham's Affordable Housing Crisis

You don't have to live in Durham for long to hear about one of its most pressing issues: affordable housing. In the midst of explosive economic growth, Durham County has one of the highest rates of eviction (per capita) in the state of North Carolina, with almost 900 eviction filings per month. For Syretta Hill, Executive Director of StepUp Durham, the effects of this housing crunch are an everyday barrier to stability for the StepUp participants that she partners with.

This past year, 58% of the folks that we work with experienced housing instability, and over 30% of those are coming directly out of shelters, so we know our population has acute housing issues.

And qualifying for a housing voucher is often not a guarantee of stability - many properties do not accept housing vouchers, and it is possible for people to lose their vouchers simply because they are unable to find housing that will accept them before they expire.

"If you've slept on a couch or stayed in a hotel room in the last two years, you are no longer chronically homeless"



Matt Humble, the Associate Pastor of Community Development and Local Outreach at The Summit, has also come face to face with the brokenness of the housing system, and how hard it can be to qualify for and take advantage of housing assistance.

It was this brokenness that motivated [The Summit Church](#) and [StepUp Durham](#) to partner around a new affordable housing model that they are calling "**restorative housing**." It started with a business owner at The Summit approaching the church with the idea to offer housing at 20% below market rate to people experiencing housing instability while remaining self-sustaining. What they quickly realized was that many interested renters still faced a major barrier to making rent: unemployment or poverty wages.

That's when Matt Humble turned to StepUp Durham.



We realized we needed a partner that could help drive development specifically in the area of employment, and from our time working at ReCity I had developed a close relationship with Syretta at StepUp and had really bought into the way they approach employment and the way that they holistically cared for their participants.

For Syretta Hill, it was carefully built trust that brought The Summit into partnership with StepUp. **"We've known and worked with the Summit since we started being a ReCity partner and we are at this point because we have built trust over the years. That's the benefit of being at a place like ReCity - you are able to build those trusting relationships."**

Matt's hope is that the product of this trust will be a new grassroots model for addressing the affordable housing crisis. "Part of everything we began was to set up a modular model for people who had access to property that wanted to make affordable housing available. I really don't think there's a lack of money out there that's willing to do this, there's just no picture of success out there." With their shared restorative housing project, The Summit and StepUp Durham are trying to paint that picture.

# FROM THE GRASSROOTS

## Unity Fellowship Seeks to Build the Capacity of Nonprofit Leaders from Marginalized Communities

When Julie Wells began teaching her second cohort of Unity Fellows, she thought she had a pretty good idea why Unity Fellowship needed to exist. Durham's nonprofit landscape was oversaturated, and many organizations, especially newer or smaller ones, were struggling to establish stability. She began her second Unity Fellowship cohort in 2019 with a clear plan:

"I was laser focused on helping nonprofit leaders develop their skill sets around defining their theory of change and building greater organizational stability."

Halfway through the 2019 cohort, she realized that her focus was too broad. "The folks whose needs stood out in the space were those leaders of smaller organizations who were really using Unity as a lifeline, and it became apparent that the organizations that were the hungriest and needed the most support were created by and for members of marginalized communities."



Julie Wells



Left: Georgiary Bledsoe, BUMP the Triangle

The four nonprofits led by women founder/leaders of color had an average annual operating budget of **\$50,000, compared to \$450,000** for the remaining nonprofits in the cohort.



These impressive social impact leaders have in many cases founded new grassroots organizations out of necessity, to address concerns in their communities that the mainstream nonprofit sector overlooks, precisely because of its systemic representation problem. However, they are challenged by inadequate salaries, less access to social capital and networks, and most importantly, funding sources. The truth is, continued professional and organizational development is helpful for any nonprofit executive leader, no matter what their background.

What Julie Wells came to learn during the 2019 Unity Fellowship is that more training will never be enough.



Left: Amy Rublein, Rebound

**"We need funders who recognize that there is good grassroots work being done in the community by leaders who are from marginalized communities, who are aggressively working to build their organizations' capacity, and I think funders need to give some more credit and attention to those folks."**



Left: Tameka Brown, H.E.A.R.T.S.

With this in mind, the mission of the Unity Fellowship is continuing to evolve, in the hopes that it can create a structure that forces funding organizations to recognize the organizational capacity-building of small and sometimes marginalized grassroots nonprofit organizations, and reward that hard work with more impactful funding. Fortunately, the work of the Unity Fellowship is already bearing fruit - of the seven organizations that were awarded 2019 Capacity-building Grants by the Triangle Community Foundation, two were organizations who had recently completed the Unity Fellowship.

# FROM THE GRASSROOTS

## From the Grassroots continued:

Monica Daye, Executive Director of StandUp-SpeakOut, did not exactly know what to expect when she signed up for the 2019 Unity Fellowship. What she found was a community of colleagues and mentors, and new solidarity.

**"For a while I thought my challenges were because I was a founder and new Executive and a small start up nonprofit. However, it was very eye opening to share space with others serving the community. I think I valued the opportunity to be in a space with other Executive Directors who have years of experience working in the nonprofit sector, yet their challenges were parallel to my own."**



Monica Daye

Since graduating from cohort two, Monica has leveraged the new connections she made. "StandUp-SpeakOut of NC has been very successful since Unity; we have received several important new grants, including the Triangle Community Foundation Capacity-building Grant, Art of Giving Grant, Durham Arts Council, and Durham ABC Grant."



Special Thanks to our Sponsors!



Duke  
OFFICE OF  
DURHAM &  
REGIONAL AFFAIRS



Triangle  
Empowerment Center



So Good Pupusas

Terry  
Munn

Cecilia  
Polanco



Diaper Bank of NC

Michelle  
Old



Ignite C3 Ministries

Leah  
Rade



SEEDS

Jeffrey  
Howell



Healing with CAARE

Harvey  
Hinton



Rebound

Amy  
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Brimer



DurhamCares

Miriam  
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Exchange Family  
Center

Rachel  
Galanter



BUMP The Triangle

Georgiary  
Bledsoe



StandUp-SpeakOut

Monica  
Daye



H.E.A.R.T.S.

Tameka  
Brown

## Meet the 2019 Fellows

After 5 months of intensive work around organizational stability practices, our **13 Fellows are ready to share** what they have learned and begin implementing strategies that will help the populations they serve thrive.



# What Our Partners Say

## "ReCity is \_\_\_\_."



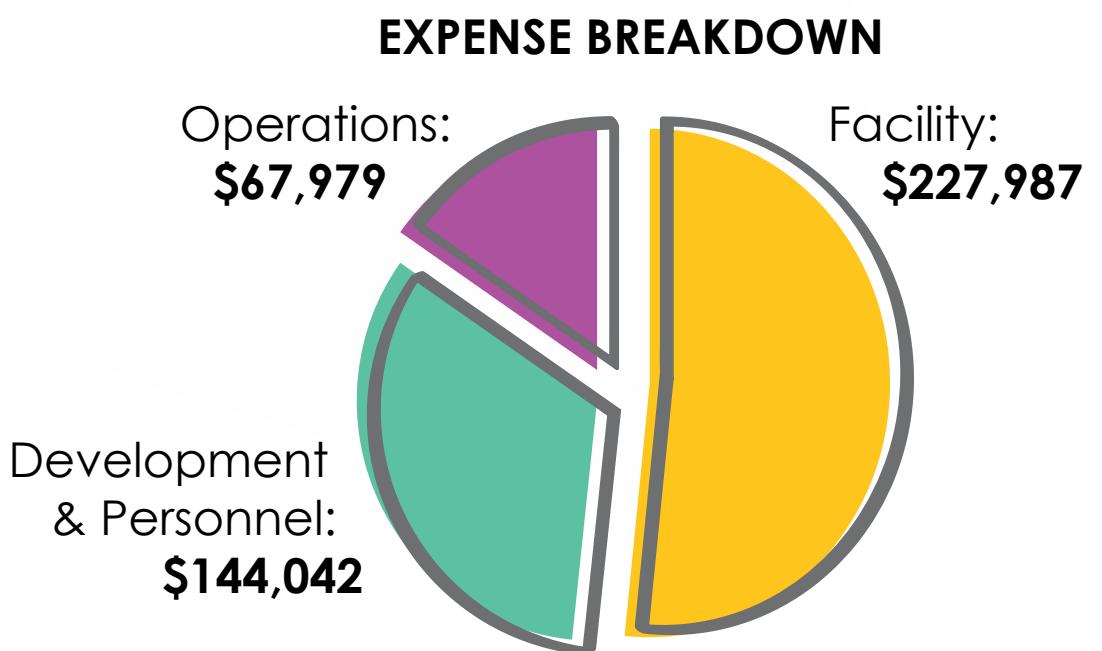
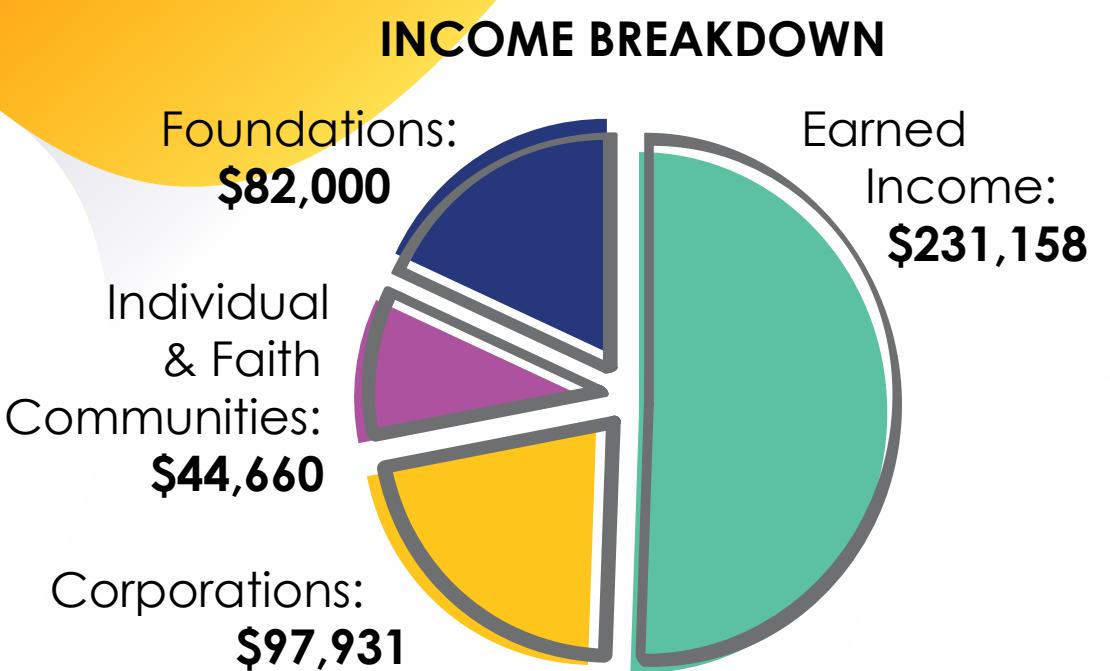
# Thank You



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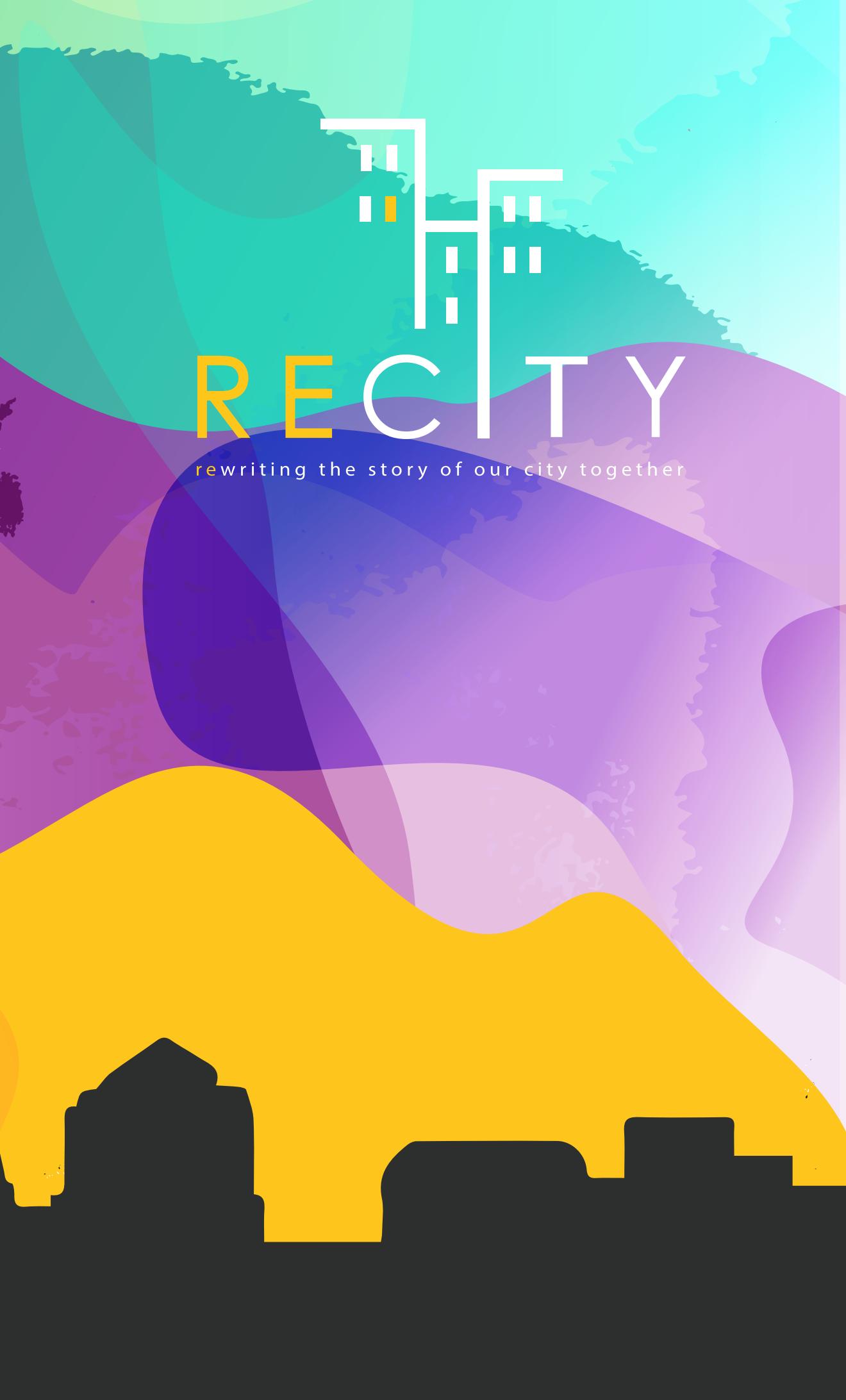
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# RE CITY

rewriting the story of our city together