Thank you for choosing the Museum of Durham History for your classroom field experience! We would like to make sure that you and your students get the most out of your visit. This guide will help you plan and prepare for your visit.

**About the Museum of Durham History**
The Museum of Durham History uses stories about people, places, and things to foster curiosity, encourage further inquiry, and promote an understanding of diverse perspectives about the Durham community and its history. The museum puts its mission into action as a free, public venue that features rotating exhibits on a variety of Durham topics.

**General Information**
- **Free parking** is available next to the museum and we can accommodate most school busses.
- The museum comfortably **accommodates up to 15 students and two chaperones**. This allows enough room for people to move around, and look at the exhibits. **Larger groups can divide into sub-groups** and rotate between the museum and downtown self-guided activities.
- Our school program **Durham Beginnings lasts approximately one hour and 15 minutes**.
- Your group may want to eat lunch at the Five Points Plaza at the intersection of Main & E. Chapel Hill. We recommend the Five Points Plaza or any of the few parks within walking distance for a snack or lunch before or after your visit.

Are you interested in registering your class for a visit? **CLICK HERE** and complete all necessary information. We will follow up to confirm the details.
PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Durham Beginnings Program

Grades 3-5
Our Durham Beginnings elementary program uses storytelling (narrative history) and primary sources to explore Durham’s early history and the people featured in our Durham Beginning’s exhibit. Students take a deeper dive into Durham’s History with a Scavenger Trivia Hunt or the I-Spy Activity. The program is one hour and 15 minutes and is designed for up to 15 students.


Grades 5-8
Our Durham Beginnings middle school program uses storytelling (narrative history) and primary source analysis to investigate Durham’s early history and the people featured in our Durham Beginnings exhibit. Students create and share historical narratives. This activity which can also be extended into a post-visit activity in the classroom. The program is one hour and 15 minutes and is designed for up to 15 students.


For High School groups, please contact the museum for program offerings.

Suggested Downtown Self-Guided Activities
For larger groups that have been divided into rotating sub-groups and for groups that would like to extend their exploration of downtown Durham, we offer some free activity suggestions:

- **Student Curators Activity!** Design a Durham-themed Art Exhibit at the Durham Arts Council – just a block away! This lesson is adaptable for grades 3-8.
  
  As a courtesy, we request that schools notify the Durham Arts Council in advance to confirm that there are no scheduled activities on your planned day to visit:
  120 Morris St, Durham, NC 27701, (919) 560-2787

- **History Beneath Our Feet Downtown Walking Tour**
  Please note, we are unable to accommodate self-guided school tours at our museum at this time.
PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Pre-Visit Materials
Click on each title to open link.

**Durham Beginnings** (required – one copy per student)
Primary Source Analysis Tools Worksheet
Story Map

**Downtown Self-guided materials: Student Curator! at the Durham Arts Council**
Student Curator! worksheet (one for each student)
Instructor’s Guide for Student Curator! (instructions for Teachers/chaperones)
Clipboards + Pencils for each student

**Downtown Self-guided materials: History Beneath Our Feet Downtown Walking Tour**
Map 1 – West Main St.
Map 2 – Central Park
Map 3 – Tobacco Town West

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**Prepare Teachers and Chaperones**
- We require at least one chaperone for every ten students.
- Please model respectful communication and be present during the field trip.
- Encourage students to question and discuss what they see and experience with the group.
- Be sure to review the museum etiquette and establish behavior expectations prior to your visit.
- Please turn off or mute your cell phone inside the museum as a courtesy to others.
- Keep students focused on their visit.
- Please review with your students before your visit!
- Help students abide by the Museum’s rules.

**Prepare Students in Museum Etiquette**
- Always walk inside the museum.
- Please keep a distance of at least one foot from the walls and displays.
- Please handle the iPad with care. One finger at a time on the computer screens.
- Please follow the prompts on the computer screens. Trying to access other programs on the computers may cause them to malfunction/break.
- Please use language that is respectful.
- Ask questions! We are here to share our museum with you!
Suggested Online Resources for Before and After Your Visit
All of these resources (and more!) are available on the LEARN tab at MoDH.org.

- Durham County Library Online Exhibits
- History Beneath Our Feet: People, Streets and Landmarks
- History Beneath Our Feet Downtown Walking Tour
- History Beneath Our Feet: Lesson Plans
- Digital Durham: Maps of Durham
- Digital Durham: Lesson Plans and Lesson Plan Documents
- African Americans in Durham, John Hope Franklin Collection, Duke Library
- Women of Black Wall Street
- Bull City: A Short History of Durham, North Carolina

Contact Information:

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