



GIVE US OUR

FLOWERS WHILE

WE ARE STILL HERE

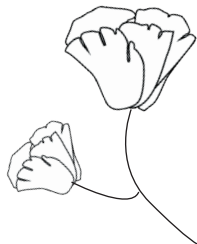
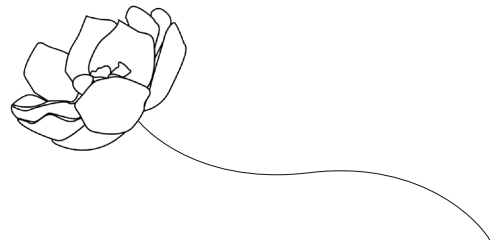
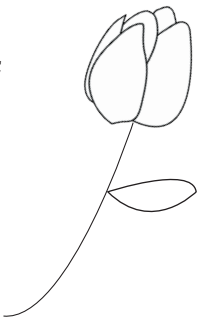
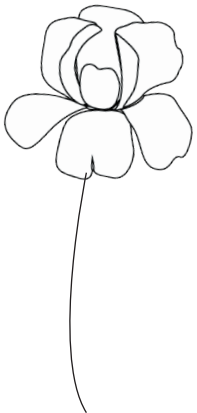


GIVE US OUR FLOWERS WHILE WE ARE STILL HERE



“Give us our Flowers While We Are Still Here” is a social media-based Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) Initiative spearheaded by the Gender Resources Advocacy and Support Program (GRASP) at The LGBTQ Center of Durham.

Transgender Day of Visibility is annually recognized to highlight the lives and expressions of Trans and Gender non-conforming people. More importantly, it is a day to bring attention to the accomplishment of existing. Existing in a world and society that continually attempts to discredit our presence and suppress our voices. Recently, we’ve witnessed countless legislative assaults on trans youth from state to state and we continually hear about epidemic rates of violence towards trans people. This project is a celebration of existence of seven local Trans and Gender Non-conforming individuals. Their written interview responses accompanied with their featured photos will serve as an embodiment of resilience and liberation.







KALIQ ALEXANDER

He/Him/His

What do you need in order to be your most joyous self?

Freedom. Freedom to express myself as much as I want. Whether that's freedom in myself or freedom from other people's expectations of what I'm supposed to look like, dress like, speak like, etc.

What makes Durham home and how do you feel seen in Durham?

History. I've lived in this area all my life so it's home for sure. I feel seen because there are spaces where I am seen as my true & authentic self.

What advice can you give trans youth about navigating their identity and gender?

Take your time and do it on your own terms & at your own pace. Your journey may be different from someone else's but it doesn't make you any less of who you are.

What advice would you provide your younger self if you had the opportunity?

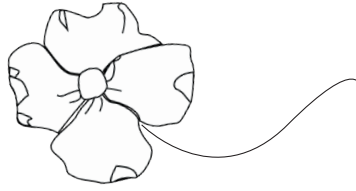
I would just tell myself to be free. Be free from the reservations, the judgement, the negative self-talk and don't be scared that people won't accept you. There will be some bumps along the way but at the end of the day if you're true to yourself that's all that matters.





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ALEXANDRIA WEBB

She/Her/Hers

What do you need in order to be your most joyous self?

Unfortunately, we live in a capitalistic society...what I need is purely tied in stability. The easiest way to provide stability is through currency and reparations. Other than money: love, empathy, and the ability to live my authentic truth is what makes me my most joyous self.

What makes Durham home and how do you feel seen in Durham?

I think of the collective RTP area as home, but I feel seen through my community organization and activism in addition to my entertainment career as well. I think of all of North Carolina as my home being indigenous to this land, so I love being in this area and being able to enjoy the hard work my ancestors put into this land. I also can serve a look!

What advice can you give trans youth about navigating their identity and gender?

I think honestly, it's time to stop looking for youth to provide answers about themselves that they may not have yet. Instead, I think we should eliminate the barriers to them walking this Earth in their truth and let them navigate themselves as they see fit; however, if I had to give my younger self advice.

What advice would you provide your younger self if you had the opportunity?

I would tell her to invest in a good lace front and feel your fantasy and to be the best mermaid you want to be.





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NATALIE WATSON

They/Them/Theirs

What do you need in order to be your most joyous self?

To be my most joyous self, I need to be in a space where I am seen as my full self, where I am warm, and where there are things around me that bring comfort.

What makes Durham home and how do you feel seen in Durham?

I have lived most of my life in Durham. I have been able to explore my identity here in Durham. Durham is full of culture, life, and so many different people who create all different types of experiences. Durham allows me to walk down the street with my partner and not worry about what may happen to us as an LGBTQ couple. Durham is a place where clubs like the Pinhook exists and Pride takes place and the community of Durham actively supports LGBTQ people. Durham makes me feel seen by just allowing me to exist and thrive within its community.

What advice can you give trans youth about navigating their identity and gender?

Give yourself patience and grace. You do not need to figure out everything all at once. It will take time. Surround yourself with people who are you for you and if can't do that right now, know you will find your community one day.

What advice would you provide your younger self if you had the opportunity?

Try and relax and enjoy life lol. Things change, your dreams and aspirations change and that's ok. Just go with it and know you are worthy.





**GIVE YOURSELF
PATIENCE AND
GRACE.**







JERMANNI COOPER

He/Him/His

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**YOUR IDENTITY
IS VALID AND DO
WHAT YOU FEEL
IS BEST. DON'T LET
ANYONE KNOCK
YOU DOWN.**



LUKE HIRST

They/Them/Theirs



What do you need in order to be your most joyous self?

Sunshine. Water. Trees. Sparkly things. The laughter of my loved ones.

And for all of us to be free, including and especially trans women and trans femmes of color.

What makes Durham home and how do you feel seen in Durham?

Durham is home because of the way there are people from all kinds of backgrounds who are invested in our community and in making the world a better place through justice, art, and love. I feel known when we make space for people to bring our fullest selves.

What advice can you give trans youth about navigating their identity and gender?

Your path is perfectly valid, it doesn't need to look like anyone else's, and you can change it whenever you want. Find ways to remind yourself often of what makes you feel most whole and alive. It's not your responsibility to make other people feel comfortable.

What advice would you provide your younger self if you had the opportunity?

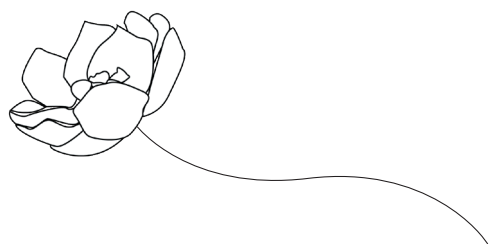
It's okay not to know, and there is usually more than one right answer. Where you feel most vulnerable is where you'll find your greatest strength.





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KHXO5

They/Them/She/Her/Are

What do you need in order to be your most joyous self?

In order for me to be my joyous self I need stable housing and income so I'm not stressing about whether or not I can afford where I live or if I have enough money for food. Also I need some gender affirming surgery to feel comfortable in the body that currently is not where I want to be in my gender journey.

What makes Durham home and how do you feel seen in Durham?

The overall collective consciousness of Durham and its radical community is what makes Durham home for me. When I see yt and cis comrades pulling together mutual aid with the leadership of black trans people for trans community, it makes me feel seen. It's the tangible solidarity for me because talk is cheap, I wanna see the action baby!

What advice can you give trans youth about navigating their identity and gender?

The advise I have for black trans youth is to not let anyone silence your rage or your feelings. This world owes black people especially black trans people a lot so I want to encourage black trans youth to demand what is OWED! Black and brown trans youth should never have to ask for help because community should always be checking in to make sure everything is provided and that's on period. Trans youth, you are the future and it's your responsibility to make sure people know it! Luv u!

What advice would you provide your younger self if you had the opportunity?

Advice I would tell younger self is to never doubt your intuition because black femmes are normally always right lol! Also to trust those who prove themselves trust worthy and those people only. Last I would tell my younger self to remember that they come from a long line of beautiful loving warrior conjurers who could tear down walls with just intentions. Oh and it's okay to cry bitch! Lmao! That's the last thing lol! <3

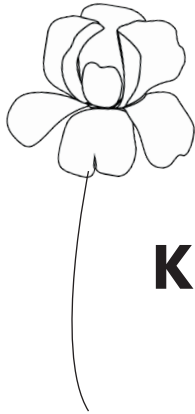


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KEYONNA FOWLER

She/Her/Hers/They/Them/Theirs

What do you need in order to be your most joyous self?

I'm the most joyous when I'm surrounded by love and my innergy is vibrating extra high. I love good people and good vibes so it brings me joy to be around queer people of color taking up as much space as possible !

What makes Durham home and how do you feel seen in Durham?

Durham is home because it's where I found my purpose on this earth. I feel that Durham has given me many access to different resources to make my transition in life easier. I live such a stealth life so I've become very comfortable in many different communities and respected. I'm known for leadership and activism and currently, as I progress in my spirituality, my spiritual/life coach career.

What advice can you give trans youth about navigating their identity and gender?

If i had the opportunity to speak with my younger self I would tell Keyonna, "Don't take any opportunity for granted and stop being so hard on yourself !" I would remind myself that everything doesn't have to be perfect the first round and that it does get better !!

What advice would you provide your younger self if you had the opportunity?

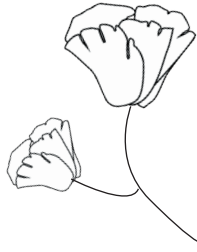
I would want for the younger generation to know that it's okay to not know who you are, take your time because no one can tell you how you feel or what you feel ! You matter , you're important, and you're going to be great !

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VANITY REID DETERVILLE

She/Her/Hers

In lieu of an interview, Vanity wishes to thank all those who contributed to this project:

Here are the growers/farms that donated the flowers via The Nubian Blooms Project. Really amazed and touched that they were able to pull that off. :)

Flowers are from Split Acre Farm, Mighty Tendril, Humble Umble Farm, Wild Hare Farm, Clear Black Flowers, Orlaya Flora, and Fireside Farm.

Flowers by Gary

Shadowbox Studio

Jade Wilson

Pyrite Society





