

## LOCAL

# 2009 Golden Leaf winners honored for painting a prettier face on the Bull City

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DURHAM — It was, the program indelicately noted, a “former blighted, dilapidated pile of bricks.”

Now it's the winner of one of Durham's 2009 Golden Leaf Awards for Community Appearance.

Golden Belt, originally a thriving hosiery mill and now a thriving and green site for artist studios, galleries, loft apartments, offices and restaurants, won the award in the Sustainable Properties category at a ceremony at Rigsbee Hall Thursday night. The honor, said Nakira Carter, the chair of the awards committee, recognized how the mill buildings and its surrounding area had been “creatively restored and repurposed in an environmentally sustainable manner while preserving historic architectural elements.”

The mixed-use project, developed by Scientific

## 2009 GOLDEN LEAF AWARD WINNERS

The winners of the 2009 Golden Leaf Awards for Community Appearance:

### ■ Commercial Properties

Golden Leaf Award: The Republik Headquarters, 211 Rigsbee Ave.

Awards of Merit: Pavilion East at Lakeview, Erwin Road; Quintiles Tower, Interstate 40

### ■ Community Properties

Golden Leaf Award: Durham Station Transportation Center

Awards of Merit: Durham Performing Arts Center; Birchwood Community Center

### ■ Residential Properties

Golden Leaf Award: West Club Townhomes, North Duke Street and West Club Boulevard

Awards of Merit: Southpoint Village; 1106 Anderson St.

### ■ Sustainable Properties

Golden Leaf Award: Golden Belt

Awards of Merit: Kings Daughters Inn, Trinity Park; National Computer Center, Research Triangle Park

Properties, ultimately will be the largest LEED-certified historic renovation in the state. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is a green building rating system which provides a set of standards for environmentally sustainable construction.

The seventh annual Golden Leaf Awards, co-sponsored by the Dur-

ham City-County Appearance Commission and Keep Durham Beautiful, are designed to recognize outstanding visual contributions to the Durham area and to encourage better designed and maintained properties.

“We are here to celebrate the accomplishments of those who have improved the appearance of our community,”

Durham County Board of Commissioners Chairman Michael Page told the crowd of more than 100 gathered for the ceremony.

“Appearance is important because it's the first thing you notice. It makes a lasting impression.”

A “culture of care,” Page added, “shows that people take pride in a

place,” and also, among other benefits, raises property values.

The awards were given in four categories: sustainable properties, community properties, residential properties and commercial properties. The 46 nominees were judged by a panel of local art, architecture and landscaping professionals who based their choices on a number of criteria, including design excellence and improvement and commitment to property maintenance.

The other category winners included The Durham Station Transportation Center, for community properties; West Club Townhomes, for residential properties; and The Republik Headquarters, for commercial properties.

Two awards of merit also were given in each of the categories.