“I love watching the spark of creativity grow in Melissa. It makes my heart so happy to see how much art means to her and I am so honored to bear witness and support her as she explores it.”

-Dawn Surrat, 2017 Creative Mentorship Program mentor

The Durham Art Guild is a nonprofit member-driven visual arts organization established in 1948. Our mission is to enrich and connect our communities by creating opportunities and providing leadership for current and future artists and art enthusiasts.
ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

The Creative Mentorship Program empowers local high school students to discover and develop their creative voices and artistic skills through 20 weeks of dedicated work with a Durham Art Guild artist, involvement in the local arts community, and a month-long exhibition of their projects in Room 100 Gallery at Golden Belt Art Studios in Durham.

Through this innovative arts education program, students and mentors work collaboratively to enhance their artistic strengths, express themselves creatively, and expand their creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

This program is an annual collaboration between Student U and the Durham Art Guild that began in 2013. Student U is a college-access organization that believes all students in Durham have the ability to succeed. In order to make this dream a reality, Student U creates a pipeline of services to support students through middle school, high school, and college.

“It’s not every day that you get to enjoy working with someone that is as passionate as you are in creating things. Sometimes it’s hard to believe that this is my life...being in the Creative Mentorship Program has been one of the biggest steps I’ve taken to become the greatest artist I can be”

- Brayam Ortiz-Rangel, 2017 Creative Mentorship Program alumnus

**PROGRAM DETAILS & DATES**

- Five artist mentors are selected through an application and interview process in November.

- Simultaneously, five students are selected from Student U though an application process.

- Student and mentor pairs meet for 2 hours once a week from January - May at Golden Belt Art Studios.

- All participants attend 4 monthly field trips to area arts organizations.

- All participants attend an exhibit installation, artist talk, public reception, and exhibition de-installation in June.

- Each student and mentor pair receives and manages a $250 supply budget. All program mentors receive a $1400 stipend as compensation for their time, expertise, and commitment to the students and the program.