



# Engage Raleigh 2025 Community Engagement Expo

**SUMMARY REPORT**

[raleighnc.gov/engage-city](https://raleighnc.gov/engage-city)



Raleigh  
Community



On September 13, 2025, the City of Raleigh hosted its second annual "Engage Raleigh: Community and Neighborhood Expo" at the Raleigh McKimmon Center. What began as an idea at a City Council retreat has grown into a signature event that brings residents, community groups, and City departments together in one place.

This year's theme, "One Community, Many Generations," celebrated the strength that comes from the voices and experiences of all who call our city home. The Engage Raleigh Expo is a hub for collaboration and connection – where City services are showcased, community organizations share valuable resources, and residents of every age discover opportunities to help shape Raleigh's future together.

The City of Raleigh thanks everyone who made this year's expo possible — our dedicated staff, community partners, and the many residents who came out to engage. The 2025 Engage Raleigh Expo reflects Raleigh's spirit of collaboration and commitment to building a stronger community across generations.

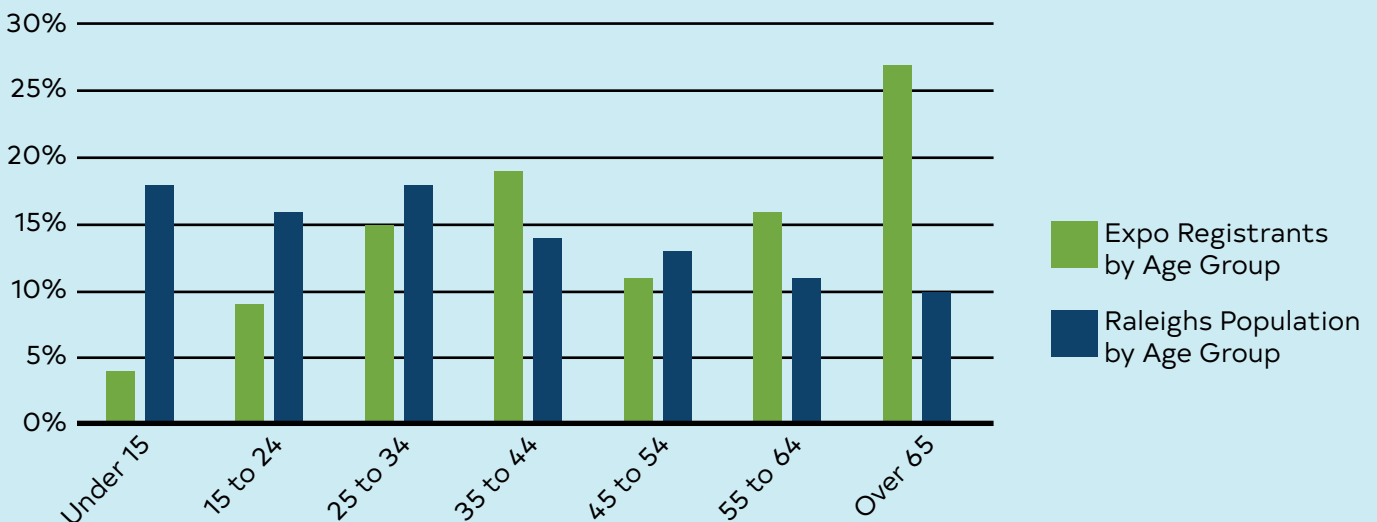


*“It was a great event that I was able to connect with different organizations and community members that were very interested in services. We can’t wait to come back next year and participate in any other community events throughout the year! Thank you!”*

## Registrant Breakdown by Age

Nearly 300 attendees took part in this year’s event. According to the 2020 Data Book Raleigh’s population is predominantly younger, with 48% of residents between the ages of 15 and 44, and approximately 34% over the age of 45. At the Engage Raleigh Expo, about 43% of registrants were between 15 and 44, while 54% were over 45. We’re proud that this year’s expo brought together Raleigh’s many generations.

255 registrants provided age information



Source: <https://raleighnc.gov/planning/services/raleigh-demographic-resources>



## Keynote Program

### ***One Community, Many Generations***

This year's Engage Raleigh Expo featured a keynote presentation by Dr. Valencia Hicks-Harris on "One Community, Many Generations." Her speech celebrated the connections between Raleigh residents of all ages and highlighted the importance of collaboration, community engagement, and shared experiences.

Dr. Hicks-Harris is the Executive Director and Founder of the local organization Empower All, Inc. She is also one of the first graduates of the Educational Equity Doctoral Program at North Carolina State University. With over 12 years of experience in education, including teaching in Wake County Public Schools, she is a trailblazer dedicated to broadening the teacher pipeline, encouraging responsive teaching practices,, increasing representation in STEM fields, and addressing the mental health challenges affecting youth.

Her doctoral dissertation focused on Educational Equity, reflecting her ongoing commitment to ensuring that every student has access to a fair and high-quality education.

## Workshops

The 2025 Engage Raleigh Expo offered a variety of workshops focused on community connection, intergenerational engagement, and empowerment:

- **Building Legacy Through Community Connection:** Explored how residents, whether long-term, new, or returning, can shape lasting community legacies.
- **Generations in Sync: Real Talk, Real Impact:** Highlighted the benefits of intergenerational relationships, featuring Foster Grandparents and emphasizing empathy, well-being, and community connection.
- **Bridging Generations and the Digital Divide:** Showcased the Digital Impact Program's efforts to improve digital literacy across ages while providing youth leadership opportunities.
- **Connecting Generations Through Shared Storytelling:** Focused on preserving neighborhood histories through oral storytelling, fostering a sense of place for future generations.
- **Community Preparedness for Every Generation:** Provided practical guidance for disaster readiness for all ages, along with preparedness kits and resources.
- **College Students Through Time:** Examined the evolving student experience and offered ways for individuals and communities to support higher education students facing challenges such as housing and food insecurity.

Overall, the workshops highlighted collaboration, connection across generations, and ways residents can actively contribute to a stronger, more engaged Raleigh.



**WORKSHOPS**

| ROOM | 7a                                       | 8a                                                 |
|------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
|      | <b>Interactive Community Art Session</b> | <b>Bridging Generations and the Digital Divide</b> |
|      | 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.                    | 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.                            |

 **ENGAGE RALEIGH  
COMMUNITY AND  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
EXPO**

 **Raleigh  
Community**



## Art Exhibit

At the Engage Raleigh Expo, residents took part in an interactive art activity exploring what resilience means to them and their communities. Led by a local artist, participants identified the key building blocks of happiness and strength across generations. The resulting visual artifacts will inform the City's ongoing Resilience Hub project and be displayed in community spaces to spark continued conversation.

## The Neighborhood Exchange

The Neighborhood Exchange was the heart of the 2025 Engage Raleigh Expo, building on 21 years of Raleigh's Neighborhood Exchange. City departments and community organizations created a vibrant, resource-rich filled space where exhibitors shared valuable information, highlighted local programs, and provided opportunities for residents to engage in meaningful ways to help shape the city's future.

**90**

Exhibitors

**20**

City Departments  
and Divisions

**70**

Community  
Organizations

### **Raleigh City Hall (11)**

1. Transportation Department - Bus Rapid Transit
2. City Manager's Office
3. Convention and Performing Arts Complex
4. Communications Department
5. City of Raleigh - Emergency Communications
6. Engineering Services, Roadway Design & Construction
7. Fire Department
8. Fire Department - Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
9. Planning and Development Department
10. Police Department
11. Raleigh Water

### **Neighborhood Block (14)**

12. Aldar Sudanese Organization
13. Community Engagement Department
14. DHIC
15. Families Together NC
16. Housing Options for Students Today
17. Preserving Home
18. Housing and Community Development Department
19. StepUp Ministry
20. Wake County Public Schools - Family Academy
21. Wake County Public Schools - Office of Early Learning
22. Wake County Public Schools - Special Education Services: Family and Community Connections
23. Wake County Public Schools - Supplier Diversity Team
24. Wake County Smart Start
25. Youth Villages

### **Health Hub (20)**

26. Advance Community Health
27. Alcohol and Drug Council of North Carolina
28. American Red Cross - Greater Triangle Area
29. Darkness RISING Project
30. Diaper Bank of North Carolina
31. Eatwell Exchange, Inc.
32. Heartland Hospice - Raleigh
33. Holistic Health Empowerment
34. Liberty Homecare and Hospice
35. Maternal Mental Health Group
36. NAMI Wake County
37. Southeast Raleigh Promise
38. NC Navigator Consortium
39. Palms Family Care Home
40. Path to Self
41. Regrowth Counseling
42. Senior Community Care of NC PACE
43. The Carter Clinic PA
44. The Help Center NC
45. Transitions LifeCare

### **Civic Square (20)**

46. 100 Black Men of Triangle East, Inc
47. AARP North Carolina
48. Asociación Dominicana de Raleigh NC
49. Consulate General of Mexico in Raleigh: Civic Education Window
50. Disability Rights North Carolina
51. Empower All
52. HIS Daughters' Legacy, Inc.
53. Immigration Counsel, LLC
54. LGBT Center of Raleigh
55. Lutheran Services Carolinas
56. L.U.V. Enterprises
57. MI FAMILIA EN ACCION
58. NC Early Childhood Foundation
59. Power the Vote NC
60. Raleigh Citizen Advisory Council (RCAC)
61. Rotary Club of North Raleigh
62. The No Woman, No Girl Initiative
63. U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
64. You Can Vote
65. Zola Sudania INC.

### **Innovation Station (14)**

66. Department of Economic and Social Advancement
67. Human Resources Department
68. Cooperating Raleigh Colleges
69. Designed For Joy
70. Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, Small Business Advisors
71. Grand Canyon University
72. Ignite the Star Within Coaching LLC
73. NC S.A.F.E. (Secure All Firearms Effectively)
74. NC Society of Hispanic Professionals
75. Self Help Credit Union
76. Students Supporting Students
77. Toastmasters International
78. Wake Tech Community College - Entrepreneurship & Small Business Center
79. Wake Technical Community College - Career Services

### **The Park (11)**

80. Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources
81. Solid Waste Services
82. Engineering Services Department - Stormwater
83. Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources - Teen Programs
84. CORRAL Riding Academy
85. Transportation Department - GoRaleigh
86. Kicking for a Dream
87. NC Cooperative Extension - Natural Resources & Agriculture
88. NC Museum of Natural Sciences
89. ReNew Mobile Showers
90. The Bike Library

*"Want to congratulate the  
Community Engagement Team...  
I would come back next year  
for sure!"*

*"I visited every table, and everyone  
was very helpful and informative...  
the keynote speaker was  
wonderful."*

*"This was an amazing event. The  
energy from all the vendors was  
one of providing information and  
help to the community they serve,  
and the workshops were very  
informative."*

*"This was an important event for  
community sharing information.  
Very low key but helpful... We  
had over 100 people interested in  
various programs that Raleigh  
Parks has to offer."*

*"I recently moved to Raleigh,  
and I really enjoyed the Raleigh  
Expo. It was an enlightening  
experience, and I was introduced  
to many facilities, services and  
engagements."*

*"It was very informative and super  
helpful for networking... I really  
enjoyed the art project with the  
beads... Smart thinking. We will  
definitely be back next year."*

*"This was our first year  
participating in the Engage  
Raleigh Expo, and we were very  
pleased with the turnout. Everyone  
was so welcoming and helpful—  
thank you for the opportunity to be  
part of such a great event!"*

*"It was an honor to be a part of this  
lovely event. It was very organized  
from the beginning to the end... I  
am looking forward to being an  
exhibitor next year. Staff remained  
friendly and accessible throughout  
the entire event. Wow, just wow."*

