

News from the

The
CHARLOTTE MUSEUM
of HISTORY



WHERE HISTORY HAS A HOME

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For Immediate Release

On January 31, visit *NoDa*, the latest installment
of our popular *Charlotte Neighborhoods* exhibit

Come visit the Charlotte Museum of History to view the new edition of the *Charlotte Neighborhoods* exhibit that focuses on *NoDa*, an acronym for the North Davidson Arts District. Similar to the previous display that covered the *Center City* in detail, the new installment describes different time periods and aspects of this important district's history.



Icon representing the new NoDa display in the Charlotte Neighborhoods exhibit in the Charlotte Museum of History. Image created by Lee Goodan.

Ranging from before the Civil War to the present, the new installment will detail the life of NoDa, a North Charlotte neighborhood centered around North Davidson Street and 36th Street. The area, which began as a collection of standalone farms before the Civil War, developed in the 1990s as a full-fledged arts and entertainment center. In recognition of its role, NoDa hosts "Gallery Crawls" from 6 to 9pm on the first and third Friday of each month.



Built in 1903, Highland Park Mill #3 was designed by Stuart Cramer and considered a marvel of its time. Image appears courtesy of the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County.

Through this new installment of the *Charlotte Neighborhoods* exhibit, you can learn how North Charlotte became a textile center along with, housing for mill workers, a commercial district, other industrial and manufacturing concerns, and community institutions such as churches and schools. Examine life in the area during the early 1900s as the textile companies built factories along with self-contained mill villages, furnishing houses for their employees and all members of their families. The mills — and Charlotte — enjoyed great success during both World War I and World War II.

Learn how, after years as a closely bonded community, the mills suffered strikes and walkouts, the Great Depression, and an inevitable period of decline and neglect (the last mill closed in 1975). In the 1980s, a group of artists purchased an abandoned mill as well as several storefronts and mill houses with the idea of providing cheap studio space and affordable gallery space and housing for artists, dancers, and musicians. In 1990, the neighborhood of North Charlotte was added to the National Register of Historic Places, further encouraging restoration and rehabilitation throughout the area.

Ponder the future of this revitalized area: the more successful NoDa becomes, the more expensive it may be to live and work in. These higher costs may push those responsible for the neighborhood's rebirth, the artists and the working-class, to the outer fringes of the area. Many residents worry about gentrification and how to maintain the neighborhood's character and culture in the face of new developments.

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The Charlotte Museum of History is located at 3500 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte.

General Admission range \$3-\$6 general, members free

Hours: Tue-Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5 (*closed Mondays*)

For more information, please call (704) 568-1774,

or visit our website at www.charlottemuseum.org.