

We've hung these banners tonight to let the university know that we are here, we are watching, and we have not forgotten.

Despite his racist abuse, Tallman Trask is still the Executive Vice President. Despite his financial investments in tear-gassing protesters¹, David M. Rubenstein is still glorified in building names and scholarships. Instead of paying workers, honoring brown and black labor, or expanding financial aid, Duke University funnels millions into artifice: construction, landscaping, and donor parties.

The Arts Center -- or the Ruby, as the administration insists we call it -- perfectly embodies the economic priorities of this university: glass boxes over human welfare.

We are here to demand justice for black and brown workers. We are here to denounce the university's obsession with sterile aesthetics and its hostility to unions. We are here to remind everyone of what Duke University has done and what it hasn't.

The university has continued to refuse to meet demands made by students and workers, including:

1. A living wage of \$15/hour for all workers on Duke's campus -- including subcontracted workers.
2. Tallman Trask's swift and immediate removal.
3. An imminent investigation, conducted by an outside agency, of rampant racist abuse of Duke's service workers, specifically within Parking & Transportation Services (PTS).

We are a group of students holding this university accountable for its immense wealth and contributions to the global systems of inequality.

We call on our fellow students, workers, and rebels to continue the fight against this university's role in administering oppression. Some steps we can take include renaming all eponymous structures on this campus after black and brown workers, taking power back into the hands of those who *built* the university, instead of simply *funding* it. Donors should contribute to this university to increase accessibility for first-gen students of color, to further the arts, to improve scholarship. Not to have their names plastered on a building.

If you -- as a Duke student, worker, staff member, or alumni -- would like to get involved in on-campus activism and join our call for justice, please reach out to us at historicalcomm1ssion@protonmail.com.

¹ As the Triangle's chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace discovered, David M. Rubenstein is the founder of the Carlyle Group, an investment firm that co-owns Combined Systems, Inc, the major manufacturer of tear gas. Police forces have used its canisters against black and brown protesters in Ferguson, government dissenters in Egypt, and demonstrators against the Israeli occupation in Palestine.

Take power back. Don't give in. Dismantle Duke plantation.