

2024 GAM Board

OFFICERS

Rebecca Bush President The Columbus Museum, Columbus

Ashleigh Oatts Vice President **Program Committee Chair** T.R.R. Cobb House, Athens

Polly Huff Secretary **Bylaws Committee Chair** Georgia Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village, Tifton

Melissa Swindell Treasurer Finance Committee Chair and Membership Committee Georgia Writers Museum, Eatonton

Marcy Breffle **Past President** Nominating Committee Chair and Finance Committee Co-Chair Purpose Possible, Atlanta



Board Members

Andrea Miskewicz **MUSE Committee Chair and Communications** Committee Chair The Museum of History & Holocaust Education, Kennesaw

Harvee White **Education Committee Chair** History Cherokee, Canton

Karin Johnston Dalton **Awards Committee Chair** Georgia Capitol Museum, Atlanta

Jerald Crook Membership Committee Chair and Program Committee Co-Chair Georgia Humanities Council

Tommy Gregors By-laws Committee Co-Chair Artesian Alliance, Albany

Natalie Smith Awards Committee Co-Chair Augusta Museum of History, Augusta

Kendrick Taj Stephens **Communications Committee Co-Chair** Newnan-Coweta History Center/McRitchie-Hollis Museum, Newnan

Ashleigh Kelly **Education Committee Co-Chair** Artesian Alliance, Albany

Staff

Michele Rodgers Administrative Director GAM Office: 770-853-7539

President's Remarks

Greetings GAM Fam!

My introduction to the Georgia Association of Museums began with a phone call. In the early weeks of 2017, I received a call from Christy Crisp, a colleague from the Georgia Historical Society who was serving on what was then the board of GAMG. She said that my name had come up in conversation about potential board service, then proceeded to talk to me about the organization. She concluded by saying, "For me, the best part of being involved with GAMG has been the opportunity to meet and work with museum people all over the state, a lot of whom I probably would never have met otherwise."

Her words proved prophetic. Flashing forward to 2024, the people I have met and served with in GAM have become some of my closest friends and colleagues in the field. (There was even a designated "GAM table" at my wedding!) Our members come from a variety of backgrounds and represent many different kinds of museums, large and small, rural and urban. We work in institutions focused on history, science, and art, and we tackle the unique challenges of historic house museums and living history sites. We are educators, curators, collections managers, fundraisers, animal wranglers, and cleaners—sometimes all in one day. We are united by a belief in museums' ability to inspire, to educate, to build community, all while reflecting our world back to us and encouraging us to embrace its challenges and wonders.



To better support these endeavors, GAM's new strategic plan aims to enhance member benefits and build long-term sustainability. Spearheaded by the tireless Marcy Breffle, this document directly incorporates your feedback about what we do well and what we need to improve. Your board is committed to building a state organization that reflects the vibrancy of Georgia's museum community and helps its members achieve new heights. As part of this effort, we invite you to apply to serve on a GAM committee, where you will be a key part of steering our 2024 activities. Details about this opportunity can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

I am honored and humbled to serve as your GAM president, cognizant of the many amazing leaders that have come before me and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. As we work together, I know our collective "GAM fam" will strengthen and grow in new ways—please join us!

In service,

Rebecca Bush President Georgia Association of Museums

FRONT COVER: MARIETTA HISTORY CENTER



Would you like to get more with

Here's your chance! Apply to serve on a GAM committee by completing a short form: https://forms.gle/3mtxHfDnVPyLD6ne6. We are looking for committee members who represent a wide range of museums, expertise, career stages, and life experiences throughout Georgia! Meetings will be held via Zoom and travel is not required, though attendance at the annual conference is encouraged.

Applications will be accepted until April 26, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. If you have any questions, please email GAM President Rebecca Bush at rbush@comuga.org.

2024 GAM Committees

Program Committee

The Program Committee sets the program for GAM's annual conference. It evaluates session and workshop proposals, recommends special speakers, assists presenters with logistical support, and reviews conference attendees' session evaluations to build a strong slate of conference offerings.

- Ashleigh Oatts (Chair), T.R.R. Cobb House
- Jerald Crook (Co-Chair), Georgia Humanities
- Kendrick Taj Stephens, Newnan-Coweta History Center
- Patty Dees, Booth Western Art Museum
- Emily Knight, Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University
- Hannah Beam, University of Georgia
- Matt Davis, Historic Museums, Georgia College & State
- Katie Dillard, Albany Museum of Art

Awards Committee

The Awards Committee is responsible for soliciting nominations. presenting potential honorees to the Board of Directors for approval, and coordinating awards ceremony at the annual meeting.

- Karin Johnston Dalton (Chair), Georgia Capitol Museum
- Natalie Smith (Co-Chair), Augusta Museum of History
- Allison Moore, Berry College Oak Hill
- Jessie Merrell, Columbus State University
- Sophia Queen, Georgia Capitol Museum
- Alyson Vuley, Steffen Thomas Museum of Art

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee produces four quarterly newsletters and manages GAM's social media accounts.

- Andrea Miskewicz (Chair), Museum of History and Holocaust **Education, Kennesaw State University**
- Kendrick Taj Stephens (Co-Chair), Newnan-Coweta History Center
- Karin Johnston Dalton, Georgia Capitol Museum
- Michael Lachowski, Georgia Museum of Art

Education Committee

The Education Committee coordinates GAM programming outside of the annual conference. The committee facilitates virtual and inperson programs, including educational workshops and networking events for GAM members.

- Harvee White (Chair), History Cherokee
- Ashleigh Kelly (Co-Chair), Artesian Alliance
- **Brad Hawkins, Aviation History and Technology Center**
- Jessie Merrell, Columbus State University



New & Renewing Members

SINCE DECEMBER 2023

Institutional

Black Artifacts Museum Candler County Historical Society Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home Chipley Historical Center DeKalb History Center

Euharlee Welcome Center and History Museum

Georgia Museum of Art Georgia Southern Museum Hickory Hill

Museum of Technology at Middle Georgia College

Northeast Georgia History Center

Oak Hill & The Martha Berry Museum

Polk County Historical Society Museum Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum

Road to Tara Museum

Savoy Automobile Museum

St. Mary's Submarine Museum

The Richmond Hill Historical Society

The Wren's Nest

Thiokol Memorial Project

TRR Cobb House Museum

University of Georgia Public History Program

Conference Partner

dmdg2

Sponsor Member

SEMC

Individual/Student

Barbara Blum

Hillary Brown

Schelly Corry

Patty Dees

Kathy Dixson

Keandres Dyson

Lisa Flaherty

Matthew Gramling

Kirk Henderson

Lauren Jensen

Thomas M. Lee Benjamin Malik

Christa McCay

Bonnie Moore

Marty Mulinix

Donnal Munsel

Tracy Phelps

Corinne Roth

Natalie Smith

Scott Smith

Margaret Sommer

Kyle Stanton

Kendrick Taj Stephens

Jill Sweetapple

Dietrah Taylor

Frank Walsh

Alyssa Watrous-Hendrix

Rhonda Webb

Jane Powers Weldon

Karisa Zdanky

Not a member? Click here to join.

GAM MUSE News

Apply for a GAM MUSE Grant!

What is MUSE?

- A resource for any individual or member institution of GAM who have been active for at least 1 calendar year.
- Funded by the GAM Auction and silent auction donations!
- A great place to start if your organization doesn't know where to begin with a project
- It's a great a place to gain different perspective if you need specific expertise/a new set of experienced eyes.

How to Apply for a MUSE Grant

- Applications will be LIVE on the GAM website from March 25 - April 30, 2024
- Depending on the number applicants and funding, another round may open in the Fall
- Decisions will be made based on a rubric developed by the GAM Board; if not accepted, suggestions will be provided to make grant application stronger for next time.
- Rubric Categories: feasibility, justification, alignment & impact

What to Expect After Receiving a MUSE Grant

- A deliverable to the grantee in the form of a project analysis OR work plan completed by the consultant.
 Templates will be made available for consultants to
- Online Consulting --> 2 virtual meetings & deliverable (valued at \$600)
- In-Person Consulting --> 2-day site visit & deliverable (valued at \$1500)
- Choice of consultant (grantee can select who they would like based on the list of consultants)

Please Know...

- If you need help beyond the work plan/project analysis (ex: an entire exhibit or a website), a MUSE grant will not cover this.
- You/your organization can elect to pay to keep your consultant on (rates to be negotiated directly with the consultant).
- You can still access the list of GAM consultants even if you do not get a MUSE grant.
- MUSE funds can vary from year to year depending on how much is raised, so the # of grantees can also vary from year to year.

Call for Proposals - MUSE Grant

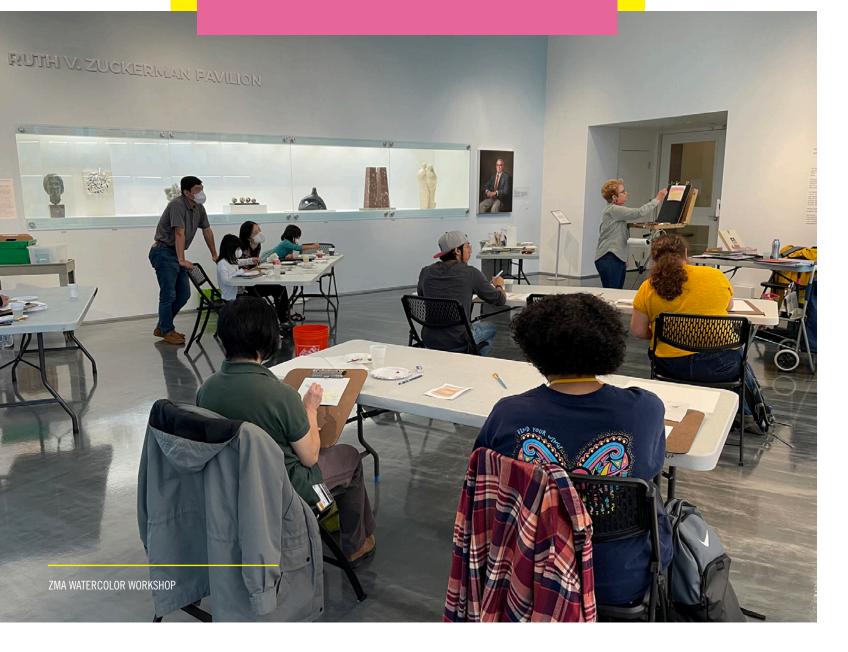
Application Deadline: April 30

Google Form for application

6 I GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER I SPRING 2024 7

Education in Action

Elizabeth Thomas, Education Coordinator Zuckerman Museum of Art





Question 1: What drew you to becoming an Education Coordinator?

I've always enjoyed the self-directed learning that museums offer. In earlier phases of my career I was a web designer, then a P-12 art and design teacher, but I had intermittent stints and projects with museums along the way. When living in Massachusetts, I had the opportunity to work as an educator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and I loved it. After we moved back to Georgia and I found this position at the Zuckerman Museum of Art at Kennesaw State University, I thought working in an academic setting, developing and delivering educational programs on contemporary art to a wide variety of visitors would be a lot of fun.

Question 2: What is your favorite part about working in education at the Zuckerman Museum of Art?

I enjoy the variety of challenges that come from different aspects of my job. Because we have such a small full-time staff (five), I cover a lot of territory in my role. From creating learning experiences for college students with faculty across KSU to planning interpretation for the shows and delivering tours to developing programs, workshops, and exhibitions in our satellite galleries, I exercise creative strategy which I enjoy very much. Seeing visitors engage in educational encounters I have created or contributed to is the very best thing!



ZMA HIGH SCHOOL TOUR AND ART ACTIVITY RELATED
TO POLLY APFELBAUM NIRVANA

Question 3: What is one thing you would want all museum professionals to know about a "day in the life" of an Education Coordinator?

It takes time for projects to come together well. Involve your educators early in the process.

Question 4: What advice would you give one of our GAM interns it they were interested in museum education for their career?

Be open to relocating to pursue opportunities in different kinds of museums. It will give you a broader perspective of the field and help you to build a strong professional network.

Question 5: What was your favorite educational program you created for or facilitated at the museum?

It's hard to narrow it down, but I enjoyed the exhibitions I have helped to create with and for members of our community. In September 2023, I partnered with the KSU Center for Young Adult Recovery and Addiction to display Visions of Recovery, art by people in recovery of all kinds. It was gratifying to collaborate with a group doing such amazing and important work to support their needs and interests for an exhibition.

8 I GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER I SPRING 2024 GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER I SPRING 2024 9



It all started when two Georgia neighbors wanted to open a restaurant that focused on people on both sides of the counter.

Tom Forkner grew up in Avondale Estates, a suburb of Atlanta, and was beginning his career as a lawyer when World War 2 broke out. Tom served in military security and intelligence in Tennessee and New York throughout the war. After the war was over, he came back to Avondale Estates and decided to work for his family's real estate business. Joe Rogers Sr. grew up in Jackson, Tennessee, and served as a B-24 pilot trainer in Mississippi during World War 2. Joe went back home after the war and decided to venture into the soda distribution business. He started working in the restaurant industry with the Memphis-based Toddle House chain. Toddle House was a 24-hour sandwich shop that was popular in the 1940s and 1950s. When Toddle House moved Joe to Atlanta, Tom sold Joe a house—next to his house. Shortly after the two became neighbors and friends, they decided to open up a restaurant for their friends



OPENING SPREAD: WAFFLE HOUSE **COURTESY OF THE** WAFFLE HOUSE MUSEUM

THIS PAGE: A SECOND EDITION JUKEBOX USED IN WAFFLE HOUSE RESTAURANTS. IMAGE **COURTESY OF THE** WAFFLE HOUSE MUSEUM

THE FIRST WAFFLE HOUSE, CIRCA 1960S. IMAGE COURTESY OF THE WAFFLE HOUSE **ARCHIVES** and neighbors in Avondale Estates. Waffle House opened on Labor Day Weekend 1955, focusing on providing fast and friendly service to all their customers.

In the early years, Joe and Tom never dreamed that Waffle House would be as big as it is today. Since 1955, Waffle House has focused on providing friendly service to every customer, while also providing opportunities for rewarding careers. The very first Waffle House served thousands of customers until the early 1970s. With the rise of the highway system and road changes, Unit #1 closed and more Waffle House restaurants were built nearby. The original building became a Chinese restaurant and later a sandwich shop. In the early 2000s, Waffle House reclaimed their roots and purchased Unit #1. Our founders used their memories and the original blueprints to recreate the space as it looked in 1955. The building next door was also purchased to be used as

an exhibit space to display our unique Waffle House history and culture. In 2008, the Waffle House Museum was

The Waffle House Museum is open to the public every other Wednesday by appointment for free private tours. Visitors begin on the restaurant side to learn about our founders and how Waffle House began while sitting at the high counter. They can explore the commissary, where almost all menu items were made from scratch, and even go behind the counter for some fun photo opportunities. Visitors will then move to the exhibit floor to learn more about the Waffle House history and culture. Exhibits include our menu and uniform histories, jukebox, and the famed Waffle House index. The museum is also open to the public for Open Houses, which are held four times a year on Saturdays. Admission for the Open House is also free and visitors can snack on complimentary waffles from the Waffle House Food

Truck. Visitors enjoy stepping back in time to 1955 and can explore the museum at their own pace.

Waffle House uses the museum internally to host various company events. New managers visit the museum during their training to learn more about the history and culture of the company. From current associates, families, history buffs, and Waffle House super fans, the Waffle House Museum has something for everyone. Today, Waffle House is a true southern staple and familiar landmark with almost 2,000 locations across twentyfive states.

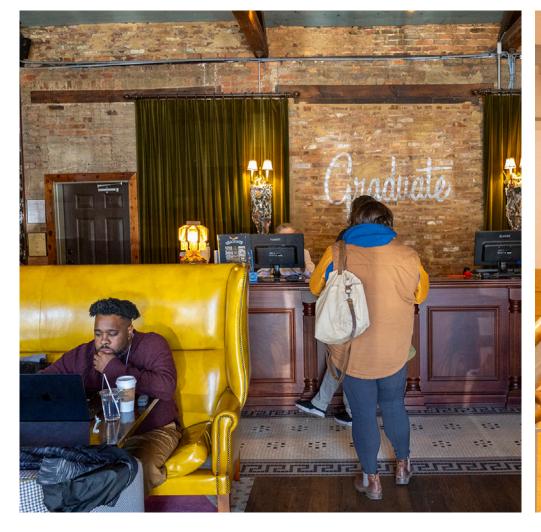
> "We aren't in the food business, we're in the people

business." - JOE ROGERS SR.

12 | GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2024











JANUARY 17 – 19

A LOOK BACK TO A CHILLY, BEAUTIFUL THREE DAYS TOGETHER IN ATHENS, GEORGIA

16 | GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2024

In January over 200 museum professionals descended upon Athens, Georgia, for the annual meeting of the Georgia Association of Museums (GAM). They arrived from all regions of the state, from Sautee Nacoochee to Thomasville to Statesboro. The theme of the 2024 conference was "Finding the Right Frequency: Museums and Communities in Harmony." Keynote speaker Ryan Lewis, Georgia Music Exhibit Coordinator at the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at UGA focused on the importance of museums and their collections, as well as their connections to communities as keys to interpreting Georgia's culture. Hand<mark>s on workshops suc</mark>h as "Tackling"

Difficult Subjects With Historic Empathy" and "A Hacker's Guide to Leading Great Tours" were jam-packed with eager participants.

An Emerging Museum Professionals
(EMP) gathering and Affinity Group meetups (featuring EMPS, BIPOC Museum Professionals, and Mid-Career Museum Professionals) were well attended. Educational sessions ranged from "Debunking Fundraising Myths" to "Overcoming Unexpected Challenges at Your Museum" to "University Public"

And they all provided useful information to attendees.

Thanks to the hard work of the Athens Host Committee many Athens-Clarke County museums and cultural institutions opened their doors to conference goers for tours and events. There was a public art van tour, beh<mark>ind</mark> the scenes tours at the Georgia Museum of Art and UGA Special Collections in the Russell Library, historic house tours, and an Athens Music Scene tour. Multiple other special events were planned for GAM members to take part. As GAM works to increase participation in the organization by students, multiple opportunities were provided in Athens. A student poster session was held at a GAM Conference for the first time and seven students participated, covering a wide range of topics. Additionally six interns, representing Georgia State University, the University of West Georgia, and the University of Georgia (UGA), assisted in behind-the-scenes conference duties and attended sessions and workshops. Intern Bonnie Moore who is an undergradua<mark>te</mark> senior at UGA shared that the "conference" was a great opportunity to meet professionals

in the museum field," and added that the sessions were "extremely educational." Finally, special student day rates were made available to students to attend GAM 2024. Another important aspect of the annual conference is the opportunity to meet with exhibitors who represent companies and entities that offer support and services to the museum community. These exhibitors and the additional organizations that provide financial support are key to helping GAM provide a robust yet economical conference for the benefit of the state's museums and cultural organizations. Many thanks to each of these contributors: Georgia Council for the Arts, Georgia Humanities Council, Watson Brown Foundation, UGA Press, Donorly, Donorbox, dmdg2, MBA Design & Display, HW Exhibits, NEDCC (Northeast Document Conservation Center), Purpose Possible, Skapa, Think Proxi, and Visit Athens, GA. Additionally, advertisers in the conference program guide included Dorfman Museum Figures, Catalog<mark>lt, and</mark> the symposium "The Power of Storytelling," sponsored by Kennesaw State University and Emory University. The annual auction to raise funds for the

Museum Services Exchange (MUSE) program sponsored by GAM featured a wide range of donated merchandise, and thanks to our talented auctioneer, David Dundee, and to eager bidders, more than \$3,000 was raised. Many thanks to everyone who provided items to be auctioned. To find out more about MUSE. visit the GAM website, gamuseums.org. GAM 2024 finished on a high note with the Awards Luncheon, where members were encouraged to honor those who support their programs, give tours, develop great programs, and more. Numerous exhibits and special projects received recognition and several museum staff members were also honored. A full list of award winners will be featured elsewhere in this newsletter issue. At the conclusion of the conference outgoing GAM President Marcy Breffle announced that Milledgeville, Georgia, will be hosting GAM 2025, February 4-7.



18 I GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER I SPRING 2024 19

SEE ALL THE PICTURES ON FLICKR

SEE ALL THE PICTURES ON FLICKR

























SEE ALL THE PICTURES ON FLICKR

SEE ALL THE PICTURES ON FLICKR

20 I GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER I SPRING 2024 21



GAM to achieve its goals to:

The GAM Awards program recognizes outstanding achievements of people and organizations that make up the museum community across Georgia.

PATRON

Recognizes an individual or group who has worked closely with a museum (or museums) demonstrating leadership and providing assistance. This person/group is a major promoter of the museum(s) in his/her/their local area or statewide and in the past year has made a significant contribution and will continue to be a supporter in the future.

Winner: Terri Cole

Nominated by: Cobb Landmarks & Historical Society

Winner: Mayor and Council of the City of Winterville, Georgia

Nominated by: Carter-Coile Country Doctors Museum and the Winterville History Museum and Heritage Room

• Encourage growth and improve professional practices of museums and non-profit galleries throughout the state;

highlight the good work of their employees, volunteers, and

supporters also draws attention to the important role that

museums, galleries, and other cultural institutions play in

our communities. Additionally, the awards program allows

- Stimulate public interest, support, and understanding of museums and non-profit galleries of all disciplines;
- Increase general understanding of the roles of museums and non-profit galleries as community resources for improving the quality of life and continued learning for all citizens of the state;
- Maintain and develop relations among institutions and staffs for the interchange of information and development of cooperative efforts to achieve these objectives;
- Maintain relations with various governmental agencies; and
- Promote research to foster understanding of cultural and natural resources of the community and state.

INSTITUTION

Recognizes GAM institutional members (nonprofit museums, historic sites, and galleries) for leadership at the local and statewide level. This organization has been a leading institution in Georgia with a past record of accomplishment and acts as an important cultural resource in its community; has taken an active role in promoting communication and cooperation among Georgia museums and galleries; and has provided an on-site or outreach program that extended the museum's mission while educating student and adult audiences.

Winner: Lyndon House Arts Center Nominated by: Lyndon House Arts Center

STUDENT PROJECT

Recognizes contributions of student work to the field of museums and galleries. An individual or student group is eligible for this award. Projects show professional guidance of student effort, but clearly demonstrate meaningful work by students in the design, implementation, and promotion of the nominated project. Projects might include, but are not limited to, an education or outreach program, a digital history project, an oral history project, or an exhibition.

Winner: Hannah Beam

Nominated by: T.R.R. Cobb House Museum

EDUCATION

Recognizes an on-site or outreach program that has as its primary purpose the education of student and/or adult audiences. This program extends the organization's mission and demonstrates scholarship and originality contributing to the cultural and education fabric of the organization's community and the state and is an example of excellence in theory, planning, and implementation. An educational component of a larger exhibition or special project can be nominated for this award if the intention is to focus solely on the educational aspects of the larger project.

Winner: Museum of History & Holocaust Education
For the program: Pre-Service Teacher Workshop on
Holocaust Education

MULTIMEDIA

Recognizes projects that are intended to be primarily experienced using visual or audio media. Examples include podcasts, interactive kiosks, social media campaigns, videos, and virtual interactions (webinars, virtual field trips, etc.). Multimedia projects have extended the organization's audience and demonstrate creative solutions without sacrificing good scholarship and professional best practices. Winner: GMA Gallery and the ABAC School of Arts & Sciences • For the project: Listen to the Land

MUSEUM EXHIBITION

Recognizes an art, historical, or science exhibition of note that demonstrates scholarship and originality contributing to the cultural fabric of the state. The exhibition is an example of excellence in theory, planning, and implementation and has effectively reached and broadened the museum or gallery audience. Exhibitions that include multimedia elements but are primarily designed to be experienced as a traditional exhibit should be included in this category.

Winner (Category #1, Under \$1,000): Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library ● For the Exhibition: House Party: Digging Into House Show History in Athens

Winner (Category #2, \$1,000 — \$25,000): Georgia Museum of Art • For the Exhibition: Art is a Form of Freedom

Winner (Category #2, \$1,000 – \$25,000): Georgia Tech Library • For the exhibition: Fulton Bag & Cotton Mill: New South Industry

SPECIAL PROJECT

Recognizes a project or program of note, often with multiple component parts, that does not more closely fit the criteria for other categories such as exhibition, education, or multimedia. This category can also be used for multi-part projects when all aspects of the project should be evaluated as a whole. These projects demonstrate scholarship and originality contributing to the cultural fabric of the state and provide examples of excellence in planning and implementation while expanding the museum or gallery audience.

Winner (Category #1, Under \$1,000): Robert C. Williams
Museum of Papermaking ● For the Project: Big Paper

Winner (Category #2, \$1,001 — \$25,000): Lyndon House Art Center & Athens Downtown Development Association ● For the project: Resilient Civic & Musical Life: Ware-Lyndon House Enslaved and Descendant Stories Winner (Category #3, \$100,001 – \$99,999): The Columbus Museum • For the project: The Columbus Museum of Tour

Winner (Category #4, >\$100,000): Andalusia: The Home of Flannery O'Connor/ Department of Historic Museums, GCSU
• For the project: Andalusia Interpretive Center

MUSEUM VOLUNTEER

Recognizes an individual who does not receive payment or specific educational credit from an organization but has contributed significant time and effort in developing that organization's programs and exhibitions in an outstanding way. This person has enlisted the aid of other volunteers in supporting Georgia museums and galleries and has served as an advocate of Georgia museums and galleries.

Winner: Steve and Patty Ward

Nominated by: Euharlee Welcome Center & History Museum

MUSEUM PROFESSIONAL

Recognizes an active museum or gallery employee working in the state of Georgia. This individual is involved professionally on the local, state, and national level and has demonstrated leadership in the profession; has worked to promote the goals of GAM; and has been a member of GAM for at least one year.

Winner: Amelia Gallo

Nominated by: Marietta History Center

EMERGING MUSEUM PROFESSIONAL

Recognizes the contributions of an individual who has been working full or part time in the field for less than 10 years. Considerations include how the recipient has contributed to their organization and may include recommendations from multiple museums, recognizing that the career path for EMPs has many different routes and experiences.

Winner: Kathryn Hill

Nominated by: Georgia Museum of Art





gamuseums .Org











website: gamuseums.org

YouTube

Instagram

Facebook

LinkedIn