

# GAMG 2017

Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries Newsletter

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Georgia Museum of Art

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## *President's Message*

It was wonderful to see so many of you at this year's annual conference in Augusta. Thank you to Michelle Schulte, the host committee chair of the conference, and all of the members of this committee for their hospitality and generosity to our organization.

Jose Santamaria helped to create a program that had sessions for new and experienced professionals, and we thank everyone who presented at the conference and shared ideas and experiences with all of us. Our keynote lecture by Valerie Babb, director of the Institute for African American Studies at the University of Georgia, was a highlight of the week, and the creations you came up with for our museum fashion show offered some comic relief. Finally, I'd like to thank Michele Rodgers, who always keeps the whole conference running smoothly with organization and grace.

Outside of the sessions, certain topics were on many of our minds, including emergency preparedness (after the devastating storms that hit the Albany Museum of Art) and concerns about funding and resources for museums, with talk of the possible elimination of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. As an organization, we will continue to work together to support each other and find resources that can offer guidance and help.

I hope you found the conference as inspiring as I did and left with new ideas and new friends. Please mark your calendar for our next conference, January 17-19, 2018, in Rome, Georgia. Jose and his team are already hard at work making plans!

All the best,  
Carissa DiCindio, Ph.D.  
Curator of Education, Georgia Museum of Art  
President, Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries

# Administrative Director's Report



Many thanks to the museum and university community in Augusta for the warm welcome to your amazing city during the recent GAMG conference. More than 100 museum professionals and representatives allied to our organizations participated in this year's conference and found it to be an enlightening meeting. Comments from participants ranged from "was impressed by the quality of the speakers," to "any museum professional at any level had lots of opportunity to network and benefit from sessions." That's the mark of a good conference in my book!

Special thanks to Michelle Schulte, the Augusta Host Committee, and Program Chair Jose Santamaria for all the work to make the conference a huge success.

## All Roads Lead to Rome

Make plans now to attend GAMG 2018 in Rome, GA. Tim Brown from Oak Hill/Martha Berry Museum has taken the lead and coordinated a Host Committee involving the CVB, Chieftains Museum and Rome Area History Museum to plan for an exceptional conference. Mark your calendar now for January 17-19, 2018 and plan to join us.

We are soliciting session proposals for the 2018 Conference, so visit [www.gamg.org](http://www.gamg.org) for a copy of the Session Proposal Form.

Additionally, we are looking for host cities for GAMG 2019 and 2020. If your community is interested in exploring the possibility, let me know [gamg@gamg.org](mailto:gamg@gamg.org).

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## 2017 GAMG Conference Interns

Each year GAMG sponsors several college students who serve as interns during the conference. This year three students from the University of West Georgia were chosen to assist. They were asked to share a few words about the experience and this is what Melanie Sigman had to say:

*I was given the privilege to intern at GAMG in Augusta for 2017 this year and I, as always, got valuable information, contacts, and insights into Georgia museums. The GAMG conference has always been my favorite because it brings together a diverse group of people who get together to share their knowledge with each other in a way that is non-threatening to each other nor to newcomers. I have always been welcomed into the folds of people who already know each other and for a shy person such as myself, that is a relief. The information presented during the conference this time was invaluable to me. Even though I did not come as a proper representative of my museum I was able to sit in sessions and take notes that I brought back to my museum and they have already been helpful! There was not a single session period where I did not have a session I did not want to attend. Although interning for GAMG is intense, it helps to understand the varying things that someone in a museum position is going to have to deal with during the course of their career (often in one day). I look forward to next year's meeting in Rome!*

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## **Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries 2017 Awards**

### **Community Service Award - David Matheny, Georgia Museum of Art**

Matheny is an extraordinary fund raiser for and volunteer leader of the museum. On the board's Public Affairs and Statewide Outreach Committee, he promotes advocacy, awareness, and on support for programs. Formerly of UGA's campus architects, he worked on Phase I of the museum, opened in 1996. He received the 2011 staff-nominated "Smitty" Volunteer Award: needless to say, museum professionals have a unique perspective on the work of patrons and volunteers, and are keenly aware of their effectiveness.

### **Institution of the Year - Georgia Museum of Agriculture Gallery**

In the fall of 2010 the GMA opened an art gallery which has hosted over thirty top-notch exhibits, all spotlighting Georgia artisans, traditional arts, and significant Georgia collections. The Gallery has won numerous awards, served as a hub of unique local partnerships, is a sought-after venue for local art competitions and student art exhibits, and a springboard for little-known artists who are looking for a break into the art world.

### **Education Program Award - Morning Mindfulness, Georgia Museum of Art**

Morning Mindfulness, offered every other Friday, brings town and gown together for an hour in the galleries or sculpture garden to examine works of art using mindfulness techniques that also apply elsewhere. UGA Associate Professor Jerry Gale guides this "constructivist" practice in which participants create meaning for a work of art and engage deeply. Morning Mindfulness, a community resource, is a model program that could contribute further to the cultural fabric of the state.

### **Volunteer of the Year - Kim Mulkey-Smith, Monroe Museum**

Kim Mulkey-Smith, a Monroe native, UGA graduate, AT&T retiree, and member of the Monroe Museum Board of Directors has put her "just what was needed" skill set to work with the Gallery Committee in planning, organizing, and bringing to fruition the display system and exhibits for Monroe's newly formed museum. Kim, a take-charge person, who is passionate about her community, a positive thinker and an encourager, has been instrumental in Monroe Museum's success.

### **Museum Exhibition > \$100,000 – Icon of Modernism: Representing the Brooklyn Bridge, 1883-1950 Georgia Museum of Art**

"Icon of Modernism" featured paintings, works on paper, and photographs of the Brooklyn Bridge, examining the many modes of representation of the landmark bridge by American and European artists. Programs included films, a Family Day, tours, a symposium, Teaching Packet, and, notably, a collaboration with UGA's College of Engineering on "Building Bridges," a program for 5th graders that supported STEAM learning.

### **Museum Exhibition < \$100,000 "Atlanta in 50 Objects" - Atlanta History Center**

Atlanta's history and identity came into sharp focus in the Atlanta History Center's recent exhibition "Atlanta in 50 Objects." Nearly a year prior to the opening, exhibit organizers let Atlantans make the list by soliciting ideas from the public through traditional media, word-of-mouth, online, and on-site platforms. "Atlanta in 50 Objects" was shaped from the roughly 300 suggestions of ideas and objects received from across the metropolitan region.

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### **Special Projects - < \$100,000**

#### **“Heart to Heart” - The Gallery at the Georgia Museum of Agriculture**

An unprecedented partnership between The Gallery of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture, Abraham Baldwin Ag College's (ABAC) School of Liberal Arts, the ABAC School of Nursing and Health Services, the Tift Regional Heart and Vascular Center & Medical Center, and a private art collector resulted in an event which educated the community about heart disease while showcasing an exhibit of art inspired by the miracle of medicine, all while giving a springboard to over a dozen college art students into the world of juried shows and gallery exhibits.

#### **Student Project Award - “*Man's Canyons: New York City on Paper*” Catherine Huff, Georgia Museum of Art**

UGA senior Catherine Huff organized *Man's Canyons*, an exhibition of works from the museum's collection focusing on images of New York City. Companion to a larger show devoted to imagery of the Brooklyn Bridge, *Icon of Modernism*, Huff's project demonstrated the experiential learning the university mandates, and served her peers as she gave many tours. Indeed, as college students expand their knowledge and appreciation of the visual arts and museums, it bodes well for the field and for everyone.

#### **Patron of the Year - Marti Walstad, Oak Hill & The Martha Berry Museum**

Martha Berry "Marti" Walstad is the great niece of Martha Berry and only family member yet named after Berry College's legendary founder. Growing up in Rome, Georgia, she was inspired by her great aunt's legacy and earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Auburn University. Marti is one of Rome's most respected and dynamic leaders, serving as a founding director of the Greater Rome Bank and owner of Hilltop Rental Company. Since joining the Berry College Board of Trustees in 2001, Marti Walstad has been a tireless advocate for Oak Hill & The Martha Berry Museum.

#### **Museum Professional of the Year - Tricia Miller, Head Registrar, Georgia Museum of Art**

Serving as steward of the collection of the state museum of art, while overseeing dozens of exhibitions each year, Miller shares knowledge and experience with peers, and works with the GMOA board so they are able to advocate knowledgeably for museums. In 2015 she co-curated “Tools of the Trade,” and inside look at museum operations featuring hand-on participation. This year she will launch the museum's on-line collection database. Tricia Miller exemplifies best practices, the goals of GAMG, and much more.

#### **Lifetime Achievement Award Ann Harrison**

For more than twenty years, Ann worked tirelessly as the Executive Director of the Thomas County Historical Society expanding programs, establishing professional procedures, and promoting the Society within the Thomasville community before retiring January 2016. Ann spearheaded the publication of five books, originated some of the Society's highest grossing fundraisers and programs, and orchestrated the concession agreement with the state for the Society to assume management and operations of the Lapham-Patterson House- ensuring that it would remain open to the public. Ann's continued dedication to the preservation and promotion of Thomas County history has left an indelible mark on the Society and community at large.

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## News You Can Use

Registration is open for AASLH's spring workshop series. Make plans now to attend these workshops and recharge your professional batteries for the new year. The Association for State and Local History is a network, a gathering place, a community where history professionals from all over the country can learn together, teach each other, commiserate together, celebrate their successes with each other and can work together to strengthen the field and promote the value of history.

For information about AASLH's Continuing Education/Professional Development offerings, please contact Amber Mitchell at [Mitchell@aslh.org](mailto:Mitchell@aslh.org) <mailto:Mitchell@aslh.org>.

### **Focusing on Visitors: Public Programming and Exhibits at History Institutions**

**March 30-31 – Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA**

<http://learn.aaslh.org/event/focusing-on-visitors-public-programming-and-exhibits-at-history-institutions-2>

This workshop provides a broad overview of public programming and exhibits with a focus on active learning. Seasoned educators will direct conversations about museum education and the role of museum educators. Participants will leave the workshop with information and materials they can take back to their organizations to adapt and apply. This workshop is led by Tim Grove of the National Air and Space Museum and Alexandra Rasic of the Homestead Museum.

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## Arts Advocacy – From the Georgia Council for the Arts

There is serious concern the President and Congress are about to close the NEA after just celebrating its 50th anniversary and significant contributions to our country. “We are once again at a crossroads where music and arts education in our school systems are being threatened by severe cuts. Possible defunding of the NEA would not only be devastating to the arts community at large, but also to the youth of this country,” Linda Moran, president/CEO of the Songwriters Hall of Fame, tells Billboard. “Music and arts are essential to life and our humanity and in the nurturing of our souls. Removing access to that which allows the exploration, discovery and development of one’s talents would be a travesty of epic proportions,” Moran adds. “Our future songwriters, musicians and artists must be fostered not ignored.”

Potentially headed to the chopping block along with the NEA are the National Endowment for Humanities and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The move would be consistent with longstanding pressure from conservative critics of public arts funding, and it unsurprisingly has provoked renewed outcry from organizations including the American Alliance of Museums, Americans for the Arts and PEN America. If the National Endowment for the Arts is eliminated, all NEA matching funds and arts education funds will be lost reducing the Georgia Council for the Arts' annual budget by almost \$660K.

**ACTION STEPS!! THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW:** Call or email your U.S. Representative and your two Senators immediately with a request asking them not to close the NEA, sign a National Petition to the President to Support the Arts in America, and join the Americans for the Arts Action Fund. Membership is free. Visit [artsgeorgia.us10](http://artsgeorgia.us10).



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2017

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## NEW & RENEWING SINCE DECEMBER 2016

### Institution

Augusta Canal  
Bulloch Hall

Georgia Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village @ ABAC  
Georgia Southern University Museum  
Heritage Sandy Springs  
Jack Hadley's Black History Museum  
Oak Hill/Martha Berry Museum  
Port Columbus  
Smith – Gilbert Gardens

### Sponsor

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Southeastern Museums Conference  
University of Georgia Press

### Individual/Student

Kelsey Fritz  
Sheila McAlister  
Annelies Mondt  
Peggy Sommer  
Ed Weldon  
Jane Powers Weldon  
Lanora Pierce Yate

## **GAMG** INFORMATION ON BECOMING A MEMBER

Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries is comprised of more than 200 members including individuals, businesses and art, history, natural history, and science museums.

We are open to all non-profit museums, galleries, history centers, science museums and museum associations dedicated to the development and implementation of professional museum practices.

If you are interested in becoming a member or are interested in the exceptional benefits GAMG has to offer, please visit:  
[www.gamg.org](http://www.gamg.org) for more information.