

SPRING 2020

# GAMessenger

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Georgia Association of Museums

# Thank You, Columbus!



## Greetings from President Matt Davis

Since we last saw one another, we have all been faced with challenges presented by the COVID-19 virus. More information and resources can be found in this newsletter.

While January seems a long time ago now, I want to thank the Columbus local arrangements committee and our colleagues from the Alabama Museums Association for an outstanding conference. From excellent sessions, evening events, and the best-attended vendor hall in association history, to a fantastic auction and excellent regional excursions, this conference was one for the books. I want to thank all members of the GAM and AMA boards, our vendors, the Atlanta EMP group, and Michele Rodgers for their work in making this such a successful conference. Special thanks goes out to Rebecca Bush for leading the local arrangements committee and Holly Wait for all her hard work. Thanks, Rebecca and Holly!

The conference also saw the departure of Christy Crisp, Polly Huff, and Althea Foster from our association board, and the election of Marcy Breffle and Michael Lachowski to our group. I want to thank Christy, Polly, and Althea for all of their hard work as members of the board and welcome Marcy and Michael. We look forward to your contributions.

Though we all face uncertain times, I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter. As always, if I can be of any service to any of you, please let me know.

Best,



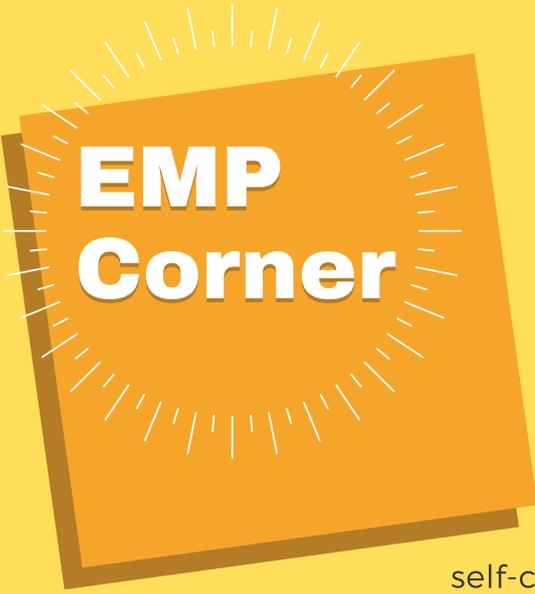
# A Special Message from GAM President Matt Davis

The COVID-19 virus has disrupted all aspects of daily life, including the operations of museums and other cultural institutions. The loss of income from canceled tours, events, programming, and rentals has created unforeseen challenges and upset our collective plans for this year and beyond. While we don't have all of the answers and face many uncertainties ahead, I know our community will come through these latest challenges stronger than before. In the last few days, I have been truly inspired by many of our colleagues shifting programs online, assisting local K-12 colleagues, and even donating supplies to local hospitals. These efforts truly show we are vital parts of our communities and serve as timely reminders of why museums matter. Please know that your GAM Board stands with you as we all face these challenges together. A number of organizations that serve museums and cultural institutions, as well as our member museums, have compiled several great lists of resources. Check out the GAM COVID-19 Resources Google Doc and add your own helpful finds or virtual museum content:

<https://tinyurl.com/r8cu3a4>.

*We're all in this together!*





## EMP Corner

The ATL Emerging Museum Professionals Network was created in 2017 with a desire to provide Emerging Museum Professionals (EMPs) from diverse disciplines the opportunity to network and learn from other professionals in the area. At the 2020 GAMAMA conference, the ATL EMP Network presented the session "Nourish to Flourish: EMPs and Self Care." We had a great open discussion with session attendees about work/life balance, self-care ideas, resources, support, and advocacy. We also partnered with the Alabama EMP network to co-host a EMP Happy Hour at Nonic Beer Bar and Kitchen, where EMPs were invited to mix and mingle. We had an excellent turn-out with nearly 40 individuals from Georgia and Alabama attending.

ATL Emerging Museum Professionals Network chairs are grateful to the GAM board and GAMAMA planning committee for their support of EMP-related sessions and conference activities, and for allowing us the opportunity to represent EMPs during the planning of this year's conference. The GAMAMA conference theme, New Voices, was evident with strong support to ensure EMP voices were heard and acknowledged. We are especially grateful that this year's joint conference with the Alabama Museums Association enabled our network to grow as we connected with fellow EMPs across state lines.

For the upcoming 2021 GAM conference in Statesboro, ATL EMP Network chairs want to continue our goal of representing our members and offering professional development. We are continuing our role on the planning committee and are currently brainstorming session ideas for next year.



**Do you have institutional news or notes on happenings in the museum field you'd like to share with fellow GAM members? Submit your items of 100-500 words to Rebecca Bush, GAM Newsletter Chair, at [rbush@columbusmuseum.com](mailto:rbush@columbusmuseum.com).**



**Full-color ad space now available! Contact Administrative Director Michele Rodgers at [gamg@gamg.org](mailto:gamg@gamg.org) for pricing.**



# GAMAMA Conference Recap



The 2020 joint conference of the Georgia Association of Museums and the Alabama Museums Association, known informally as #GAMAMA2020, took place January 26-29 in Columbus. Buoyed by a well-attended and engaging 2019 conference, as well as the promise of networking with colleagues across state lines, the 2020 GAMAMA conference attracted approximately 190 attendees, with the majority hailing from Georgia as our conference continues to grow.



The theme of "New Voices" sparked an outstanding array of sessions, roundtables, and workshops, with discussions among longtime GAM attendees, new faces, and AMA members spilling out into the record-setting vendor hall. Three evening events, as well as five optional off-site tours, provided opportunities for learning and enrichment at the venues we like best - museums! Silent and live auction proceeds also provided important funds for GAM programming, especially the MUSE museum consultant program that is a free benefit to our institutional members.



The GAM board and GAMAMA planning committee extend a hearty thanks to all museums and venues that hosted us in Columbus, as well as vendors, conference sponsors, and our GAM members. Your conference attendance and support throughout the year allow GAM to continue growing and offering resources that benefit our Georgia museum community!





*Patron Award Recipients Tim and Sharman Czahor, Tellus Science Museum*

We recently capped off a great 2020 conference in Columbus with the annual award luncheon recognizing the outstanding work of GAM members and supporters over the past year. As always, it was a terrific opportunity to share ideas and to celebrate the dedication and creativity of our friends and colleagues. The Georgia Association of Museums Awards program recognizes outstanding achievements of people and organizations that make up the museum community across Georgia. The opportunity for GAM member-institutions to 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.

**PATRON**

**Tim and Sharman Czahor, Tellus Science Museum**

**BUSINESS/CORPORATION**

**TSYS, National Civil War Naval Museum**

**EDUCATION**

***Exoplanets, Tellus Science Museum***

**MUSEUM EXHIBITION (Category #1)**

***One Small Step: Celebrating The 50th Anniversary of Moon Landing Day and Everyday Life in 1969,***

**The Gallery of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village**

**MUSEUM EXHIBITION (Category #2)**

***Views from the Pacific Front, The Columbus Museum***

**MUSEUM EXHIBITION (Category #4)**

***Richard Hunt: Synthesis, Georgia Museum of Art***

**MULTIMEDIA**

***Tellus Museum Science Shorts, Tellus Science Museum***

**SPECIAL PROJECT (Category #2)**

***A to Z: A Story of Hope, Healing, A Book, An Exhibit, A Springboard, and An Outreach***  
**The Gallery of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village**

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**SPECIAL PROJECT (Category #3)**  
Making Conversation with Warren Williams Homes,  
The Columbus Museum and The Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia

**STUDENT PROJECT**  
Artifact of the Month, Robert C. Williams Museum of Papermaking

**MUSEUM VOLUNTEER**  
Nick Danna, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**  
Arden Williams, Georgia Humanities

The Awards Committee looks forward to seeing what this year will bring! Remember that the deadline for nominations is October 1, 2020. The awards program is a great way to recognize those within your organization and community that go above and beyond in support of your mission, and a great way to acknowledge the vital role that donors and sponsors play in making that work possible. Please visit the website for more information on the awards process.



## **New and Renewing Members**

### **INSTITUTIONAL**

Barrington Hall Bo Bartlett Center at Columbus State University  
Coca Cola Space Science Center Computer Museum of America  
Chipley Historical Center Georgia's Rome Office of Tourism DeKalb History Center  
Emory University Libraries Exhibitions  
Georgia College Museum of Fine Arts Heritage Hall Hickory Hill  
Museum of Arts & Sciences National Infantry Museum  
Newnan-Coweta Historical Society Oak Hill & The Martha Berry Museum  
Polk County Historical Society Smyrna History Museum  
St. Mary's Submarine Museum Tellus Science Museum  
TRR Cobb House William P. Wall Museum of Natural History

### **SPONSOR**

Artisans on the Square Art Processors Inc. Building Four Fabrication dmdg2  
HW Exhibits Markel Insurance MBA Design & Display Products  
Newnan-Coweta Historical Society Ninja Multimedia  
Southeastern Museums Conference Southern Custom Exhibits Tour-Mate Systems

### **INDIVIDUAL/STUDENT**

Rebecca Bush Kathleen Carter Michele Celani Ally Cochran  
Karin Johnston Dalton Patty Dees Pam Enlow Devore Chuck Douglas  
Joseph Doyle David Dundee Faye Goolrick Brad HawkinsKirk Henderson  
Jayme Hogan-Yarbro Tiffany Hughes Chanell Lowery Katie Maginnis Mersia Martin  
Kathy Mathis Ann McCleary Jessie Merrell Mary Miller Allison Moore  
Keith Moore Linda McNay Julie O'Kelley Keith Post Sophia Queen  
Falynn Schmidt Ed Weldon Jane Powers Weldon

# GAM Conference 2021: Coastal Crossroads January 24-27, Statesboro Call for Proposals Coming Soon!



GAM 2021 Conference Planning Committee, left to right: Michele Rodgers, Michelle Lopez, Matt Davis, Ephraim Rotter, and Brent Tharp

## Survey Says...!

Thank you to everyone who has participated in the GAM Job and Institution Survey so far! The survey will remain open for the next several months, as we continue to gather information about Georgia's museums and the people that work in them. This completely anonymous survey seeks to gather typical information about pay, experience, vacation, and benefits. It also asks a series of questions about your institution and demographic, in order to better gauge how institutional location, funding, and size correlate to compensation broadly and in terms of gender, race, and age. We hope the results of this inaugural survey will serve as a baseline by which future surveys can be compared in order to track the development of museums in Georgia and how they compensate their employees. If you haven't completed the survey yet, or know colleagues who would like to do so, please visit

<https://forms.gle/6hNDzH48GEX4Uyj17>.

We plan to compile and publicize survey results in a future newsletter.



*By Matt Davis, GAM President*

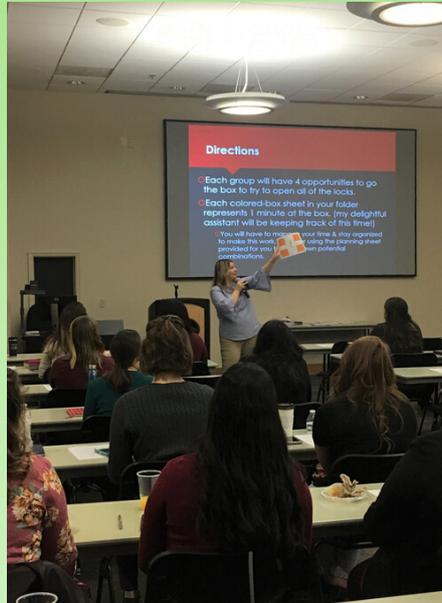
On February 25, I was proud to join more than 400 colleagues from across Georgia and the United States for Museums Advocacy Day, sponsored by the American Alliance of Museums in Washington, D.C. This is an outstanding event, in which museum employees and supporters receive two days of training on issues related to our field and how we can influence our elected representatives to support our endeavors. AAM does an outstanding job of preparing us for our Congressional meetings by providing online resources, training calls, and an intense day of meetings in which we familiarize ourselves with issues and strategize with colleagues from our state. This year, our major focus areas were educating members about the importance of the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) and IMLS (Institute for Museum and Library Services) and encouraging them to continue funding these important programs. Additionally, we had frank discussions with our lawmakers on the implications of recent tax reforms on the non-profit sector, and how museums are an important partner in education.



During my day on the Hill, I took part in seven meetings with two Senate and five House offices representing Georgia and had very productive discussions on how museums benefit our local and state economies, as well as why museums are critical partners for our local communities. I want to thank Lois Carlisle and Jessica VanLanduyt from the Atlanta History Center, Susan Perry from the Southeastern Museums Conference, Lynette Rickman from the Heritage Rail Alliance, and Kelly Paras from the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in joining me in representing Georgia at Advocacy Day. If you are interested in attending next year's program or learning more about how you can advocate on behalf of the museum field, please visit <https://www.aam-us.org/programs/museums-advocacy-day/> or contact me for more information.



# GAMember Spotlight: MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND HOLOCAUST EDUCATION



**L**ocated on the campus of Kennesaw State University, the Museum of History and Holocaust Education (MHHE) presents exhibits, events, and educational resources focused on World War II and the Holocaust. With a mission to promote education and dialogue about the past and its significance today, MHHE programs emphasize ethical and political consequences, respect for difference and diversity of life, complex human experiences, and accepting civic and personal responsibility. In addition to educating thousands of students, the MHHE Education Team offers several on- and off-site professional development workshops for educators throughout the school year. Since Holocaust education appears in fifth grade, sixth grade, and high school standards in Georgia, many teachers look for opportunities and resources to help them teach this extremely difficult topic. One of the museum's most popular professional development workshops is called "History in Action: Teaching Controversial Topics Using Primary Sources." The way the Holocaust is taught to students can be considered controversial due to the graphic nature of photographs and other primary sources from this time period.

Additionally, many educators turn to simulations to try to engage their students with difficult themes and content. A key focus of the MHHE's Controversial Topics workshop is to help teachers understand that there are ways to help students develop empathy without using practices like simulations. When students participate in a simulation for a difficult topic like the Holocaust, they bring preconceived notions of how they think they are supposed to act into that scenario. This doesn't develop empathy or change behaviors. To combat this, the museum encourages educators to help their students "meet history face to face" and learn lesser-told stories of individual experiences and the context in which those experiences took place. The MHHE staff offers several other free workshops. Options include Propaganda or Fake News?, Connecting Language Arts & Social Studies: Graphic Novels, STEM Strategies for History Education, and Using Eyewitness Testimony in Your Classroom. For more information, please visit <https://historymuseum.kennesaw.edu/education/index.php>.



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