

Summer 2021

# gam *essenger*

Georgia Association of Museums



thank  
you!

# From the President



Hello GAM!

To begin with, a huge thanks to all of you for entrusting me to lead GAM as we begin our 44th year serving Georgia's museum workers, administrators, and the institutions themselves. Although I'm sure many of you have seen me running around conferences with bags full of cables and converters trying to make sure the technology works (to mixed results), or talking too loudly at "GAM After Hours," allow me to introduce myself: My name is Ephraim Rotter (he/him/his), pronounced EF-rum RAH-ter. I have been curator of the Thomasville History Center since 2007 and live in Thomasville with wife Lauren, son Nevin, and one more child on the way, along with our dog Baboo and cats Gibbons and Orla. I was born and raised in Montclair, New Jersey, a lovely suburb of New York – and proudly follow in a long line of Yankee transplants to make their home in Thomasville.

The faces have changed since Ethel Moore, Kay Davis, Douglas Noble, William Scheele, and Charles Stanley staged our organizational meeting and first conference at the University of Georgia in January 1978, but the question GAM leadership asks itself remains the same: how can we best serve museums and the people who work in them? There are some things we know we can improve upon; our website and our social media messaging are a priority. We also plan to continue to improve our non-conference workshop and roundtable offerings we began last year, via Zoom. Georgia is a big state and travel is expensive, so we hope to use this as a benefit to all.

Next year, the conference will be held in downtown Thomasville at the new Courtyard by Marriot, Sunday, February 6–Wednesday, February 9, 2022. We have a large and excited local host committee that is ready to share everything Thomasville has to offer while reflecting the diversity of GAM's membership; I'll be sharing updates throughout the year.

If 2020 was the longest year ever, 2021-2022 will be GAM's shortest year ever: May–February. But there is much we can accomplish. Just like I always keep my office door open at the Thomasville History Center, I would like to do the same as President of GAM. If you have any great ideas, thoughts, or anything else you believe GAM should know about or be involved in, do not hesitate to reach out. I can't promise a result, but I do promise to always listen and take comments, ideas, or concerns seriously. Here's to a great 2021-2022 GAM year, and I can't wait to see what is next for us!

Sincerely,

Ephraim J. Rotter, GAM President



## **“Really fascinating and well done!”**

The Georgia Association of Museums really gets the gold star this year for being the first museum conference in the U.S. to hold an in-person attendance option since Covid-19 began. More than 30 individuals attended in-person with close to 60 attending via zoom; including out-of-staters from Florida, Virginia, and Massachusetts. All sessions were designed for an in-person as well as a zoom audience. Here are just a few of the comments we received:

*I am new to the museum world and find specific scenarios with problems and how you solved them. Very helpful.*

*I am enjoying every topic.*

*This program was fantastic! Excellent ideas – especially the grad student.*

*Love the in-class practice activities. Great collaboration!*

We want to thank Home2Suites for the fire pit and the very nice accommodations; Georgia Southern University for hosting us; the City of Statesboro for its hospitality; and all those who supported the conference through funding, internet prowess, and general creativity!









**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:  
Holly Beasley Wait,  
GAM Newsletter Chair,  
at  
director@portcolumbus.org**

**FULL-COLOR  
AD SPACE  
NOW AVAILABLE!**

**Contact  
Administrative Director  
Michele Rodgers  
at [gamg@gamg.org](mailto:gamg@gamg.org)  
for pricing.**



# Awards Luncheon

*Museum Exhibition Award: William Root House, Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society*

The 2021 GAM conference in Statesboro concluded with the annual awards luncheon recognizing the outstanding work of members and supporters over the past (very challenging) year. Attendees in person and online were able to share ideas and 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 makeup the museum community across Georgia. The opportunity for GAM member-institutions to highlight the exceptional 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. This year GAM acknowledged the special efforts made by museums to respond to COVID-19 within their communities and how to operate in a world of social distancing.

## **PATRON**

**Robert "Bob" Wheeler Hagan**

**Nominated by City of Roswell-Recreation, Parks, Historic & Cultural Affairs**

## **VOLUNTEER**

**Bill Montante**

**Nominated by Tellus Science Museum**

## **PROFESSIONAL**

**Polly Huff**

**Nominated by the Georgia Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village and GAM Board**

## **LIFETIME**

**David Moore**

**Nominated by Historic Oakland Foundation Staff, Volunteers, and Board**

## **EMERGING PROFESSIONAL**

**Lynnette Torres Ivey**

**Nominated by Booth Western Art Museum**

## **INSTITUTION**

**Department of Museums, Archives & Rare Books, Kennesaw State University**

**continued next page**

EDUCATION

*Madd Scientists, Tellus Science Museum*

STUDENT PROJECT

*Mystery Science Museum 3000*

Shyrisse Ramos and Jordan Spires and the Columbus Museum

MUSEUM EXHIBITION (Category #4)

*William Root House, Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society*

MUSEUM EXHIBITION (Category #2)

*Cut and Paste: Works of Paper, Georgia Museum of Art and Lyndon House Arts Center*

MUSEUM EXHIBITION (Honorable Mention)

*The Discovery of the Mysterious Middleton Collection,  
and its Transformation into Legacy-Celebrating Exhibition,  
The Gallery of the Georgia Museum of Agriculture & Historic Village*

MULTIMEDIA

*Multimedia Supplements for*

*"The Tragedy of the St. Louis/La Tragedia del St.Louis" Traveling Exhibit,  
Museum of History and Holocaust Education at Kennesaw State University*

SPECIAL PROJECT (Category #4)

*Uncharted Worlds & Charting Georgia's Coastal Plain:  
Permanent Exhibits of the Georgia Southern University Museum,  
Georgia Southern University Museum*

SPECIAL PROJECT (Category #2)

*"Our Side of the Tracks" Exhibit and Historic Black Acworth Image Collection,  
Department of Museums, Archives and Rare Books, Kennesaw State University*

SPECIAL PROJECT (Category #1)

*Juneteenth Live: An Online Celebration,  
Harvee L. White and the Augusta Museum of History*

CREATIVITY IN CRISIS

Community Impact:

*Art at Home, Georgia Museum of Art*

Fundraising Innovation:

*Crate to Plate, Thomasville History Center*

*Throw the Dog A Bone!*

*Social Media Assistant Henry the Dog at T.R.R. Cobb House*

The deadline for nominations for next year is October 1, 2021. The awards program is a wonderful way to recognize the work done by the people in your organization that go above and beyond in support of the mission, and to acknowledge the vital role of donors and sponsors. Information about the awards process will be available on the GAM website soon.



# New & Renewing Members

*Since March 2021*

## **Institutional**

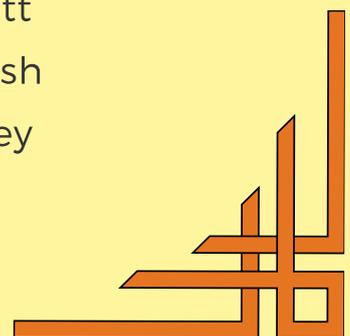
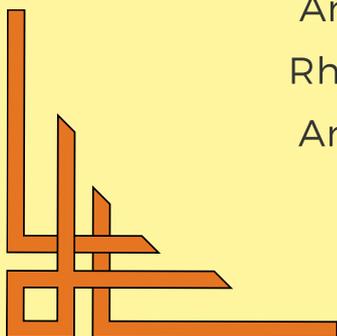
Altama Museum of Art & History   Chehaw Park Authority  
City of Griffin Planning & Development   Cobb Landmarks  
Flint RiverQuarium   Funk Heritage Center  
Georgia Southern University Museum   Lockerly Arboretum  
Newnan Coweta Historical Society  
Oak Hill & The Martha Berry Museum  
Savannah River Site Museum  
Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum  
Spalding County Leisure Services  
St. Mary's Submarine Museum   Sutton's Corner Museum  
Tellus Science Museum   William Harris Homestead

## **Sponsor**

Belfor USA   dmdg2   Georgia Humanities Council  
Northeast Document Conservation Center  
Re:discovery Software   Riggs Ward Design  
Southeastern Museums Conference

## **Individual**

Andrew Bramlett   Lewis Bramlett  
Rhonda Burnough   Rebecca Bush  
Amy Durrell   Lynnette Torres Ivey  
David Paule   Keith Post  
Tashana Powe





## **Upcoming Grant Opportunities, or Show You the Money!**

### **Georgia Council for the Arts:**

Vibrant Communities Grants for counties in which no organization received another GCA grant for FY22 are available for single projects such as an exhibit, artist residency, or workshop series.

Full guidelines, including a list of eligible counties, will be available online in July: <http://gaarts.org/grant-funding/apply-for-a-grant/available-funding>.

### **Georgia Humanities:**

Twice a year GH awards grants of up to \$2,500 for a range of cultural programs, including exhibits, walking tours, and lectures, that bring the public together and strengthen communities through dialogue around humanities topics.

The application portal for the fall grant cycle will open August 23. For full guidelines, visit <https://www.georgiahumanities.org/grants/>.



### **Learn More about Museums for All at July 13 Webinar**

**Are you interested in learning more about Museums for All, an initiative dedicated to expanding community access? Join staff from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Association of Children's Museums on July 13 at 2 p.m. Eastern to learn more about how and why over 675 museums participate in the program. Find more information and register to attend the informational webinar on the [IMLS website](#).**



# From the Past President

Greetings GAM Members,

As the saying goes, “all good things must come to an end.” This will be my final message to you as the GAM president. It has been a true pleasure to serve you all over the past three and a half years, and I am certainly proud of what has been accomplished. Your GAM Board has done an exceptional job during this period to fulfill our mission and enhance the opportunities available to our members. We have accomplished a great deal, from a new name, revised branding, updated bylaws, enhanced communications through our wonderful newsletter and social media, increased programming- including our first ever virtual program series, created new partnerships with our colleagues in the state’s archival community and with our state’s EMP networks, as well as hosted numerous successful conferences, including our wonderful joint conference with the Alabama Museum Association and our first ever hybrid conference. I am pleased to say that GAM is thriving and well positioned for the future.

Of course, this work would not have been possible without your support, so I sincerely thank our members for being part of our statewide organization. Additionally, I want to thank our Executive Director Michele Rodgers who works tirelessly on behalf our organization. I also want to thank all of our board members, committee chairs, and executive officers who have driven this organization forward. They are dedicated and outstanding professionals, and it has been an honor to work with them. I also want to thank each of our industry partners, sponsors, and host communities for their support over these last few years. All of these individuals have made my job incredibly easy, and I can’t thank them enough for their hard work.

In closing, I want to thank you all once again for this opportunity to serve you. It has been a true honor and one of the highlights of my career to serve in this capacity. I wish Mr. Ephraim Rotter luck in assuming the presidency and look forward to seeing all of you at future GAM events.

Best,



Matt Davis, Past President



# Current GAM Board Members

**Rachel Bragg**  
DeKalb County  
678-598-0359  
rbragg1@gmail.com

**Marcy Breffle, Vice President**  
Historic Oakland Foundation  
404-688-2107  
mbreffle@oaklandcemetery.com

**Karin Johnston Dalton**  
Georgia Capitol Museum  
404-463-0583  
kjohnsto@uga.edu

**Matt Davis, Past President**  
Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion/  
Sallie Davis House/Andalusia  
478-445-4545  
Matt.davis@gcsu.edu

**Polly Huff, Secretary**  
Georgia Museum of Agriculture  
& Historic Village  
229-391-5222  
phuff@abac.edu

**Mary Wilson Joseph**  
Atlanta History Center  
404-814-4110  
mwilson@atlantahistorycenter.com

**Michael Lachowski**  
Georgia Museum of Art  
706-542-9078  
mlachow@uga.edu

**Ephraim Rotter, President**  
Thomas County Historical Society  
229-226-7664  
Ephraim@thomascountyhistory.org

**Melissa Swindell, Treasurer**  
Georgia Writers Museum  
706-991-5119  
georgiawritersmuseum@gmail.com

**Holly Wait**  
National Civil War Naval Museum  
706-327-9798  
director@portcolumbus.org

**Harvee White**  
Augusta Museum of History  
706-722-8454  
harvee.white@gmail.com

## GAM Staff

**Michele Rodgers**  
Administrative Director  
P.O. Box 2133  
Marietta, GA 30061  
770-853-7539  
gamg@gamg.org