

President's Message

Catherine M. Lewis, Ph.D.



Dear Fellow GAMG Members,

The GAMG Board is working hard on the 2016 annual meeting in Albany. For those of you who have not visited Albany in a while, you are in for a treat. As the Albany Convention and Visitors Bureau says that the city “offers visitors the ideal gateway” to experience the great outdoors, a walk through history, and true southern hospitality.

Albany's first inhabitants were the Creek Indians, who named it Thronateeska (which means “a place where flint is picked up”). The city was founded in 1836 by Nelson Tift, and he hoped that it would become a prosperous trading center like Albany, New York. In the mid-nineteenth century, Albany had a few plantations that provided much-needed cotton for the Confederacy.

In the twentieth century, it blossomed as a rail center. The old Union Station is today home of the Thronateeska Heritage Center. There is much to see in Albany, from the Flint RiverQuarium to the RiverFront Trail to Ray Charles Plaza. We are delighted the city will be our host in January.

We are also pleased to announce that First Lady Sandra Deal will be our 2016 keynote speaker. She has recently published *Memories of the Mansion: The Story of the Georgia Governor's Mansion* with Dr. Catherine Lewis and Dr. Jennifer Dickey (through UGA Press). The book will premiere at the Atlanta History Center on September 28, 2015 (visit <http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/programs/lectures> for more information and tickets). She will be with us in Albany to talk about the book and the museum-quality decorative arts collection at the mansion. We are honored to have her join us this year.

So mark your calendars, and plan to spend some time in South Georgia with us in January.

Warm regards,

Catherine M. Lewis, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President, Museums, Archives & Rare Books
Director, Museum of History and Holocaust Education
Professor of History
President, Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries

KSU Department of Museums, Archives and Rare Books

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Mary Wilson Joseph
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Michelle Schulte
Morris Museum of Art

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS SINCE JUNE 2015

Institutional

Albany Museum of Art
Allman Brothers Band Museum
Arts Georgia
Bandy Heritage Center for NW Georgia
Blue & Gray Museum
Bowdon Historical Society
Cherokee County Historical Society
Church-Waddell-Brumby House
Collectible & Antique Chair Gallery
The Columbus Museum
Colquitt County Arts Center
DeKalb History Center
Elberton Granite Museum & Exhibit
Euharlee Museum
Garden of the Coastal Plain
Georgia's Old Capital Museum
Old Courthouse Inc.

Individual/Student

Gina Hernandez

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 for more information.



Michele Rodgers

The latest national headlines have drawn attention to many controversial topics and often museums are on the front line in defending the right to investigate and attempt to understand such difficult topics. Has your museum felt pressure to withdraw from this discussion? Has someone asked that you remove certain items from your exhibits? If so, do you have a policy for dealing with these situations?

There is a guide available to help cultural organizations manage controversial content and use the surrounding dialogue to provide an educational opportunity regarding the nature of diverse opinions. This Museum Best Practices for Managing Controversy offers three strategies for use in resisting pressure, thus enabling an institution to keep curatorial autonomy. For details of this guide, which is endorsed by the American Alliance of Museums, visit the National Coalition Against Censorship website at ncaac.org/resource/museum-best-practices-background.

THE COUNTDOWN TO GAMG 2016 IS ON!!



Flint River Railroad Bridge

Make your plans now to attend the GAMG Annual Meeting in Albany, Georgia, a town that shares a rich cultural heritage with unparalleled natural adventure and true southern charm. Paddle your way through historic downtown. Mingle with the meerkats in the wild. Listen to native son Ray Charles play in the Plaza. Get an eyeful of the universe and come face-to-face with creatures of the deep.



Ray Charles Plaza



Chehaw African Veldt Animals

From the legacy of the railroads to its key role in the Civil Rights Movement, Albany offers something for everyone: Chehaw-“Nature's Playground” with AZA-accredited Wild Animal Park; Thronateeska Heritage Center with Wetherbee Planetarium, Science Discovery Center and Museum of History; Flint RiverQuarium with Imagination Theater and Cypress Pond Aviary; Albany Civil Rights Institute, home of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee's Freedom Singers and Old Mt. Zion Church, where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke; and AAM-accredited Albany Museum of Art with an ever-growing European and American art collection and one of the most impressive collections of sub-Saharan African art in the Southeastern United States.

While exploring Albany, conference attendees will attend sessions and workshops covering such topics as Strategies for Fundraising Events, Better Way to Build Exhibits, Making Social Media Work for Your Museum, and more. In addition to the educational and networking opportunities, participants in the conference will meet with vendors in the Exhibit Hall and hear from Georgia's First Lady, Sandra Deal when she presents the Keynote Address.

Conference materials will be mailed out soon, but it is not too early to make your hotel reservations at the delightful, historic boutique inn, Merry Acres. Call 229-435-7721 to reserve a room today.



SpaceFinder Atlanta
BY FRACTURED ATLAS

-Lisa Niedermeyer, Program Director of *SpaceFinder*

SpaceFinder Atlanta is an online discovery tool for artists looking for space and venues with rental space to promote. *SpaceFinder* is unique because it takes the “pain points” of people frustrated by the status quo of finding a rental space to make their work or share it with an audience, and turns those pain points into marketing opportunities for entrepreneurial space owners. For example, an artist can spend hours calling and emailing just to find out a space isn't available, while on *SpaceFinder Atlanta* venues upload their digital calendar and promote unbooked time slots matched to renters searching for space. Greater visibility of up-to-date availability means less wasted space, smarter marketing of space, and more time spent on creating or sharing art.

The free service, built and managed by the non-profit Fractured Atlas, started in New York City and has blossomed as a go-to resource with over \$800,000 in rental referrals last year. In addition to Atlanta, *SpaceFinder* serves 12 other cultural hubs across North America. Atlanta was the very first region in the South to participate in this solution for visibility around space resources. Birmingham will follow Atlanta's lead this fall when Creative Birmingham launches *SpaceFinder Birmingham*. *SpaceFinder* is an open marketplace built for all creative disciplines and types of spaces.

If you haven't heard of *SpaceFinder Atlanta* yet; it is likely because it originally launched in 2012 as *Atlanta Spaces*. The recently rebranded site has been upgraded with venue calendars, online booking, and mobile-friendly search. Currently, 135 spaces are listed on the site; however, the potential impact as proven in other regions using *SpaceFinder* is much greater. Arts Georgia, C4 Atlanta, ARC and Fractured Atlas are coordinating efforts to increase participation by spaces and artists throughout Greater Atlanta. Based on success there, the service could expand to statewide as *SpaceFinder Georgia*.

Explore for yourself by visiting SpaceFinderAtlanta.org. It is free to list space and free to search for space.

STUDENTS NEEDED!!

GAMG is looking for students interested in attending the 2016 GAMG Conference in Albany, to be held January 20-22. As in the past, a number of conference sessions will be geared toward students or those new to the museum field, so attending the Annual Meeting is a great way to network and add skills. In addition, GAMG will offer four scholarships to cover registration, hotel rooms, and most meals for students to attend the conference, and in exchange students will serve as interns during the meeting.

To apply for a scholarship, email resume and a letter stating reasons how the conference will benefit your career to Michele Rodgers at gamg@gamg.org by November 7th.

Awards Nominations Deadline is Approaching

Is there a Patron that means the world to your museum? Long term volunteer who continues to play a key role in your gallery? An amazing exhibit that your curatorial staff put together? Honor those deserving individuals or companies that made your institution shine by nominating them for a GAMG Award, which will be presented on January 22, 2016 at the Annual Meeting in Albany. Visit www.gamg.org for award categories and then submit nominations right away! This year's awards deadline has been moved up to November 7, 2015.

Rights and Reproduction Guidelines

The Indianapolis Museum of Art and the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) recently partnered to publish *Rights & Reproductions: The Handbook for Cultural Institutions*. This publication will serve as an industry-wide standard for best practices and guideline in the Rights and Reproductions field. It is available through AAM at nominal pricing. Visit www.aam-us.org.

Dear GAMG Members,

We are excited to announce the newest book from UGA Press, *Memories of the Mansion: The Story of the Georgia Governor's Mansion*, written by our very own President Dr. Catherine Lewis with First Lady Sandra Deal and Dr. Jennifer Dickey.

The book will be premiering at the Atlanta History Center on Sept. 28. The evening's panel will include members of first families (from Maddox to Deal). It should be quite an event! We are also pleased to announce that all the authors will be on hand for our annual GAMG meeting in January.

If you'd like to have a book signing at your institution, contact Catherine at clewis1@kennesaw.edu.

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Warm regards,
Catherine M. Lewis, Ph.D.
Assistant Vice President, Museums, Archives & Rare Books
Director, Museum of History and Holocaust Education
Professor of History
President, Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries

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Educating for a Responsible Future



SAVE THE DATE

Please join us in celebrating the publication of

Memories of the Mansion: The Story of the Georgia Governor's Mansion
BY FIRST LADY SANDRA DEAL, JENNIFER DICKEY AND CATHERINE LEWIS

September 28, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

BOOK TALK AND SIGNING

Life in the People's House: An Evening with Georgia's First Families

ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER

130 West Paces Ferry Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30305

This is a ticketed event, so please visit <http://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/programs/lectures> for more information.





Greetings from the Museums United Phase 2 Team!

Working together, we will strengthen museums by strengthening state museum associations.

In March of 2014, leaders from all state museum associations, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) gathered at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art for Museums United – a special convening to identify the shared needs and interests of state museum associations.

A key Museums United finding was that limited money, time, and staff are persistent barriers for state museum associations in achieving their potential as successful, sustainable organizations. With IMLS support, we are thrilled to begin Museums United Phase 2, an initiative to strengthen all state museum associations by working collaboratively to develop critical tools and resources that will help us address these barriers as a community.

From April 2015 to March 2017, we will focus on the following goals:

1. Develop an online association management system that will help state museum associations manage membership, events, and their websites.
2. Create an online platform where state museum associations can communicate and collaborate.
3. Develop an online toolkit to share best practices and resources about association management for board members and staff.
4. Create a sustainable model for continued collaboration and leadership among state museum associations.

Throughout this project, we will send you regular updates on our progress. If you know of colleagues who may be interested in following our work, please encourage them to sign up for our newsletter here.

Key accomplishments for the first quarter of this project are:

- Putting the project infrastructure in place – For a list of key partners and the steering committee members, click here.
- Developing and implementing a needs assessment – CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU – we met our goal of 100% participation in the needs assessment! The valuable data you provided will help develop relevant and useful tools and resources PLUS each state museum association will receive a needs assessment report this fall, providing comparative data for your reference and strategic planning and/or evaluation efforts.
- Setting up task forces for each goal area (see above). – CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU – we are pleased to announce we have

99% participation on the four task forces! All task forces have now launched. Click here to see the roster.

Over the next few months, we look forward to:

- Entering a research phase in the task forces, related to four overarching project goals. The technology-related task forces will also begin testing some potential platforms.
 - Continuing project evaluation with a baseline survey of collaboration among the task forces, using the Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory.
 - Conducting informal telephone interviews with state museum associations in September regarding capacity and sustainability.
- **Please note that Brian Crockett or Steph McDougal may contact your association to schedule an interview.**

Thank you for your interest in and support of this project! If you have any questions about Museums United Phase 2, please contact any of the Key Partners or Paige Faulkner, project director, mup2@calmuseums.org.

Sincerely,

Museums United Phase 2 Key Partners and Steering Committee Members

Celeste DeWald, California Association of Museums (Key Partner)
Malinda Horton, Florida Association of Museums (Key Partner)
Brenda Granger, Oklahoma Museums Association (Key Partner)
Ruth Ann Rugg, Texas Association of Museums (Key Partner)
Jennifer Thomas, Virginia Association of Museums (Key Partner)
Rusty Baker, Pennsylvania Museums
Erin Bishop, Maine Archives & Museums
Dan Brosz, Association of South Dakota Museums
Melissa Kendrick, Florida Association of Museums
Dulce Kersting, Idaho Association of Museums
Lin Nelson-Mayson, Minnesota Association of Museums
Johnna McEntee, Ohio Museums Association
Debra Mitchell, Montana Museums
Lisa Pugh, New Mexico Association of Museums
Cynthia Sweet, Iowa Museum Association
Jayceen Craven Walker, Utah Museums Association



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