Dear GAMG Members,

This morning driving to work, I found myself thinking about how much museums, galleries, and related cultural institutions contribute to our communities. It is often hard to measure the economic, social, and cultural impact of our institutions, but the American Alliance of Museums has made this important statement that you might share with your colleagues, donors, and board members:

"Museums employ 400,000 Americans, according to the American Alliance of Museums. U.S. museums contribute $21 billion to the American economy each year (2008 estimate), encouraging economic growth in their communities. Museums rank among the top three family vacation destinations. Trips including cultural and heritage activities comprise one of the most popular and significant segments of the travel industry, accounting for over 23% of all domestic trips. Visitors to historic sites and cultural attractions, including museums, stay 53% longer and spend 36% more money than other kinds of tourists. Quality of life issues contribute significantly to decisions businesses make in choosing to relocate, including access to cultural resources that includes a dynamic museum community. In fact, according to research cited by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, "It has been shown that the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates over $166 billion in economic activity annually, supports over 5.7 million full time jobs, and returns over $12 billion in federal income taxes annually. Governments which support the arts on average see a return on investment of over $7 in taxes for every $1 that the government appropriates."

The work we do every day to serve our diverse constituencies matters. It is important for us to frame that argument for our local, state, and national leaders to help them understand our contributions and commitment to caring for and interpreting collections and education the public makes us all wiser, more engaged, and more thoughtful. Happy Spring to everyone.

Best, Catherine Lewis, Ph.D.
Exec. Director of Museums, Archives & Rare Books
It might have been chilly in the north Georgia mountains in January, but that didn't deter the host committee in Dalton from extending a warm welcome to more than 100 attendees to the GAMG Annual Meeting of 2014. Representatives from the Dalton Convention and Visitors Bureau, Creative Arts Guild, Dalton-Whitfield Historical Society, Tunnel Hill, Northwest Georgia Trade and Conference Center, and the Dalton Depot Restaurant pulled out all the stops to treat GAMG participants as special guests. The Board and I can't thank them enough for everything they did to make for an outstanding conference!

If you haven't yet heard, Statesboro will be hosting GAMG in 2015 and that community will have a challenge measuring up to Dalton. The dates for next year are January 21 – 23, 2015, and it is not too soon to volunteer to present a session or to nominate someone for an award. The listing of award categories can be found on the GAMG website, www.gamg.org.

**NEWS YOU CAN USE**

**AASLH to Hold Annual Meeting and Online Conference**

The American Association for State & Local History (AASLH) will hold its Annual Meeting and Online Conference in St. Paul, MN, from September 17 – 20, 2014. This year's theme “Greater Than the Sum of Our Parts,” examines the personal, communal, and organizational journeys that lead to vibrancy, authenticity, social change, and sustainability.

While websites, listservs, and social media constantly offer new sources of technical and psychological support, nothing is better than the face to face fellowship of sharing survival strategies. Unfortunately, many working in our nation's small museums feel as if attending such a meeting is a financial hardship. Now in its eighth year, AASLH's Small Museums Committee is offering scholarships to any AASLH members who are full-time, part-time, paid, or volunteer employees of small museums. Each $500 scholarship will cover the cost of the conference registration and the Small Museums luncheon. Any remaining funds may be used to offset travel and or/lodging expenses.

To qualify, the applicant must work for a museum with a budget of $250,000 or less. They must also be either an individual AASLH member or work for an institutional member. Application forms are available at www.aaslh.org/small museums. Deadline for applications is June 13th and the committee will email award winners by June 30th. For questions, please contact Bruce Teeple, Small Museums Scholarship Committee Chair at mongopawn44@hotmail.com.

**GAMG Welcomes New Board Member**

Welcome to the newest GAMG Board Member, Jose Santamaria, Executive Director of Tellus Science Museum, located in Cartersville. Santamaria has been with Tellus, formerly the Weinman Mineral Museum since 1996. During his tenure Jose has supervised the design and implementation of the museum's interactive educational programs, overseen the expansion of the 9,000 square foot earth science museum into a 120,000 square foot science facility, and directed the design and installation of the museum's exhibits.

**IMLS Shares New Program**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) recently shared an innovative program that was used by one historic site to engage its community. This project, “Using History to Transform a Community,” tells how Peralta Hacienda Historical Park strengthened its relationship with its surrounding community by involving local residents as exhibit developers, tour leaders, oral history subjects, audience, and staff. The project empowered community members to lead historical tours using their own stories.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The mission of IMLS is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Through grant making, policy development, and research IMLS helps libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive.

**Read more at:**
The West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail Annual Conference will be held Thursday and Friday, April 17-18, 2014, at beautiful Hills and Dales Estate in LaGrange, Georgia. We invite you to come and learn about creative ways to preserve and promote textile history in your area while enjoying the locale’s blossoming gardens and unique connection to Georgia’s textile heritage. The conference will feature speakers and workshops on a variety of topics, all designed to help you highlight your community’s ties to the history of textile production and use that history to attract visitors who will also enjoy the shopping, dining, and hospitality that your community has to offer.

**Conference Schedule**

**Thursday, April 17, 2014**

1:00-1:45 Keynote Speech “Georgia’s Textile Heritage Trail: The Warp and Weft of Community Partnerships” Bruce Green

2:00-3:00 Come One, Come All!: Marketing Your Story

3:15-4:15 Show Me the Money: Finding Project Funding

4:30-5:00 New Tricks: Using Social Media Effectively

6:00-7:30 Reception at The Legacy Museum on Main!

Dinner on Thursday is on your own. Enjoy some of LaGrange’s local fare!

**Friday, April 18, 2014**

9:15-10:00 Keynote Speech “The Story of a People” Jamil Zainaldin

10:15-11:15 Gathering Threads: How to Research and Preserve your Historic Resources

11:30-12:30 The Shop Window: Brainstorming Interpretative Projects and Techniques

12:30-1:30 Whistle: Networking LunchAll events take place at Hills and Dales Visitor Center unless otherwise noted.

Registration also includes an tour of Hills and Dales Estate, which attendees may take at any time on Thursday or Friday.
Registration

Registration Fees:
Your registration fee includes attendance at all conference sessions, refreshments, a reception on Thursday evening at the Legacy Museum on Main in LaGrange, and a Networking Lunch on Friday afternoon. You will also receive a ticket to tour the beautiful Hills and Dales Estate at any time on Thursday or Friday. For those interested, we are also offering a tour of the nearby Milliken and Company Plant, but space is limited for that outing, so register soon!

Registration Fees:

Name: ___________________________  _____ Non-Member Early Registration $50.00 (Deadline March 31, 2014)
Affiliation: ________________________  _____ * Trail Member Early Registration $40.00 (Deadline March 31, 2014)
Address: __________________________  _____ Student $25.00
_______________________________  _____ With New Membership/Renewal $50.00
Phone: ____________________________  * Up to 3 individuals from a member organization may attend the conference at this rate.
Email: ____________________________

_____ I would prefer the vegetarian lunch option.

_____ I would like to reserve a spot to tour the Milliken and Company Plant on Friday afternoon.

Please cut the above section and send it, along with your Registration fee to:

Center for Public History
History Department
1601 Maple Street
Carrollton, Georgia 30118

Make checks payable to: Center for Public History/West Georgia Foundation

For all the latest conference information and a printable version of the Annual Conference Registration Form, please visit: www.westgatextiletrail.wordpress.com.
GAMG ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARD WINNERS

INSTITUTION

Colquitt County Arts Center
For being an integral part of the community and for providing a positive impact on the quality of life for the citizens of Moultrie and Colquitt County.

SPECIAL PROJECTS, CATEGORY 2

The Kress Project
Georgia Museum Of Art
For implementing a project that successfully enlarged and diversified the museum’s audience and serves as a model for multidisciplinary study and response to art.

EDUCATION

Outreach Team
Museum Of History And Holocaust Education, Kennesaw State University
For developing an in-school program using traveling exhibits, traveling trunks, and standards-based curriculum to enhance the educational experience of students in Atlanta and north Georgia.

MUSEUM PROFESSIONAL

Cantey Smith
Tellus Science Museum
For exemplary leadership, excellence in education, enthusiastic support of staff and volunteers, and an unwavering commitment to the profession.

MUSEUM VOLUNTEER

Frank Dimartino
Museum Of History And Holocaust Education, Kennesaw State University
For providing invaluable service and for being an inspiration to staff, fellow volunteers, and patrons through his expertise, time, advocacy, and encouragement.

MUSEUM EXHIBITION, CATEGORY 1

Return To Rich’s: The Story Behind The Store
William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum
For creating a compelling exhibit that uses artifacts, interactive displays, and personal recollections to explore how Rich’s Department Store became a southern institution.

ADVOCACY

Bill Prokasy
Georgia Museum Of Art, Board Of Advisors
For unwavering advocacy of the arts at the state and federal levels, and for leadership, support, and encouragement of the administration and staff of the Georgia Museum of Art.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Donald R. (Don) Rooney
Atlanta History Center
For life-long devotion to the study and appreciation of history and for untiring leadership and service to GAMG and the greater museum community.
NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS SINCE DECEMBER 2013

Institutional
Albany Museum of Art
Atlanta History Center
Barrington Hall
Chi Phi Fraternity
Euharlee History Museum
Funk Heritage Center
Georgia Museum of Agriculture and Historic Village
Hills & Dales Estate
Jack Hadley's Black History Museum
Pebble Hill
Southeastern Quilt & Textile Museum
State of GA/Historic Preservation Division
The Breman Museum
The Old Courthouse
Thomas County History Museum
Ty Cobb Museum

Sponsor
Bright Ring Foundation
The History Workshop
UGA Press

Individual/Student
Julie Arnold
Kathy Dixon
David Dundee
Amelia Gallo
Kia Guest
Beverly Hammack
Marilyn Hubbard
Ginny McGee
Michael Rebman
Peggy Sommer
Frank O. Walsh
Ed Weldon
Jane Powers Weldon
Norma West

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.