

# GAMG 2016

Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries Newsletter

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## *President's Message*

Although museums are not any less busy in the summer, I do hope that everyone has time to recharge this season. The GAMG board is currently working on our next conference, to be held in Augusta. The title, "Opening Doors: Inclusion and Diversity in the 21st-Century Museum," reflects a topic of critical importance.

Although initiatives such as the Mellon Undergraduate Curator Fellowship are promoting diversity in the field, many museums still struggle to diversify their staff. The American Alliance of Museums emphasizes the role of diversity and inclusion in its policy statement, "We believe that our strength lies in our diversity among the broad range of people and museums we represent. We consider diversity and inclusion a driver of institutional excellence and seek out diversity of participation, thought and action. It is our aim, therefore, that our members, partners, key stakeholders reflect and embrace these core values." Despite these goals, the Art Museum Staff Demographic Survey published by the Mellon Foundation in 2015 shows that staff members at the institutions surveyed in curatorial, conservation, education, and leadership positions are 84 percent white (compared to 63.7 percent of the overall US population). We look forward to discussing with all of you issues of inclusion and diversity and how museums can improve their efforts in these areas.

Michelle Schulte and the host committee in Augusta have exciting plans for us that include opportunities for excursions and wonderful evening events. Valerie Babb, Franklin Professor of English and director of the Institute for African American Studies at the University of Georgia, will be the keynote speaker. I hope that you are inspired to share your expertise with us through sessions and workshops. Be sure to get your proposals to Jose Santamaria by June 25th.

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

# Administrative Director's Report



While the American Alliance for Museums provides excellent guidelines for the operation of museums, sometimes we find that we need additional information for “best practices” for our individual nonprofit organization. There are well-recognized accountability, legal and ethical practices that should be followed by all charitable nonprofits. By knowing and adopting these policies, not only does your organization benefit, but donors and the entire community you serve benefits. By having “best practices” in place, many nonprofits find that grantmakers and potential donors look favorably upon the organization.

GAMG encourages each of its members to adopt practices that promote accountability and transparency, while encouraging legal, ethical, and responsible fundraising. In our state, the Georgia Center for Nonprofits, [www.gcn.org](http://www.gcn.org), is an excellent resource for information regarding nonprofit governance and “best practices.” Additionally, many state associations for nonprofits also provide educational programs and can help raise

awareness among board and staff members about accountability practices. Finally, the National Council of Nonprofits is another good resource for information on ethics and accountability, boards and governance, financial management, and advocacy. Visit the website [www.councilofnonprofits.org](http://www.councilofnonprofits.org).

## *Last Call for Proposals*

Dear Colleagues,

There is still time to submit session and workshop proposals for the 2017 GAMG Conference in Augusta, but the June 25 deadline is fast approaching. Please consider sharing your expertise, advice, and museum experiences. Your presentation can match the theme for the conference: "Opening Doors: Inclusion and Diversity in the 21st Century Museum." However, it can also be on any subject benefitting the museum profession: exhibits, operations, education, fundraising, marketing, collections management, etc., etc., etc. You know much more than you think, and your presentation can be of tremendous benefit to your museum colleagues!

Submit proposals to me at [joses@tellusmuseum.org](mailto:joses@tellusmuseum.org) or call me at 770-606-5700 for more information.

Regards,

Jose Santamaria  
Executive Director, Tellus Science Museum  
GAMG Vice President and Conference Program Chair

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

## FREE Collections Care Webinars!!

Lock, Stock and Barrel: Firearms Collecting for Museums

[www.connectingtocollections.org/lock-stock-and-barrel-firearms-collecting-for-museums/](http://www.connectingtocollections.org/lock-stock-and-barrel-firearms-collecting-for-museums/),

June 15, 2016; 2:00-3:30 EDT

Seeding Engagement and Cultivating Volunteers through Crowdsourcing

[www.connectingtocollections.org/seeding-engagement-and-cultivating-volunteers-through-crowdsourcing/](http://www.connectingtocollections.org/seeding-engagement-and-cultivating-volunteers-through-crowdsourcing/)

July 7, 2016, 2:00-3:30 EDT

All Aboard: Engineering Collections Care Training for Small Museums <http://www.connectingtocollections.org/all-aboard-engineering-collections-care-training-for-small-museums/> August 24, 2016, 2:00-3:30 EDT

Connecting to Collections Care Online Community

[www.connectingtocollections.org](http://www.connectingtocollections.org) <<http://www.connectingtocollections.org>, a program of the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation, provides free collections care training, resources, and assistance for small - mid-sized cultural organizations.

## ***Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America***

### Exhibition Tour in Georgia

*Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America* is a traveling museum exhibition brought to you by Georgia Humanities in partnership with Museum on Main Street, a division of the Smithsonian Institution.

The exhibition is all about sports teams in America, an unforgettable part of culture and community in towns all over the country. Sports have helped to shape our national character. But the tour is more than an exhibition, as each host community plans and executes a series of sports-related programs to take place throughout the six weeks the exhibition is in its town.

Traveling to 12 communities throughout the state, the tour began in Swainsboro on March 19<sup>th</sup> and moved onto Ft. Oglethorpe on May 7<sup>th</sup> (it will be there until June 18). The rest of the tour:

Jonesboro	6/25 to 8/6/2016	Arts Clayton Gallery
Nashville	8/13 to 9/24/2016	Nashville Community Center
Kingsland	10/1 to 11/12/2016	Camden Library Center
Carrollton	11/19 to 12/31/2016	Carrollton Cultural Arts Ctr.
Jefferson	1/14 to 2/25/2017	Jefferson High School Arena
Ft. Valley	03/4 to 4/15/2017	C. W. Pettigrew Center (at the university)
Moultrie	4/22 to 6/3/2017	Colquitt County Arts Center
Forsyth	6/10 to 7/22/2017	The Stone Depot
Cartersville	7/29 to 9/9/2017	Bartow History Museum
Monroe	9/16 to 10/28/2017	Monroe Culture & Heritage Museum

**Check [www.georgiahumanities.org](http://www.georgiahumanities.org) for information. See you there!**



# GAMG Student Interns Learn Valuable Lessons

Once again GAMG provided scholarships to four college students to attend the Annual Meeting in January in Albany. These students, three from the University of West Georgia, and one from Kennesaw State University, assisted with conference registration, distributing and collecting session evaluations, and many other tasks, while also attending workshops and sessions. Here's what one of them had to say about the experience.

From Harvee White:

Working as a volunteer for the 2016 Annual GAMG conference was such a pleasure. As a first year grad student, this was my first time attending a conference and I did not know exactly what to expect. Any expectations I did have were far exceeded by the great atmosphere, food, and people at the conference. As a volunteer my main job was to help with the registration of guests and the collection of post session evaluations. This was a great way to introduce myself to attendees of the conference who could be added to my network not only as potential bosses and coworkers, but as mentors and friends as well.

I was delighted and surprised at the amount of sessions I was able to attend. Through these sessions I was able to learn more about the museum education field (the

museum career in which I am most interested). Learning about the practices, techniques, and programs that other Georgia museums and galleries are involved with helped to spark my creativity and give me good ideas for any future projects that I may be involved in. It was also nice to see and learn about all of the Georgia museums and galleries that I did not know about before. By the end of the conference, I had many day trips planned in order to see all of the places that were represented at the conference. Not only did I find the people friendly and the sessions educational, but the food was divine. I will forever hold a special place in my heart for the delicious crab cakes at the Flint RiverQuarium and the chocolate martinis at the Shackelford house!

The museums and historic sites that we visited in Albany made us feel so welcome, and I am so happy that we got to experience them. The conference was an overall delight. The damp dark weather was in direct contrast to the welcoming, friendly spirits of both the conference attendees and Albany itself. As a young grad student, I would not have been able to afford the conference, so I am very grateful that GAMG offers the volunteer program. Without it, I would have missed out on a truly wonderful experience.



# New Leadership in Thomas County

Anne McCudden recently joined the Thomas County Historical Society as Executive Director. Anne relocated from South Florida where she worked in the museum and archaeological field for the past twenty years. Previous positions include being the director of the Boca Raton Children's Museum, the Women's History Park in Miami-Dade County and the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Her background also includes work with a cultural resource firm in Miami, as an adjunct professor at the University of Miami and as a board member for state and national museum focused organizations such as the American Association for State and Local History, the Florida Association of Museums and Association of Tribal Archives Libraries and Museums. As Anne settles into her new position in Thomasville she has already found the community is deeply focused on historic preservation and its many cultural resources, which will only make her job easier. She is excited to

introduce some new ideas and processes to this established and revered institution (one of the oldest historical societies in the state) all while incorporating her previous work experience and skills into the fabric of the society. Anne recently noted, "There is such an impressive array of community members and like-minded institutions here in Thomasville and across the entire county that I can see my job will be one of simply making sure those connections stay intact and that we ensure the longevity of the Society for another 65 years!" **Editor's Note:** McCudden replaced Ann Harrison, who retired after serving many years as Executive Director for the Thomas County Historical Society. Harrison was instrumental in growing the organization in many directions and was a long time GAMG supporter, serving on the board most recently as Treasurer. Harrison was a true leader among the museum community and her participation in GAMG will be missed, however, we know she is enjoying some well-earned time at the beach!

The Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC)  
2016 Annual Meeting will be October 10 - 12 in Charlotte.  
Registration opened online at  
[www.semcdirect.net](http://www.semcdirect.net)<mailto:<http://www.semcdirect.net/page-1844722>>.

## Histories Seen and Unseen National Council For History Education (NCHE)

National Conference

Atlanta, GA

March 30 - April 1, 2017

*Featuring*

Fun Receptions and Interesting Enrichment Excursions to Historic Sites

More than 70 Breakout Sessions and over 30 Exhibitors

Join teachers, historians and university faculty from around the nation in beautiful Atlanta, GA for three days of the Best in History Education!

The national conference is a place where historical thinkers can come together and share their passion for teaching and learning.

For details contact [www.nche.net/conference](http://www.nche.net/conference) or John Cespegi at [john@nche.net](mailto:john@nche.net) or 240-696-6612.



Georgia Association of Museums & Galleries  
c/o Michele Rodgers, Administrative Director  
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## NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS SINCE MARCH 2016

### Institutional

Allman Brothers Band Museum  
Chieftains Museum  
Crawford W. Long Museum  
Davenport House Museum  
Foxfire Museum  
Funk Heritage Center  
Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Association  
Harris Arts Center  
Hazelhurst-Jeff Davis Historical Museum Society  
Herndon Home  
Historic Augusta  
Historic Banning Mills  
Historic Columbus  
Historic Macon Foundation  
Senoia Area Historical Society  
Uncle Remus Museum  
Whitfield – Murray Historical Society

### Individual/Student

Mona Betzel  
Hannah Givens  
Catherine Hendricks  
Michelle Lopez  
Dianne McLarty  
Elizabeth Morehouse

## **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.