

A photograph of a wooden pavilion in a park-like setting. The pavilion has a gabled roof and is surrounded by trees and a fence. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The background is filled with lush green trees, and a wooden fence runs across the middle ground.

gam

Georgia Association of Museums

Summer'22

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2022

Georgia Association of Museums

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UPDATED 4-2-2022

FRONT COVER: [ABAC'S GEORGIA MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE & HISTORIC VILLAGE](#) — THE PHOTO FEATURES THE SUGAR CANE SYRUP SHED WHERE EACH NOVEMBER THE MULE JUNEBUG GRINDS FRESH SUGARCANE, AND THEN THE JUICE IS COOKED IN THE LARGE KETTLE IN THE SHED INTO CANE SYRUP. [@ABAC COLLEGE](#)

President's Remarks

Active listening requires authentic curiosity. This phrase, of unknown origins, marks a note above my desk. It's a daily nudge to center a spirit of inquiry in my work. It's a reminder that sharing different perspectives, while not always harmonious, will lead to greater understanding and ultimately build a supported pathway toward growth. Finally, it's a cue that effective communication requires empathy and honesty.



For decades, GAM has been serving Georgia institutions and museum professionals. As a cheerleader and advocate, GAM amplifies the groundbreaking work of Georgia museums in our newsletters and social media. GAM is a platform, an opportunity for peers to share their work during our annual conference and throughout the year. GAM creates a forum where we can participate in productive dialogue and challenge the systems and concepts that prevent meaningful change.

But in the spirit of authentic curiosity, the GAM board wants to know - how can GAM support you and your organization as we move into a post-pandemic reality? Email, DM, snail mail, and more - give us your feedback. Better yet, tell us in person next January in Cartersville!

Our Cartersville local host committee and program team are developing an incredible conference experience for GAM 2023. The theme, "Museums: The (Fill in the Blank) Frontier," asks us to contemplate the frontiers of our lives and profession. The GAM board is excited to explore the frontiers of our field, discover solutions to our collective challenges, and continue to learn how we can support you.

Marcy Breffle
GAM President

Education in Action

The education sub-committee met for the first time this year to discuss upcoming virtual GAM programs and workshops. Harvee White, Stephanie Lukowski, Ashleigh Kelly, Brad Hawkins, and Jessie Merrell were in attendance.



The committee is excited to share that the Juliette Gordon Lowe Birthplace (JGLB) in Savannah will be presenting our inaugural program (virtually, via Zoom) in September on Accessibility in Historic Houses.

Kat White, Education Manager at JGLB, will present on successes, failures, and lessons learned during IMLS grant-funded work to improve accessibility for disabled visitors at the JGLB and also share tips for improving accessibility at your own museum or historic site without any grant funding at all. This GAM Virtual Program, “Improving Accessibility for Disabled Visitors with the Juliette Gordon Lowe Birthplace,” is scheduled for September 15, 2022 at 12:30 p.m.



[Click here to register for this GAM Virtual Program.](#)

A VISITING GIRL SCOUT TROOP POSE WITH A STATUE OF JULIETTE LOW AND DOG ROBIN IN THE RENOVATED JGLB GARDEN.

Interview with an Educator



Jordan Duncan

Bartow History
Museum

What drew you to museum education?

I was drawn to museum education towards the end of earning my B.A. and public history certificate. As with most people who go on to earn degrees in history, I always just loved learning more about the world. I knew history education was in my future, but at the time I wasn't sure exactly what that looked like. I didn't think a traditional classroom was the correct fit for me and that's when I started to look more into museums and museum education. I've given museum tours for various jobs since 2015, but I accepted my first official museum education position in 2018 and I haven't looked back since.

What is your favorite part about working as an educator at the Bartow History Museum?

I have so many favorite parts about working as an educator at the Bartow History Museum that it's difficult to pick just one. First, I'd have to say the look of excitement on visiting students' faces when they're here on a field trip and you're getting them to critically think about a subject in history and they start to connect the dots of why and how things happened in the past and what that means for us today. Hands down, that's my favorite thing. The second thing would be that I'm very fortunate to be part of an amazing team that is also just as passionate about teaching good history.

What is one thing you would want all museum professionals to know about a "day in the life" of a museum educator?

A day in the life of a museum educator is never dull. One day you might be giving a field trip, one day you might be facilitating a traveling trunk, and another day you might be playing the harmonica during a field trip about locomotives or testing paper plane crafts for a program about WWII pilots. Yes, those last two are very specific and they're definitely things I've had to do. But I'm not complaining one bit because that's the stuff I love about museum education! It keeps you on your toes for sure.

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What advice would you give one of our GAM interns if they were interested in becoming a museum educator?

Kind of relating to my last answer, expect the unexpected. You never know what exciting path a day in museum education and programming will take you. One time I started my day with conducting a field trip on the American Civil War and later that evening I was portraying Santa Claus for a completely different museum program.

What is your favorite program to facilitate at the Bartow History Museum?

Currently my favorite program to facilitate is our Cherokee Cultures East to West field trip. I love it when students can learn about different cultures at an early age and see that those cultures, just like themselves, have their own ways of life and that those differences are something to be embraced and celebrated.





Heritage Station Museum: **Alive and Well**

BY 1998 the old Georgia Florida Railroad Depot, built in 1904, had been abandoned in Douglas, Georgia for 28 years. A group of city leaders spent some time convincing the Norfolk Southern Railway to allow the city to purchase the property.

With the city of Douglas, Coffee County volunteers and retired Georgia Florida employees, the depot became Heritage Station Museum. With a grant and help from local supporters and volunteers, the museum opened in 1999. For several years, funding was available for a full-time director but those funds ended in 2004.

Part of the museum was used as offices for city personnel and storage as well as a museum. In 2012 the Douglas's Director of Community Development gathered individuals interested in local history and that was the beginning of

the Coffee County Historical Society. The Society was granted management and operation of the museum by the Douglas City Commissioners. After some cleaning and organizing, Heritage Station Museum re-opened in 2014.

The focus of the Historical Society and the museum is the collection, preservation and dissemination of local history of Coffee County. The city of Douglas owns and sustains the building and the Historical Society operates it with volunteers and contributions from membership. It

is difficult to separate the Historical Society from Heritage Station Museum. Volunteers feel both entities are connected and would not exist if separated.

In 2014 the Rogers and Clower families donated 61 glass plate negatives from Rogers Studio. These photos were taken in Coffee County from 1908 to the late 1950s. Our Society member and photography expert, Tom Johnson, produced copies for our archives and the glass plates are now archived at the Georgia Historical Society.

Lane Studios, another local photography studio, donated pictures from the 1950s and 1960s that are archived in museum.

In 2015 staff realized that all the decision makers during the process of school integration in 1966–1970 had passed away and an opportunity for their input was lost. The museum was planning an exhibit of 50 Years since Integration. A core group of Coffee County natives developed a plan to interview anyone present during this time to archive their experiences and thoughts. Hundreds were interviewed. Then, the question was what to do

information. This sometimes occurs in some unusual methods. History at High Noon evolved from a monthly interview of local citizens about historical events, places and people. These interviews were broadcast on the city's local cable channel. History at High Noon goes a bit farther with a live audience. The 'High Noon' programs may be seen on the city's YouTube page or the Historical Society's Facebook page (Coffee County, GA Historical Society). The society board sees this as a simple way to archive information. History at High noon is on the fourth Wednesday of each month – except for

move to an inside venue.

An online auction of local artist Pong Holton's work of the first hospital built in Douglas (1910) was an easy fundraiser. Heritage Station Museum and Coffee County Historical Society have been blessed with volunteers, members and support throughout the past eight years.

Exhibits range from native Americans and local archaeological digs to influential women to the world's largest tobacco market. Agriculture, businesses, historic buildings, education, health care, Richardson Air



with it. Newspaper clippings, pictures, articles, etc. were archived at the museum and with the help of Francis Lott, Dr. Wayne Clough (both natives of Coffee County), and Georgia Tech students. Two years were spent scanning, transcribing, copying, and offering technology assistance. The outcome was a [website](#). It looks back at three time periods: Segregation 1865–1965, Optional Integration 1965–1969 and Mandatory 1969–1970. Included are interviews, film, and photographs. It is an extremely interactive site as well as enlightening.

The focus at the Museum has been and will be the archiving of

November and December – and is free to the public. Programs have ranged from the Coffee County Centennial of 1954 to the history of local high school football to the story of the Mill Quarters.

Fundraising is a given for most museums and the first event was A Walk through the Neighborhood. It was held in the oldest section of the city cemetery. Members of the Historical Society and Coffee Alliance for the Arts sponsored the event with volunteers portraying people from our past in an accurate but amusing manner. It has been a hit for three years and we now plan to rename the event to Leaders and Legends and

Base from World War II, and many other exhibitions are maintained. FGroups on field trips seem to enjoy the military section and stories of local ghosts.

Volunteers have worked diligently to refresh and renew exhibits on a regular basis and currently features World War II: On the Home Front and the upcoming exhibit will be Medical History of Coffee County–Root Doctors to Technology. Major exhibits are chosen for the appeal to our local citizens. Local visitors love the comment and make suggestions.

The old rail line of the Georgia Florida railroad is now a walking trail three



miles long, passing through town and beyond to a wooded area and pond. A restored Georgia Florida caboose car is displayed near the old rail line next to the museum. The city received a grant to restore the caboose and build a deck for small parties and gatherings.

Volunteers have documented Heritage Churches, from the settlers in the 1850s to the creation of Atkinson County out of southern Coffee County in 1918. A group plans to document churches that began in years 1919 to 1970. Another group is researching the historic downtown buildings and the businesses they have held.

Heritage Station museum has had donations of hundreds of old pictures ranging from 1880s to 1950s. Most of these photographs are unidentified. A group of museum volunteers are working on identification as well as getting other citizens involved in the identification of these unknown photographs.

Summer offerings include special programs and scavenger hunts to residents from senior care facilities, church groups and the Boys and Girls Club. Organizations are urged to meet or set up a guest exhibit on their history.

Heritage Station Museum offers field trips for schools, clubs and organizations. The museum has hosted Wiregrass Guild Art Shows, book signings for local authors, and book signings for books about local citizens. Citizens may use the museum for graduation parties, birthday parties, receptions, and meetings. The museum recognizes that history is not boring or dead but should be integrated into today's world. Heritage Station Museum strives to make all visitors welcome and to enlighten them on the past.

Heritage Station Museum is not a museum of stagnation, but is alive with the community's past and all the people who played a role over the past. The goal is to keep the museum as engaging and welcoming as possible. Heritage Stations is open Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Summer Camps

The Booth Museum

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Summer is here which means it is time for hands-on, art fun at the Booth Museum! The Booth Art Academy and Booth Museum welcome summer with a variety of children's art programs for both individuals and groups. At the Booth Art Academy, individual budding artists from 7-12 years old can explore a variety of mediums and topics such as pottery, painting, folk art, and reptile-inspired art through a partnership with the Georgia Reptile Society. Daycare or summer camp groups of 10 or more can participate in a Dr. Seuss, equine-inspired summer program entitled *Saddle Up!*

Throughout this summer at the Booth Art Academy, professional artists instruct classes with assistance from a summer intern and Booth Junior Volunteers, vetted high school students with an interest in art. Pottery is offered in two sessions this year, encouraging plenty of messy and muddy fun where participants learn pinch, coil and slab building techniques. Participants also receive dedicated instruction time and practice on the potter's wheel. The *Meet the Masters* class inspires creativity through a look at art masters throughout history. Students focus on the drawing and painting techniques of Van Gogh, Matisse, Monet and other iconic artists. *Folk Art* is popular for artists who want to embrace their whimsical side. In this class, sculpting, painting and drawing combine to produce some truly original artwork!



And finally, a new class combining conservation and art called *Radical Reptiles* is offered this year thanks to a partnership with the Georgia Reptile Society. Students create artwork inspired by the pattern, color and textures of live reptiles while learning about the ecosystems in which they live.

The Booth's *Saddle Up!* Summer Program is designed for groups and promises to be interactive fun for all! Led by Booth Museum educators and docents, the galleries come to life through the lens of Dr. Seuss' *The Horse Museum!* Paintings and sculptures of horses in the galleries are highlighted as groups enjoy excerpts from the book while learning to draw their very own horse. Groups finish the program with an obstacle course on pool noodle ponies to deliver a top-secret message via the Pony Express.

Visit www.boothmuseum.org/summerprograms/ to learn more about the children's summer programs at the Booth.

The National STEM Academy at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins offers field trips and other fun programs that integrate innovative, hands-on STEM disciplines and more through the Heritage, ACE, Mission Quest, and Educator Resource Center programs. These programs are offered for learners ages 4 through adult. Field trips, workshops, and special events are conducted both at the Museum of Aviation, “On the Go” through outreach at school sites, and via live virtual field trips.

Summer Camps at the Museum of Aviation offer 1st – 12th grade students five weeks of hands-on day camps designed to increase interest and enthusiasm in STEM. Rigorous, goal setting experiences challenge students to solve problems while highlighting career opportunities and workforce development strategies. Students of all ages learn about the Engineering Design Process through creative problem solving. The goal-setting experiences often use scientific equipment and a variety of technology which includes robotics, virtual reality, 3D printers, flight simulators and much more.

Museum of Aviation



Topics for the 2022 Summer season include Super Science, Mission Quest Flight Simulation, Programming, Robotics, 3D Modeling and Printing, and many others. Students will explore and learn about different types of robots, design, print and launch their own 3D printed rockets, learn about principles of flight and fly in our state-of-the-art flight simulators, and much more. STEM Summer Camps are offered one week at a time, for five weeks, and students may register for as many weeks as desired.

Summer Camps at the Museum of Aviation provide hands-on opportunities to create, build and learn in a relaxed environment without tests and specific benchmarks. Students thrive in this type of classroom because there is less fear of failure, and they have fun learning as they play. Albert Einstein said, “play is the highest form of research.” The National STEM Academy’s trained staff specifically allow students the time to think creatively, take risks, and communicate their design process. It is often during the messiest activities that we see the students formulate the best ideas.” – Melissa Spalding, Director of Education, National STEM Academy, Museum of Aviation Foundation

Please search [MuseumofAviation.org](https://www.museumofaviation.org) for more information about the National STEM Academy Education Programs at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins, GA.

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Thomasville History Center

A Beautiful Day in Mr. Lapham's Neighborhood

Middle schoolers. That glorious age in between elementary excitement and too cool for high school. Also an age group that we have struggled to program for in the past. When it came time to start planning for summer camps in 2021, we knew that it we wanted it to look different, because we were ready to try something new. Lasting just three days and located at the Lapham-Patterson House our LPH Summer Camp has tried different camp schedules and activities but none that felt quite right or they felt too much like a repeat of our Camp Dawson. Last year, we scrapped the camp's entire premise and started from scratch -- using the architecture of the Lapham-Patterson House and its surrounding historic district as inspiration and focusing our attention on those campers who had aged out of our other camp: middle schoolers.

Presented and designed in partnership with Thomasville Landmarks, the new Camp LPH focuses on historic preservation, historic architecture, design, and creative problem-solving. At the end of the three days, the camper-constructed tabletop historic district reflects their individual design choices and their collective neighborhood planning. To be fair, giving eight to ten middle schoolers free reign with box cutters, paint, and hot glue guns in a historic house sounds like a recipe for disaster. However, with a few ground rules, design parameters, and plenty of supervision, the campers flourished (and with only one small glue gun burn and just a few paint drops to clean off the floor), we called it a win.



CHARLES OLSON OF EDWARDS OLSON ARCHITECTURE AND ANDREW ROBERTSON USE THE SAMPLE HOUSE AND LOT TO FINE-TUNE THEIR DESIGN.

Day one centered on orienting the campers to a new vocabulary and way of looking at the neighborhood around them. With the Dawson Street historic district as our classroom and the City's Historic Preservation Commission guidelines as our framework, we embarked on a scavenger hunt of architectural styles and details, snapping photos for inspiration as we went. That afternoon, armed with new knowledge and ideas, campers had a mini-brainstorming session with a local architect where they learned about elevation, massing, and the basics of design. Once their design was approved, construction began. Tissue boxes became bays and turrets, craft sticks became stairs, corks became piers, and the creativity flowed. After a few stumbling blocks -- and many hastily added front doors and windows -- the houses began taking shape. On Day two, the finer details were added: trim, moldings, porches, roofs, and more. The campers also imagined the stories of their houses -- who lived there and when, what modifications were made to their houses over the centuries, and more. These stories were presented with each house.

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SCENES FROM THE COMPLETED NEIGHBORHOOD



CAMPERS MOVE BEYOND THE DESIGN PHASE AND BEGIN CONSTRUCTING THEIR STRUCTURES UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THOMASVILLE HISTORY CENTER ASSISTANT CURATOR MEME GREITZER.

Finally, on Day three, it was time to consider landscaping and the look of the overall neighborhood. Two empty “lots” became community parks and together a carousel, pool, and playground were constructed and a pebble sidewalk poured. The campers decided in honor of the brick lined streets in Downtown Thomasville, so their neighborhood’s road should also be made of brick. After a hasty design conference, carved cork stamps and specially mixed red, brown, and dark orange paint, the final colors and touches were added to their neighborhood. What is a neighborhood without streetlights? Wooden spindles, metallic paper straws, and leftover mini-bulbs added that special touch. Landscaping in the form of moss, floral stickers, and wire

oak trees began to take shape in an assembly line. When it came time later that afternoon to open the doors of the Lapham-Patterson House to friends and family, the only thing missing from the “Big Oak Boulevard Historic District” were miniature people to inhabit it. Each camper took their place around the Lapham-Patterson House’s eight-foot dining room table and answered questions about their design while they showed off their favorite details. The exhibit remained on display throughout the summer to the delight of the campers and visitors.

The Thomasville History Center’s summer camps are offered each June with underwriting from the Thomasville Antiques Show Foundation.



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Cartersville



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GAM 2023

North of Atlanta off I-75

sits Cartersville, a city abundant in attractions, a lovely conference center and friendly people. The GAM Board and GAM Planning Committee met in May to continue preparations for the 2023 Annual Conference taking place there in January. We previewed the meeting space, hotel, and one of the host museums, who are all thrilled the Georgia museum community will be exploring *The (Fill in the Blank) Frontier* in Bartow County. This upcoming conference has something for everyone including a history museum (Bartow History Museum), a science museum (Tellus Science Museum), art museum (the Booth Western Art Museum), an automobile museum (the Savoy), and

other historic sites (ex: Etowah Indian Mounds). We will be featuring different institutions in Cartersville in upcoming newsletters, including this one! (Check out the Booth Western Art Museum in the Summer Camp section and the Bartow History Museum in the Education in Action section.)

With top notch facilities and accommodations, the Board and Planning Committee are excited for the sessions, fellowship, and learning that will happen at the 2023 Annual Conference. **If you have never attended a GAM Conference, plan on joining us in Cartersville in January 2023 as an attendee, vendor and/or presenter, and if you are a returning member, we can't wait to see you!**



[Click here for the entry form](#)



CAMPERS SHOW OFF THEIR COMPLETED NEIGHBORHOOD TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS (SEE "SUMMER CAMPS" PAGES 9 -12)