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Gov. Deal presents awards for achievement in the arts and humanities

ATLANTA—Governor Nathan Deal and First Lady Sandra Deal today presented the Governor’s Awards for the Arts and Humanities, honoring ten individuals and organizations from around the state for significant contributions to Georgia’s civil and cultural vitality through excellence and service to the arts and humanities. The ceremony took place at the state capitol and included remarks or performances from members of the public who gave testimony about the impact of the awardees. Each honoree received an award handcrafted by Valdosta-based folk artist Amy Lansburg, who uses driftwood to create one-of-a-kind, mixed-media sculptures.

The Governor’s Awards are presented by the Office of the Governor in partnership with Georgia Council for the Arts and Georgia Humanities.

“Georgia is a state that values creativity and prizes artistic innovation,” said Deal. “Sandra and I have long been supporters of our state’s vibrant arts culture, humanities and expressions of creativity. Today, our state’s creative industries provide some 200,000 jobs for Georgians and generate \$62.5 billion in economic impact. These critical sectors serve as catalysts for community revitalization and local economic development while also fueling tourism and spurring innovation. I congratulate the recipients of the 2018 Governor’s Awards for the Arts and Humanities and thank these individuals and organizations for their contributions to the cultural vitality and prosperity of our state.”

Ten members of Georgia’s arts and humanities communities were selected following nominations from around the state. The recipients represent a diverse group of individuals and organizations that have contributed to and supported the growth of Georgia’s thriving creative industries through community involvement, pioneering programs, and long-term financial commitment.

The recipients of the 2018 Governor’s Award for the Arts and Humanities are:

Athens Ciné, Athens
Friends of Historic Jekyll Island, Jekyll Island
Historic Oakland Foundation, Atlanta
Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, Atlanta
National Black Arts Festival, Atlanta
Pearl Cleage, Atlanta
James S. Crisp, Macon
Janice Faircloth, Thomasville
Azira G. Hill, Atlanta
Ellen Thompson, Dalton

About Georgia Humanities

Georgia Humanities promotes and preserves the stories and cultural legacies of the state’s people — from the past to the present and into the future — to enrich our lives and strengthen our communities. An informed and educated Georgia understands historical and cultural trends, respects the life of the mind, utilizes critical thinking in decision-making, and promotes mutual respect and civility. Funding for Georgia Humanities is provided by the Georgia General Assembly, the National Endowment for the Humanities, foundations, donors and partners. To learn more, please visit GeorgiaHumanities.org.

About Georgia Council for the Arts

The Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) is a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development that works to cultivate the growth of vibrant, thriving Georgia communities through the arts. GCA provides grant funding and statewide programs and services that support the vital arts industry, preserve the state's cultural heritage, increase tourism and nurture strong communities. Funding for GCA is provided by appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, visit www.gaarts.org.

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