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Governor Kemp Honors Contributions to the Arts and Humanities in Georgia
The 2019 Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities were announced in a ceremony at the Georgia State Capitol on October 24, 2019.

(Atlanta, GA) - Governor Brian Kemp and First Lady Marty Kemp announced the recipients of the 2019 Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities in a ceremony at the state capitol today. The awards recognize individuals and organizations from across the state that have made significant contributions to Georgia's civic and cultural vitality through excellence and service to the arts and humanities. Honorees received an award handcrafted by Athens-based artist Cecel Allee, each of which is an original painting mounted on a wooden box frame. The Governor's Awards are presented by the Office of the Governor in partnership with the Georgia Council for the Arts and Georgia Humanities.

"Georgia is home to a strong arts and humanities culture that fuels creativity and innovation," said Governor Kemp. "Growing and sustaining our arts and humanities sectors can create a catalyst for community revitalization and local economic development across the state. I congratulate the recipients of the 2019 Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities and thank these individuals and organizations for their tireless work toward the advancement of our state."

Ten members of Georgia's arts and humanities communities were chosen through a competitive selection process from a record group of nominations. These 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 commitments.

The recipients of the 2019 Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities are:

- **Lucinda W. Bunnen, Atlanta**—*Recognized for her work as a photographer, collector, and philanthropist*
- **Common Good Atlanta, Greater Atlanta Region**—*Recognized for its efforts to provide college-level humanities instruction in Georgia's state prisons*
- **Hermina Glass-Hill, Kennesaw and Midway**—*Recognized for her commitment to uplifting, sharing, and preserving African American history and culture*
- **Christopher Johnson, Cuthbert and Columbus**—*Recognized for his work as a visual artist and arts educator*

- **Madison-Morgan Conservancy, City of Madison and Morgan County**—*Recognized for its innovation and leadership in historic preservation*
- **Jessye Norman School of the Arts, City of Augusta and Richmond County**—*Recognized for its efforts to develop and nurture the artistic and creative talents of students*
- **Kathy Prescott and Grady Thrasher, Athens and Atlanta**—*Recognized for their philanthropic efforts in the arts, education, and social progress*
- **Rick McKnight, City of Columbus and Muscogee County**—*Recognized for his programmatic and philanthropic efforts supporting the arts and education communities in Columbus*
- **Mercer University Press, Macon**—*Recognized for its contributions as a cultural resource for all Georgians since 1979*
- **Angelica Hairston, Atlanta**—*Recognized for her accomplishments as a harpist and for her advocacy efforts to bring classical music to underserved communities*

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 their lives and strengthen their 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. For more information, visit GeorgiaHumanities.org.

About the 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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