



# CONNECTIONS

2019 IMPACT REPORT

Georgia Humanities connects people  
and communities to encourage  
understanding and inspire hope.

Sharing stories that move us and make us.

# CONNECTIONS

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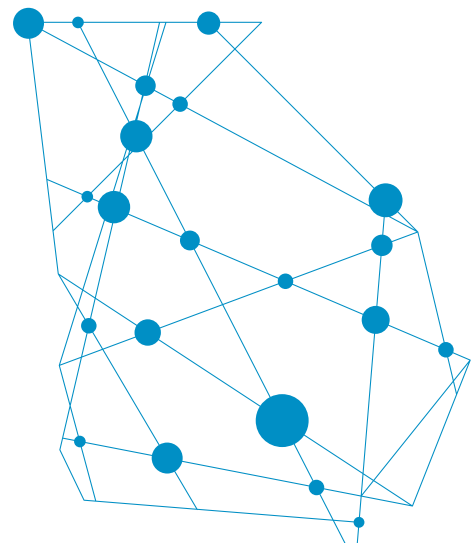
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Dear Donors and Partners,

Thanks to your support, in 2019 Georgia Humanities connected people and communities across the state, encouraging conversation, education, and understanding. Our programs, publications, and resources engaged people of all ages and backgrounds in exploring what shapes us as individuals and binds us together as Georgians. Many of you participated as audience members, ambassadors, and volunteers, and your involvement was vital to the range and types of impact illustrated in this publication.

Like you, Georgia Humanities believes that by understanding ourselves and each other, we can be a better, more hopeful society, one where we all feel valued, our ideas are heard, and our lives grow richer with meaning. In a state as geographically large as Georgia, with a rapidly growing, diverse population, this may seem like an awesome aspiration. However, with your contributions of time, talents, and resources, informed by the perspectives of the past and present, we will achieve even greater impact as we move towards our 50th anniversary in 2021.

Thank you!



Laura J. McCarty  
Laura McCarty  
President



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Jeanne Cyriaque  
Board Chair, 2019



Gary Hauk  
Gary Hauk  
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# NHD NATIONAL HISTORY DAY GEORGIA PAST AS PRESENT: NATIONAL HISTORY DAY GEORGIA STUDENTS CONNECT STORIES ACROSS TIME

In what they thought would be an ordinary trip to the Atlanta History Center, four students from Henry County Middle School in McDonough learned about Harriet Ann Jacobs, the woman whose incredible story would become the inspiration for their National History Day (NHD) research project.

Jacobs, born into slavery in North Carolina, survived years of sexual violence during the formative years of her life, hiding in the crawlspace above her grandmother's porch for seven years, separated from her children, in order to escape her master. Jacobs fled to the Northeast, where she worked as an abolitionist and penned her autobiography *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, one of the few first-person accounts detailing the violence endured by enslaved women.

Guided by Jacobs's autobiography and her correspondence, NHD Georgia students Jazmine Benton, Kaitlyn Gordon, Jayda Hendrickson, and Kira Warren developed their group performance, "From the Tragedy of Slavery to the Triumph of Freedom: The Story of Harriet Ann Jacobs." After entering their project in NHD competitions at the school, local,

and regional level, the Henry County students' project finished in the top spot at Georgia's 2019 state contest in the junior group performance category, advancing to the national contest. The students competed with others from across the country, and their performance was nationally broadcast on C-SPAN with a Q&A about their project with a C-SPAN journalist.

"We wanted to make it as realistic as possible because there's no reason to sugarcoat the horrifying truths of slavery. It needs to be told, and that's why it was essential to [Jacobs's] story and our script," explained Hendrickson.

"People heard about slavery through a male perspective. They didn't really hear about it through a female's perspective," added Gordon, explaining that Jacobs's autobiography, when published, made many uncomfortable.

"I feel like stories like this also are important because they kind of lead to today's tragic events about [human] trafficking," said Warren, on the parallels between Jacobs's life experiences in slavery and a particular danger in today's society.

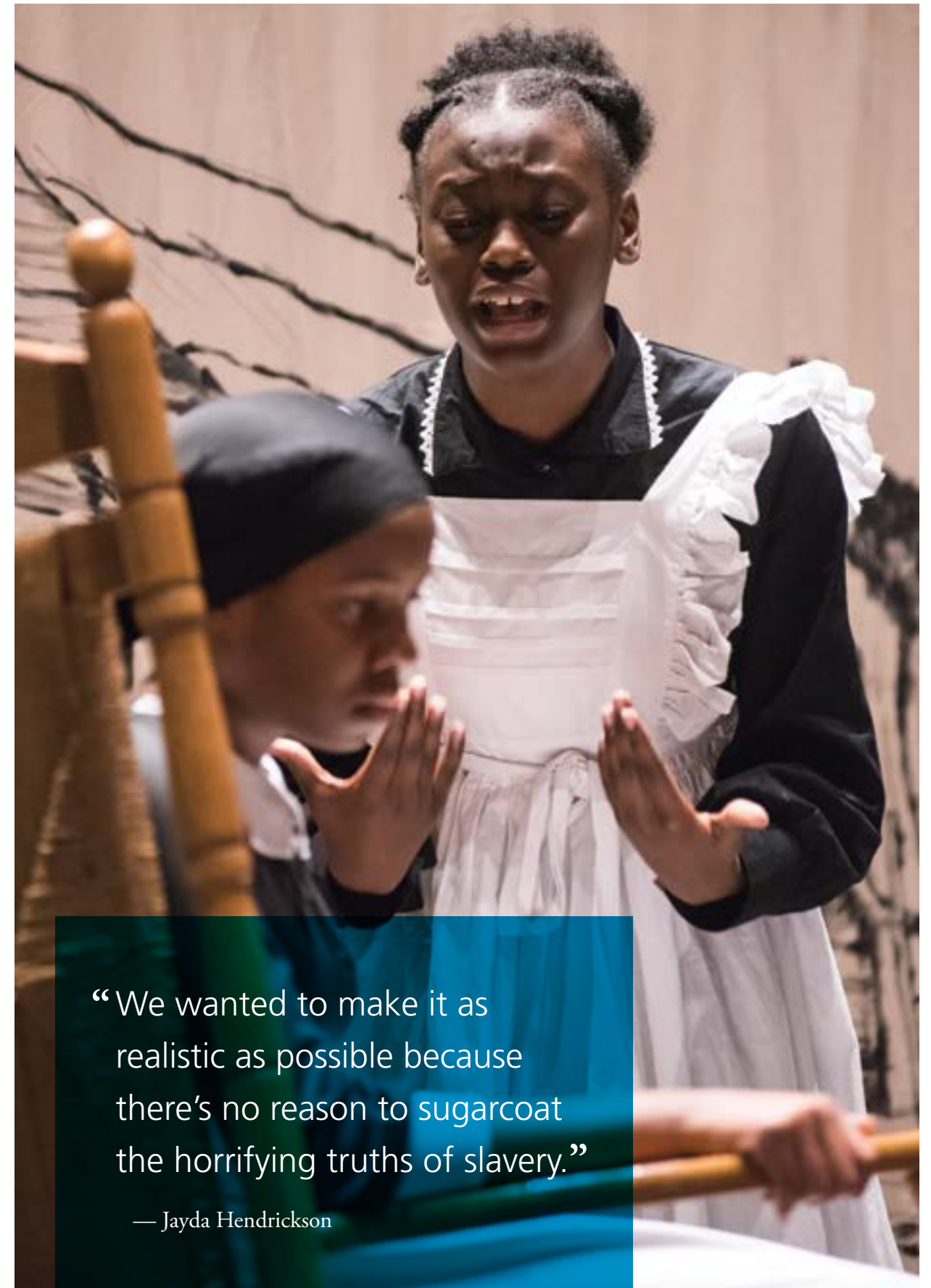
"[Jacobs's story] is such an inspiring story for young women like us to know because [it] really shows how you can overcome a terrible situation," Hendrickson added.

NHD provides students with the opportunity and resources to explore historical topics outside of the standard classroom curriculum. The program offers students the flexibility to draw their own conclusions about their research, and encourages them to think critically about the context and significance of the historical events and people on which their research focuses, including making connections to how their topics have influenced the world today.

*continued on page 4*



(L to R) Students Kaitlyn Gordon, Jayda Hendrickson, and Kira Warren.



"We wanted to make it as realistic as possible because there's no reason to sugarcoat the horrifying truths of slavery."

— Jayda Hendrickson

In 2019, more than 11,000 students participated in NHD Georgia competitions designed to help them enhance their research, critical-thinking, and presentation skills, and spark their curiosity to dig a little deeper.

Benton, Gordon, Hendrickson, and Warren placed fifth in the nation for their junior group performance and received Outstanding State Entry for Georgia in the junior division at the national contest.

When asked whether she was considering a future as a historian, Hendrickson replied, “After this project, I’m thinking about it—it’s so fun to go back in time and just explore the unknown.”

NHD Georgia is a program of Georgia Humanities and LaGrange College, and is also supported by the generosity of our donors. [GH](#)



## 2019 National Contest Winners

Congratulations to Team Georgia on their excellent showing at the National History Day national contest, held June 9–13, 2019, at the University of Maryland.



### Finalist, 6th Place

- Senior Individual Website: Jimena Molina, Sandy Creek High School, Tyrone, “Banning of DDT: Rachel Carson’s Triumph.”

### Finalist, 7th Place, and Outstanding Entry on Native American History, sponsored by the National Park Service

- Senior Individual Exhibit: Becky Dorminy, Sola Fide Home School, McDonough, “The Triumph of Greed and the Tragedy of Cherokee Removal: The Fight for North Georgia Tribal Lands.”

### Finalist, 2nd Place

- Senior Group Performance: Kennedi Anderson, Haleigh Massie, Makena Massie, and Emily Garrison, Impact Academy, McDonough, “A Living Newspaper: The Tragedy and Triumph of the Federal Theater Project” (above, L to R).

### Finalist, 5th Place

- Junior Group Performance: Jazmine Benton, Kaitlyn Gordon, Jayda Hendrickson, and Kira Warren, Henry County Middle School, McDonough, “From the Tragedy of Slavery to the Triumph of Freedom: The Story of Harriet Ann Jacobs.”

### National History Day Georgia Theme Topic Explorer

National History Day Georgia introduced a new digital tool designed to inspire student researchers with Georgia topic profiles that include contextual information from the New Georgia Encyclopedia and sample primary sources from the Digital Library of Georgia. The topic explorer is available at [GeorgiaHumanities.org](#) and will continue to evolve with new content each year to support National History Day’s annual theme.

# GOVERNOR’S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

## Recognizing Statewide Contributions to Georgia’s Cultural Vibrancy

Governor Brian Kemp recognized six individuals and four organizations whose service to the arts and humanities has enriched lives, strengthened communities, and enhanced Georgia’s civic and cultural vitality.

“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.”

Nominated by their peers and by members of the public, the recipients have enriched local

communities from Madison to Midway and beyond. Honorees received an original work of art by Athens-based artist Cecel Allee.

The Governor’s Awards are a program of the Office of the Governor in partnership with Georgia Humanities and the Georgia Council for the Arts. [GH](#)

### 2019 Recipients

Lucinda Bunnen, Atlanta  
[Visual arts and philanthropy](#)

Common Good Atlanta, Greater Atlanta Region  
[Humanities education](#)

Hermina Glass-Hill, Midway  
[Humanities and historic preservation](#)

Angelica Hairston, Atlanta  
[Music and arts leadership](#)

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[Visual arts and education](#)

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[Arts education and advocacy](#)

Mercer University Press, Macon  
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Kathy Prescott and Grady Thrasher, Athens  
[Arts and humanities philanthropy](#)





## AT THE CROSSROADS OF COLLABORATION

Home to the longest-running Emancipation Day celebration in the country, Thomaston, located 60 miles south of Atlanta, was the first community to host the traveling *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* exhibition that explores the role rural communities have played in shaping our cultural landscape and what the future holds for these communities. Using the exhibition as a base to develop ancillary programs and accompanying exhibits, each host community works together to share the stories of their rich history and culture.

“We tend to forget about the partnerships that are so important in every community, but particularly smaller communities,” said Thomaston site director Lori Showalter Smith, discussing the many local organizations who collaborated to support *Crossroads*. “I became more aware of how fortunate our community is to have a local archives, as well as a historical society, that are both very active. It will be very important to reach out to our youth to get them involved in our local organizations to keep the momentum going for generations to come.”

As a result of the *Crossroads* exhibition, two local museums in Thomaston, previously accessible by appointment only, are looking to open their doors to visitors once a month, with the help of volunteers, to continue engaging the community in its local history and stories.

The communities of McRae-Helena and Monticello have also hosted *Crossroads*. In 2020 the exhibition continues its tour around the state, with stops in Cuthbert, Summerville, and Blue Ridge.

*Crossroads* is presented in Georgia by Georgia Humanities, the Center for Public History at the University of West Georgia, and Georgia EMC. The exhibition is part of Museum on Main Street, a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution that provides small and rural communities access to Smithsonian traveling exhibitions.

Additional support for *Crossroads* has been provided by the Georgia Council for the Arts, the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Georgia Farm Bureau, Emory University’s Stuart A. Rose Library, and the USDA Rural Development, Georgia State Office. [GH](#)



25 YEARS  
1994-2019

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Smithsonian’s first-ever Museum on Main Street exhibition, *Produce for Victory*, debuted in Moreland, Georgia, 25 years ago.

“Our exhibit was almost like a reunion for many. People would come in from out of town that had grown up in Thomaston and would see others that they had not seen in years. This exhibit brought all different types of people together, regardless of race, backgrounds, or age. It was wonderful!”

— Lori Showalter Smith  
Thomaston site director



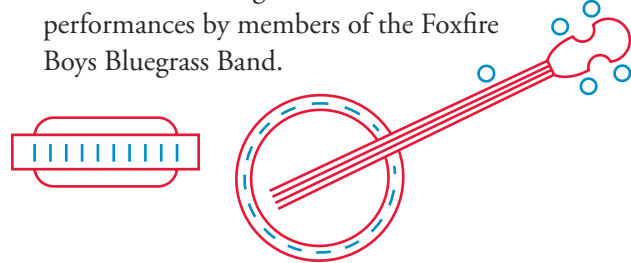
# CONNECTING EVERY CORNER OF OUR STATE

Through competitive grants and special partnerships, Georgia Humanities supports programming that connects and strengthens communities through dialogue and shared experience.

## *The History of Our Regional Music, Clayton*

### Southern Highland Music Foundation

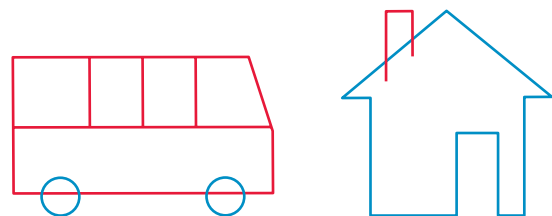
George Reynolds, the author, folklorist, and music instructor known for his pioneering work for the Foxfire oral history program, explored the region's rich musical heritage at an event that included performances by members of the Foxfire Boys Bluegrass Band.



## *Alice Walker 75: A Literary Celebration, Eatonton*

### Georgia Writers Museum

This day-long celebration welcomed Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker back to her hometown for her 75th birthday to honor her life and accomplishments. Walker was featured in conversation with writer and professor Valerie Boyd, editor of a forthcoming volume of Walker's journals. Additional events included a screening of the documentary *Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth*, bus tours of Eatonton sites significant to Walker's life, and spoken and musical tributes to Walker.



## *Capitol History Highlights, Atlanta*

### Georgia Capitol Museum

The museum's latest educational programming series provides in-depth interpretations of the various artifacts and historical sites within our state capitol. The series focused on different aspects of Georgia's history and culture with a new program every month.



## *Views from the Pacific Front, Columbus*

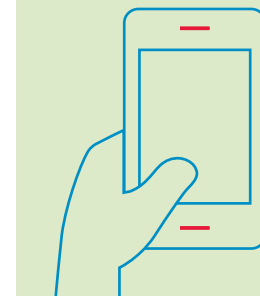
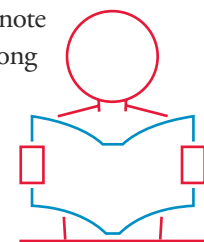
### The Columbus Museum

Providing the opportunity for visitors to examine how individual stories can tie into larger global narratives, this exhibition featured artwork by Columbus natives Jon Robert Craig and Norman Rothschild, created during their military service in the Pacific in World War II. The Georgia Association of Museums honored the exhibition for its demonstrated scholarship and originality that contributed to the cultural fabric of the state.

## *BookFest Gwinnett, Norcross*

### The Atlanta Writers Club

This one-day book festival explored diversity in literature and reflected on the literary and cultural diversity of Gwinnett County and the metro Atlanta area. Kenny Leon, the keynote speaker, and Tayari Jones were among the featured authors.



## Digital Tour Initiative

In partnership with the Emory Center for Digital Scholarship, Georgia Humanities provides grant funding to support the development of interactive digital tours. Take a tour at [OpenTour.Emory.edu](https://opentour.emory.edu).



## *Buried History: Savannah's African American Legacy, Downtown Walking and Driving Tours, Savannah*

### Savannah Archaeological Alliance

With both walking and driving options, these tours highlight the contributions of black Savannahians to the city's history, economy, and culture, and take visitors to archaeological and historical sites throughout the city.



## *Augusta's Golden Blocks, Augusta*

### Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History

The "Golden Blocks" in the Laney-Walker District of Augusta were the heart of the city's black business community during segregation. To connect the historical and cultural significance of the Golden Blocks to the city's broader community, the tour highlights nearly 30 historic sites and public art installations.



## *SANKOFA Driving Trail, Liberty County*

### Midway First Presbyterian Church

Liberty County is home to a rich African American Geechee heritage. The tour's 14 sites in Fleming, Sunbury, and Midway embody stories of resilience, courage, and perseverance.



## *Cartersville's African American Business District: 1870-1940, Bartow County*

### Etowah Valley Historical Society

In an effort to better encompass Bartow County's rich African American history, the Cartersville tour has expanded to include sites in Acworth, Adairsville, Cassville, Euharlee, and Kingston.

# FIFTEEN YEARS OF CURIOUS CONNECTIONS

As the first state encyclopedia to be “born digital,” in 2004, the New Georgia Encyclopedia (NGE) remains at the forefront in connecting users from every corner of our state to original content about Georgia’s history and culture. Thanks to the donors who share our belief that Georgia’s stories belong to all of us, the

NGE continues to evolve with new, relevant content, and now features more than 2,300 articles.

Our state’s story is still unfolding, and with your continued support, there is no telling where the NGE will go next.

WHAT DO YOU ALREADY KNOW?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN?

WHERE CAN YOU GO FROM HERE?

## Setting the Stage for Georgia Students and Teachers

Above are just a few of the questions from the NGE’s new teaching aid worksheets. They are designed to help students parse the content options on the NGE, then go beyond the *who*, *what*, *where* to get to the *why* and *how*. Featuring the themes “Getting Started,” “Setting the Stage,” and “Content and Context,” the worksheets encourage students not only to read critically but also to ask questions, gather information, and analyze evidence.

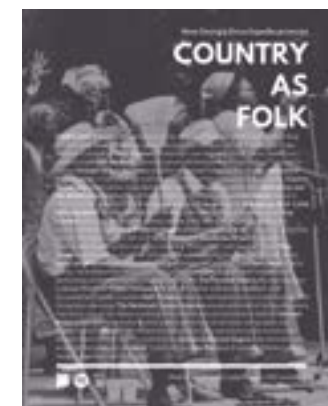
NGE’s educator resources are always available at [GeorgiaEncyclopedia.org/Educators](http://GeorgiaEncyclopedia.org/Educators).

CLICK HERE



## Georgia Tunes: An NGE Soundtrack

The editors of the NGE created three Spotify playlists to highlight Georgia music and musicians. The classical music playlist includes pieces by Mattiwilda Dobbs, Jessye Norman, Alfredo Barili, and the Atlanta Symphony. The “Country as Folk” playlist mixes genres, with songs by Norman Blake, the McIntosh County Shouters, Brenda Lee, Trisha Yearwood, and others. An eclectic holiday playlist brings together James Brown, Harry James, the Indigo Girls, Usher, and more. To listen, search for “New Georgia Encyclopedia” on the **Spotify app** or at **Spotify.com**. [GH](#)



## 2019 AT A GLANCE



1.4M  
USERS



130+  
CONTENT  
UPDATES



3.4M  
PAGEVIEWS



159  
COUNTIES  
REACHED



2,300+  
ARTICLES  
AVAILABLE



8  
NEW  
ARTICLES



3  
SPOTIFY  
PLAYLISTS



7,000  
IMAGES  
CURATED

The New Georgia Encyclopedia is a program of Georgia Humanities in partnership with the University of Georgia Press, the University System of Georgia/GALILEO, and the Office of the Governor.

# CONTINUING CONNECTIONS

Georgia Humanities recognizes the value of partnerships. Our ongoing collaborations with cultural and educational organizations broaden our impact and create opportunities for conversation, education, and understanding. Our most meaningful partnership is that with you—our donors. With your support, we share and support programming that enriches lives, minds, and perspectives.

3,000  
CHILDREN & ADULT  
CAREGIVERS

18  
SITES ACROSS  
THE STATE

\$0  
COST TO  
PARTICIPANTS



## Literacy in Libraries

PRIME TIME® Family Reading Time is a family literacy program that helps economically and educationally vulnerable families bond around the act of reading and talking about books. The program demonstrates a model of reading and discussion designed to encourage thinking beyond the standard who, what, where, and when of the story. The PRIME TIME® program is facilitated in Georgia through a partnership between Georgia Humanities and the Georgia Public Library Service.



## Georgia Humanities Symposium

The Georgia Humanities Symposium provided a platform for the sharing and dissemination of humanities research and priorities in its first of three annual meetings. A program of the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts at the University of Georgia, in partnership with Georgia Humanities, the symposium is supported by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



## AJC Decatur Book Festival

On Labor Day Weekend, Georgia Humanities sponsored a pavilion and humanities track at the AJC Decatur Book Festival, the largest independent book festival in the country. Featured books included: *Things New and Strange: A Southerner's Journey Through the Smithsonian's Collections* by G. Wayne Clough, *Smokelore: A History of Barbecue in America* by Jim Auchmutey, *Emory as Place* by Gary Hauk, and *The Magnetic Girl* by Jessica Handler (pictured).

The "Georgia Wonder" magician Lulu Hurst, featured in the New Georgia Encyclopedia, is the historical figure who inspired Handler's novel.



## Red Clay, White Water, and Blues

A History of Columbus, Georgia

by Virginia E. Causey

As the first comprehensive history of Columbus, this work spans the city's founding in 1828 to the present, examining its economic, political, social, and cultural changes. More than a decade ago, the author began her research, which was supported in part by a grant from Georgia Humanities. This book is a copublication with the University of Georgia Press.



## Our Arc of Constancy

A History of the Georgia General Assembly, Second Edition

by Chris Grant

Offering a brief history of Georgia's state legislature, this booklet also features short biographies of notable legislators, quick facts, and a timeline. Publication was made possible by support from the Georgia Power Company and Mercer University College of Liberal Arts.

## The Liberating Promise of Philanthropy

Stories of Grant-Makers in the South

by Martin Lehfeltdt and Jamil Zainaldin

Georgia Humanities president emeritus Zainaldin and former Southeastern Council of Foundations director Lehfeltdt examine the roots of philanthropy in the South, which began to grow in response to the destruction of the Civil War. The authors demonstrate that after 1865, philanthropy and the nonprofit sector became partners in opening the door for a new civil society in the South—culminating in the modern civil rights movement.



## Our Community of Contributors

We are grateful to all the individuals, organizations, foundations, and government entities who contributed to Georgia Humanities through cash and in-kind donations. Partnerships and collaboration are the cornerstone of our work. With your support, we can continue to connect people and communities in every corner of our state. We can accomplish more together than we ever could alone.

List reflects gifts made from November 1, 2018, through October 31, 2019.

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“The humanities are vital to creating a livable society. Whether it is history, art, music, or literature, the humanities are what enables personal connections with people throughout time and across cultures.”

— Georgia Humanities stakeholder

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**Tributes**

In memory of Gordon Carper  
 Timothy R. Howard

In memory of Leah O'Brien  
 Loretta Parham

In memory of Bettie Mixon Sellers  
 John W. Kay

In honor of Jennifer Dickey &  
 Angela Dickey  
 Ouida W. Dickey†

In honor of Timothy R. Howard  
 Ellen K. Thompson

In honor of Laura McCarty  
 Robert S. Poydasheff

In honor of the Sherlock Sisters  
 Kathy S. Scott

In honor of Jamil S. Zainaldin  
 Paul Hudson  
 Helen Martin  
 Larry C. Walker  
 Edward L. Weldon

†Deceased

# JOURNALISM AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

“Where do you get your news?” asks Monica Kaufman Pearson, in the foreword to *How Journalists and the Public Shape Our Democracy: From Social Media and “Fake News” to Reporting Just the Facts*, a media literacy guidebook published by Georgia Humanities. Her question—an important one—highlights a challenge in today’s media landscape, marked by the proliferation of information and the consolidation of news outlets, combined with the disappearance of most local media sources. How have such changes affected our ability to access information, assess its credibility, and analyze its significance?

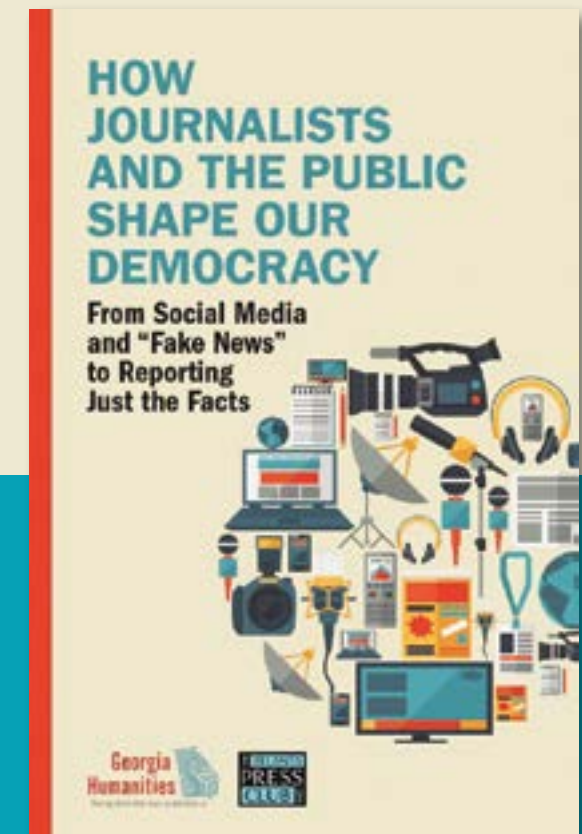
The Democracy and the Informed Citizen initiative tackles such questions, and explores the essential role that the humanities and journalism play in creating an informed citizenry, and in turn, a healthy democracy.

The initiative’s programs in DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties and on St. Simons Island engaged public audiences in panel discussions with journalists. Held at public libraries—institutions central to civic life—these discussions aimed to increase media literacy by examining topics covered in the media literacy guidebook.

“Most important,” Pearson continues, “I hope this guidebook will help you view, listen to, and read the news in a way that allows you to analyze the information you receive. Interpret it clearly and logically. Then evaluate it before you share it or take action.”

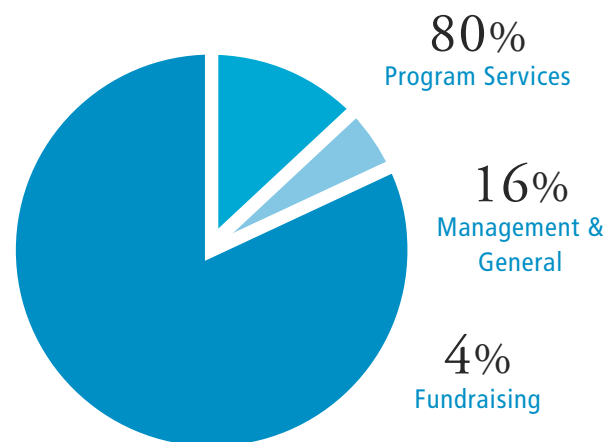
Download the media literacy guidebook at [GeorgiaHumanities.org](http://GeorgiaHumanities.org).

The guidebook was published in collaboration with the Atlanta Press Club and the University of Georgia Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. The Democracy and the Informed Citizen initiative programs, made possible by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, will continue through 2020. [GH](#)



## Financials

Program Services . . . . .	\$1,464,012
Management & General . . . . .	\$290,983
Fundraising . . . . .	\$79,073
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,834,068</b>



# Lulu Hurst

## “Georgia Wonder” Magician



**Dates:** 1869 – May 30, 1950

**Occupation:** Stage Magician

**Location:** Polk County



Beginning in 1883, several young women from Georgia astonished the nation by displaying unusual powers in their vaudeville acts. For years afterward, they were among the most popular variety performers in America and Europe. Lulu Hurst, the first “Georgia Wonder,” gained local attention by demonstrating mysterious abilities: chairs, canes, and umbrellas, held by others, seemed gripped by an invisible power when Hurst touched them. Hurst toured the U.S., and at 15 was one of the most famous women in the country. Such demonstrations raised questions about both the paranormal and women’s abilities and roles, two prominent cultural debates of the late 19th century.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Jessica Handler’s novel *The Magnetic Girl* (2019) was inspired by the New Georgia Encyclopedia entry on the Georgia Wonder.

### QUIZ

A successful imitator of Hurst seemed to defy gravity. She was known as:

- a) *the Flying Duck*
- b) *the Georgia Magnet*
- c) *the Milledgeville Magnet*
- d) *Electric Eleanor*

Find more stories at [georgiaencyclopedia.org](http://georgiaencyclopedia.org)

Answer: b

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404-523-6220

50 Hurt Plaza SE, Suite 595  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2934

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