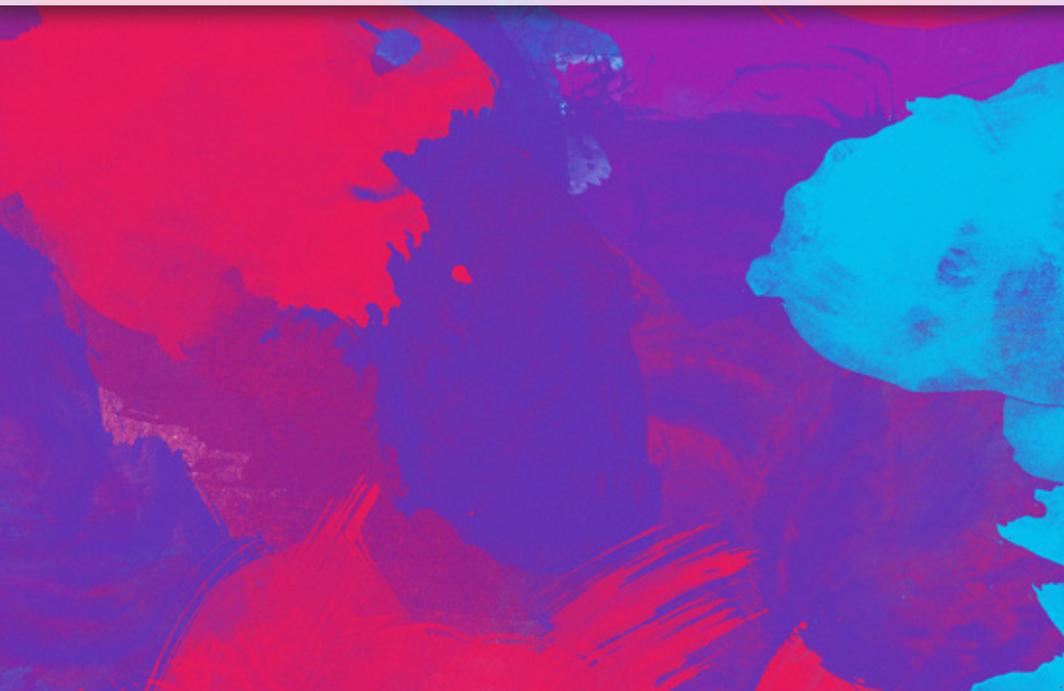
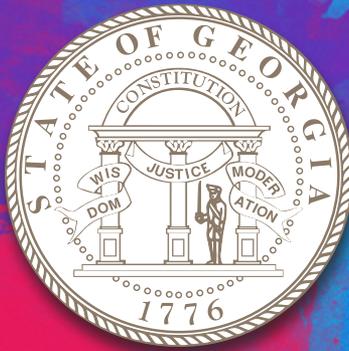




GOVERNOR'S
AWARDS

FOR THE ARTS
HUMANITIES





2020 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS

- ▶ The Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities honor outstanding individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to Georgia's civic and cultural vitality through excellence and service to the arts and humanities. Presented by the Office of the Governor in partnership with Georgia Council for the Arts and Georgia Humanities, the Governor's Awards recognize the value of the arts and humanities in the creation of a thriving economy and their contributions to education, innovation, growth and quality of life. The Governor's Awards pay tribute to the most distinguished citizens and organizations that have demonstrated a lifetime commitment to work in these fields.



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



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.

2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association

In 1976, a few local area artists, art enthusiasts and educators joined together and created a small arts festival to celebrate the Nation's Bicentennial. Mostly comprised of local student art and a few craft demonstrations, the Blue Ridge Art

in the Park event was born. Based out of the Blue Ridge City Park and in a community rich with traditional crafts such as quilting, wood turning, and wood carving, the 'Art in the Park' event was to showcase local area artist, Appalachian student art work and area crafts. After two years of grant writing, community efforts, and support by the Georgia Council for the Arts, the Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association (BRMAA) was established in 1980 and the official charter was signed by over 200 founding members and became the official host of the Arts in the Park event. The original signed BRMAA charter is hung proudly and prominently in the Art Center today.

The BRMAA now has over 1,000+ members and over 500+ resource artists. The Art Center currently includes 6 gallery spaces, a dance studio, music room, conference room, art supply store, and business offices. BRMAA is home to the Southern Appalachian Artists Guild with 160 members, Blue Ridge Mountains Photography Guild with 75 members, the Poets and Writers' Club, and the WoodCarvers Club. Over the last three decades BRMAA has enhanced the arts by establishing countless endeavors such as the Blue Ridge Community Theater, Arts and Wildlife Festivals, Paws in the Park, Concerts in the Park, Master Series Art Workshops, Artist in Residence Program, Light Up Blue Ridge Holiday event, Oral History Project of Fannin County, and many more.

Among the multiple exhibits and events, BRMAA continues to host the popular 'Arts in the Park' festival series, now in its 42nd year. In 2017, Arts in the Park welcomed over 180 vendors and an estimated 19,000 attendees. Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association has grown exponentially from its humble beginnings in 1976 with the help of countless dedicated individuals and supporters. Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association has helped make Blue Ridge, Georgia one of the top 100 Art Towns in the United States.



Brian Brown

Brian Brown is a photographer and public historian from Fitzgerald, Georgia. His earliest efforts focused primarily on writing and after earning his BA in History from Georgia College in 1992, he continued to write and publish in the fields of poetry and history.

Though he began casually photographing old barns and endangered farmhouses in South Georgia in 1998, Brown did not begin production of a formal archive until 2008. His digitally-based Vanishing Georgia project (Vanishing South Georgia, Vanishing North Georgia, and Vanishing Coastal Georgia) is a testament to his interests in photography and history. Since 2008 he has documented over 7,000 locations and maintains an ongoing archive approaching 150,000 images. It is his hope that growing knowledge of the places he documents will educate Georgians of our shared rural heritage. He understands the urgency of the work, and while he's realistic that all historical places will not be physically saved, he believes their photographic record will be an important tool for future generations to see how Georgians of a certain era went about their daily lives.

His work has been utilized by numerous non-profits, including the Smithsonian Institution, Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Georgia Music Foundation, Georgia Conservancy, and Altamaha Riverkeeper.

In 2012, Brown was commissioned by the Fox Theatre Institute to document several small-town Georgia theatres before their preservation. His work has been featured by Garden & Gun, The Bitter Southerner, Playbill, Savannah Morning News, the University of South Carolina Press, W. W. Norton, Hachette Book Group, and on GPB's On Second Thought, Georgia News Network, truTV, and the History Channel, among many others.

He has exhibited at Slow Exposures; Ritz Theatre in Brunswick; New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music; Pat Conroy Literary Festival; Thomasville Landmarks; Wofford College; and the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site. His work is in the permanent collections of the Telfair Museums and the University of Georgia School of Marine Sciences, and installations include the Foxfire Museum and Fort Clinch State Park in Florida.

Through his service on the boards of the Blue and Gray Museum in Fitzgerald and the Cedar Grove Church Rescue Project in Tattnall County, he continues to promote and preserve local history and culture.



Dr. Eddie Bennett

Dr. Eddie Bennett has never regretted becoming a social studies teacher. When he was in the 3rd grade, his Daddy told him, “you’re going to college,” and Dr. Bennett’s parents saw to it that he did. He was blessed that Charlie E. and Nora R. Bennett sacrificially supported him in all his endeavors.

After graduating from Banks County High School, Dr. Bennett went to Truett McConnell College, Mars Hill College (BA in History), The University of Georgia (M.Ed. and Sp.Ed.), and Nova Southeastern University (Ed.D.).

His career began as a 6th grade teacher of social studies and math in Banks County before working as the Director of Staff Development at Pioneer RESA. After that, he worked for the GaDOE as the Program Specialist for Social Studies, and then in the Cobb County School District as the 6-12 Social Studies Supervisor. The Teaching American History Program (with Henry & Fayette Counties) was a highlight.

After retiring for the first time, Dr. Bennett spent seven rewarding years as the Graduation Specialist in the ESOL Department developing mentoring programs, college campus visits, and tutoring. With great joy he began and ended his career working with students!

In 1984, he was named STAR Teacher of the Banks County Schools by a graduating senior who was in his first 6th grade classroom. What an honor! Travel has always been an enriching life activity. Two educators instilled the love of travel in his soul — The late Dr. Harley E. Jolley, History Professor at Mars Hill College and the late Ms. Gwen Hutcheson, GaDOE.

Currently, Dr. Bennett serves on the executive committee of the Georgia Council on Economic Education and on the board of the Georgia Center for Civic Engagement. He has served as the executive director of the Georgia Council for the Social Studies since 1998.

Another career highlight was serving with Ms. Syd Golston as they co-chaired the 2009 National Council for the Social Studies Atlanta Conference. Time with family and friends and reading historical fiction are important to Dr. Bennett as well as teaching Sunday School and playing the piano at Midway United Methodist Church in Gillsville.



*Photograph courtesy of
Brian Austin Lee*



*Photographs courtesy of Bobby Haven,
Golden Isles Magazine*

Yvonne Jackson Grovner

Yvonne Jackson Grovner was born and raised in McIntosh County, located in the low country of coastal Georgia. She married Iregene Grovner and moved to Sapelo Island in 1980, where she met master basket maker Allen Green, who taught her the art of making sweet grass baskets. She worked for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources as a tour guide on Sapelo Island for 30 years. Having become a master basket maker herself, she has taught many classes over the years to keep the art of sweet grass basket making alive. Yvonne and two of her friends also wrote a cookbook called *Food of the Barrier Islands*. She retired recently from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and continues to give basket-making classes and private tours of Sapelo Island.



Kevin Cole

Kevin Cole received his B.S. from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, an M.A. in art education from the University of Illinois at Urbana, and an M.F.A. from Northern Illinois University. Within the last 32 years, he has received 27 grants and fellowships, 66 awards in art, 51 teaching awards, and over 45 public art commissions. In February, he received the 2020 Brenda and Larry Thompson Award from the Georgia Museum in Athens, GA, the 2020 Trailblazer Award from Salem Bible Church in Atlanta, GA, and the 2019 Nexus Award from the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center in Atlanta. His artwork has been featured in more than 475 exhibitions throughout the United States and abroad. Cole's artwork is included in more than 3,800 public, private, and corporate collections throughout the United States and abroad. Public collections include

- The new National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian Museum, Washington, DC
- The Georgia Museum, Athens, GA
- High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA
- William Jefferson Clinton Library, Little Rock, AR
- Arkansas Art Center, Little Rock, AR
- Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CN
- The Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, LA
- The David C. Driskell Center, University of Maryland at College Park, MD
- Dayton Institute of Art, Dayton, OH
- Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, Philadelphia, PA
- The Georgia Museum of Contemporary Art, Atlanta, GA
- Corcoran Museum in Washington, DC
- Tampa Museum in Tampa, FL

Corporate collections include Bank of America, Charlotte, NC; I.B.M., NY and King and Spaulding Law Firm, Atlanta, GA. Private collectors include Michael Jordan and John and Monica Pearson of Atlanta, GA. Cole has also created more than 45 public art works, including the Coca-Cola Centennial Olympic Mural for the 1996 Olympic Games.

Mr. Cole just completed a 20'x55'x16" installation for Hartsfield Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, GA.

His artwork has been featured in more than 125 publications, including The Guardian Magazine in Paris, France and Scholastic Art with Dale Chihuly, as well as The Washington Post, Sculpture Magazine, The Union-Tribune in San Diego, CA, and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta, GA.



*Watchin Blessing
Come Forth*

Mixed media on wood
In the collection of
Dr. & Mrs. Alonzo Williams,
Little Rock, AR

Soul Ties That Matter

Installation
20 x 55 x 2 feet

Concourse F,
Hartsfield Jackson
International Airport,
Atlanta, GA





Jim Hammond

Jim Hammond retired from the University System of Georgia this summer after serving, since 1990, as the Artistic and Managing Director of the Gainesville Theatre Alliance, the nationally acclaimed collaboration between the University of North Georgia and Brenau University. Jim began his career starting theatre programs at Gordon State College and Georgia College and State University, before returning to his alma mater in Gainesville to lead GTA for the next 30 years. During his tenure, the Gainesville Theatre Alliance grew significantly in size and reputation with successful graduates working throughout the country and overseas as professional actors, directors, designers, and educators. Jim's daughter and son, Amelia and Connor, both work successfully in Atlanta's dynamic theatre, film and television industry.

He has directed more than 90 theatrical productions including *The Great Gatsby*, *Ragtime*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and *Cabaret*. Jim has been honored with national awards for "Teaching Excellence" from NISOD, and "Academic Excellence and Cost Management" from the American Council on Education, as well as "Outstanding Alumni" awards from both Brenau University and the University of North Georgia. He was recently inducted into the Georgia Theatre Hall of Fame.

Jim is extremely grateful to the students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community members whose support and inspiration made this life in the theatre possible. He is especially honored to receive this award that was given, 40 years ago, to his mentor and the architect of the Gainesville Theatre Alliance, Ed Cabell.



William S. Morris III

William S. “Billy” Morris III is founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Morris Communications Co. and publisher of The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle, the company’s first newspaper. He is chairman of the board of the Morris Museum of Art, which he established in 1985 in memory of his parents, William Shivers Morris, Jr., and Florence Hill Morris.

Morris is a leader in the media industry. He has been a president of the Newspaper Association of America and is a past member of the Associated Press board of directors and the Advertising

Council Inc. He received the first Bottom Line Award from the Media Management Club of the University of Georgia for his contributions to publications management education at the school and was inducted into the Mass Communication Hall of Fame at Texas Tech University School of Communications.

A strong advocate of giving back to the communities where MCC serves, Morris has received numerous awards including the Greater Augusta Arts Council President’s Award for initiating a study that was instrumental in forming a downtown cultural arts corridor that enhanced revitalization of Augusta’s riverfront.

In memory of his father, he also established the Eminent Scholars Chair of Art at Augusta State University and the William S. Morris Chair of Newspaper Strategy and Management at the Henry W. Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia. In memory of his mother, he has established the Florence Hill Morris Memorial Scholarship at Columbia Theological Seminary, where he currently serves on the board of trustees.

Morris was instrumental in starting the Augusta Futurity, the largest cutting horse competition east of the Mississippi, and he helped found the National Barrel Horse Association and is its chief executive officer.

A native of Augusta, Morris holds a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from the University of Georgia and was named the 1983 Outstanding Alumnus of the school’s Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.



Susan Majette Murphy

Susan Murphy holds a master's degree in modern dance from Mills College in Oakland, CA and is a Certified Movement Analyst from the Laban Institute for Movement Studies in New York City. She taught modern dance and aerial dance at the University of Georgia from 1999-2002. She has performed at Lincoln Center and the Skirball Center of the Performing Arts in New York City, Aerial Dance Festival in Boulder, Colorado, and the New England Center of Circus Arts.

In 2002, Susan and her husband Don Carson envisioned and built Canopy Studio, a community aerial arts center in Athens, GA. Susan served as Executive Director of Canopy until she moved to the Georgia coast in 2009, where she and Don built The Marsh Studio, a state-of-the-art aerial dance center where she held weekend aerial retreats and performances for the past six years and will do so again!



Museum of Arts and Sciences

Established in 1956, the Museum of Arts and Sciences (MAS) serves as a regional cultural asset and center of excellence for lifelong learning and enrichment. Located on 18 acres in Macon, the MAS includes 55,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space and is the largest general purpose museum in Georgia, attracting visitors from 45 states. It is a fine

art museum, children's museum, science center, and nature center all on one campus! Visitors explore, discover, and interpret objects in an active state-of-the-art facility filled with unique hands-on and immersive experiences.

Permanent and changing exhibitions and programs focus on topics that have scientific, historical, cultural, and artistic value. As the only nationally accredited museum in Macon, the MAS serves as the primary repository in the region and stewards an exceptional Permanent Collection. In addition to the exhibitions hosted in the Museum's four changing galleries, daily programs include curated star shows and full-dome films in one of the nation's most technologically advanced digital planetariums, Earth science presentations on Georgia's only NOAA Science Sphere, live animal presentations in the Mini Zoo, raptor shows in the outdoor amphitheater, tours on the award-winning Sweet Gum Nature Trail, and hands-on activities in the three-story children's Discovery House.

Serving students from nearly every county in Georgia, the Museum's passionate and credentialed faculty of scholars is recognized throughout the region for delivering innovative arts-infused science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEAM) programming. A full range of outreach services complements the Museum's onsite programs.

More at www.MASmacon.org





Maestro Robert Spano

Robert Spano, conductor, pianist, composer and teacher, is known worldwide for the intensity of his artistry and distinctive communicative abilities, creating a sense of inclusion and warmth among musicians and audiences that is unique among American orchestras. Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra since 2001, this highly imaginative conductor is an approachable artist with the innate ability to share his enthusiasm for music with an entire community and concert hall. A fervent mentor to young musicians, he is responsible for nurturing the careers of

numerous celebrated composers, conductors and performers. As Music Director of the Aspen Music Festival and School since 2011, he oversees the programming of more than 300 events and educational programs for 630 students and rising artists.

The Atlanta School of Composers (a group of composers whose work Spano has championed with the ASO) reflects Spano's commitment to American contemporary music and a number of his recent concert highlights have included world premiere performances. He has led the ASO at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Ravinia, Ojai, and Savannah music festivals.

In addition to his leadership of the ASO, Spano recently returned to his early love of composing. His most recent works include Sonata: Four Elements for piano, premiered by Spano in August 2016 at the Aspen Music Festival, and a new song cycle, Hölderlin-Lieder, written for and performed by soprano Jessica Rivera.

With a discography of critically acclaimed recordings for Telarc, Deutsche Grammophon and ASO Media, Robert Spano has garnered six Grammy Awards with the ASO. Spano is on faculty at Oberlin Conservatory and has received honorary doctorates from Bowling Green State University, the Curtis Institute of Music, Emory University, and Oberlin. Maestro Spano is one of two classical musicians inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame and makes his home in Atlanta.



My Home in Georgia

Chelsea Rathburn

In the blurred months after the birth, the pair of us locked
in an unbreakable embrace, I rocked
and soothed and hummed, and still my daughter screamed
into my face, unless she nursed or dreamed,
or I played "(Sittin' on) the Dock of the Bay,"

I swear, she'd freeze red-faced at the lapping waves
and the first chords, then Otis Redding's timeless
tender voice. Again and again, I'd play it,
in her room, in the car, all across Georgia,
and not only because it paused her cries.

I played it and felt that I'd been recognized.

I don't know what my baby listened for-
perhaps the swelling horns, the tide, or how
his words rolled out and in, the changed refrain-
but for me it was the mix of beauty and pain
in Redding's voice, at once joyous and wistful.

I listened and remembered, then and now,
that any cry could be turned into a whistle.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The 2020 award features a poem composed by Georgia Poet Laureate Chelsea Rathburn. It was designed, illustrated, and letterpress printed in a limited edition by Tennille Shuster.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Georgia Poet Laureate Chelsea Rathburn

Chelsea Rathburn is the author of three full-length poetry collections, a recipient of the 2005 Richard Wilbur Award and a 2009 poetry fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. While she was born in Jacksonville and raised in Miami, Florida, Chelsea Rathburn has deep roots in the state of Georgia, where her mother's family has lived since the 1830s. Chelsea was appointed by Governor Kemp as the state's 11th Poet Laureate in 2019.

Tennille D. Shuster

Tennille D. Shuster is an award-winning illustrator, designer, printer, and book maker, who has worked for businesses, municipalities, and museums. Since 2019, she has been Associate Professor and Director, Graphic Design in the College of Liberal Arts of Mercer University in Macon. Her work has appeared in international and national exhibitions, including "Book As Art v. 8.0: Infinity, A National Exhibition" hosted by the Decatur Arts Alliance and the DeKalb County Public Library (2020).



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Sharing stories that move us and make us

