



FORWARD

2020 IMPACT REPORT

together

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Dear Donors and Partners,

Georgia Humanities connects people and communities to encourage understanding and inspire hope. Thanks to your support, our work grew and flourished during 2020, even as the pandemic required us to stay at home and to maintain social distance.

Innovation, resilience, and persistence were necessary convictions during 2020. When programs moved online, we missed being together in person, but we soon recognized that virtual programs could connect more people across geographic distances. We also saw that people were hungry to learn from each other and to engage in conversations about community opportunities and challenges. We are thankful for the scholars and facilitators who developed and shared content, as well as for the technology experts who built platforms and the social media followers who shared content to spread the word.

2020 was also a time when the humanities helped us to understand and find ways to heal the divisions that challenged Georgia, the United States, and the world. Humanities programs gave us new heroes and role models, even as they asked big questions about how we understand our democratic republic's complex weave of history, culture, and ideals.

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of Georgia Humanities' service to our state. The contributions of time, talent, and treasure from countless fellow Georgians have made our programs possible since 1971, and we are grateful. The anniversary also inspires us to grow and sustain our work in new ways, to reach new audiences, and to keep the perspectives of the humanities at the center of community and civic discourse.

As we look back and reflect on where we have been, we invite you to share your ideas, as well as your financial contributions, to keep us moving forward, together.

Thank you!



Laura J. McCarty
Laura McCarty
President



Gary Hauk
Gary Hauk
Chair, Board of Directors 2020-2021

KEEPING THE HUMANITIES THRIVING WITH FUNDING AND CREATIVITY

Last spring, when Congress authorized emergency Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding, Georgia Humanities received \$644,200 to regrant to nonprofit humanities organizations in our state. We awarded CARES Act grants to 77 museums, libraries, historical societies, colleges and university departments and centers, and other organizations within each of our 14 congressional districts. Ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000, CARES grants allowed organizations to keep staff employed; to protect facilities and collections; to pivot to virtual and digital programming; and to prepare facilities for reopening according to public health recommendations for reduced crowd size and social distancing.

The stories we heard—of resilience, of creativity in the face of hardship, of persistence and gratitude—as a result of the CARES funding truly inspired us. We know that our humanities network is stronger than ever. Read some of the stories we heard, and please support these organizations and their programs.

An estimated
2,571 jobs were saved or created
through CARES funding
for the humanities.

Andrew Low House Museum | Savannah

For months, they lost 95% of normal revenue. CARES funds helped them cover the costs of reopening, which in turn helped them earn revenue to keep staff employed. “Countless visitors have expressed thanks for being a place where they can explore history and feel some small sense of normalcy again.”

The Learning Center at Senior Citizens Inc | Savannah

Funds helped them transition to virtual programming. “We will now always offer virtual classes because of their popularity. This was an unexpected discovery.”



Grady County Historical Society | Cairo

“We are grateful for these funds as they allowed us to reopen and get over the financial hump that seemed insurmountable.”

Chattahoochee Valley Libraries | Columbus

Funds helped them create virtual programming, “an amazing vehicle to stay in touch with customers hungry for learning opportunities and engagement.”

Rylander Theatre | Americus

Funds covered staff salaries and utilities. “The cooperative spirit that has been shown this year is remarkable.”

Troup County Historical Society | LaGrange

They embarked on “an extensive documentation project, called History Is Happening, to preserve the stories of this unusual time. Oral history interviews, images, and masks, and protest signs are being gathered to record the effects of the pandemic and social justice protests on our local community.”



Breman Museum | Atlanta

An online speaker series averaged 100+ live participants per event, saw an increase in the 18–24 age group, and had a greater geographical reach. Going forward, they will “likely continue to develop new online/digital programs and convert existing programs to an online format.”

DeKalb Library Foundation | Decatur

Funds supported “Take the Internet Home with You,” DeKalb County Public Library’s mobile hotspot checkout program intended to bridge the digital divide for those without internet access. They also kept their system-wide Wi-Fi signal on and positioned the routers so that patrons could access free Wi-Fi in the parking lots of all 23 library locations. Wi-Fi has been accessed more than 22,200 times since closure.



Wren's Nest | Atlanta

“The CARES grant enabled us to pay for the upkeep and maintenance of our grounds. As the oldest historic house museum in Georgia, the Wren’s Nest’s outdoor spaces are just as critical to our mission to share the art of storytelling as the house itself.”



Autrey Mill Nature Preserve & Heritage Center | Johns Creek

Funds enabled more than 130 heritage programs. “It is our ardent belief that we have provided the community with more than a learning experience, but a much-needed reprieve from life’s daily stress.”

Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta | Dunwoody

They converted their annual book festival to a virtual “Book Festival in Your Living Room,” and invited all North American JCCs to participate. More than 85 JCCs signed on to bring the program to their own communities and “showcased our Atlanta JCC as a national leader in collaboration and partnership. We were very proud to initiate and lead this massive endeavor to ensure cultural programs were available nationwide.”

Gwinnett Public Library | Lawrenceville

The library system suspended all programs while they experienced a budget shortfall of \$1.5 million. “Thanks to the CARES grant, however, we have been able to acquire the needed equipment and offer more than 1,000 virtual programs to the Gwinnett County community.”

continued on page 4



Worth County Library | Sylvester

“The library was the only source in Worth County for computers and Wi-Fi—the community relies heavily on the library as a business center.”



Jack Hadley Museum | Thomasville

Funds allowed the museum to digitize 500 items from their collection and to create materials for educators.

Northeast Georgia History Center | Gainesville

“Without the CARES funds, we would have been hard-pressed to keep our operations going in a time when historical education and context are more important than ever.”



Hall County Library System | Gainesville

“We have received an enormous amount of positive feedback regarding the programs and services made possible by this grant.” They were able to provide the Tutor.com program to families and teachers.

Stephens County Historical Society & Currahee Military Museum | Toccoa

Funds allowed them to offer free admission to the 101st Airborne Division, which has a tradition of running 6 miles up and down the Currahee Mountain to visit the military museum. The grant “made continuation of that tradition possible even during this pandemic.”

City of Washington, Georgia

Funds enabled the improvement of exhibits and signage for the historic site and history museum the city operates. They also began working on a better digital presence.



Athens-Clarke Public Library | Athens

“We were faced with serious economic cuts. We had to be nimble and adapt. The great social unrest we faced as a nation pointed us in the direction of expanding our resources with books that focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion for each of our system’s branches.”

Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home | Rome

CARES funding “was the saving grace” for them, as closed facilities created a severe loss of revenue and would have led to a choice of maintaining the house, a National Historic Landmark, or maintaining the museum staff. Funds supported staff, the Ridge home, and digital programming.

Funk Heritage Center | Waleska

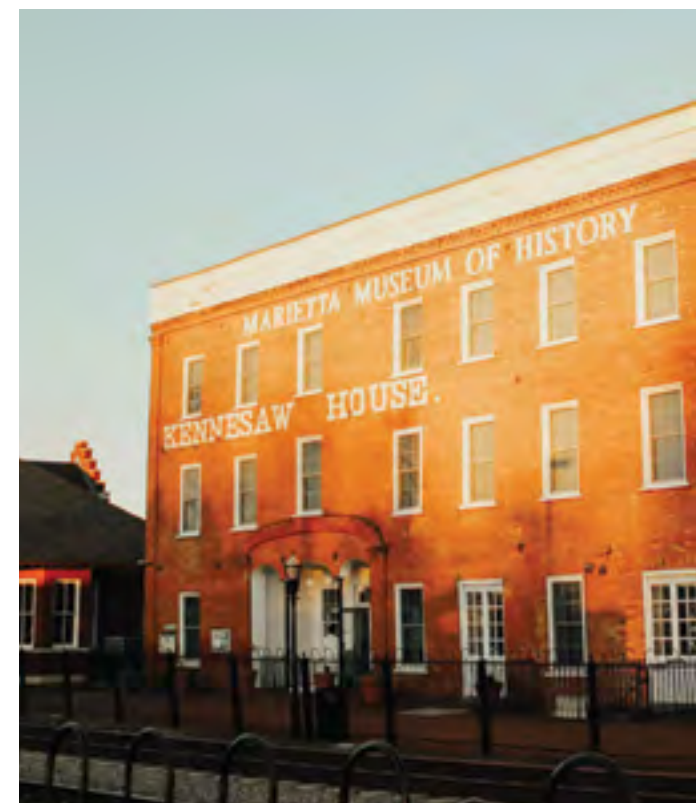
“Thanks to the CARES grant, the museum now has an online portal to provide increased access to lectures, artifacts, collections, exhibits, and teacher resources.”

Bandy Heritage Center | Dalton

The CARES grant allowed them to purchase climate-control equipment for their archives. “Our capacity to serve the community has increased dramatically, and the support of GH through the grant will benefit our community immediately and for decades to come.”

Marietta Museum of History | Marietta

“Taking the pressure off worrying about how to fund employee payroll enabled us to be more creative.” They created a new Facebook Live segment, “History Loves Company,” in which staff would visit and tell the story of a historical home, site, or building. “All of this was possible because of the grant we received.”



East Georgia State College Library | Augusta

Funds paid for hotspots for internet access. “With increased job losses, some students had to cut internet service due to financial restraints; the hotspots allowed them to access their online classes.”



Madison-Morgan Cultural Center | Madison

“Funds made a meaningful impact on our ability to open up our historic building to the public again.”



Bulloch County Historical Society | Statesboro

With the funds they created videos of historical stories, shared through email to members. The stories were so well received, they gained 98 new members, an 85 percent increase in regular membership. “This project is by far one of the best ones in our almost-50-year history. It would not have happened without the CARES grant from Georgia Humanities.” [GH](#)



GEORGIA BREAKS BARRIERS VIA VIRTUAL CONTESTS



NHD Georgia students Mary McCoy and Eva Cheraisi of Columbus High School

The pandemic hit Georgia during the middle of the 2020 National History Day (NHD) contest season. Since the beginning of the school year, more than 11,000 students had been researching topics and preparing documentaries, exhibitions, papers, performances, and websites related to the theme “Breaking Barriers in History.” How could contests take place when students, teachers, and judges were at home and campus buildings were closed to protect public health?

Over phone calls and Zoom meetings, the network of coordinators, educators, judges, and students came together and declared “the show must go on!”

For each level of competition, all contests were virtual. More than 100 judges and volunteers stepped up to evaluate and provide feedback so the students could refine their projects. For the first time in the history of the program, individual donors contributed the funds necessary to cover national competition registration fees for all Georgia students.

This extra support and encouragement enabled the 61 Team Georgia students to perform well nationally. Columbus High School students Eva Cheraisi and Mary C. McCoy finished sixth nationally and received the Senior Division Outstanding State Entry for their group

documentary on the suffragist and philanthropist Katherine Dexter McCormick. Forty percent of the Georgia entries finished in the top third of their category nationally, making Team Georgia one of the strongest affiliates at NHD.

McCoy reflected, “As we were doing additional research for nationals, we turned to online databases like GALILEO and JSTOR. For primary sources, we relied on newspapers in *Chronicling America* at the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and digitized materials from state historical societies.”

NHD’s 2020–2021 theme is “Communication in History.” This year’s program has relied fully on virtual and digital outreach. Co-coordinator Dr. Kevin Shirley, of LaGrange College, noted, “Through LaGrange College’s National History Day Service Seminar, we significantly expanded our virtual mentoring capability. History student mentors engaged in synchronous mentoring with NHD students across the state on a weekly basis.”

McCoy and Cheraisi are at work on a new documentary about soul musician Curtis Mayfield and the 1960s era. McCoy said, “We missed interacting with librarians and scholars during fall research roundups, but we have enjoyed talking about our project via text with history major mentors.” ^{GH}

NHD Georgia is a program of Georgia Humanities and LaGrange College, with support from individual donors.

Regional Competition Sponsors of NHDGA in 2020 were Augusta University, Bibb County and Houston County Schools, Clayton County Schools, Coastal Georgia Historical Society, DeKalb County Schools, Georgia Southwestern State University, Henry County Schools, Kennesaw State University, LaGrange College, Rockdale County Schools, Thomas County Schools, Robert Toombs Christian Academy, and University of Georgia.



GEORGIA STUDENT PREMIERES FILM AT SMITHSONIAN

Temple Lester, a student at Midtown International School in Atlanta, was among a select group of students who had their National History Day (NHD) documentaries screened by the Smithsonian Learning Lab.

NHD, the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), and the Smithsonian Learning Lab selected just 35 documentary films, produced by middle and high school students nationally in the June 2020 National History Day Contest, to be featured in an online showcase. The films were selected and screened by NMAAHC staff, and premiered June 17 as a special collection of the Smithsonian Learning Lab.

In order to be selected for the showcase, students needed to address topics and stories in their documentaries consistent with the mission of the NMAAHC. Each documentary also reflected the 2020 NHD theme, “Breaking Barriers in History.”

Lester’s 10-minute documentary, *Shirley Chisholm: The Good Fight*, received first place in the National History Day Georgia State Contest earlier in May.



Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm

IDEAS, DIALOGUE, AND CONNECTIONS

Our program partners adapted in creative ways to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, ensuring that their communities were able to explore ideas and connect virtually. Below are some of the 46 projects that received grant funding from Georgia Humanities in fiscal year 2020.



"Votes for Women": Centennial of the Woman Suffrage Amendment University of North Georgia | Dahlonega & Gainesville

Two programs on the Gainesville and Dahlonega campuses of the University of North Georgia featured historian Marjorie Spruill, who discussed the long timeline of women gaining the right to vote in America and placed current debates about women's rights and equality in historical perspective.



Democracy, Elections, and Political Progress Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, Georgia State University | Atlanta

This public lecture series promoted constructive conversation about the ethics and policy dimensions of free and fair elections. Topics explored included the role of political protest, access to healthcare, and the impact of voters from historically marginalized communities.

4th Annual Ogeechee International History Film Festival

Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau | Statesboro

This three-day film festival is the longest running, juried, open submission international history film festival in the world. A collaboration between Georgia Southern University's history department and the Statesboro Convention and Visitors Bureau, the festival featured screenings of professional and amateur films, panel discussions, and a competition for high school student films.



Savannah History Remix Walking Tours Georgia Southern University | Savannah

History graduate students developed walking tours and an accompanying website that focuses on underrepresented narratives of Savannah's history, including stories of immigrants, laborers, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, to bring new voices to Savannah's historical narrative.



Planet Deep South ATL2020 Clark Atlanta University | Atlanta

Award-winning author, filmmaker, and dance therapist Ytasha Womack gave the keynote lecture during Planet Deep South ATL2020, an interdisciplinary conference on digital humanities, speculative cultural production, and Africanisms in the American and global South. Discussions highlighted the significance of humanities disciplines to technology and futurism.

Economics in Children's Literature Georgia Council on Economic Education | multiple locations around the state

This teacher workshop provided training, lesson plans, and additional resources for elementary and middle school teachers. GCEE conducted these workshops, which integrate economics into the curriculum across the state, modeling research-based instructional theory by master teachers.



"Emerging Voices of Coffee County" Coffee County Memory Project Ash Foundation for the Coffee County Historical Society | Douglas

A web exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Coffee County schools features more than 100 oral history interviews about the personal experiences of community members who were students at the time of desegregation. Web visitors can leave their own reactions to the material. [GH](#)





STAYING CONNECTED THROUGH COLLABORATION

The Smithsonian traveling exhibition *Crossroads: Change in Rural America* explored how rural communities changed dramatically in the twentieth century. Although the majority of the U.S. landscape is rural, the percentage of Americans living in rural areas fell from 60 to 17 percent. The exhibition and accompanying programs prompted discussions about local history, how societal changes have impacted communities, and what Georgia's future might look like.

In 2020 Cuthbert, Summerville, and Blue Ridge hosted *Crossroads*. (The exhibition made earlier stops in Thomaston, McRae-Helena, and Monticello).

Closures due to COVID-19 affected the planned programming in Summerville and Blue Ridge. Despite restrictions on public gatherings due to the pandemic, the traveling exhibition remained successful because of vast community support.

“Persistence was key,” said Nichole Potzauf, executive director of the Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Association (also a 2020 recipient of the Governor’s Award for the Arts and Humanities). “Our community rallied for this exhibit, especially with rural communities being represented. Appalachian culture in our North Georgia region is important for us to share.”

Crossroads was 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. [GH](#)

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.



“Life will return to normal, but it will be a new normal.... When we reflect on our earlier crossroad events and analyze the change we are living in today, we become aware of what future crossroads might bring, allowing our community to shape its destiny.”

— From “Crossroads: Change in Tri-State Appalachia, a video produced by students of the Fannin County High School Media Department; script by Isaac Brooks



GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

The Governor's Awards for the Arts and Humanities honor individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to Georgia's civic and cultural vitality. In 2020 Governor Brian Kemp recognized recipients through a recorded presentation. For the occasion, the poet laureate of Georgia, Chelsea Rathburn, composed the poem "My Home in Georgia." Awardees received a letterpress print of the poem, designed by Tennille D. Shuster of Mercer University. ^{GH}



2020 Recipients

- Eddie Bennett, Decatur
[Humanities education](#)
- Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Association, Blue Ridge
[Visual arts](#)
- Brian Brown, Fitzgerald
[Visual arts and historic preservation](#)
- Kevin Cole, Atlanta
[Visual arts](#)
- Yvonne Jackson Grovner, Sapelo Island
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[Dance](#)
- Museum of Arts and Sciences, Macon
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- Robert Spano, Atlanta
[Music and arts leadership](#)

The Governor's Awards are a program of the Office of the Governor in partnership with Georgia Humanities, the Georgia Council for the Arts, and the Georgia Department of Economic Development.



“When our arts and humanities sectors thrive, we see prosperity and revitalization in communities across our state.”

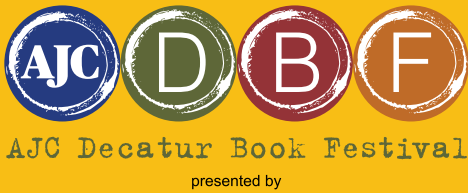
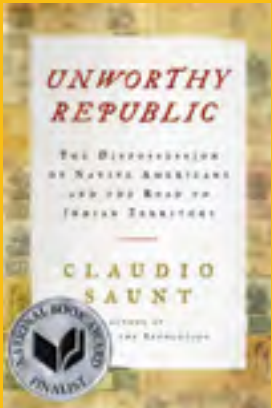
— Governor Brian Kemp

BOOKS, LITERACY, AND CONVERSATION

Promoting Love of Reading Through the PRIME TIME® Program

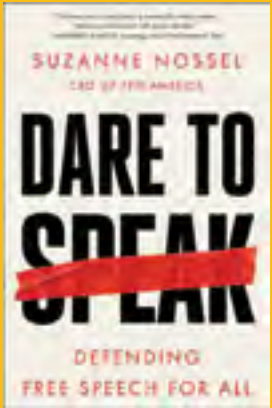
In partnership with the Georgia Public Library System, PRIME TIME® Family Reading Time provides economically and educationally vulnerable families with the opportunity to bond around reading and book discussion. The program aims to deliver quality humanities education experiences for families at risk for low-literacy, while increasing public library use among participants, and ultimately positively affecting the attitudes of participants toward reading.

In 2020 there were 21 programs across the state, reaching 3,959 children and adult caregivers and resulting in 161 new library cards being issued.



Partnership with Decatur Book Festival Offered Civic Engagement Conversations

Reaching 60,000 people annually, the Decatur Book Festival is one of the largest independent book festivals in the country. Authors and audiences met in a virtual space, where conversations conveyed an immediacy and intimacy. Our three-session series included Claudio Saunt, author of *Unworthy Republic: The Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territory*, co-hosted by the Carlos Museum at Emory University; Suzanne Nossel, author of *Dare to Speak: Defending Free Speech for All*, in conversation with Emory University historian Joe Crespino, co-hosted by PEN America; and Martin Lehfeldt and Jamil Zainaldin, co-authors of *The Liberating Promise of Philanthropy: Stories of Grant-Makers in the South*. ^{GH}



Our Community of Contributors

We thank everyone who supported Georgia Humanities over the past year. It is through the generosity of our community that we are able to impact each of the 159 counties in Georgia, and beyond. We are moving forward together.

List reflects gifts made from November 1, 2019, through October 31, 2020.

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“Telling Georgia’s stories helps us understand our lives and environments in a powerful way. The New Georgia Encyclopedia helps tell Georgia’s stories in an authoritative way – important for learners of all ages. That is why I will continue to support Georgia Humanities.”

— Merryll Penson, Georgia Humanities Donor and Former Board Member, Athens

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Ann Stallard

In memory of Nancy Jolene Taylor
Alice Taylor-Colbert

In memory of Bill and Doris White
Dan C. White

In memory of Danny Williams
Arden Williams

In memory of Tom Williams
Arden Williams

†Deceased

“Supporting Georgia Humanities means ensuring that our state’s history and our culture is remembered. In particular, the online New Georgia Encyclopedia can enrich future generations. It is a state treasure.”

— Elliott Brack, Georgia Humanities donor, Norcross

Partnerships

Each year, Georgia Humanities receives in-kind support from organizations that have hosted events, co-sponsored programs, and provided goods and services. These contributions are crucial to program success and to expanding program reach to every corner of Georgia.

Andrew College	GALILEO University System of Georgia	Monticello-Jasper Chamber of Commerce
Atlanta History Center	Georgia Association of Historians	Arthur J. Moore
Atlanta Press Club	Georgia Association of Museums	Methodist Museum
Atlanta University Robert W. Woodruff Library	Georgia Center for Civic Engagement	Museum on Main Street Smithsonian Institution
Auburn Avenue Research Library	Georgia College & State University	Traveling Exhibition Service
Augusta State University	Georgia Council for the Arts	National Archives, Atlanta
Bibb County Schools	Georgia Department of Economic Development	National Endowment for the Humanities
Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Association	Georgia EMC	Oxford College of Emory University
Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum	Georgia Farm Bureau	Piedmont College
Chattahoochee Valley Library Systems	Georgia Grown	Rockdale County Board of Education
City of McRae-Helena	Georgia Historical Society	South Arts
City of Summerville	GEORGIA Magazine, a Georgia EMC Publication	Speechworks
Clayton County Board of Education	Georgia-Pacific	St. Simons African American Heritage Coalition
Clayton State University	Georgia Power Company	St. Simons Island Public Library
Coastal Georgia Historical Society	Georgia Public Library Service	Telfair Center for the Arts
Columbus State University Simon Schwob Memorial Library	Georgia Public Broadcasting	Thomas County Public Libraries
Decatur Book Festival	Georgia Southwestern State University	Thomas County Schools
DeKalb County Board of Education	Gwinnett Public Library System	Robert Toombs Christian Academy
DeKalb Public Library System	Henry County Board of Education	Troup County Historical Society
Digital Library of Georgia	Henry County Schools	Trucks, Inc.
Emory Center for Digital Scholarship	HJacobs Creative, Inc.	University of Georgia
Emory University	Houston County Schools	University of Georgia Grady College of Journalism
Emory University Bill & Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry	Kashew LLC	University of Georgia Libraries
Emory University Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives & Rare Book Library	Kennesaw State University	University of Georgia Press
Federation of State Humanities Councils	LaGrange College	University of West Georgia
Fort Trustee Fund	Madison-Morgan Cultural Center	University of West Georgia Center for Public History
Framing by Design	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	USDA Rural Development, Georgia State Office
	Mercer University	Virginia Humanities
	Mercer University College of Liberal Arts	
	Middle Georgia Regional Library System	
	Middle Georgia State University	

Volunteers

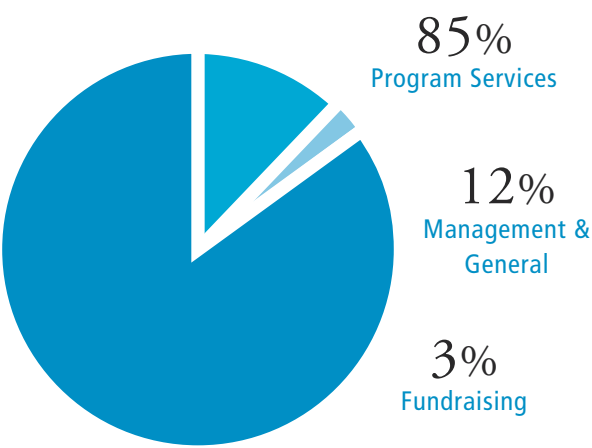
Georgia Humanities could not maintain the quality and scope of its work without the time and talent of volunteers. Thank you for your contributions.

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We strive to be as accurate with our gift listing as possible. If you have found a discrepancy, please accept our apologies, and contact Sarah Buckley at (404) 523-6220 x113 or sbuckley@georgiahumanities.org.

Financials

Program Services	\$2,218,253
Management & General	\$322,807
Fundraising	\$76,661
Total Expenses	\$2,617,721



BUILDING TRUST IN OUR DEMOCRACY AND OUR COMMUNITIES

“Journalism is what we need to make a democracy work.” – Walter Cronkite

With the First Amendment’s guarantee of a free press, a bond was forged between our democratic system of government, journalists who report on issues and news, and the right and responsibility of citizens to become informed participants in civic life.

But journalism is struggling. The dominance of the internet and social media and the ease of publishing on these platforms have resulted in a proliferation of information of unknown origin—drawing attention away from established print and broadcast news outlets. Especially concerning is the decline of local journalism, leading to “local news deserts.” Strong local journalism builds trust in democratic institutions; this in turn builds strong communities.

In October 2020 Georgia Humanities partnered with Georgia Public Broadcasting (GPB) to produce a program exploring the role of journalists today, media literacy, and how news consumers can do their part. The livestreamed program (**available for viewing on the GH website**) featured three segments, hosted individually by GPB journalists Leah Fleming, Donna Lowry, and Virginia Prescott, in conversation with Georgia State University professor, journalist, and Pulitzer Prize–winning author of *Slavery by Another Name* Douglas A. Blackmon; recently retired WSB-TV news anchor and WSB director of public affairs Jocelyn Dorsey; and veteran CNN executive editor Ram Ramgopal.

In the first segment Leah Fleming and Ram Ramgopal covered professional journalism, including the qualifications of journalists, ethics, and reporting processes. In the second segment Donna Lowry and Jocelyn Dorsey discussed the importance of local journalism and journalism “deserts.” And in the third segment Virginia Prescott and Douglas Blackmon explored connections between journalism and the humanities disciplines. [GH](#)

This program is part of an ongoing initiative, Democracy and the Informed Citizen. We thank The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for their generous support of this initiative and the Pulitzer Prizes for their partnership.



Jocelyn Dorsey (left) and Donna Lowry discuss the importance of local journalism and the impact of “local news deserts,” during the Democracy and the Informed Citizen program.

“Local newspapers are the eyes and the ears of the communities they serve.”

— from *How Journalists and the Public Shape Our Democracy*

SPEAKING OUT AGAINST INJUSTICE: LILLIAN SMITH'S LEGACY INSPIRES NEW GENERATIONS

In 1964 *Ebony* magazine called Lillian Smith “one of the most widely read writers on race relations.” Yet today many people are unfamiliar with the Clayton, Georgia, writer of such works as *Strange Fruit* (1944) and *Killers of the Dream* (1949). Smith was one of the first white southern writers to confront racism, denouncing segregation as “spiritual lynching,” and to champion civil rights.

Georgia Humanities supported the production of the documentary *Lillian Smith: Breaking the Silence* as well as twenty-six in-person and virtual screenings in 2020. This timely and important film—by father-and-son filmmakers Hal and Henry Jacobs—explores Smith’s life and legacy, and her courage and persistence in speaking out publicly for freedom and justice. The film’s relevance in the twenty-first century is evident, as some members of our society face new forms of intolerance and discrimination.

Lillian Smith: Breaking the Silence received the Best Full-Length Documentary Award from the 2020 Morehouse College Human Rights Film Festival and the Georgia Made Award from the 2020 Macon Film Festival.

For information about hosting a screening, visit the website LillianSmithDoc.com.

To learn more about Lillian Smith, refer to these resources:

A Lillian Smith Reader, edited by Margaret Rose Gladney and Lisa Hodgins, published by the University of Georgia Press

“Lillian Smith (1897–1966)” in the online New Georgia Encyclopedia

A list of the Lillian Smith Book Award recipients since 1968 is available on the website of UGA’s Hargrett Library. The awards are presented annually and sponsored by the Southern Regional Council, University of Georgia Libraries, DeKalb County Public Library/Georgia Center for the Book, and Piedmont College.

The website for the Lillian E. Smith Center at Piedmont College contains audio recordings and photos of Smith, among many other resources. [GH](#)



“[This film is] a powerful legacy beautifully documented for the purpose of inspiring the next generations of social justice writers.”

— Brenda Bynum, actress, Emory University theatre professor emeritus, and writer and performer of the one-woman play *Jordan Is So Chilly: An Encounter with Lillian Smith*

WHAT DO YOU ALREADY KNOW?



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN?



WHERE CAN YOU GO FROM HERE?



Forward Thinking with the NEW GEORGIA ENCYCLOPEDIA

In times of uncertainty, we look to the past to make sense of the present. When the COVID-19 pandemic closed schools in March, the New Georgia Encyclopedia was ready to support teachers, parents, and students as they navigated virtual learning. And in June, when the deaths of Ahmed Arbery, George Floyd, and Breonna Taylor sparked protests across the country, the NGE provided historical context to national conversations on race, equality, and justice.

Sharing Georgia's stories has always been at the heart of our work, and that work took on renewed meaning in 2020. This past year has underscored the need for digital, accessible, and reliable resources like the NGE. To better meet the needs of our users, in 2021 we'll launch a newly redesigned website. This new site will allow us to share new stories with our readers and connect more people to the state's unique history and culture. [GH](#)



NGE educator resources are always available at GeorgiaEncyclopedia.org/Educators.

BY THE NUMBERS

1.3 million users

2.9 million pageviews

All **159** counties reached

1,049 Instagram followers

1,359 Twitter followers

1,869 Facebook followers

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