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New Members Elected to Georgia Humanities Board of Directors

(Atlanta, GA)—Georgia Humanities is pleased to announce that three new members have been added to its Board of Directors for 2022. The new members join twenty-four other Georgians whose demonstrated commitment to the humanities provides thoughtful leadership and policy direction to the statewide organization. The Board of Directors is the governing body of Georgia Humanities, providing long-term vision, fiduciary oversight, and financial stewardship for the organization. Members are elected to three-year terms and represent different sectors of the state’s economy and geographic regions. The Governor of Georgia appoints up to six members, with additional members nominated by the public.

Becky Blalock

Becky Blalock is the Managing Partner at Advisory Capital. She is also an author, speaker, and public company board member. As former Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer for Southern Company, Blalock spent nearly a decade directing IT strategy and operations for one of the largest utility companies in the world. Under her leadership, Southern Company was recognized as one of the 100 Most Innovative Companies by *CIO* magazine and one of the 100 Best Places to Work in IT by *Computerworld* magazine. In addition to her work in information technology, Blalock spent over two decades serving Southern Company in leadership positions including accounting, corporate communications, customer service, economic development, external affairs, finance, and marketing.

An advocate for women and children, Blalock was recognized as Power Woman of the Year by *Atlanta Woman* magazine and received the Shining Star Award from the Atlanta Women’s Foundation. Furthermore, her efforts on behalf of women have been recognized by Girl Scouts and the YWCA. Her bestselling book, *Dare: Straight Talk on Confidence, Courage, and Career for Women in Charge*, was published by Wiley in 2013. Blalock lives in Marietta.

Albert “Al” Hodge

As founder of Hodge Consulting Services, LLC, Al Hodge brings more than forty years of economic and community development experience to clients. Globally recognized for his achievements in the industry, Hodge has developed communities that thrive, thanks to his vision, leadership, and deep knowledge of public policy. His insights into business and the countless factors required for lasting success ensure that his clients are adapted for a global marketplace.

Hodge is the immediate past Chair of the Board of the Japan America Society of Georgia, and he serves on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (and is the former Chair), the

board of Georgia Northwestern Technical College, and the Georgia Foundation for Public Education. A resident of Rome, Georgia, Hodge is also an active member of the Society of International Business Fellows.

Lisa J. Smith

Lisa J. Smith is Vice President of Community and Economic Development for Georgia Power. In this role, Smith leads a team that is responsible for recruiting new business to Georgia, as well as supporting local and statewide initiatives that promote community development. Additional areas of focus for her role include workforce development and engineering.

Most recently, Smith has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley, the Columbus Development Authority, Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers, Girls Inc., and the National Infantry Museum, and as a trustee for the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts. She has been recognized as one of the Women Worth Watching by *Profiles in Diversity Journal* and the Atlanta Business League's Top 100 Black Women of Influence. She lives in Newnan.

About Georgia Humanities

Georgia Humanities is a nonprofit organization that serves every corner of the state, connecting people and communities through their stories to encourage conversation, education, and understanding. With programming that engages all ages and backgrounds, Georgia Humanities helps Georgians explore what shapes us as individuals and what binds us as a society. 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.

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