LOCAL COMMUNITIES

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FEATURED GRANT: SAVANNAH
Episodes in Excellence

The Learning Center of Senior Citizens Inc., in partnership with Georgia Women of Achievement, presented an eight-week lecture series on influential women in Georgia history. The series included sessions on Mary Musgrove, Susie King Taylor, and Juliette Gordon Low, among others, and served more than 90 Georgia seniors.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:

- The Savannah Book Festival
- Virtual walking tours of Savannah’s Irish neighborhoods, Frogtown and Yamacraw, and the City of Pembroke historic district
- The Krak Teet oral history roundtable featuring Gullah-Geechee youth and elders

“Grants, like those received from Georgia Humanities, made the return to in-person events possible.”

— TARA SETTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SAVANNAH BOOK FESTIVAL

28 grants totaling $193,000+ since 2020
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FEATURED GRANT: THOMASVILLE & CAIRO
Screenings of Okefenokee Destiny

Presented by the Georgia River Network, the Okefenokee Destiny documentary explores the beauty of North America’s largest blackwater wetland. The film also considers the surrounding region’s economic challenges and new efforts to preserve one of our state’s greatest natural resources.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:

- An exhibition on Chattahoochee Valley blues and folk music at the Columbus Museum
- Free public lectures at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Andrew College, Middle Georgia College, and Mercer University
- PRIME TIME literacy programs for children and parents at the Kinchafoniee Regional Library in Clay County

“The ability to meet people where they are is vital....The past few years have really brought home how important education is in actually connecting with our community.”

— MARIANNE RICHTER, DIRECTOR OF THE COLUMBUS MUSEUM

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FEATURED GRANT: THOMASTON
Upson Historical Society

The Pettigrew-White-Stamps House Museum WWII Home Front exhibition explored community life, economics, and culture during the WWII era. To celebrate the opening of the exhibit, the Upson Historical Society hosted monthly lectures and workshops attended by over 180 residents who explored FDR's impact on Georgia, practiced weaving skills, and learned how to conduct oral histories with family members.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:

- Book festivals in Carrollton and Newnan
- A hands-on history education program at the Troup County Archives
- Oral and visual history collection in the Pine Mountain community for Chipley Historical Society
- PRIME TIME literacy programs for children and parents at Heard, Douglas, and Carroll County public libraries

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— DR. LEIGH ANN BEESLEY, PRIME TIME PARTICIPANT
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FEATURED GRANT: CLARKSTON
Revival: Lost Southern Voices

Revival: Lost Southern Voices is an annual conference celebrating historically excluded, erased, or marginalized voices. Presented by Georgia State University-Perimeter College and Georgia Center for the Book, the conference attracted over 230 participants in 2023, who learned about Georgia authors like Raymond Andrews, Valerie Boyd, and James Alan McPherson.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:

- The Decatur Book Festival
- Music education programs from the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra
- Georgia Council for Economic Education teacher workshops
- A screening and discussion of the documentary *Frank Hamilton and the Folk Revival*
- “Human Library” conversation events at the DeKalb Public Library
- The Georgia Seminars at Emory’s Fox Center

“These sessions have raised my awareness and enriched my ability to hear, understand and appreciate ....”

— “BEYOND ORCHESTRA 101” PROGRAM PARTICIPANT
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FEATURED GRANT: ATLANTA
AUC Woodruff Library Community Day

The Lowery Collection Opening and Community Day at the Atlanta University Center’s Robert W. Woodruff Library brought together more than 120 students, scholars, and residents for civil rights panel discussions, workshops, and special viewings of archival materials from the new Joseph and Evelyn Lowery Collection.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:

- The premiere of The Harvest documentary on school desegregation at the Rialto Theater and on PBS’s American Experience
- Save Your Spaces, a community-driven historic preservation festival in SW Atlanta
- A podcast on Atlanta’s LGBT history, Out Down South
- PRIME TIME literacy programs at the Mechanicsville and Southeast Atlanta public libraries

“It would be useful to have more events, like this one, that help us all see how we can work together to make our community better and help heal our long history of division."

—The Harvest Audience Member
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FEATURED GRANT: DUNWOODY MJCCA Book Festival

The Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta (MJCCA) book festival in 2022 brought together 40 bestselling authors at more than 35 events, including panel discussions, readings, and more. The annual event attracts over 15,000 community members and book lovers each year.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:

- An exhibit on the history of Sandy Spring’s Lost Corner Preserve
- A youth art workshop and community engagement program from Atlanta Workshop Players
- PRIME TIME literacy programs for children and parents at the South Cobb and Douglas County Public Libraries

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— DR. LEIGH ANN BEESLEY, PRIME TIME PARTICIPANT

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FEATURED GRANT: LAWRENCEVILLE
Aurora Theater

Serving audiences in the most diverse county in the Southeast, Gwinnett County’s Aurora Theater produces high-quality, professional programming that celebrates the stories of their community. A SHARP capacity-building grant allowed the Aurora Theater to add a full-time staff member to their production team, supporting more than 800 performances and 30,000 audience members during the grant period.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:

- The City of Norcross’s 150 Years of Norcross exhibition
- A CARES grant for virtual programs at the Gwinnett Public Library
- Asian American Voices for Education professional development and Heritage Month kits for teachers

“Celebrating cultural heritage helps educate and unite us. It brings light and new understanding....”

— STACI, GEORGIA KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

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Humansities
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FEATURED GRANT: DOUGLAS
Coffee County Memory Project

This oral history project began in 2016 with a mission to uncover the past to better understand the present. Driven by the efforts of community volunteers, they have collected over 100 interviews from residents about their experiences during public school desegregation. Those interviews have been shared in multiple virtual exhibits and public programs, and the project was recently honored by the American Association of State and Local History.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:
- The Georgia Women of Achievement awards ceremony at Wesleyan College
- The Arts Center of Moultrie’s “lived experience library” discussion series
- PRIME TIME literacy programs for children and parents at the Carrie Dorsey Perry Memorial Library in Berrien County and the Tifton-Tift County Public Library

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— DR. LEIGH ANN BEESLEY, PRIME TIME PARTICIPANT
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FEATURED PARTNER: RABUN GAP
The Hambidge Center

Governor Brian Kemp honored the Hambidge Center with the Governor’s Award for the Arts and Humanities in 2022, recognizing its significant contributions to Georgia’s cultural vitality. This prestigious award, presented by the Office of the Governor, Georgia Humanities, and Georgia Council for the Arts, acknowledges Hambidge’s role in nurturing the careers of artists through its residency programs, and its impact on education, innovation, and quality of life in Georgia. Hambidge’s 600-acre campus has become a cornerstone for artistic leadership within the state, with over 500 alums recognized as local art leaders.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:

- The Georgia Mountain Storytelling Festival in Blairsville
- Public lecture and discussion series at Piedmont University
- Demonstrations and lectures on the Southeastern Woodland tribes from FIND Outdoors
- Dynamic Design, a book on Jay and Mary Hambidge from UGA Press

“We’re proud to continue building a stronger community and more creative community.”

— JAMIE BADOU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE HAMBDIGE CENTER

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FEATURED PROGRAM: GREENSBORO
The Original 33 Exhibit

The Greene County African American Museum unveiled an exhibit showcasing the contributions and resilience of the original 33 Black legislators in the Georgia General Assembly, who were “expelled because of color” in 1868. The legislators were reinstated in 1870 after a landmark Georgia Supreme Court ruling, and their legacy endured, paving the way for future African American legislators. The exhibit attracted 70+ community members during its run.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:

- National History Day Georgia regional contests at Henry County Schools
- Panels and publications from UGA
- Exhibits at the Georgia Writers Museum, Athens Regional Library, and Historic Athens
- PRIME TIME literacy programs at the Auburn Public Library in Barrow County

"I love the National History Day program. I have had so much growth and opportunities as an educator because of the rigor of this competition."

—ZACHARY BARFIELD, OLA MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER, HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS
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FEATURED PARTNER: CARTERSVILLE Georgia Museums Inc.

Georgia Museums Inc. runs four world-class museums—Bartow History Museum, Booth Western Art Museum, Savoy Automobile Museum, and Tellus Science Museum—attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors and generating an estimated $12 million economic impact each year. They received a 2022 Governor’s Award for the Arts and Humanities, recognizing their significant contributions to the state’s cultural landscape. The Governor’s Awards are presented in partnership with Georgia Humanities and the Georgia Council for the Arts.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:

- Lectures and educator workshops from Kennesaw State University and the Georgia Council on History Education
- History Cherokee’s Black History Driving Tour
- PRIME TiME literacy programs for children and parents at the Cartersville Public Library in Bartow County

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— DR. LEIGH ANN BEESLEY, PRIME TiME PARTICIPANT
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FEATURED PARTNER: VIDALIA
Altama Museum

The Altama Museum received a Governor's Award for the Arts and Humanities in 2023, honoring their significant contributions to Georgia's cultural landscape. The award recognizes the museum's unique role as the only organization within a 90-mile radius committed to preserving community identity and supporting regional artists. The Governor's Awards are presented by the Office of the Governor in partnership with Georgia Humanities and the Georgia Council for the Arts.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:

- The Ogeechee International History Film Festival in Statesboro
- Grants to the August Museum of History, Morris Museum, Augusta Jewish Museum, and Bulloch County Historical Society, among others.
- PRIME TIME literacy programs for children and parents at the Augusta-Richmond County Library

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— DR. LEIGH ANN BEESLEY, PRIME TIME PARTICIPANT
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FEATURED GRANT: MORROW
Rcollecting Carter Podcast

Created by Clayton State University professor Jason Lee Guthrie, the sixteen-episode "Rcollecting Carter" podcast aims to reassess and reevaluate our collective memory of the 39th and only president from Georgia, Jimmy Carter. Once considered "a good man but not a great president," Carter’s accomplishments, challenges and last impact on the nation get a fresh look in each episode.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:

- Program and capacity-building grants for Air Serenbe, Clayton County Library, and the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville
- PRIME TIME literacy programs for children and parents at South Cobb Regional Library

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FEATURED GRANT: CAVE SPRING
Fairview-E.S. Brown Alumni Histories

The Fairview School/E.S. Brown Heritage Corporation recorded the oral histories of more than 20 alumni of the Fairview School—one of the first schoolhouses in the community. This oral history project has captured the community's attention, generating support for the ongoing restoration of the historic Fairview School building.

WE ALSO SUPPORTED:

- A solar audio-box tour of Catoosa County's small museums, including the Walker County African American Museum
- A podcast from the Coosa River Basin Initiative
- PRIME TIME literacy programs for children and parents at the Chickamauga and Rossville Public Libraries

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— DR. LEIGH ANN BEESLEY, PRIME TIME PARTICIPANT