



THE GEORGIA CIRCUIT

Application Guidelines & Frequently Asked Questions

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About Georgia Humanities

Founded in 1971, Georgia Humanities is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting people and communities through the humanities. Through grants, partnerships, and public programs, Georgia Humanities supports conversations about history, culture, identity, and civic life that help Georgians better understand themselves, one another, and the world around them. The organization works with libraries, museums, schools, and community organizations across the state to make the humanities accessible, relevant, and meaningful to audiences of all ages.

Humanities in Georgia

In Georgia, the humanities help people explore the stories and lived experiences that shape communities across the state. Through the study of the past and engagement with cultural life, the humanities invite reflection and dialogue that deepen understanding among neighbors and strengthen the shared fabric of life in Georgia.

About The Georgia Circuit

The Georgia Circuit is Georgia Humanities' statewide speakers bureau that connects communities with scholars, writers, historians, and cultural practitioners for engaging public humanities programs. Through a curated roster of speakers and partnerships with host organizations across the state, the program brings conversations about Georgia's histories, cultures, and shared experiences directly to local audiences, expanding access to high-quality humanities programming and strengthening connections among communities throughout Georgia.



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Georgia Humanities Staff Contact

Georgia Humanities staff are available to provide guidance and technical support throughout the application process. Comments and suggestions are based on prior experience and do not guarantee approval.

Applicants may contact Mary Wearn at mwearn@georgiahumanities.org. Additional information about The Georgia Circuit is available at <https://www.georgiahumanities.org/programs/georgia-circuit-2/>.

Speaker Eligibility

Georgia Humanities invites proposals from Georgia-based individuals including—but not limited to—historians, folklorists, musicians, artists, culture bearers, writers, museum professionals, humanities scholars, and performers.

We're seeking applicants who have strong experience in public speaking, teaching, performance, or facilitation; deep knowledge and enthusiasm for their topic; and are willing to travel throughout Georgia presenting to audiences of varying ages and backgrounds.

Selected presenters will accept **3-5** speaking engagements in a calendar year and must be able to deliver inclusive, nonpartisan programs that serve all Georgia communities.

Timeline and Speaker Application Process

- **Applications open:** Wednesday, August 27, 2025
- **Deadline to apply:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025
- **Applicants notified by:** Friday, November 1, 2025
- **Program runs:** January 1, 2026 – December 15, 2026



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Who Can Host?

We're looking for organizations that bring people together around shared ideas and experiences through free public programming. If your organization hosts lectures, workshops, cultural events, or community gatherings, you're a perfect fit for the Georgia Circuit.

Ideal hosts include:

- Public libraries and library systems
- K–12 schools and colleges
- Museums, archives, and cultural centers
- Historical societies and civic organizations
- Arts councils and community-based nonprofits

How to Apply to be a Host

1. Hosts choose from a curated roster of presenters that can be found under the “Meet Our Speakers” tab on the Georgia Circuit website
2. Hosts then coordinate directly with their selected speaker to set up a date, time, and location
3. After confirming with their speaker, hosts complete Georgia Humanities’ online event application found here:
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Opportunity/Catalog?urlkey=gah>
4. Please allow *four weeks* for our team to confirm the event application.
5. A completed application ensures that speakers are compensated appropriately

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Hosts should plan programs approximately 4–6 weeks after applying.



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Program Availability

To support equitable access to humanities programming across Georgia’s diverse communities, Georgia Humanities offers Georgia Circuit programs on a sliding-scale basis that reflects organizational size, capacity, and available program funds. Host organizations are encouraged to plan ahead, as program availability is limited and scheduled on a rolling basis with attention to geographic distribution and statewide reach.

Submission of an application does not guarantee approval and is contingent upon speaker availability and the availability of Georgia Humanities program funds.

Additional public program bookings within the same calendar year may be considered at Georgia Humanities’ discretion and, if approved, will be scheduled in accordance with the standard rates outlined in the current sliding-scale guidelines.

To support equitable distribution of opportunities and manage program capacity, each Georgia Circuit speaker may be scheduled for up to four to five programs per calendar year, depending on availability and program demand.



Host Site Tier Fees and Additional Sponsorship Opportunities

- Tier 1 — Small / Volunteer-led organizations or operating budgets under ~\$250,000
 - Fee: \$0
 - GH Covers: Full \$300 honorarium + travel stipend
 - Purpose: Guarantees access for communities with the fewest resources
- Tier 2 — Mid-Sized Nonprofits & Public Institutions or Annual operating budgets roughly \$250,000–\$2 million
 - Fee: \$150
 - Cost Share: GH covers half of the honorarium + travel stipend
 - Purpose: Shared responsibility keeps the program sustainable while minimizing barriers
- Tier 3 — Large Nonprofits, Museums, Colleges & Universities or Organizations with budgets above ~\$2 million
 - Fee: \$300
 - Cost Share: Host covers the full honorarium; GH covers travel stipend
 - Purpose: Aligns with national humanities norms and recognizes institutional capacity
- Tier 4 — Businesses, Corporations & Service/Civic Clubs or Public programs
 - Fee: \$500
 - Cost Share: Host covers the full honorarium + contributes to statewide program sustainability; GH covers travel stipend
 - Purpose: Ensures that corporate and civic partners help underwrite The Circuit, expanding access for small communities across Georgia
- Tier 5 — Closed or Ticketed Programs or Employee-only, member-only, or paid admission events
 - While The Georgia Circuit is primarily intended to support free and public programs, GH may approve, on a limited basis, closed-audience or paid programs for businesses, corporations, or professional associations.



Examples include:

- Employee-only or internal staff programs
- Member-only or invitation-only events
- Programs requiring paid registration or attendance fees

Closed-audience programs:

- Must be approved in advance and confirmed in writing by GH
 - Must align with GH' nonpartisan public mission
 - Are subject to additional host fees beyond the \$500 Tier 4 rate, as determined by GH
- These additional fees reflect the private benefit of the engagement and serve as earned support for GH and The Georgia Circuit, helping subsidize free and reduced-cost public programming for communities across the state.
 - Final host fees for closed-audience programs will be established and confirmed prior to scheduling or promotion.
- Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities
 - Organizations wishing to further support statewide humanities access may participate as The Georgia Circuit Sponsors at levels beginning at \$1,000.
 - Sponsorships are acknowledged in printed and digital program materials, on the GH website, and at Circuit events, as appropriate.
 - These contributions help subsidize free and reduced-cost programs for rural and under-resourced communities across the state.
 - Pay-it-forward Opportunities
 - Any host site—nonprofit or corporate—may choose to contribute above their assigned tier to help make programs available for organizations with limited resources. Pay-It-Forward funds directly subsidize honoraria for rural libraries, historical societies, and small cultural nonprofits.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who Can Be a Speaker?

A: Georgia Humanities invites proposals from Georgia-based individuals including , but not limited to, historians, folklorists, musicians, artists, culture bearers, writers, museum professionals, humanities scholars, and performers.

We're seeking applicants who have strong experience in public speaking, teaching, performance, or facilitation; deep knowledge and enthusiasm for their topic; and are willing to travel throughout Georgia presenting to audiences of varying ages and backgrounds.

Selected presenters will accept 4-5 speaking engagements in a calendar year and must be able to deliver inclusive, nonpartisan programs that serve all Georgia communities.

Speaker applications for the 2026 Georgia Circuit have been closed.

Q: How do I book a speaker?

A: Please see the section "How to Apply to be a Host" in our Guidelines section.

Q: What if the speaker I want is already booked?

A: Each speaker may schedule four to six programs through December 2026. Availability varies, so please contact the speaker directly or Georgia Humanities for assistance.

Q: Why might my request be denied?

A: Requests may be denied if programs are not open to the public or if the speaker has reached their annual program limit.

Q: How long will it take to process my application?

A: Please allow four to six weeks for processing.

Q: How should I promote my program?

A: Georgia Humanities will provide publicity guidance and a press release template.

Q: How will the speaker receive payment?

A: Speakers are paid directly by Georgia Humanities after the program.



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Q: Can programs be held virtually or in a hybrid format?

A: Yes. Georgia Circuit programs may be offered in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format, depending on the speaker's presentation style and the host organization's capacity. Hosts should confirm format options directly with the speaker prior to submitting an application.

Q: What accessibility accommodations are required?

A: Host organizations are responsible for making reasonable accessibility accommodations to ensure programs are welcoming and inclusive. This may include wheelchair-accessible venues, assistive listening devices, captioning for virtual programs, or other accommodations as requested by audience members. Georgia Humanities encourages hosts to plan for accessibility as part of their program design.

Q: Can we host more than one Georgia Circuit program in a year?

A: Yes. Eligible organizations may host more than one Georgia Circuit program per year, subject to speaker availability, funding capacity, and program distribution considerations.

Q: What types of venues are appropriate for programs?

A: Programs may be held in libraries, museums, schools, community centers, historic sites, or other public spaces that are appropriate for educational programming. Venues should be accessible, safe, and suitable for the expected audience size.

Q: May we co-host a program with another organization?

A: Yes. Organizations are welcome to co-host Georgia Circuit programs. One organization should be designated as the primary host and submit the application on behalf of the partnership. Responsibilities for logistics, promotion, and reporting should be clearly agreed upon in advance.

Q: What reporting materials are required after the event?

A: Host organizations must complete a final report no later than 30 days after the program. The report is submitted through the [Georgia Humanities Grant Portal](#) and includes basic attendance information, program details, and a brief evaluation of the event.

Q: What happens if attendance is lower than expected?

A: Low attendance does not automatically affect approval or future participation. Georgia Humanities understands that audience turnout can vary due to weather, scheduling, or other factors. Hosts are encouraged to make a good-faith effort to promote the program and document outreach efforts in their final report.



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Q: How are speakers selected for the Georgia Circuit roster?

A: Speakers are selected through a competitive application process. Georgia Humanities reviews proposals based on humanities content, public relevance, clarity of presentation, geographic and topical diversity, and the speaker's ability to engage general audiences.

Q: How far in advance will speakers be notified of bookings?

A: Speakers are typically notified once a host organization's application has been reviewed and approved. Notification timelines may vary, but speakers are generally contacted within four to six weeks of the host's application submission.

Q: What travel expenses are eligible for reimbursement?

A: Eligible travel expenses may include mileage, lodging, meals, and other reasonable costs associated with travel to and from the program site, in accordance with Georgia Humanities reimbursement guidelines. Speakers will receive specific instructions with their agreement materials.

Q: Are speakers required to tailor programs to local audiences?

A: Speakers are encouraged to work with host organizations to tailor programs to local audiences when appropriate. This may include adjusting examples, incorporating local history, or allowing time for audience discussion and questions.

Q: Can speakers decline a booking request?

A: Yes. Speakers may decline a booking request due to scheduling conflicts or other professional considerations. Georgia Humanities appreciates timely communication so that alternate arrangements can be made when necessary.

Q: What should I do in the event of an emergency affecting a speaker's program?

A: If weather, travel issues, or other unforeseen circumstances require a program to be postponed or canceled, please contact Mary Wearn immediately at 770.597.8830 or mwearn@georgiahumanities.org. Georgia Humanities will work with you and the speaker to determine next steps, including rescheduling the program for an alternate date when possible.