



ARTS GEORGIA
STATE OF THE ARTS™

STATE OF THE ARTS

Volume 2 Edition 1 Winter 2014



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State of the Arts begins its second year as a full color publication with a special expanded edition on arts education

HAMMONDS HOUSE MUSEUM — 25 YEARS OF ARTISTIC EXCELLENCE

MYRNA ANDERSON FULLER

Executive Director

If you're looking for a charming, mid-nineteenth-century, Eastlake Victorian style venue with decorative period furnishings, or an important collection of significant African, African American, and other African Diasporic art, or a year-round calendar of exhibitions and events that spark new perspectives and ignite engaging dialogue, then you're looking for Hammonds House Museum.



Nestled on a quiet residential street in Atlanta's historic West End, Hammonds House Museum is a unique setting in which to explore the cultural diversity and legacy of artists of African descent. The museum's busy events schedule includes visual art exhibitions by significant mid-career and established artists, artist talks, panel discussions, workshops, and art camps for young people. The museum also hosts literary events and music concerts. Its beautiful interior and spacious garden area also make it a popular venue for weddings and parties.

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HAMMONDS HOUSE MUSEUM



Hammonds House Museum boasts a permanent collection of more than 350 works of art dating from the mid-nineteenth century by artists of African descent. Highlights of the collection include eighteen works by master artist Romare Bearden and the oldest known painting by acclaimed landscape artist Robert S. Duncanson. Benny Andrews, Elizabeth Catlett, Sam Gilliam, Richard Hunt, Jacob Lawrence, P.H. Polk, Hale Woodruff, and James Van Der Zee are among the scores of important regional, national, and international artists represented in the collection.

Dr. Otis Thrash (O.T.) Hammonds, MD, for whom the museum is named, was an African American visionary who actively promoted the relevance of art and cultural preservation. He was a discerning art collector and was immensely respected amid Atlanta's cultural scene in the 1970s, serving on the boards of the High Museum of Art, the Atlanta Preservation Society, and the historic Neighborhood Arts Center.

Dr. Hammonds was a close friend of art luminaries such as Romare Bearden and helped to jumpstart the careers of many of today's well-known artists.

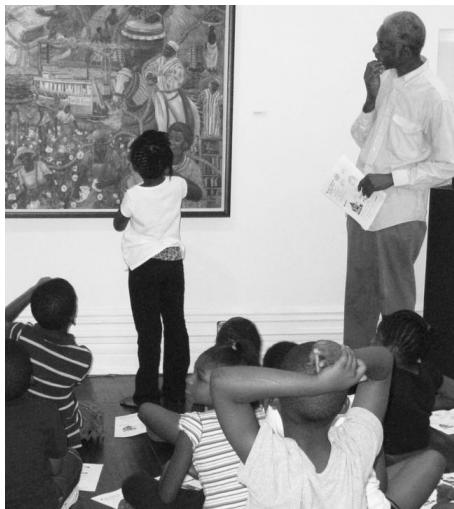
Dr. Hammonds passed away in 1985, and in 1988 the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, under the inspired leadership of its then chairperson, Michael Lomax, established Hammonds House Museum. Their goal was to provide a venue for African descended artists who were under-represented, under-recognized, under-appreciated, and under-exposed in the mainstream visual arts arena. Although today those artists have more opportunities than in the past, the mission of Hammonds House Museum to collect, preserve, and exhibit art of the African Diaspora remains an important and necessary goal.

In support of its mission, the museum develops materials and programming that provides context for the artwork it presents and that explores how cultures intersect, diverge, complement, and influence each other.

Hammonds House Museum, one of three oldest houses in the West End, was built just following the Civil War. The original three-four room, one story house was built by a prominent lawyer Malcolm Johnston, who paid \$450 for the property. It was later expanded and remodeled to an Eastlake Victorian architectural design named after Charles Eastlake which was characteristic of the period.

The museum celebrates diversity as an important element to an enriched life experience. This philosophical direction is perpetuated by the many patrons, supporters, volunteers, educators, and artists whose commitment over the past twenty-five years has helped to advance the institution's growth and development. Museum director, Myrna Anderson-Fuller, explains: "Through the years we have redefined the experience of art by providing thought-provoking exhibitions and cultural events in an environment that is at once comfortable, mind-expanding, and uniquely attuned to the interests and needs of patrons of every age."





Children K-12 engaging in a tour and hands-on activities, college students attending for class credits, visitors with special needs, adult and senior patrons eager to be immersed in art and culture each receive a warm welcome and richly informative experience.

Current initiatives include digitizing the museum's art collection and library materials so that these valuable resources can be shared beyond the walls of their physical location; utilizing Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) as an educational approach to strengthening academic and life skills in young people; and enhancing the visitor tour experience through new technology such as QR Codes and interactive prompts. An upcoming partnership with the Auburn Avenue Research Library to share resources will help the museum implement these projects and further expand its programming.



The museum's 2014 exhibition schedule opens February 2 with *Time, Experience, Wisdom*, a collection of drawings and sculptures by Etienné Jackson. Memories, Jackson explains, are recalled through what he calls "mnemonic visual references." In this body of work, Jackson has translated those references into meticulous drawings and sculptural pieces that not only reflect his artistry but also give insight into his creative process.

The New Year also sees the continuation of a collaboration with award-winning fine art photographer Sheila Pree Bright's 1960 Who public art series. Her larger-than-life photographs are of people who, as students during the 1960s, protested against segregation, and are displayed on buildings in downtown Atlanta and the historic Old Fourth Ward. Hammonds House Museum provided the setting for Bright's striking photographs and hosted an intriguing panel discussion between those students of the 1960s and today's youth activists. Bright's photographs can be seen around town as well as on her website at project1960.com.

Over the course of the last twenty-five years, Hammonds House Museum has enjoyed the support and active participation of numerous individuals who have generously shared their resources and advocated for the fulfillment of the museum's potential. Many of these people were personal friends of O.T. and shared his vision for the arts in Atlanta. In commemoration of its silver anniversary, the museum will honor the legacy of Dr. Hammonds at a champagne brunch on April 27, 2014. "The Gathering" will bring together many of Dr. Hammonds' friends with other museum patrons to celebrate the success of past accomplishments and the promise of future endeavors.

Hammonds House Museum is as committed as ever to expanding the definitions and parameters of art and culture. For additional information and updates, visit the museum's website at hammondshouse.org, or search for "Hammonds House Museum" on Facebook. The website is also a convenient way to join the museum's cultural journey as a member, volunteer, or donor.

There's Always Something Exciting Going on at Hammonds House Museum!

In 2006 Shroud by Romare Bearden was exhibited by the National Gallery of Art in three major museums across the country to include Atlanta's High Museum of Art. During the 2013-14 year 32 pieces are on loan to the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center for the Fallen Fruit exhibit and to the Carlos Museum at Emory for southern connections: Bearden in Atlanta, a complementary exhibition to Romare Bearden: A Black Odyssey, to showcase Bearden's significant ties to Atlanta.





THE AVERITT CENTER FOR THE ARTS

TIM CHAPMAN

Executive Director

The Averitt Center for the Arts is Southeast Georgia's only multi-disciplinary community arts center. With Savannah 60 miles to the east, Augusta 90 miles to the north, and Macon 125 to the west, the Averitt Center serves the artistic needs of 13 counties.

Since opening in 2004, the Averitt Center has become a vibrant part of the regional community. Located in the heart of historic downtown Statesboro, the Averitt Center provides a centralized location for all kinds of community activities – from professional theater performances to children's theater productions, from music concerts to local piano recitals, from internationally renowned artists' exhibitions to the local holiday card contest. The center enjoys the patronage of 60,000 visitors annually. In fact, our programs and visitors boost the local economy by nearly \$2 million per year.

Over the years, the Averitt Center's quality programming has been recognized through the receipt of state and federal grants through granting agencies such as SouthArts, the Georgia Council for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Recognizing the importance of arts education and opportunities in its largely rural service area, the Averitt Center's governing board, the Statesboro Arts Council, has developed and started implementing a long-term growth plan to expand the Averitt Center's educational programs and facilities.

One of the first steps was to organize the youth education department into five core areas: ballet, chorale, theater, visual arts and an Art After Hours, which offers after-school structured supervision and instruction.

Executive Tim Chapman explained that while each program can stand alone, they are designed to work together. Students are able to participate in more than one program, because schedules are designed so classes and performances do not often conflict.

"Our goal is to become a one-stop youth center for kids who are interested in the arts," Chapman said.

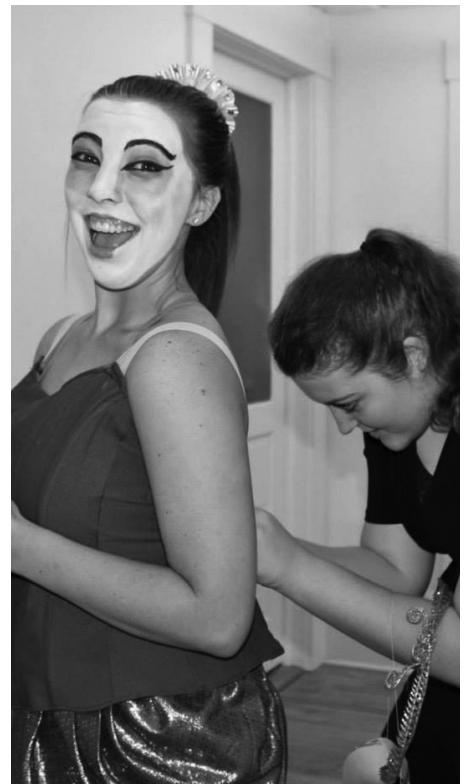


The development of educational programs is designed to help the Averitt Center become more self-sustaining as it continues to grow. Class revenue will generate funds to support the programs and the facilities that house them.

As the youth programs have grown, so has the need for dedicated space. In September 2012, the center opened a ballet studio facility, but with the popularity of the program, it has already outgrown the space.



Currently, the Averitt Center is negotiating for an additional downtown location center. Renovations are expected to start in January. When completed, the new facility will house an expanded ballet studio, an 80-seat black box theater, and gallery retail space. The current dance facility will be converted to a ceramics studio with artist work spaces.



Some of this facility expansion is a partnership with Georgia Southern University and the City of Statesboro to develop an arts incubator and entrepreneurial zone in downtown. Much of the program will be funded by a \$1.1million grant received by the university for the project.

"The key to developing new programs and support facilities is strong partnerships within the community," Chapman said. "The Averitt Center has a wonderful relationship with governmental agencies including the City of Statesboro and the Downtown Development Authority. In addition, the center has developed strong relationships with the corporate community. These relationships help with in kind support and necessary working capital to make our plans come to fruition."

"The Averitt Center has come so far in the last 10 years," Chapman said. "My hope is over the next 10 years we can further transform downtown Statesboro into an arts hub for our region."



Upcoming Events:

FEBRUARY 6, 2014 - Exhibition opening of *Beverly Buchanan: southern vernacular in the main gallery*

FEBRUARY 7, 2014 - Spelman College glee club

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2014 - Heartbreaks and hallelujahs (Averitt STARS Community Theater)

MARCH 1, 2014 - Guy Davis in concert

MARCH 8, 2014 - Motown magic (Statesboro Youth Chorale)

MARCH 15, 2014 - Neos dance theatre

MARCH 27, 2014 - Exhibition opening of *Farmer's Bounty: art Inspired by Georgia farms*

APRIL 10-13, 2014 - *The Music man* (Averitt STARS Community Theater)

MAY 2-3, 2014 - *The velveteen rabbit* (Statesboro Youth Theater)

MAY 9, 2014 - *Magical vision: children's book illustration in the main gallery*

MAY 9, 2014 - Statesboro youth ballet spring showcase



WINTER ARTS: BRINGING WARMTH

What better time than the arrival of a Polar Vortex to start the New Year writing about some heartwarming stories of success. In this issue we introduce coverage of Georgia's museums and historic sites. The article about Hammonds House Museum (which is both historic site and a museum success) is timely as they celebrate a 25 year history which culminates in a gathering this spring to honor founder, Dr. O.T. Hammonds. Our second article presents the exciting news of the new youth education programs and the expansion of facilities at the Averitt Arts Center in Statesboro. Georgia's local arts agencies and cultural facilities are making an economic and quality of life impact on the citizens in their communities. Please support the arts in your city!

We hope you enjoyed the stories published in 2013 as we look forward to bringing you news and successes in the arts with new stories in 2014. Thank you for your support and subscriptions. We encourage you to suggest a local arts agency, a museum or historic site for coverage in a future issue of State of the Arts. With our spring issue we will publish State of the Arts in full color.

ArtsGeorgia Program Report

ADVOCACY

This is our second year as a National CoSponsor of the Americans for the Arts annual National Arts Advocacy Day with this year's event in DC set for March 24-25. We will post news about issues and matters of national arts policy on our facebook page and on the ArtsGeorgia listserve.

COMMUNICATION

ARTS COMMUNICATION CONSORTIUM:

ArtsGeorgia began development of new communication options for the arts community in 2012. The Arts Communication Consortium (ACC) was a pilot program to unify the collective capacity of the arts community to distribute important news. The ACC uses existing channels simultaneously for distribution of news to metro and statewide listserves, email programs and social media networks. Arts organizations are invited to email ArtsGeorgia about participation in the Consortium at artsiga@artsgeorgia.net for information.

STATE OF THE ARTS: ArtsGeorgia's second initiative was the publication of this print newsletter. The decision was made to print a newsletter for distribution to the state arts community, media outlets and to our elected officials as the best way to tell the story of the arts, to emphasize the arts' significant contribution to the state's economy and to celebrate the intrinsic value that the arts offer to our citizens and communities. The newsletter highlights the people who create, administer and produce a wide array of arts programs, focuses on the programs that have succeeded and State of the Arts publishes news that many might not otherwise hear about. Email to subscribe to State of the Arts; visit www.artsgeorgia.net to access our e-Newsletter and blog.

RESOURCES

WEBSITE: ArtsGeorgia relies on our web site to deliver resources for the arts, including advocacy tools, communication options, print and e-newsletters, calendars of events, our handbook

series, public awareness initiatives, public art content, arts education resources and useful directories.

HANDBOOKS: ArtsGeorgia published the ArtsGeorgia Official Arts Advocacy Handbook – 2013 for last year's Arts and Tourism Day at the capitol with free copies distributed to artists, arts leaders, and arts advocates; the ArtsGeorgia Official Arts Advocacy Handbook – 2014 has been updated for your use in the current year. Also available, the ArtsGeorgia Community Arts Agency Arts Administrator's Policy Handbook and the ArtsGeorgia Community Arts Agency Administrator's Facilities Management Handbook.

We conclude with a summary of ArtsGeorgia's accomplishments, events and programs in 2013.

A GOOD YEAR | ARTSGEORGIA 2013

National CoSponsor of the AFTA 2013 Arts Advocacy Day

Published ArtsGeorgia Official Arts Advocacy Handbook - 2013

Sponsor of Arts Advocacy Day at the Georgia Capitol

Senate testimony in support of amendments to Council reorganization

Published State of the Arts quarterly newsletter

Published ArtsGeorgia Community Arts Agency Administrator's Policy Handbook

Participated in legislative visits and AFTA's Arts Advocacy Day White House briefing

Adopted the Arts Congress logo and drafted a White Paper to outline and sequence next steps

Initiated the Restore State Arts Funding – The Time Is Now! Campaign

Added Arts Education content and resources to www.artsgeorgia.net

Distributed a new Enjoy/Support the Arts public awareness of the arts bumperstrip

ArtsGeorgia advocated a comprehensive FY2015 Budget Proposal & Action Plan

Worked with Georgia Arts Network on a Joint Statement to increase state arts funding

Published ArtsGeorgia Community Arts Agency Facility Management Handbook

Attended the National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture southeast regional convening

Added a new Blog feature to www.artsgeorgia.net with searchable content

Established arts education advocacy affiliation with the Georgia Alliance for Arts Education

Proposed legislation to strengthen the Georgia Consignment law to protect artists

Proposed legislation to fund Georgia's Art in State Buildings public art law

Published ArtsGeorgia Official Arts Advocacy Handbook – 2014

BILL GIGNILLIAT
President & CEO, ArtsGeorgia

Bill

AVERITT
where the *arts* come *alive*

33 East Main Street Downtown Statesboro
AVERITTCENTERFORTHEARTS.ORG

SAVE THE DATE: May 14-16, 2014

A Context For Quality: What Is Quality Arts Education?

Join us in Chattanooga for the Southeast Center for Education in the Arts' 2014 Arts & Education Forum

As SCEA advocates a place for the arts within a complete curriculum, the need to understand equity of student access to the arts, and the quality of their learning experiences must frame the discussion. At this year's forum SCEA invites you to bring your ideas and experiences to share with a community of committed arts educators, policy makers, and colleagues in a dialogue around these questions of access and quality:

- » How are you creating actionable opportunities for equitable access to quality arts education in your community?
- » How have you addressed the challenges of access to improve the quality of your programs?
- » How have you developed critical criteria to strengthen the quality of your programs?
- » How are the processes of assessing student learning and evaluating teacher effectiveness influencing the quality of your arts programs?

WHEN: Wednesday May 14 to Friday, May 16, 2014

WHERE: The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

INFORMATION: www.utc.edu/scea; Laurie-Melnik@utc.edu



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STATE OF THE ARTS™

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SOCIAL MEDIA

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ArtsGeorgia works to support the arts by providing resources for Georgia's arts and cultural community to raise awareness, strengthen advocacy, facilitate communication, build capacity and develop policy. ArtsGeorgia is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit statewide arts service corporation. Donations are tax-deductible and are important financial support for ArtsGeorgia's programs, publications and the free resources provided on our website for the Georgia arts community.