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SUMMER ISSUE 2015

Celebrating ArtsGeorgia (2010-2015) Our special Fifth Anniversary Issue reports to readers on our Arts Advocacy, Business & Communication successes, plus news of ArtsGeorgia's new projects and some of our exciting future plans.



ART AND OPPORTUNITIES: SAVANNAH'S DCA



We take a holistic view of art and culture at Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs," says Eileen Baker, director of the agency since 1996. She and her staff of eight are fortunate to have a Mayor, City Council and City Manager who all recognize the social and economic benefits a vibrant creative sector means to Savannah.



ART AND OPPORTUNITIES: SAVANNAH'S DCA



ERIN SEALS Marketing Coordinator

In 2015, Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) will award almost \$765,000 for arts programs implemented by nonprofits, artists, schools and through other creative partnerships. Their mission includes a commitment to nurture excellence, and to improve the social fabric and quality of life for Savannah citizens, regardless of income, education levels or ethnicity. As DCA celebrates creativity and expands opportunities for the arts, they're also encouraging economic growth by enhancing Savannah's reputation as a cultural destination.

Baker adds, "Communities change and evolve. Our goal is to give them strategies to successfully build a strong, multi-disciplined and accessible creative community."

HIGHLIGHTS OF DCA'S OFFERINGS

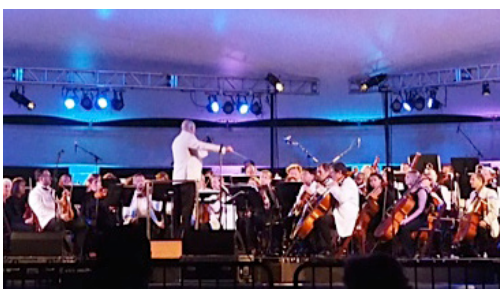
→ Two art galleries showcase artists of all ages and backgrounds. Exhibitions at historic City Hall honor Savannah's rich history. The collection of civil rights champion, the late W.W. Law, is now on view. The midtown gallery, an adaptive reuse grocery store, highlights younger up-and-coming artists providing a venue to sell their work. Artist talks and art-making demonstrations further explain each artist's intent.

→ DCA offers 150 art classes each year for adults, teens and youth. Classes are led by a wealth of talented, creative people who live in Savannah.

→ Among the most popular programs are Spring Break and Summer Art Camp. To accommodate working families, camp runs from early morning until evening. The 10-week series introduces students from four to 12 to the visual, performing and media arts—a critical age to be exposed to the arts.

→ With a primary goal of fostering creativity, DCA brokers partnerships between educational institutions, businesses, social services and the arts community. One success story involves Deep Inc.—a new group partnering with Chatham County schools to improve literacy. Deep's programs emphasize reading comprehension and writing skills with interactive, after-school workshops. The arts are also incorporated. Poems and short stories by Deep's young writers are published; book launches are always well attended with the added of draw of hearing students read their work on stage. Another collaboration involves the Savannah Coastal Puppetry Guild and the City's Senior Services Department. By creating large, colorful puppets and lively puppet shows, seniors benefit from increasing social interactions and engaging their minds.

To encourage such an all-encompassing range of cultural services for Savannah, two funding categories are available



through Contracts for Arts Services. The Core Investment Program supports established arts groups with a budget of at least \$500,000, and demonstrates an artistic distinction in providing high quality arts and educational activities promoting Savannah as an arts destination for visitors and residents. Organizations in this category include The Savannah Music Festival, The Savannah Philharmonic, SCAD Savannah Film Festival and the Telfair Museum of Art. A popular annual event at the Telfair Museum's Jepson Center is their PULSE Art + Technology Festival. "DCA's financial support is vital in bringing world class artists to Savannah, to show local artists experimenting with new technology, and offer workshops for students and families," according to Harry H. DeLorme, Senior Curator of Education and Curator of the PULSE Art + Technology Festival at the Telfair.

The Project Investment Program is designed for nonprofits or institutions of higher learning that provide innovative arts services to increase access, to aid in skill development, to advise the public about entrepreneurial avenues in the cultural sector, and to nurture the local creative industry.

Many years ago, DCA funded the Weave-A-Dream (WAD) Initiative. The WAD Initiative has a unique methodology with a grass roots approach to delivering creative programs. One of Savannah's newest arts groups, Art Rise Savannah, began with WAD funding. "As we continue to grow, Art Rise Savannah is now eligible to apply for the Project Investment Program," offers Kristopher Monroe, Art Rise Savannah's board president. An impressive milestone.

Recent requests for WAD proposals now encourage arts activities especially for young people and seniors focusing on

media arts, technology and neighborhood revitalization. Qualified applicants can receive up to \$2,000.

Proposals for funding are reviewed by the Cultural Affairs Commission, an 18-member volunteer board appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen. Commissioners represent Savannah's citizenry and are a valuable resource to the creative community and the DCA. Throughout the year, they evaluate the City's programs, attending hundreds of events to assess artistic quality and level of audience engagement. They determine Savannah's unmet cultural needs and recommend changes or additions to the scope of Savannah's cultural landscape.

"It's refreshing to live in a city that lends this kind of support to the arts," Monroe of Art Rise Savannah adds.
(See related story on page 5.)



A NATIONAL LEADER: ART WORKS FOR ARTS CLAYTON

The result is a work force better-prepared for the future



LINDA SUMMERLIN
Executive Director

Strong public-private partnerships that bind the arts in Clayton County became national news when County Commission Chairman Jeff Turner and Commissioners Sonna Gregory and Gayle Hambrick were named the 2014 PUBLIC LEADERSHIP IN THE ARTS, awarded by the National Association of Counties (NACO) and Americans for the Arts (AFTA). Clayton County was recognized for the community’s outstanding arts education from elementary school through college. A long-standing focus on workforce development had grown to include the creative industries, and Arts Clayton was at the center of the County’s ART WORKS initiative.

IN THE BEGINNING

In the ‘90s, as the Board president looking for strategic long-term solutions, I was tapped for the Chamber of Commerce’s “Vision 2020” committee on workforce development. Simultaneously, Clayton County began receiving federal HUD funding for local Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) with transportation

and workforce components. Imagine an arts planning meeting when a volunteer shared her company’s concern that student applicants had trouble reading and following directions. ArtVan was born, blending art and music with reading programs to motivate at-risk students to be more successful in school. ArtVan’s mobile literacy initiative received the first Clayton County CDBG funds to purchase and equip a specially outfitted van to travel to neighborhood schools providing hands-on art programs. Arts Clayton’s focus on arts education as a vital part of workforce development was officially launched.

Clayton County’s ART WORKS also uses arts education to prepare students for successful careers, starting in elementary school and continuing through high school and college. Partnerships combining arts education in public schools, art programs for the community and the County’s commitment to economic development are paying off in Clayton County with a better-trained workforce.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

→ ArtVan which has grown from 10 after-school programs to 31 preschool and elementary schools, working with students who need extra encouragement through creative art activities paired with a reading curriculum. Today over 25,000 students benefit from “Read to Succeed Through the Arts,” encouraging their dreams of graduating high school.

→ Arts Clayton works with Clayton’s K-12 students at fine arts magnet schools through a guest artists residency and summer art camps at Jackson Elementary School of the Arts and M. D. Roberts Middle School of the Arts, working with teen interns and mentors through the High School Magnet in the Arts. In January, the new Martha Ellen Stillwell Arts Magnet High School opened alongside the Clayton County Schools Performing Arts Center.

→ For 10 years, the Arts Clayton Gallery co-hosted the 13th District Congressional High School Art Show. Since that time, an impressive \$350,000 in college scholarships was awarded to attend Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) and Atlanta Institute for the Arts.

→ The Arts Clayton Gallery started a collegiate initiative for emerging artists at colleges and universities, preparing students to work in creative careers. In partnership with Atlanta Technical College, photography and design students are featured in an exhibit alongside the Gallery’s annual Juried Photography Show, in collaboration with Atlanta Celebrates Photography. As the designated community and technical training college for Clayton County, Atlanta Technical College’s programs have a 90% job placement rate for graduates.



Arts Clayton Executive Director Linda Summerlin was named “2014 Businesswoman of the Year” by the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce. Her strength is the business of art—operating a strong organization, building community partnerships and helping businesses realize investing in the arts adds tremendous value to the economy.

This important collegiate initiative develops even further in March in a new partnership with the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Clayton State University. The Gallery will host a Clayton State Student Art Exhibit, curated by two art professors. Another exhibit of student work from Georgia Southwestern University (GSW) features glass blowing. GSW is the only school in the south that offers the opportunity to earn a bachelor’s degree in this delicate art form.

→ When Hollywood came calling, Clayton County was ready. Through a tourism partnership, Arts Clayton exhibited historic movie posters in collaboration with the Clayton County Film Office. In just three years, the County secured more than 30 TV and movie productions including *Hunger Games – Catching Fire* filmed at Clayton County International Park. Education programs and workshops during the show highlighted the new Certified Digital Technician program at Clayton State University for students entering this growing job market.

VALUE OF PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY

Arts Clayton’s success story benefitted from a valuable partnership started in 1986 when the Clayton County Commission provided matching funds for a state developmental grant through Georgia Council for the Arts. As the south metro area continues to grow and experience increased diversity, this positive partnership offers county-wide arts programming through an uninterrupted contract for services that has grown over 29 years.

The ongoing process of educating local leaders on the value of the arts is critical. When elected officials experience firsthand the impact art has in their constituents’ lives, their public investment continues. The Board and staff of Arts Clayton brings together a cross section of the community, making sure our arts scene is a vibrant part of the good things happening in Clayton County.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Enhancing our students’ career preparation remains a top priority. ART WORKS also strengthens workforce development through direct involvement with County departments charged with tourism and economic development and educational institutions with expertise in developing tomorrow’s jobs in the creative sector.

Arts Clayton was invited for a 2014 National Endowment for the Arts “Arts Engagement in American Communities.” Funds are being used to advance the ArtVan mobile literacy initiative’s eReaders pilot project to incorporate tablet computers into after-school reading programs. As Georgia legislators consider funding tablet technology for every student, Arts Clayton is on record supporting the long-term benefits of hands-on arts education.

ART WORKS in Clayton County is a phenomenal example of leadership, partnerships and recognizing how the arts impact Georgia’s future workforce. Visit artsclayton.org





ART RISE SAVANNAH

An incubator for creativity



KRISTOPHER MONROE

President of the Board

Art Rise Savannah is the new kid on the block. In just over a year, we've established the group as one of the preeminent arts organizations in an already artistic and historic city.

Art Rise Savannah was born from the dissolution of Desotorow Gallery, south of downtown. Co-founders Clinton Edminster and Lauren Flotte saw a need to increase opportunities for locals to show and sell their art while promoting a stronger creative economy for everyone. We realize the arts are a dynamic tool for community development and creative collaborations that bring new players to the table.

Art Rise runs a gallery called Art Rise Exhibitions, publishes an online cultural publication called Savannah Art Informer, and hosts First Friday Art March, a popular showcase for local businesses and artists on the first Friday of every month.

In its short life-span, Art Rise Savannah has attracted funding from the City of Savannah, the Department of Cultural Affairs, National Endowment for the Arts and the Savannah Community Foundations' Emerging Leaders Committee. We've also garnered extensive media including a profile in the *New York Times* calling us "an incubator for creativity."

Our far-reaching collaborations attest to the colorful cross-section of Savannah's art, business, entertainment and nonprofit scenes we are engaging. Recent partners include Partnership for a Healthy America, WellFED and the Food Day festival, the Telfair Museum, Savannah Bike Campaign, West Broad YMCA, Savannah Urban Garden Alliance, Savannah's Fashion Night, business incubators ThincSavannah and Creative Coast, Southbound brewery and music festivals like Savannah Stopover.

To prepare for the future, we recently engaged in intensive strategic planning work in workshops led by the Momentum for the Arts program, an initiative of the Georgia Center for Nonprofits in partnership with Georgia Council for the Arts. These sessions helped Art Rise Savannah position itself for the tremendous growth anticipated in the next few years.

Thanks to our wide network of relationships and support, Art Rise Savannah is poised to demonstrate how arts and culture have a powerful effect on the wider community. By empowering and uniting distinct groups and supporting a high quality of life in our neighborhoods, Art Rise Savannah is helping lead the energetic effort to cultivate a better Savannah establishing a model of success for young arts groups across the state to emulate.

Visit artris savannah.org.

ART RISE SAVANNAH



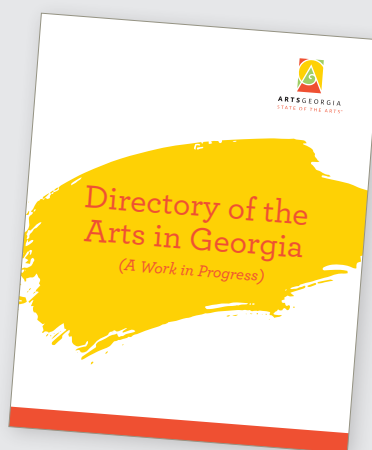
ADVOCACY

BUSINESS

COMMUNICATION



Arts awareness makes us Stronger Together! ArtsGeorgia's new public awareness of the arts campaign; we believe public awareness of the arts is essential to securing ongoing support from the public and private sectors.



A Directory of the Arts in Georgia is a work in progress. Our advisory group considered the need, the audience and existing directories before settling on a consensus of three options to launch this initiative for the arts in Georgia.



ArtsGeorgia's new eNewsletter launched on the first day of spring as an addition to the array of communication options we provide. State of the Arts Special Edition expands our editorial direction to cover breaking news, arts education, arts advocacy alerts, articles of special interest and more controversial matters not covered by or appropriate for the State of the Arts print edition.

You're invited to subscribe on the ArtsGeorgia website or facebook page.



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STATE OF THE ARTS™

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*...fostering art,
culture & heritage
in Savannah for
over 35 years.*

WWW.SAVANNAHGA.GOV/ARTS



The City of Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs is proud to foster programs, like the Savannah Music Festival, that expose our citizens and visitors to a rich and diverse range of cultural expressions. These programs celebrate creativity, create educational opportunities, encourage economic growth and enhance Savannah's reputation as a cultural destination. For information on the more than 1,000 programs produced or presented by the City of Savannah each year, visit www.savannahga.gov/arts.

City of Savannah's Department of Cultural Affairs | 9 West Henry Street | Savannah | Georgia | 912.651.6417

ArtsGeorgia works to support the arts with resources and programs to raise awareness, strengthen advocacy, encourage communication, and develop innovative policy.