



**ARTSGEORGIA**  
STATE OF THE ARTS™

# STATE OF THE ARTS

Volume 2 Edition 4 Fall 2014

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

1

### GEORGIA MUSEUM of ART

*Georgia's museums are a success story; this story focuses on the state's crown jewel – the Georgia Museum of Art. Enjoy its history, learn about its new building, and its magnificent collection of Georgia artists and folk artists.*

2

### INDIE SOUTH FAIR

*This Athens Fair is an opportunity for artists to sell their arts and crafts. Buy art from Local Artists!*

3

### STRONGER TOGETHER CAMPAIGN

*ArtsGeorgia is a membership organization.*



4

### WINTER ISSUE 2015

*Eyedrum Art & Music finds a new home; a visit to the arts on the Georgia coast; an update on the Georgia Arts Congress, and much more.*



## GEORGIA MUSEUM OF ART: A COLLECTION TO BE CHERISHED



Unlike the Morris Museum of Art, in Augusta, the Georgia Museum of Art has never defined itself as primarily focused on the art of the American South. And although it has been the official state museum of art since 1982, director William Underwood Eiland makes a regular point of saying, “We are not the museum of Georgia art. We are the Georgia Museum of Art.”

*cont'd. on page 1*



# GEORGIA MUSEUM OF ART



**HILLARY BROWN**  
*Director of Communications*

All that said, the museum's official status and its presence on the campus of the state's flagship university give it a special role in preserving the history and culture of the state, and its collections policy takes into consideration how a proposed acquisition relates to that history and culture with diverse offerings for art enthusiasts. Day, evening and weekend options are available in a full range of media for every skill level and every age. Advanced workshops just for artists are offered with nationally and internationally acclaimed artists from across the country. Founded in 1945 by a retired lawyer from New York, Alfred Heber Holbrook, with the help of famed Georgia artist and UGA professor Lamar Dodd, the Georgia Museum of Art has been an important component of UGA's land-grant mission ever since. Holbrook himself used to pack paintings into the trunk of his car and travel them across the state to underserved communities, and although the museum

can't do that anymore, it does continue to reach out to the entire state, offering free programming like Just My Imagination, an arts workshop available to libraries and community centers throughout Georgia.

Admission is free to the museum, which boasts 22 galleries, a robust schedule of temporary exhibitions, a sculpture garden devoted to work by women artists and something new to see every visit. A major expansion and renovation opened in 2011 and ensured that a selection of works from the permanent collection is always on display. Walking through those galleries, Georgia artists and connections leap out at the visitor, making even a casual drop-in a stroll through Georgia history.

The museum's galleries are arranged in roughly chronological order, with the earliest works closer to the entrance of the permanent collection wing. Here you can encounter important early Georgia portraitists, including Jeremiah Theus, Charles Bird King and Edwin B. Smith. Although none of these painters was a



native Georgian, their documentation of influential early residents of the state is an essential part of Georgia's art history. Theus's portrait, which dates from 1772, shows John Habersham, the younger son of Georgia governor James Habersham. King's painting, dated some half a century later, features William Harris Crawford, U.S. Secretary of War and Secretary of the Treasury, for whom the town of Crawford, Georgia, is named.

Smith's two images, displayed in the museum's decorative arts galleries, date ca. 1827 and picture Robert Ransome Billups and Elizabeth Ware Fullwood Billups, two residents of Clarke County, home to both the museum and UGA. Contextualized by furnishings that resemble the ones they would have owned, they present a picture of early 19th-century life in the state, which was equally wild (Mr. Billups appears in front of a hunting scene) and domesticated (Mrs. Billups's setting is far more controlled). They also serve as an interesting tie to the museum's strong collection of Georgia folk art, being early examples of the genre. Little is known about Smith, but he was not academically trained in art, and the portraits bear many hallmarks of folk art that dates before the 20th century: flatness, cartoonishness, simplicity.

Some of the more recent Georgia folk artists whose work is represented in the collection and the galleries include R.A. Miller and Howard Finster, two of the genre's best known practitioners. Both created elaborate built environments – Finster with Paradise Gardens, near Summerville, and Miller on the hill outside his home near Gainesville. Additionally, R.E.M., the Athens-based band, filmed videos at both locations,





helping popularize the artists' work. Growing out of the impoverished, rural, agricultural environment of the state, their work contrasts markedly with King and Theus's fine art portraits of upper-class Georgians.

A similar contrast can be seen in the museum's two galleries focused on decorative arts, which include both silver, china and fine furnishings and, in the gallery devoted to vernacular forms, rustic painted furniture, glazed stoneware, embroidery and an array of chairs demonstrating some of the many varieties of handmade everyday seating. Decorative arts provide a unique window into the lives of early Georgians, such as the silver olive spoon that serves as evidence of the state's 18th-century attempt to grow the crop, the water dippers made from coconut shells that were used to serve refreshing drinks in a time before indoor plumbing and refrigeration and the fried-chicken tongs that show that food was once a delicacy. George Cooke's painting of Tallulah Falls (1841), which features tiny figures in the foreground, perilously close to the cliff's edge, demonstrates the importance of tourism to the state's economy, even in the 19th century.

The work of Lamar Dodd, perhaps the most important arts advocate in Georgia history, is on display in the galleries, too. Dodd's long career as an artist shows influences from the Ashcan school and the American Scene painters through to the abstract expressionists, as he created work commissioned by NASA. Born in Fairburn and reared in LaGrange, he studied at New York's Art Students League but returned to Georgia to teach in 1937.

UGA's art school, which he founded, is today named in his honor and sits just across the quad from the museum, where it houses regular exhibitions of student work and work by visiting artists.

Dodd's voice as an educator helped shape the museum as much as the art school, and Eiland often calls him the museum's "midwife." If not for the friendship he struck up with Alfred Holbrook and the goals they discovered they shared, there might never have been a Georgia Museum of Art. His advocacy for the university and ability to bring other artists to teach on its campus influenced the museum's holdings as well. Howard Thomas, Carl Holty, Elaine de Kooning and Art Rosenbaum all taught at UGA either briefly, as visiting artists, or long-term, and their work is represented strongly in the collection. Rosenbaum, in particular, not only influenced several generations of Georgia artists who passed through the Lamar Dodd School of Art, but also continues to document the state's folk artists and musicians in his large-scale paintings.

Finally, Brenda and Larry Thompson's gift in 2012 of 100 works by African American artists, many of whom, like Radcliffe Bailey, hail from Georgia, has greatly enriched the collection's depth in that area and provided a foundation upon which the museum's leadership aims to build.

The importance of the state to the life of the museum focus even inspired the theme for the next Elegant Salute, the museum's biennial gala fundraiser. Scheduled for Jan. 31, 2015, the event "An Elegant Salute to Georgia," will focus on the richness of the state's cultural and agricultural offerings.

For more information on Elegant Salute or the museum in general, visit [georgiamuseum.org](http://georgiamuseum.org) or call 706.542.4662.





# INDIE SOUTH FAIR: A HANDMADE HAPPENING IN ATHENS, GEORGIA



**T**he 2014 Holiday Hooray Market is a place where artists, designers, and creative entrepreneurs showcase their work in a festive atmosphere. Indie South Fair began nearly eight years ago as a venue for local artists to sell their crafts, and since then has grown into Athens' Georgia's largest handmade market. The upcoming Holiday Hooray market is held outdoors in a central location with plenty of parking. Over 75 vendors sell all manner of items for your home and person—pottery, jewelry, ornaments, prints, clothing, photography, terrariums, cards and even items for your pets.

Indie South Fair also partners with elementary schools, who set up booths to sell their work and raise money for their art programs. Not just a marketplace, this event strives to create connections between artists and their buyers, a sense of community and camaraderie that will encourage people to spend the day making new friends. To this end there is music from DJ Mahogany spinning 45s, homemade catering serving up delicious local eats, and activities for children and adults alike.

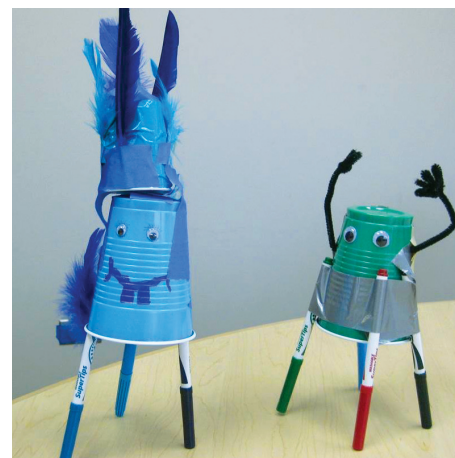
Our kids' area features different crafts for children to make and take home, with help from local businesses Our Arrow and Treehouse Kid & Craft. A photo booth and silkscreen station is fun for kids of all ages.

Indie South Fair is always free and open to the public and will take place on December 6th- 7th. Come do some holiday shopping and get to know your local artists!

Holiday Hooray will be held at 660 N Chase St., in Athens, on December 6 and 7, 2014  
[indiesouthfair.com](http://indiesouthfair.com)

## ARTBOTS

**S**ince at least the mid-18th century, when the Swiss Jaquet-Droz family built automatons to promote their watch-making business, humans have created robots that could, themselves, make art. Ever-more-powerful, tinier and less expensive computer chips have enabled the growth of a "maker" industry that prides itself on tinkering and experimentation. The two come together with this three-day activity at the Georgia Museum of Art, in which Hatch, an Athens-based makers collective, will help visitors make simple robots that generate original art. Inspired by the museum's presentation of artist Tristan Perich's "Machine Wall Drawings," an installation that spent 6 months drawing itself according to a combination of code and chance, the ArtBots exercise is free and open to the public during museum hours November 12-14 and is part of this year's UGA Spotlight on the Arts festival.





# STRONGER TOGETHER

## JOIN ARTSGEORGIA

*This year, ArtsGeorgia celebrates our fifth year of providing free resources for the business side of the arts including powerful advocacy tools. We invite our readers to renew your membership or join us as a new member for the first time.*



**T**he research is clear. When children are exposed to the arts – and the earlier the better – their academic performance increases, their intellectual curiosity is heightened and long-lasting connections between cultures are formed. That's why our membership campaign highlights kids this year and the powerful pay-off we all receive by investing today in their artistic future. ArtsGeorgia succeeded in adding arts education resources on our website last year which gave us the opportunity to work with our new affiliate, the Georgia Alliance for Arts Education. We will continue to work with GAEE to advocate for arts education in the years ahead. If you join as a member, you will be a partner in our vital work.

All recent studies are proof that economically speaking, the arts are a business magnet, helping people prosper in arts-related jobs. Arts patrons and audiences spend money – more than \$100 billion every year – on art purchases, admissions and tickets, transportation, food, lodging and souvenirs that boost local economies. The arts attract companies that want to offer their employees and clients a creative climate and community with amenities that matter.

### SO JOIN US:

Join ArtsGeorgia as an artist or individual for just \$20 a year; \$30 for two years.

You will be supporting our mission to be effective advocates for quality arts education and adequate state funding of the arts. You will help us continue to provide easy-to-use business resources. You will contribute to our ability to provide communication tools and having a conversation as a united arts community working together.

### WE ALSO SEND YOU COOL STUFF:

- Support the arts bumper sticker
- Art Works license plate
- Subscription to our newsletter, State of the Arts
- Advocacy alerts for when to contact your legislators
- Access to two arts community email list-serves
- Our popular Arts Advocacy Handbook
- Discounts on other ArtsGeorgia publications

Memberships for arts organizations are just \$100 a year; \$150 for two years.

Designed for your group's executive director and board president, or any two staffers you prefer, you will:

- Be eligible for ArtsGeorgia's Advocacy and Leadership Institute
- Be invited to our upcoming Arts Congress with discounted registrations
- And receive all the cool stuff listed above



### HERE'S HOW:

It's easy to join on our website with PayPal, or mail a membership form with your check payable to ArtsGeorgia to: P. O. Box 220, Lithia Springs, GA 30122.

### YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS.

Did you know that Georgia ranks among the lowest when compared to the other 50 states on levels of state arts spending and arts education? Did you know that state arts funding was at its highest when a former arts advocacy organization had their highest number of individual and organizational members? Isn't it time to join together to rise up from the bottom? As an ArtsGeorgia member, your voice is amplified by standing together with like-minded arts supporters around the state.

Here's to a future of increased arts spending. Here's to ensuring that all Georgia students have access to a balanced, comprehensive, and sequential program of arts education, taught by teachers certified in the arts and enriched by the wealth of arts resources across the state.

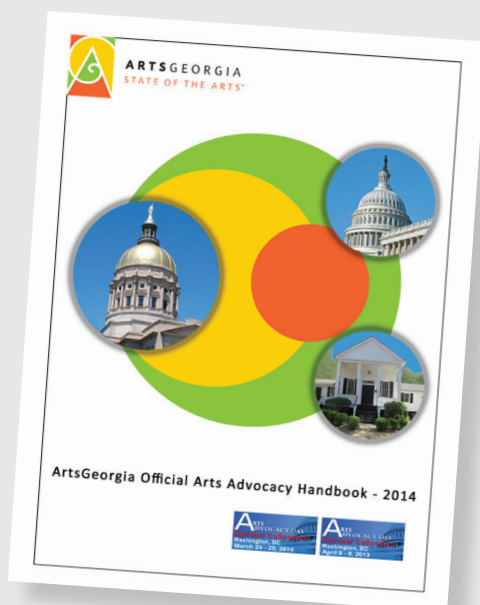


Photography: Lisa Frank



# BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

## ADVOCACY

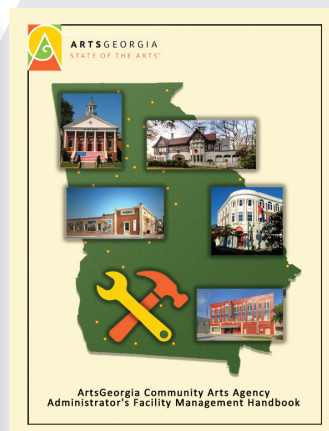


*Show your support with the  
Art Works license plate or the  
ArtsGeorgia bumper sticker*

ArtsGeorgia has received praise from the beginning for our website's content: news-calendars-publications-listserves-advocacy tools-directories. We encourage you to visit and explore the website. Beyond the resources you'll find there, ArtsGeorgia has published a series of handbooks: ArtsGeorgia Community Arts Agency Administrator's Policy Handbook, and the ArtsGeorgia Community Arts Agency Administrator's Facility Management Handbook

[artsgeorgia.net](http://artsgeorgia.net)

## BUSINESS

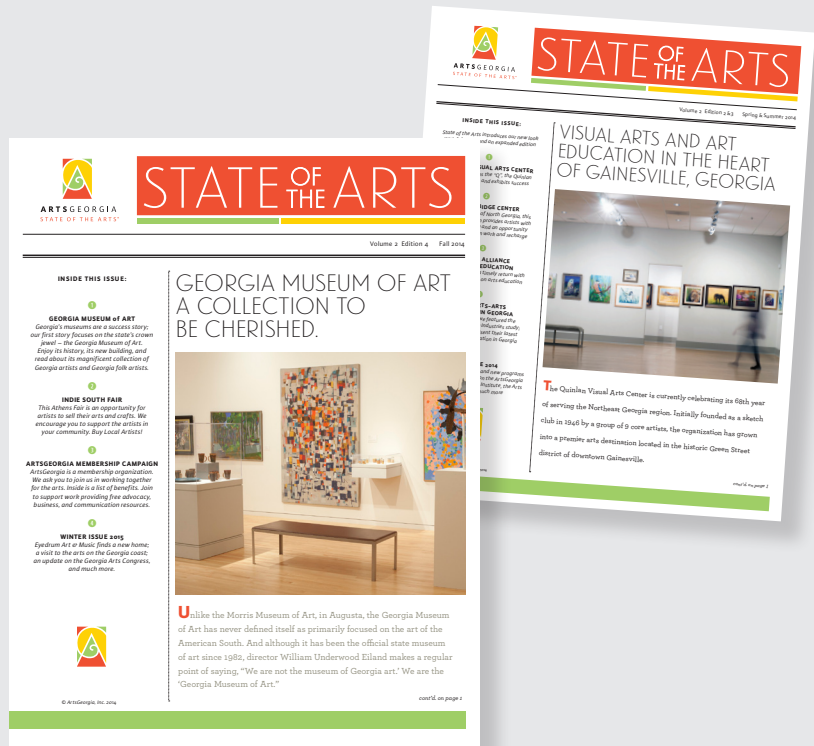




## COMMUNICATION

### SUBSCRIBE NOW!

To receive your free copy of the quarterly print newsletter, State of the Arts, email us today at: [artga@artsgeorgia.net](mailto:artga@artsgeorgia.net)



## STRONGER TOGETHER

georgia **arts**  
congress

 **GEORGIA ALLIANCE**  
for ARTS EDUCATION™

You are not alone. The Georgia Arts Congress, a statewide gathering of artists, arts professionals, arts advocates and arts patrons that reflects our collective strength, our collective diversity, shared challenges and shared solutions, our unity, is being planned to bring us all together.

[gaartscongress.org](http://gaartscongress.org)

The Georgia Alliance for Arts Education (GAEE), is our new affiliate. Reactivating GAEE as a vibrant new partner will focus and strengthen statewide advocacy for arts education. GAEE will take the lead in Georgia for arts education advocacy, news, policy and resources. GAEE advocates for the arts to be included as a part of the core education for all K-12 students, for turning STEM to STEAM, and for other initiatives developed in consultation with arts and education professionals around the state.

[artsedga.org](http://artsedga.org)



**ARTS GEORGIA**  
STATE OF THE ARTS™

ArtsGeorgia, Inc.  
P O Box 220  
Lithia Springs, GA 30122

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jim Demmers  
John Eaton  
Bill Gignilliat  
Laura Lieberman  
Chea Prince



**CONTACT INFORMATION**

ArtsGeorgia, Inc.  
P.O. Box 220  
Lithia Springs, Georgia 30122

e. [artsga@artsgeorgia.net](mailto:artsga@artsgeorgia.net)  
p. 404.310.8727  
[artsgeorgia.net](http://artsgeorgia.net)



[facebook.com/ArtsGeorgia](https://facebook.com/ArtsGeorgia)



[twitter.com/artsgeorgia](https://twitter.com/artsgeorgia)



**ART for everyone**



GEORGIA  
MUSEUM  
of ART

[georgiamuseum.org](http://georgiamuseum.org)

The official state museum of art is located on UGA's East Campus in Athens — with more than 10,000 objects in the permanent collection as well as ever-changing exhibitions featuring artists from around the globe. Open every day except Monday. Admission is always free.

