

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- October 1, 2015**

Media Contact: Laura C. Lieberman, President  
Georgia Alliance for Arts Education (GAAE)  
(404) 312.4574  
aplus@artsedga.org

## **Arts and Arts Education Advocacy Leaders Unite in a Call for State Investment in the Arts**

*Atlanta, Ga.* – ArtsGeorgia, the Georgia Alliance for Arts Education, the Georgia Association of Museums & Galleries, C4 Atlanta, the Georgia Association of Museums & Galleries, Public Domain, Inc. have joined with other arts and arts education advocacy leaders, and have jointly drafted this declaration in support of Georgia investing in the arts and arts education for fiscal year 2017. They are calling on Georgia's artists, arts and humanities organizations, cultural institutions and arts educators to join them in support of this unified appeal to the Governor and state legislators to include an investment in the arts and arts education in the next state budget. The joint declaration states:

### **“CALL FOR A RENEWED INVESTMENT IN GEORGIA’S ARTS AND CULTURE**

The arts budget in Georgia was severely cut due to the recession from a high of \$4.5 Million Dollars to its current level of just over \$900,000, a five year annual sustained loss of millions of dollars. This has resulted in a significant reduction in the available programs and services that Georgia’s state arts agency is able to deliver in grant and related support of arts programming across the state. The barebones agency budget profoundly limits the grants program, leaving some of Georgia's most valuable arts organizations without well-deserved and much-needed state funding and support. These multiyear cuts have resulted in Georgia being ranked last or next to last in the U.S. in per capita state arts spending. It has contributed to Georgia being ranked near last nationally in funding and support for arts education. The current reduced arts budget has adversely affected an industry that employs more than 200,000 Georgians and provides tax dollars to the state budget. As a direct consequence, many of the community-based fine arts organizations, large and small, and many of the community-based theaters are finding it more difficult every year to serve their audiences and their communities. Arts in school and arts in after school programs, art teachers and teaching artists have been cut, and artist residencies in the schools have ceased to exist in many school districts with those in rural Georgia the most adversely impacted.

We call on Georgia’s Governor and General Assembly to significantly increase their investment in arts spending in the state budget for FY2017 as a renewed commitment to Georgia’s arts, cultural and humanities institutions. We call on them to renew funding to the creative industries’ in support of their ability to create and maintain jobs, to provide tax income, and to have a major impact on Georgia’s economic development.”

Information on the economic impact of the arts, the number of jobs affected and the value of arts in education which support our call for an increase can be found in the SouthArts publication, *Creative Industries in the South (Georgia)(2012)*, the National Governors Association Center for

Best Practices publication, *New Engines of Growth: Five Roles For Arts, Culture and Design* (2012), and the National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, *Arts Education in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools 1999-2000 and 2009-10*, the South Arts Research and Publication, *Arts Education in the South Phase I: Public School Data and Principals' Perspectives 2014*, and Georgia Council for the Arts publications, *Arts Education in Georgia: Public School Data and Principal Perspectives*, and *Arts Learning Task Force, Final Recommendations to Governor Nathan Deal from the Arts Learning Task Force, August 2015*.

Respectfully submitted as a Joint Statement by ArtsGeorgia, the Georgia Alliance for Arts Education, Public Domain Inc., C4 Atlanta, the Georgia Association of Museums & Galleries and Georgia's arts and arts education advocacy leaders."

Other arts organizations or individuals who wish to join in supporting the call for an increase in state arts funding for FY2017 should contact either ArtsGeorgia at [artsga@artsgeorgia.net](mailto:artsga@artsgeorgia.net) or the Georgia Alliance for Arts Education at [aplus@artsedga.org](mailto:aplus@artsedga.org).

#### **About ArtsGeorgia**

ArtsGeorgia works to support the arts by providing resources, and advocates for the arts by raising awareness and facilitating communication with development of innovative programs. ArtsGeorgia, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit statewide arts service corporation, is a National CoSponsor of AFTA's National Arts Advocacy Day. For more information visit <http://www.artsgeorgia.net/>

#### **About C4 Atlanta**

C4 Atlanta connects arts entrepreneurs to the people, skills and tools they need to build a successful artistic career in metro Atlanta. C4 Atlanta is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts business incubator, for more information visit <http://c4atlanta.org/>

#### **About The Georgia Alliance for Arts Education**

The mission of the Georgia Alliance for Arts Education is to ensure that all Georgia students, PreK-12, 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. For more information on GAEE, a nonprofit arts service and advocacy organization, visit <http://www.artsedga.org/>

#### **About the Georgia Association of Museums & Galleries**

The mission of the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries is to serve the entire state of Georgia as a private, non-profit museum and gallery association. The Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit statewide arts service corporation, is dedicated to serving a diverse membership in a way that establishes a responsive network, provides a resource base and promotes professionalism so that Georgia's museum community is strong, effective and proactive. For more information, visit <http://www.gamg.org/>

#### **About public domain**

Public Domain is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to exploring the intersection of art, theory, technology and community. Public domain hosts the ARTNEWS and other statewide listserves as forums for announcements and discussions of interest to the arts community. More information, visit <http://www.pd.org/>