

GOVERNOR'S
AWARDS

FOR THE ARTS
HUMANITIES



2015 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS

- ▶ **Opening Performance:** Alliance Theatre - Sarah Charles Lewis performing from "Tuck Everlasting"
South Wing
- ▶ **Welcome:** Karen Paty, Executive Director, Georgia Council for the Arts & Jamil Zainaldin, President, Georgia Humanities
North Wing
- ▶ **Opening Remarks:** Commissioner Chris Carr, Georgia Department of Economic Development
- ▶ **Remarks and Presentation of Awards:** Governor Nathan Deal and First Lady Sandra Deal
- ▶ **Benediction:** Judson Mitcham, Georgia Poet Laureate
- ▶ **Closing Performance:** Mausiki Scales and the Common Ground Collective

**Following the ceremony please join us
for a reception in the South Wing**



2015 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Libby Bailey // Macon

Dr. Elizabeth “Libby” Bailey is a teacher, art historian, artist, and art preservationist. For more than 35 years, she has taught drawing, painting, and art history at Wesleyan College in Macon to more than 2,000 students, by her own estimate. As an art historian, her specialty is Medieval and Renaissance Art, but she also focuses on issues of women, Native Americans, and African Americans represented in the arts. Bailey is a Georgia native who found her passion for painting at the early age of three. In addition to oil and watercolor painting, she is also a printmaker, and for more than 20 years Bailey has created Christmas woodblock prints. The Georgia Museum of Art in Athens, the official state art museum, owns a full set of Bailey’s prints and many of the blocks. Bailey is also dedicated to helping preserve the art collection of Wesleyan College. About 10 years ago, she created the “Adopt-a-Painting” program with the philosophy that the college’s art must be conserved and displayed, and that it should be enjoyed by all constituents of the community. The program has preserved more than 120 paintings and other objects. Bailey’s work on the conservation program and her contributions to the visual arts in Georgia are long-lasting.

Susan V. Booth // Atlanta

For 14 years, **Susan V. Booth** has been an invaluable leader in Atlanta’s theater and arts community as the Jennings Hertz Artistic Director of the Alliance Theatre. Under her leadership, in 2007 the Alliance received the Regional Theatre Tony Award® in recognition of sustained excellence in programming, education, and community engagement, bringing tourism and national attention. Her vision for the Alliance has had a profound impact, not only on the stage but for artists, community members of all ages, and visitors alike. In her first year at the Alliance, Booth created the Collision Project for teens. For three weeks each summer, the Alliance assembles a diverse group of teenagers from metro Atlanta to explore and dissect a classic text under the guidance of a professional playwright and director. Booth also established the Alliance/Kendeda National Graduate Playwriting Competition, which has become one of the most important competitions for new playwrights in the country. The winner receives a full production as part of the Alliance Theatre’s regular season. In 2013, Booth spearheaded the creation of the Reiser Atlanta Artists Lab to support and provide opportunities to artists of multiple theater disciplines looking for a producing home for their undeveloped work. Each project receives \$10,000 to use toward further exploration and development, as well as access to the Alliance’s artistic production staffs and rehearsal spaces.

Brenda Bynum // Atlanta

With a career spanning 50 years, Atlanta actress and teacher **Brenda Bynum** has managed to excel in almost every facet of theater and stage production while working as an advocate for the acting profession. An Atlanta native, she has a long association with Atlanta's Alliance Theatre and Emory University. At the Alliance Theatre she served as the acting teacher for the nationally-known Professional Intern Program. At Emory, Bynum was named a Heilbrun Distinguished Emeritus Research Fellow. In 2000, after completing 17 years as an Emory theater professor, Bynum was honored by her colleagues with the establishment of the Brenda Bynum Award, which is presented each year to an outstanding theater student. Her professional theater work in Atlanta as an actor and director goes back to 1974 and includes more than 60 plays at the Alliance Theatre, Theater Emory, Seven Stages, Actor's Express, Theatrical Outfit, Theater in the Square, Theatre Gael, and many other venues. Bynum has been widely recognized for her excellence in theater, radio, and television, including an Emmy nomination for her performance in *Cabbagetown: 3 Women*. She is probably best known for her work in Sandra Deer's *Galbaby* and *Angels in America*. *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* named Bynum Best Actress of 2004 for her performance in *The Subject Tonight Is Love*. Since 2013 she has performed a one-woman show, which she wrote, about the life and work of author Lillian Smith, called *Jordan Is So Chilly*.

Jerry and Kathy Chappelle // Watkinsville

In 1970, **Jerry and Kathy Chappelle** opened Happy Valley Pottery, turning an abandoned chicken farm into an artists' residence program that nurtures a network of artists and shares equipment and ideas. For 45 years, Happy Valley has provided hundreds of artists with the tools to create, exhibit, and sell their artwork. Also available are on-site demonstrations in pottery making, Raku firing, glass blowing, and other art techniques. From 1970 to 1977, the couple directed a series of three-day workshops to approximately 800 participants from 18 states. After 31 years of success at Happy Valley, in 2001 the Chappelles launched the Chappelle Gallery, which exhibits contemporary, upscale pieces from more than 125 national and local artists with national renown. In 2005, the Chappelles opened Georgia Originals, in downtown Watkinsville, selling only artwork created by Georgia artists, and later created Georgia Made, an organization dedicated to promoting local entrepreneurs. The couple not only has earned worldwide acclaim for their pottery and businesses but also has been instrumental in economic development and tourism. In 1994, the Chappelles were influential in founding the Oconee Cultural Arts Foundation, which creates educational programs, festivals, and exhibits to advance the cultural arts in Oconee County. This year the foundation celebrates its 21st anniversary, and boasts more than 535 members. The Chappelles' pottery and businesses have been featured in many publications, including *Southern Living*, HGTV's *The Good Life*, *Atlanta Magazine*, *Southern Distinction*, *Athens Magazine*, *Studio Potter*, and *Athens Tempo*.

Dr. James C. Cobb // Athens

Dr. James C. Cobb is a leading historian in Georgia, and one of the premier historians of the South. His scholarship focuses on the interactions between the economy, the history, and the culture of the South. As the B. Phinizy Spalding Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Georgia, Cobb teaches acclaimed courses in southern culture and history. In 1997, this native of Hart County was elected as one of the youngest historians ever to serve as president of the Southern Historical Association in its 80-year history. His presentations to audiences of scholars and laymen alike have been warmly received for their insight, perceptiveness, and humor, and he is a popular speaker and contributor to newspapers and magazines. Cobb has written 13 books and published numerous articles and essays. His books include *The Selling of the South: The Southern Crusade for Industrial Development, 1936-1990* (1993) and *Away Down South: A History of Southern Identity* (2005). His most recent book, *The South and America since World War II*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2010. He has received a number of awards, including the Mary Lawton Hodges Prize in Southern Studies for *Away Down South*, which critics hailed as “utterly fascinating” and “a masterpiece.”

Dale Dyer // Blue Ridge

Contributing almost 70 years of service to his community, World War II veteran **Dale Dyer** has helped Blue Ridge become a tourist destination. A valued member of the Kiwanis Club of Blue Ridge since 1948, Dyer served as president in 1954. Thanks to his leadership, the club was recognized for outstanding service to the community, receiving the Regional Banner of the 11th District for most active club. He received the Citizen's Award in 1970, and in the late 1980s he led the Kiwanis Club to co-sponsor the compilation and publication of *Facets of Fannin: A History of Fannin County, GA, Vol. I*. Dyer himself has since edited *Cemeteries of Fannin County*, which many descendants of former Fannin County residents find useful for locating gravesites. Used in conjunction, these books provide a solid resource for general historical information and for researching family histories. In 2011, Dyer received the “Key to Blue Ridge” and was made a lifetime member of the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce. In 2014, he was recognized by the Daughters of American Revolution and awarded the Outstanding Citizenship Award for community service.

Joyce Perdue-Smith // Rome

Since 2009, **Joyce Perdue-Smith** has been the chairman and executive director of the Fairview / E. S. Brown Heritage Corporation, which has supported the preservation and renovation of the Fairview Elementary School in Cave Spring, and has successfully led a movement to raise awareness about the rich history of African American education in Floyd County and northwest Georgia. Her research led to the rediscovery of the 1924 Fairview school, a “Rosenwald school” for African American students in the era of segregation, and has uncovered valuable historical events that shaped the local community in Cave Spring. Perdue-Smith’s campaign to save the school resulted in Fairview being named a Place in Peril by the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation in 2011, and later earning the status of “National Treasure” by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Perdue-Smith’s research has also yielded a preservation story that exemplifies Cave Spring’s unique cultural heritage. She has created a traveling exhibition depicting the community’s history and documenting its diverse heritage, including Native Americans and a pre-Civil War community of free African Americans. Perdue-Smith has served on several boards and committees promoting the region’s culture and history, including the Cave Spring Historical Society and Alton Holman Heritage Arts, Incorporated. Her achievements have made a significant contribution towards enriching lives and communities in Georgia.

Mausiki Scales // Atlanta

Mausiki Scales is a musician, composer, and teacher who is also engaged in community outreach efforts. Over the last 20 years, Scales has taught history and African world studies in several Atlanta-area colleges and universities, and since 2007 has been an instructor in the African American Studies Department at Georgia State University. Scales has contributed to a number of noteworthy ventures, one of which is the award-winning oral history project ***Behind the Veil: Documenting African American Life in the Jim Crow South***, a digital collection at the Duke University Center for Documentary Studies. He also conducted research for ***Will the Circle Be Unbroken***, a radio documentary on the civil rights era, which aired on National Public Radio. Scales received a Teacher of the Year award in 1998 from Morris Brown College and in 2010 from Georgia Perimeter College. An accomplished Afrobeat-jazz songwriter, he has collaborated with such international recording artists as Roy Ayers, Les Nubians, Kirk Whalum, and Julie Dexter. Scales is the founder and bandleader of the Common Ground Collective and has been featured at the Atlanta Jazz Festival, at the National Black Arts Festival, and at Ghana’s 50th Anniversary Celebration in West Africa. He developed a parade and festival called “No Tables, No Chairs,” which celebrates movement and music. With a discography of five albums, Scales is the quintessential griot in the way he employs music to illustrate history in his teachings and lectures.

Robert Webb // Dalton

For more than 20 years, Georgia native **Robert Webb** has been a passionate advocate for the literary and visual arts. In 1990, as a student at Emory University, Webb petitioned Emory's president to endorse *Lullwater Review*, Webb's dream literary project. His pitch was so effective that Emory president James Laney earmarked his annual gift to the university for the project and personally encouraged the Board of Trustees to support it. Today, 25 years later, the *Lullwater Review* remains a highly-regarded national publication that attracts submissions from across the country. More recently, Webb has supported the role of arts in education, joining the board of the Oscar N. Jonas Foundation, which provides opportunities for three school systems in northwest Georgia. He served three terms as chair of the Creative Arts Guild, increasing membership, programming, outreach, and more than doubling its budget. During the Guild's 40th Anniversary year, Webb, deeply committed to a belief in accessible public art, raised over \$450,000 to create a permanent sculpture garden on the Guild's campus, which has since been named in his honor. In addition to his service to the arts, Webb has been active in other community-building endeavors, including projects with the United Way and the Whitfield County-Dalton Day Care Center, a nonprofit child care center for low-income families. In 2005, he was recognized for his professional achievements and volunteerism when *Georgia Trend* magazine named him on their annual "Forty under Forty" list, and in 2006, Webb received one of the Atlanta Falcons' Community Quarterback awards, recognizing his accomplishments as a community leader.



2015 ORGANIZATIONS

Foxfire // Mountain City

Thanks to the efforts of teachers who challenged students to move from “thinking to doing” by getting involved in the local community, **Foxfire**, founded in 1966, is known as a national and international model for the concept of teaching through place. Researching their surroundings and compiling residents’ oral histories, Foxfire students have compiled a living history of the people, communities, and artistic traditions of the Georgia mountains. For nearly 50 years, the *Foxfire Magazine* has documented local culture, history, labor, music, arts, crafts, and spiritual beliefs. Each issue features articles by students, including interviews with and drawings and photos of neighbors and family members. Today, students at Rabun County High School publish three issues a year. Throughout its long history, Foxfire has always maintained its commitment to the students, teachers, and community in Rabun County. To sustain its mission, Foxfire has partnered with Piedmont College, where longtime Foxfire stakeholders support teacher training and provide leadership in the education community.

Pasaquan Preservation Society // Buena Vista

For 30 years, the **Pasaquan Preservation Society** has been essential to the preservation of a unique and unparalleled Georgia treasure. Pasaquan, the artist-built environment created in the mid-1950s by self-taught artist and Georgia native St. EOM (Eddie Owens Martin), is a world-renowned, visionary art site. After St. EOM’s death, the Pasaquan Preservation Society assumed full ownership of Pasaquan and has remained dedicated to the preservation of this one-of-a-kind site and to the story of its founder. Through the generous gifts of the Pasaquan Preservation Society, St. EOM’s artwork is represented in numerous museum collections throughout the nation. These collections include the National Museum of Art, American Folk Art Museum, New Orleans Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Seattle Museum of Art, Albany Museum of Art, Hunter Museum in Chattanooga, High Museum of Art in Atlanta, and John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Wisconsin. Recognizing the significant capital expenditure required to restore and preserve the site, the Pasaquan Preservation Society deeded the site to the Kohler Foundation for complete restoration in 2014. At the end of the restoration process, Pasaquan will be deeded in perpetuity to Columbus State University to be preserved and protected as a cultural site, shared with the general public, and employed as an educational facility for CSU students as well as K-12 students.

Slow Exposures // Zebulon

Slow Exposures celebrates photography of the rural South with an exhibition, educational discussions, and workshops with nationally-recognized photographers and art collectors. With the support of Pike Historic Preservation, Slow Exposures began 12 years ago when a group of friends were searching for a way to raise funds to save some of Pike County's historic but rapidly deteriorating buildings. The initial weekend-long juried photography show has become a four-day event known for its efforts to promote and preserve the history and cultural traditions of the South. People from all over the country come together in Zebulon to enjoy not only photography but also southern food and music. To date, the funds generated by Slow Exposures have helped save the 1985 Strickland Store and the 1870 Whiskey Bonding Bar.

Telfair Museums // Savannah

As the first public art museum in the South, one of the oldest museums in America, and the first museum in the U.S. founded by a woman, **Telfair Museums** in Savannah paved the way for all other art and cultural institutions in Georgia. Composed of three distinct museums (the Telfair Academy, the Owens-Thomas House, and the Jepson Center for the Arts), Telfair houses a permanent collection of more than 7,000 works of art spanning three centuries. A winner of state and national awards, Telfair integrates art into the community in transformative ways, blending charitable service with artistic excellence. In addition to the 170,000 visitors it welcomes each year, Telfair serves more than 25,000 youths and young adults through its free education and outreach programs. Notably, Telfair is the only visual arts organization in Savannah whose outreach includes all city districts and age groups. In 2014 Telfair partnered with the University of Georgia Press to publish *Slavery and Freedom in Savannah*, whose launch was accompanied by a city symposium and a museum exhibition. Last year, Telfair spearheaded the traveling exhibition *Spanish Sojourns: Robert Henri and the Spirit of Spain*, assembling works from 35 North American museums to create the world's first thorough presentation of Henri's Spanish-themed portraits. Each year, Telfair also organizes and hosts the PULSE Art + Technology Festival—the only exhibition of its kind in the South. PULSE is recognized by the Association of Art Museum Directors as one of the nation's top 100 "Next Practices in Art Museum Education."

2015

GOVERNOR'S AWARD

The Governor's Awards for the Arts & Humanities honor outstanding individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to Georgia's civic and cultural vitality through excellence and service to the arts and humanities. Presented by the Office of the Governor in partnership with Georgia Council for the Arts and Georgia Humanities, the Governor's Awards recognize the value of the arts and humanities in the creation of a thriving economy and their contributions to education, innovation, growth, and quality of life. The Governor's Awards pay tribute to the most distinguished citizens and organizations that have demonstrated a lifetime commitment to work in these fields.

About the Award

Each 2015 Governor's Award for the Arts & Humanities was hand crafted by **Glass Artist Matt Janke** (M.F.A. in Glass from Kent State University). Janke is known for his diversity of work, strong aesthetic and impeccable skillset. You will see Matt's blown glass, cast glass, large and small sculptures throughout the country. Matt's commissioned custom lighting can be seen throughout Atlanta in restaurants such as Watershed on Peachtree and The Optimist, as well as his signature chandelier at Sweetwater Brewery. His sculptural works can be found at One Midtown Plaza, Bloc Lofts, Williams Square in Irving, Texas, along with numerous light-hearted and decorative works privately owned. River Gallery in Chattanooga, Wild Hope Gallery in Alpharetta, and the Spruill Gallery in Sandy Springs also showcase Matt's art.

Matt's story begins with the establishment of the first hot glassblowing studio in Atlanta, which he and his wife Kim first opened in 1996. Janke Studios was originally located in Marietta, but soon after was recruited by neighborhood leaders and artists to relocate to the Old Fourth Ward in downtown Atlanta. In 2000 Janke Studios made its permanent home at Studioplex on Auburn Avenue in the historic Old Fourth Ward. Recognizing that Atlanta would require a certain amount of glass community education to succeed, the Jankes established a mission; "To expose and promote the art of glassblowing throughout the Southeast." Janke Studios, which began with one student, has become a nationally recognized benchmark in the glass movement for bringing the art of glassblowing to Atlanta and owning one of the few mobile glassblowing studios in the country.



