



## Historic Timeline

### 1813

First mention of “**the arts**” in the Constitution of the State of Georgia (Article IV, § 13); *“The arts and sciences shall be promoted, in one or more seminaries of learning, and the Legislature shall, as soon as conveniently may be, give such further donations and privileges, to those already established, as may be necessary to secure the objects of their institution; and it shall be the duty of the General Assembly, at their next session, to provide effectual measures for the improvement and permanent security of the funds and endowments of such institutions.”*

### 1827

First mention of the term “**fine arts**” in the Georgia Code to illuminate the use of the term “useful arts” in the Constitution in the context of clarifying the application of copyright to manufactured goods

### 1828

First mention in the Georgia Code of a **gift of art** to the State of Georgia, a map of Virginia, given by Governor Giles of Virginia

### 1835

Act to establish the **Macon Lyceum and Library Society**

### 1838

Act to establish the **Academy of Fine Arts in Augusta**, and the **Columbus Lyceum**

### 1953

Act to create an **Art Commission for the State of Georgia** (HB 876); focused on advising the Governor on the acquisition of works of art for the State; *“Hereafter no work of art shall become the property of the State by purchase, gift or otherwise, unless such work of art or a design thereof, together with its proposed location, shall have been submitted to and approved by the Governor acting with the advice and counsel of the Art Commission; nor shall any work of art, until so submitted and approved, be contracted for, placed in or upon or allowed to extend over any property belonging to the State. No existing work of art owned by the State shall be removed, relocated or altered in any way without submission to the Governor... But no work of art shall be so accepted until submitted to the Art Commission or otherwise brought to its attention*

*provided that the Governor shall have the final authority to accept or reject regardless of the recommendations of the commission.”*

### **1961**

**First legislative appropriation** to the Art Commission for \$100

### **1964**

Act to create the **Georgia Art Commission** (HB 1076); repeals the 1953 act creating an Art Commission; establishes a broader focus of advising the State on the **visual arts** and the **visual image of the State**; “...*representative members from the field of art and aesthetics to advise the State on art and aesthetic matters, including but not limited to, painting, sculptures, murals, tablets, and monuments which are the property of the State, the design and visual appearance of State buildings and grounds, and the appearance of highways and parks as they contribute to the ‘Visual Image of Georgia’, and to advise the State on ways and means to promote the development of the arts in Georgia.*”; “*the term "works of art" shall apply to all paintings, mural decorations, stained glass, sculptures, tablets, and monuments of permanent character intended for ornament or commemoration. As used in this Act the term "Visual Image of Georgia" shall mean the appearance of the visual assets of Georgia, its public parks, its roads and highways, its vistas, and its historic and geographic places.*”

### **1966**

Act to amend the Georgia Art Commission (HB 671); adds **music** and **drama** to the responsibilities of the Commission; adds representatives of those respective fields to the Commission

### **1967**

Act to amend the Georgia Art Commission (HB 792); to add a third at-large member; **commission membership** is now clarified to read: “*There is hereby created the Georgia Art Commission to be composed of thirteen members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor. One member shall have special interest and training in the field of music. One member shall have special interest and training in the field of drama. One member shall be appointed from the Georgia Council of the American Institute of Architects from a list of three nominees from the governing body of such organization; one member from the Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects from a list of three nominees from the governing body of such organization; one member from the Association of Georgia Artists from a list of three nominees from the governing body of such organization; one member from the Association of Georgia Designer-Craftsmen from a list of three nominees from the governing body of such organization; one member from the Department of Art of the University of Georgia or other art unit of the University System of Georgia which grants a degree in art; one member from major art museums in Georgia selected from nominees submitted by such museums; and one member from the Department of Landscape Architecture of the University of Georgia; one member from a privately supported institution of higher learning offering an accredited program in the visual arts, selected from nominees submitted by such institutions; and three members from the State at large. The members of the Commission shall be persons who, by virtue of their experience and training, are capable of making professional judgments in the field of the arts.*”

## 1968

Act to create the **Georgia Commission on the Arts** (SB 218); the legal successor of the Georgia Art Commission, which is abolished; *“to promote the development of the arts in Georgia to insure that the role of the arts in the life of Georgia communities will continue to grow and will play an ever more significant part in the welfare and education and cultural experience of the citizens of Georgia.”*; *“The words “the arts” includes but is not limited to music, instrumental and vocal, dance, drama, folk art, creative writing, architecture, landscape architecture, painting, sculpture, photography, graphic and craft arts, industrial design, costume and fashion design, motion pictures, television, radio, tape and sound recording, and the arts related to the presentation, performance, execution and exhibition of such major art forms.”*; expanded to include the **visual arts, performing arts, and literary arts**; provides for the election of a **chairman**; provides for an **executive director** and other staff; declared the official agency to receive and disburse funds from the **National Endowment for the Arts**; Georgia Commission on the Arts duties now include: *“(a) To stimulate and encourage the study and presentation of the visual arts, the performing arts, and the literary arts throughout the State and to encourage public interest and participation in and support of the arts throughout the State. (b) To make such surveys as may be deemed advisable of public and private institutions engaged within the State in artistic and cultural activities and to make recommendations concerning appropriate methods to encourage participation in and appreciation of the arts to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations of persons in all parts of the State. (c) To take such steps as may be necessary to encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of the State and to expand the State's cultural resources. (d) To encourage and assist freedom of artistic expression essential to the well-being of artists. (e) To make available consultative services to the State, or any State agency, on the location, disposition, and evaluation of State-owned works of art, the design and visual appearance of State buildings and grounds, and the appearance of State highways and parks.”* The General Assembly allocated funding for the Georgia Commission on the Arts for 1967-68 in the amount of \$60,000. This is generally considered the first year when GCA programming was officially funded by the State.

## 1972

**Georgia Advisory Council for the Arts** established under the Office of Planning and Budget; this change was made administratively, but the state code governing the Commission on the Arts did not change until 1976

## 1975

Act to create an **Executive Center Fine Arts Committee** within the Georgia Building Authority (HB 211); purpose is to advise the Governor on history, research, artworks, design, and object inventory at the Governor's mansion

## 1976

Act to create the **Georgia Council for the Arts and the Humanities** (SB 482); supplants Georgia Commission on the Arts; organized under the Office of Planning and Budget; *“The council shall advise the Governor through the Office of Planning and Budget concerning methods and programs to: (1) stimulate and encourage the study and development of the arts and humanities as well as public interest and participation therein; (2) encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of our State; (3) expand the State's cultural resources; (4) encourage and*

*assist freedom of artistic expression essential for the well-being of the arts and humanities; (5) assist the communities and organizations within the State in originating and creating their own cultural and artistic programs; and (6) survey public and private institutions engaged within the State in cultural activities, including, but not limited to, architecture, dance, folk arts and allied arts and crafts, humanities, literature, music, painting, photography, sculpture and theatre.”*

### **1979**

Act to amend Georgia Council for the Arts and Humanities (SB 37); reestablishes the arts council; adjusts the number of **council members** and appointment of the council members

### **1981**

Act to establish position of **Poet Laureate of the State of Georgia** (SB 215)

### **1986**

Act to change Georgia Council for the Arts and the Humanities to **Georgia Council for the Arts** (SB 428)

### **1987**

Act to create the **Art in State Buildings Program** (SB 25)

### **1993**

Act to create the **Commission on the Preservation of the State Capitol** (SB 225)

### **2006**

Act to create the **Capitol Art Standards Commission** (HB 978)

### **2011**

Georgia Council for the Arts moves from the Office of Planning and Budget to the **Georgia Department of Economic Development** (HB 264)

Operation of the **Georgia Capitol Museum** transfers from the Secretary of State to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (SB 190)

### **2012**

Georgia **Arts Specialty License Plate** launched (HB 1005)

### **2013**

Act to “clarify the **role of arts in economic development** and other vital functions to the state” (HB338); affirms that **development of the arts is the public policy of the state** and that this work is administered through Georgia Council for the Arts; “*The General Assembly finds that the general welfare of the people of this state will be promoted by giving recognition to the arts as a vital part of our culture and heritage and economic development. The arts industry fuels cultural heritage tourism, the fastest growing segment of tourism; is a catalyst for community revitalization, boosting local economies; fuels arts education in our schools, which prepares students to be entrepreneurial, critical thinkers; and spurs innovation, helping industries to become more competitive in a global marketplace. The General Assembly, therefore, declares it*

*to be the public policy of this state to encourage the development of the arts.";* clarifies that the **council is an advisory body**; sets **number of council members** at 9, appointed by the Governor, plus two at-large members from the General Assembly; clarifies membership, qualifications, and meetings of the council; *"The council shall advise the Governor through the Department of Economic Development concerning methods and programs to: (1) Stimulate and encourage the study and development of the arts as well as public interest and participation therein; (2) Encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of this state; (3) Expand this state's cultural resources; (4) Encourage and assist freedom of artistic expression essential for the well-being of the arts; (5) Assist the communities and organizations within this state in originating and creating their own cultural and artistic programs; and Advance the arts in education, tourism, community development, and economic development in Georgia; (7) Assist local governments and communities within this state to plan, build, and connect the arts to their tourism, community, and economic development initiatives; (8) Establish standards and procedures and advisory committees as necessary to support the director and staff in furthering the objectives of the council's programs; and (9) Seek and receive the views of all levels of government and the private and nonprofit sectors with respect to state programs and policies for the promotion and assistance of the arts industry."*

## **2018**

**50th anniversary** of the establishment of the Georgia Commission on the Arts, considered the earliest precursor to the form and function of Georgia Council for the Arts