

GOVERNOR'S  
AWARDS  
FOR THE ARTS  
HUMANITIES



- Welcome
- Remarks by Governor Deal
- Presentation of Awards  
by Governor and Mrs. Deal
- Benediction by Georgia Poet  
Laureate Judson Mitcham
- Closing Performance,  
The Mosier Brothers Trio



## BIOS OF AWARDEES

### ARTHUR BERRY, ALBANY

For more than four decades, Arthur Berry has enhanced the cultural vitality of Georgia through his art, teaching, and community leadership. The chair of the Art Department at Albany State University from 1967-1988, he served as a mentor to hundreds of students, enriching their lives via courses, exhibits, and the opportunity to interact with visiting master artists. Countless educators teach today informed by methods and perspectives gained from Arthur Berry. A founding member of the Albany Art Guild, he has also served in leadership with the Albany Museum of Art, the Albany-Dougherty Historic Preservation Commission, and the Ritz Cultural Center. His outdoor sculpture, "From Soil to Sun," is Albany State University's first and only commissioned sculpture. It was named one of the seven most iconic and historic emblems of HBCU culture. In his retirement, he continues to invite ASU students into his home for lessons and to share his private art collection. Georgia is culturally richer because of Arthur Berry and his creative spirit and unyielding desire to give all to his work and his fellow citizens.

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### ANNETTE CONE-SKELTON, ATLANTA

Annette Cone-Skelton effortlessly blends natural artistic ability with visionary leadership within Atlanta's visual arts community. She has served as a champion of the arts and artists across the state for more than thirty years. Building on her experience as an exhibiting artist, arts instructor, curator, and owner of an arts advisory firm, in 2002 she co-founded the Museum of Contemporary Art Georgia (MOCA GA) to support Georgia's contemporary artists as well as to document and archive the history of their work. Under her leadership, MOCA GA has compiled a collection of more than 800 pieces representing 250 Georgia artists, as well as more than 100,000 archival items. It has also mounted 100 exhibits and hundreds of educational programs that have attracted thousands of audience members. Through combining creativity and innovation with concern for cultural heritage and individual integrity, Annette Cone-Skelton has played a vital role in raising the recognition of Georgia as a center for contemporary visual art.

## COLONEL BRUCE HAMPTON, ATLANTA

Since beginning his career as a member of high school bands during the 1960s, Colonel Bruce Hampton has embraced the music of the blues and traditional melodies of the Deep South and approached it in highly creative and intellectual ways. Hampton's work represents the South as a place well-versed in history, heritage, elevated intellect, and eccentricities. Through 15 albums and thousands of live performances, he has crafted an improvisational style and body of work that has influenced an entire generation of art rock and "jam band" artists from across the globe. In addition, he has been a central figure in Georgia's performance art, spoken word, poetry, and film sectors. Many of Georgia's most successful musicians count him as a trusted adviser, inspired by his ongoing commitment to innovation and his incredible work ethic. His legions of dedicated fans consider him a treasure to the musical and poetic arts of Georgia.

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## AKBAR IMHOTEP, ATLANTA

Through thoughtfully crafted words and delightfully entertaining performances, Akbar Imhotep has guided the imagination of audiences for almost 30 years. His storytelling and puppetry has educated and delighted thousands of children and adults in Georgia communities small and large. Through his work with award-winning performance venues such as the Center for Puppetry Arts, the Wren's Nest, and Young Audiences, he has become known as "Mr. Storyteller." He has performed in countless festivals and public libraries to share traditional African and Geechee folktales and the cultural values that they represent. He has also encouraged and trained a new generation of teaching artists who consider him a mentor, role model, and friend. Akbar Imhotep is a modern-day griot, passing along community values through story and the arts.

## THOMAS LUX, ATLANTA

Thomas Lux founded and established one of the most successful and influential poetry programs in the country. No easy feat in and of itself, Lux created that program, “Poetry @ Tech,” at the Georgia Institute of Technology – a university recognized more frequently for its engineering programs as opposed to its literary offerings. This program has become known for the caliber of poets presented, for attracting large audiences, and for its outreach to venues across Georgia. Throughout his career of over forty years, Lux has continued to consistently show an unerring commitment to furthering the craft of poetry and to bringing that art form to a wide audience. A nationally-acclaimed author, he has more than seventeen books in print, including *Split Horizon*, which was awarded the prestigious Kingsley-Tufts Poetry Award. Additional honors include being named a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Award in Poetry as well as receipt of three National Endowment for the Arts grants and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Lux also organizes free writing workshops for community members regardless of age or background, as he sees poetry as a vehicle for creating understanding. He publishes and promotes the work of emerging Georgia poets, and he has become a mentor to many of them. In addition, he has encouraged and brought attention to the spoken word community, as he knows that poetry is not meant only for the page. His work in poetry is prodigious and Georgia’s cultural community has been enriched because of him.

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## PHILIP MOULTHROP, MARIETTA

Philip Moulthrop is an artistic legacy. The son of master artist, Edward Moulthrop, Philip committed to his passion in 1977 by following in his father’s footsteps to become one of the world’s best known woodturners. He has continued the family tradition of innovation and craftsmanship, as well as that of making objects that highlight the beauty and variety of trees. Moulthrop’s works sensitize people to the endless beauty and varieties of grain, pattern, and color in our native southeastern woods. They reconnect people with nature and remind us of the importance of respecting the handmade object and its maker. Philip’s works are found in the collections of the White House, many corporate headquarters and museums such as the Smithsonian. They also are given as gifts to international dignitaries and are displayed to welcome visitors at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. His process of creation, harmony with nature, and the ability to connect a wide variety of individuals is the heritage of Philip Moulthrop and the legacy he provides for Georgia.

## PAUL PIERCE, COLUMBUS

Actor, administrator, leader and trail blazer – Paul Pierce has led the growth and development of the arts industry in Columbus as well as that of Georgia’s state theatre, the Springer Opera House, for more than twenty-five years. His vision and leadership has transformed the Springer into a vibrant, professionally recognized regional performance venue. Its annual series of Mainstage, Studio, and children’s performances attract thousands of attendees annually who contribute to the economic vitality of the west central Georgia area. In addition to being home to Springer Theatricals, a national touring company, the theatre conducts the largest regional acting program in the southeast that provides training for the next generation of performers. Beyond the Springer, Pierce devotes great energy and guidance to Georgia’s network of arts and theatre organizations. He also works closely with area businesses, nonprofits and educational institutions to ensure that arts and culture remain an ongoing component of community development.

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## AMY LOTSON ROBERTS, ST. SIMONS ISLAND

The African-American heritage of St. Simon’s Island is rich and vibrant. That this heritage has not been forgotten is due largely in part to the efforts of Amy Lotson Roberts. She has organized, led and educated individuals and communities for more than twenty years about the preservation of this historically significant culture. Her enthusiasm for raising public awareness motivates others to help save and share the buildings, cultural traditions and stories that represent coastal Georgia’s Geechee community. Robert’s latest effort focused on preserving the building that houses the Harrington Graded School, a former Rosenwald School. She founded and still provides leadership for the St. Simons African-American Heritage Coalition, which educates about preservation and land use. She also compiled a collection of African-American material culture objects and she leads bus tours to significant sacred and secular sites. From Black History Month programs to the Sea Islands Heritage Festival, the events and activities that Roberts organizes commemorates the island’s dynamic legacies while sharing with the wider community ensuring that they continue for future generations.

## MELVIN STEELY, CARROLLTON

The results of Melvin Steely's drive and determination provide access to Georgia's political history for millions of individuals. He established the Georgia Political Heritage Program, which has collected and archived the oral histories and papers of local, state, and national elected officials at the University of West Georgia. Through a partnership with the Digital Library of Georgia, these materials are currently available to anyone, anywhere with Internet access. The Program and its archive are an irreplaceable resource for educators and scholars; its value will continue to increase over time. In addition to creating that program, Steely has continued to strengthen Georgia's cultural and civic life through his teaching, research, and preservation of Georgia's political heritage. In order to illustrate the relevance and significance of elected officials on political history, he led efforts to physically re-construct the office of the Honorable Thomas Murphy, former Georgia Speaker of the House, on the campus of the university. Steely received accolades and expressions of sincere appreciation for his work to recognize Speaker Murphy's role in the creation of modern Georgia. His commitment to the principles and institutions of Georgia and United States government are strong. It is these deeply held convictions that lead him to share our state's history with future generations through archives, stories, and programs.

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## KAY AND DEAN SWANSON, CORNELIA

Through extraordinary acts of philanthropy, Kay and Dean Swanson have preserved and protected the artistic and cultural heritage of Northeast Georgia. Lifelong residents of the area, the Swansons' appreciation for and love of Northeast Georgia culture has resulted in the creation of the Folk Pottery Museum at the Santee Nacoochee Center, the nation's first and only institution dedicated to folk pottery history. The Swanson's donated their collection to the museum, built the building and have provided an endowment to support ongoing operations to educate the public about folk pottery and highlight this essential part of the history of Northeast Georgia. Their philanthropic work also extends to Piedmont College for which they provided the Swanson Center for the Performing Arts and Mass Communications. The Center contains classrooms, two theatres, a television studio, as well as the studio for the region's public radio station. Their desire to preserve, share and support artistry and creativity with others has made a difference in the lives of the residents of northeast Georgia as well as the arts community as a whole.

## SAVANNAH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Since its inception in 1989, the Savannah Music Festival has grown to be a world-class celebration of the musical arts by creating timeless and adventurous productions that encourage education, foster economic growth, and unite artists and audiences in the historic city of Savannah. One of the most distinctive cross-genre festivals in the world, it is the largest musical arts event in Georgia, attracting thousands of audience members and \$3 million in revenue. Each spring for 17 days the theatres and squares of Savannah host performances of jazz, classical, blues, gospel, bluegrass, world music, and other musical styles. More than solely an entertainment event, throughout the year the Savannah Music Festival also presents community lectures, hosts youth concerts, develops in-school programs, produces a weekly public radio series, and manages workshops about artistic forms as well as the music business. For these reasons and many more, the Savannah Music Festival continues to attract visitors to Georgia from around the world throughout the year while demonstrating the soul of the South.

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## THOMASTON-UPSON ARCHIVES

The Thomaston-Upson Archives opened its doors to the public in 1996 and has served its community through historical collections and culturally significant programs. It uses creative and entertaining vehicles such as radio broadcasts, walking and driving tours, and presentations on cemetery symbolism to share history with broad audiences while teaching important lessons to those who visit. In addition, through its preservation of vital community records and personal papers, it is a valuable resource for many genealogists and researchers exploring topics in nineteenth century Georgia history. As an example, one researcher has used its holdings to document the annual observance of Emancipation Day in Thomaston dating back to 1866, one of the oldest consistent observations of such traditions in the United States. More recently, an archivist has fostered connections between Upson County residents and persons in Europe who care for the graves of Upson County soldiers who perished during World War II. Not only is the Archives a home for historic records, it is an icon of cultural identity for the state of Georgia.



## THE 2012 GOVERNOR'S AWARD: ABOUT THE ARTIST

Each 2012 Governor's Award was hand crafted by Atlanta artist Matt Moulthrop. As a third generation wood turner, Matt has spent his entire life surrounded by wood. He is continuing the legacy of the Moulthrop family by using native southeastern wood and turning simple, elegant forms that capture and enhance the natural beauty of the material. Matt learned his woodturning skills the old fashioned way, by apprenticing with a master. He spent a total of nine years apprenticing first with his grandfather Edward Moulthrop, and then with his father Philip Moulthrop. His work has been shown in galleries and exhibits across the country. Most recently, he was selected for the exhibit "40 Under 40: Craft Futures" at the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery in Washington, D.C.

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## FLOWERS

Gail Potter

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Bill Adler

**BILL ADLER**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

## MUSIC

The Mosier Brothers Trio