

**Georgia Council for the Arts
FY20 Cultural Facilities Grant Panelists**

Panel 1- meeting October 28

Michele Arwood (Thomasville)

Michele Arwood is Executive Director of the Thomasville Center for the Arts. She is also the editor and publisher of THOM Magazine.

Leigh Burns (Atlanta)

Leigh Burns is Director of the Fox Theatre Institute. She has more than 19 years of experience in historic preservation planning and community development with several state agencies. She previously worked as the education and outreach coordinator for the Georgia Main Street program at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

James Brownsmith (Atlanta)

James is a Project Executive for the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission. He oversees a team of project managers in the design and construction of projects for the Board of Regents, the Technical College System of Georgia, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and numerous other state entities. Prior to GSFIC James was a construction project manager and regional manager for a design build firm that specialized in healthcare projects. James has a bachelor degree in architecture from Howard University and has a LEED AP certification.

Ricky L. Clark (Jonesboro)

Ricky Clark is the City Manager of Jonesboro, Georgia. He also serves as the Chairman of the Board of the Development Authority of Clayton County and as an Executive Board Member of the Aerotropolis Atlanta Alliance.

Delmos Stone (Rome)

Delmos Stone is the Community and Economic Development Manager for the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission.

Corinne Thornton (LaGrange)

Corinne is the Director, Office of Regional Services for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. She is also the Executive Director for the Georgia Academy of Economic Development.

Panel 2- meeting October 30

Colt Chambers (Cave Spring)

Colt Chambers was appointed by Governor Brian Kemp in August 2019 as a Council Member of the Georgia Council for the Arts. Since 2012, Chambers has served as President of the Board of the International Music and Entertainment Association, an advocacy organization for independent musicians and live entertainment professionals. He is a small business owner and currently serves on the board of the Calhoun Little Theatre, a division of the Harris Arts Center, and as an advisory committee member and reader for the National Endowment for the Arts' Challenge America grant program.

Elizabeth Coleman (Dublin)

Elizabeth Coleman is a Dublin native whose roots in music and performance run deep locally. Elizabeth received her Bachelor Degree in Theatre from Georgia College & State University, where she received numerous awards. During her time at Georgia College, Elizabeth was nominated for the Dean's Medallion, was named Best Actress for the 2015 Spring Semester, was nominated for the Irene Ryan award to represent Georgia College Theatre Department at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, and, most notably, was sent to New York City to meet with Thomas Schumacher, President of Disney Theatrical Group, after her portrayal of Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*. Elizabeth hopes to use her passion for Musical Theatre to create energy and opportunities for local talent to share their talents on Theatre Dublin's stage through professional main stage productions. Elizabeth currently serves as Theatre Director for the historic Theatre Dublin and Martin Movie House in Downtown Dublin, where she also serves as the Program Manager for the Downtown Development Authority.

Melissa Jest (Atlanta)

Melissa joined the Georgia Department of Natural Resources/Historic Preservation Division in July 2016 as the African American Program Coordinator. She also serves as liaison to the Georgia African American Preservation Network (GAAHPN). In her role, Melissa assists individuals and communities in identifying and preserving African American sites and properties significant to Georgia's heritage. She also coordinates the production of the Reflections quarterly newsletter, and develops other outreach strategies to initiate, promote and increase engagement in historic preservation activities and programs in communities across the state. Melissa brings 15 years of outreach experience, having worked in Savannah, Ga., Philadelphia, Pa., and with a national-level program at the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington D.C. She holds a Bachelors in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Florida and a Masters in Urban Studies from Savannah State University.

Gifton Passley (Atlanta)

Gifton Passley is the Assistant Director of Construction Services with the Georgia State Financing & Investment Commission (GSFIC) overseeing over one billion dollars in design and construction projects. He joined GSFIC in May 2005 and served in several project management capacities. Gifton has over 25 years of engineering and construction management experience, which includes structural design of tunnels, bridges and gas pipeline systems. Prior to joining GSFIC, Gifton worked as a Project Administrator and Design Engineer, for Parsons Brinckerhoff Inc., on the \$16 billion Central Artery/Tunnel Project (Big Dig) in Boston, Massachusetts for almost a decade.

Gifton has maintained active membership with the Georgia Association of State Facilities Administrators (GASFA) Executive Board since 2010 and was once the organization's President. Gifton also serves on the Executive Planning Committee of the Construction Owners Association of America (COAA) Georgia Chapter. He is a member of the COAA National, the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) and a voting member of the US Green Building Council (USGBC).

Gifton is a graduate of Northeastern University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil/Structural Engineering, and Cambridge College School of Management with a Master's Degree in Management and a Graduate Certificate in Negotiation & Conflict Resolution. Gifton holds several technical certifications including the Global Credential of Project Management Professional (PMP) from the Project Management Institute and LEED ACCREDITED Professional with a Building Design & Construction Specialty from the Green Building Certification Institute.

Elizabeth Simpson (Waycross)

Elizabeth Simpson is a graduate from Oklahoma State University with concentrations in English, Art History, Sociology, History, Marketing, Women's Studies, and Leadership Development. She moved to South Georgia in 2013 and has worked for Woodmen of the World, Walt Disney World Marketing, and as Executive Director of the Okefenokee Heritage Center. She is now the Development Coordinator at Step Up Savannah where her focus has been community outreach and engagement.

Annaka Woodruff (Atlanta)

Annaka Woodruff is the Program Manager for the Appalachian Regional Commission at the Georgia Department of Community Affairs where she manages the community and economic development fund and provides technical assistance to 37 counties in Georgia's Appalachian region.