GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR THE ARTS & HUMANITIES 2022
2022 GOVERNOR’S AWARDS

The Governor’s Awards for the Arts and 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.
Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) is a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development whose mission is to cultivate the growth of vibrant, thriving Georgia communities through the arts. GCA provides grant funding, programs and services statewide that support the vital arts industry, preserve the state’s cultural heritage, increase tourism and nurture strong communities. Funding for Georgia Council for the Arts is provided by appropriations from the Georgia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Georgia Humanities is a nonprofit organization that connects people and communities to inspire conversation, education, and understanding. With programming that engages all ages and backgrounds, Georgia Humanities encourages Georgians to explore what shapes us as individuals and binds us as a society. Funding for Georgia Humanities is provided by the Georgia General Assembly, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and various foundations, donors, and partners.
Georgia Museums (Bartow County)

Georgia Museums Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit, founded in 1994, that runs four world-class museums in Cartersville: Bartow History Museum, Booth Western Art Museum, Savoy Automobile Museum, and Tellus Science Museum. The museums’ exhibitions and programs attract hundreds of thousands of visitors from across the United States, generating an estimated economic impact of $12 million annually. Two of the museums are designated as Smithsonian Affiliates, garnering Cartersville the nickname Museum City. The museums regularly appear on “best of” lists, and staff members are honored with awards by peer institutions, museums, and travel networks. Georgia Museums Inc. directly improves the quality of life in Cartersville and among visitors by providing venues that promote learning, foster creativity, and deepen human understanding through the arts and humanities.

Perry Area Historical Society (Houston County)

Founded in 1981, the Perry Area Historical Society shares local history through a museum, archives, publications, preservation projects, and hundreds of educational programs. Supported primarily by members’ dues and volunteer staff, the society has attracted visitors from 49 states and 14 countries. Through collaborations with the local school system, they use the arts and theatre to contribute to education and community development. The Perry Area Historical Society contributes significantly to making Perry and Houston County a great place for families to live, learn, work, and play.
Thomasville Entertainment Foundation
(Thomas County)

Founded in 1937, the Thomasville Entertainment Foundation brings nationally and internationally-renowned performing arts events to rural southwest Georgia. Committed to equity, they bring together private investment to reduce the costs of programming and to offer workshops, master classes, artists in the schools, and scholarships to keep the performing arts accessible to all members of the community. Thomasville Entertainment Foundation has created and fostered a culture of appreciation and support for the arts and humanities that extends across the community and beyond.

Heartbound Ministries
(Fulton County)

The mission of HeartBound Ministries is to provide programs and resources to meet the need of the prison community — incarcerated people, their families, and correctional staff — by changing the culture from one of crime and incarceration to hope and restoration.

As an organization, HeartBound has a 19-year record of outstanding programming and an innovative approach to incarceration by addressing the root causes of incarceration and its generational impacts. HeartBound is a respected voice on issues of criminal justice reform and has been recognized by Georgia Natural Gas, Exelon Energy, USA Today, and others for its efforts.

HeartBound provides art classes, trauma counseling, mentoring, literacy programs, life skills training, parenting classes, a college degree program for incarcerated women, and other programs for inmates and their families. Their comprehensive array of programs helps to fill the gap in much-needed services for incarcerated adults and youth.
Annie Greene  
(Troup County)

Entering her ninth decade, Annie Greene is an educator, painter, author, and yarn artist. The daughter of educators in Georgia’s segregated schools, she attended a Rosenwald School, Spelman College, and Albany State University. She earned her master’s degree in art education from New York University in 1961. Mrs. Greene became a teacher serving students from elementary age to college. She developed her yarn art medium to teach students to create realistic scenes when the schools did not have other supplies available. Mrs. Greene is married to another longtime educator, and their two children are both educators. Her life is a testament to the power of education to enable people to overcome challenging circumstances as well as the hope for a better world envisioned through creativity and art.

Jeffrey Green  
(Sumter County)

For more than 20 years, Jeff Green’s teaching, acting, directing, and playwriting strengthened Georgia Southwestern State University’s academic offerings and community outreach. A leader with the Georgia Theatre Conference, he convened gatherings that generated economic impact through hotel rooms, restaurants, and community shops. Green collaborated with the Kennedy Center to bring important touring ensembles to Georgia. He was also a resource to the restoration and re-establishment of the Rylander Theatre as an important cultural center in the region. More recently, he has written and directed Murder Mystery weekends for Americus and Cuthbert that use the arts to attract tourists. His students are emerging as leaders in the Georgia theater community, in addition to serving as teachers, caregivers, and academic advisors.
Alan Rothschild
The Do Good Fund Inc.
(Muscogee County)

For almost 40 years, Alan Rothschild has been a tireless volunteer and philanthropist for the arts and humanities in Georgia, particularly in his hometown of Columbus. A tax attorney by profession, Rothschild’s advice and management of assets have leveraged philanthropy to support museums, historical societies, higher education institutions, and preservation groups. He is a founding trustee of the Community Foundation for the Chattahoochee Valley and a past board member for statewide organizations, including the Georgia Museum of Art, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, and Georgia Humanities. One of his areas of special interest is Southern photography. Ten years ago, he created the Do Good Fund, a seminal collection of fine art and documentary works that record the life and cultures of the South. The Do Good Fund hosts a gallery in downtown Columbus, and it provides works for lending to some of the region’s premier museums. In addition, selected works from the Do Good Fund comprise an exhibition that has toured across the Southeast.

Rev. Dr. Dwight D. Andrews
Emory University and First Congregational United Church of Christ
(DeKalb/Fulton Counties)

Since making Georgia his home in 1987, Dr. Dwight Andrews has contributed significantly to shaping the musical, spiritual, and humane landscape of our state. As a Professor of Music Theory and African American Music at Emory University, he is nationally recognized as a teacher, author, and researcher. Dr. Andrews also serves as senior minister of the historic First Congregational Church of Atlanta. He holds degrees from the University of Michigan and Yale University. He collaborated with playwright August Wilson and director Kenny Leon and created music for several Broadway plays including: Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom, Joe Turner’s Come and Gone, Fences, The Piano Lesson, Seven Guitars, and A Raisin in the Sun. Andrews’ work has inspired and influenced audiences across the United States and around the world. Dr. Andrews is also deeply involved in the Georgia arts community, serving on boards for the Atlanta Jazz Festival, Meridian Herald, True Colors Theatre, and the International Toni Morrison Society.
Christopher Moses
The Alliance Theatre
(Fulton County)

Over the last 22 years, Chris Moses has created world-class theatre at the Alliance Theatre for Georgia’s children and teens. Under his leadership, Alliance’s education department has more than doubled its annual outreach, serving more than 100,000 children, from newborns to teenagers, annually. An ardent believer that theatre is an avenue for addressing community challenges, he has fostered broad partnerships to bring stakeholders together and identify solutions. The Palefsky Collision Project, entering its 20th season, unleashes teenagers’ creativity and problem-solving, inspired by photographs, historic places, and other kinds of prompts. Students value the knowledge and relationships they have built through working with him.

Tom Asher
1936-2022
The Rich Foundation
(Fulton County)

For more than 60 years, Tom Asher was a committed philanthropist, leader, and advocate for important arts and humanities projects at the Atlanta History Center, the Atlanta University Center’s Woodruff Library, the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum, the Historic Oakland Foundation, and the Woodruff Arts Center. Of particular importance to him is the connection between the Jewish and Black communities and how this shared history before, during, and after the civil rights movement has helped to move Georgia forward. A transformative friendship with Atlanta Student Movement Leader Lonnie King led him to support exhibitions and historical markers about Atlanta’s civil rights heritage.
James Downey was born in northern Wisconsin and grew up with a passion for drawing and building things. He went on to study visual arts at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, where he stumbled upon glass as a medium and was immediately hooked. In 2014, he received a BFA in sculpture, with an emphasis in glass.

Developing a love for teaching as well, he moved to Washington where he began teaching at Tacoma’s Hilltop Artists in Residence, a unique, youth glass art enrichment program. Here he spent an invaluable six years learning as a teacher and mentor. In 2021, the Turner Center for the Arts, located in Valdosta, GA., hired James to build a new glass art studio where he currently teaches classes to the public.”
A division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development