



**ALABAMA
MUSEUMS**
association

AMA 2018 Council

executive committee

Ryan Blocker | *president*
Alabama Department of Archives & History

Kari Barley | *vice president*
Landmark Park

Kendall Chew | *secretary*
Birmingham Holocaust Education Center

Dena Thurmond | *treasurer*
Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts

district representatives

Julie Patton | *district 1*
Guntersville Museum

Kristen Holmes | *district 2*
The Evelyn Burrow Museum

Kathie Thurman | *district 3*
The Tuscaloosa Museum of Art

Lindsay Elliott | *district 4*
Vulcan Park and Museum

Mike Walczak | *district 5*
Governor's Mansion

Ashlea Singleton | *district 6*
Washington County Museum

at-large representatives

Bill Allen | *place 1*
University of Alabama Museums

Brian Mast | *place 2*
Black Belt Museum

Rebecca Duke | *place 3*
Dr. J.C. Francis Medical Museum

WWW.ALABAMAMUSEUMS.ORG

NEWSLETTER

July / August / September 2018

Dear AMA members,

It is my pleasure to announce that the 2019 AMA conference will be held in Montgomery on February 24 - 26! It's been five years since the Capital City last hosted AMA, but we promise there will be something new for everyone! A theme is still in the works, but the local planning committee will announce it soon. Exciting things are happening in Montgomery and we hope you will join us there in 2019! Be on the lookout for a call for proposals, hotel information, and additional conference details in the coming months.

I would also like to introduce our new Council members. **MIKE WALCZAK** is the executive director of the **Governor's Mansion** and is the new District 5 Representative. **BILL ALLEN** is the archeology collections manager for the **University of Alabama Museums** and is one of our new Representatives-at-Large. **BRIAN MAST** is the public historian for the **Black Belt Museum at the University of West Alabama** and is our other new Representative-at-Large. **DENA THURMOND**, with the **Gadsden Cultural Arts Foundation**, moves from her previous position as an At-Large Representative to our new Treasurer. Please join me in welcoming them to the AMA Council.

All the Best,
Ryan Blocker

Grant Writing Workshop

led by Kelley Keeton Taft of the Kelley Group, LLC

Thursday, August 2, 2018

10am - 2pm

**Mary G. Hardin Center for the Arts
501 Broad Street, Gadsden**

RSVP by July 19 to randypaul@northalabama.org or 800.648.5381

**Include the specific need you want a grant to address.*

The Alabama Museums Association is partnering with the Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association to provide this FREE (even lunch is provided!) workshop.

NORTHALABAMA.ORG | ALABAMAMUSEUMS.ORG

Congratulations & Thank You for the Work!

MARILYN LAUFER PHD, director of **Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University**, retired on June 1. As the museum's longest-serving director, Laufer left with a total of 22 years of service to Auburn University and 12 years with the museum.

Assistant director **ANDY TENNANT** has been named interim director, and a national search for a permanent director will begin this summer with the goal of having a permanent replacement in place by fall semester. **AUBURN.EDU.JCSM.AUBURN.EDU**

Some changes have been made in leadership at Birmingham city museums. Legendary curator and historian **KAREN R. UTZ** has been appointed interim executive director at **Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark**. **JOHN W. NIXON JR.** has retired. **SLOSSFURNACES.COM**

TRACI BENNETT is serving as interim director at the **Negro Southern League Museum**, replacing **NATASHA L. ROGERS**. **BIRMINGHAMNSLM.ORG**

CHRIS PFEFFERKORN is the new president and CEO of the **Birmingham Zoo** effective July 1. Outgoing after 14 years of service is **WILLIAM FOSTER, DVM**. Pfefferkorn has been the Zoo's senior vice president since 2015. He will oversee work that includes a new *Arrival Experience* and the *Asian Passage*.

LEIGH LASER COLLINS is now at the Zoo as their new corporate relations director. She brings over 30 years of related experience and recently received the William S. Roth Outstanding Fundraiser of the Year award. **BIRMINGHAMZOO.COM**

KENDALL R. CHEW has returned to the **Birmingham Holocaust Education Center** to serve as their outreach coordinator. In the interim, she was the development and communications coordinator at the **Alabama Humanities Foundation**. She continues to serve as secretary for the **Alabama Museums Association**. **BHECINFO.ORG**

The **Alabama State Council on the Arts** in Montgomery has announced that **AL HEAD**, executive director of the Council for the past 33 years, and is the longest sitting state arts agency director in the country, will retire effective December 31, 2018.

Head oversaw the development of a nationally recognized state folk life program, the creation of the Alabama Writers Forum, the creation of Design Alabama, among other highlights.

The Council will immediately begin a national search for a replacement with the intention of having a new director in place by January 1, 2019. Until that time Head will remain active in the director's position and available to oversee a smooth transition.

The Alabama State Council on the Arts is the official state arts agency of Alabama and administers the grants programs and provides financial assistance in arts planning and programming. **ARTS.STATE.AL.US**

They have recently awarded a number of *Arts and Cultural Facilities Grants* to enhance spaces for arts creation and presentations that impact their communities, including:

Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame in Birmingham received \$60,000 to support the renovation of the historic **Carver Theatre**. **JAZZHALL.COM**

Arts Huntsville is receiving \$30,000 for renovations in their **Moon Performing Arts Center**. **ARTSHUNTSVILLE.ORG**

Azalea City Center for the Arts in Mobile has been awarded \$5,000 for the design phase of a performing arts center. **AZALEACITYARTS.COM**

Coleman Center for the Arts in York received a \$6,000 for a design plan for the center. **COLEMANARTS.ORG**

Marshall County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program in Guntersville was awarded \$10,000 in an art & cultural facilities grant for the construction of the **Southern Appalachia Folk Art Gathering Place**. The new space will offer activities such as crafting, history, music, and much more. **MCRSVP.ORG**

In Memoriam

W. MICHAEL SULLIVAN, executive director of the **Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center** from 1998 to 2009 passed away on June 5 in Victoria, British Columbia.

Mike spent 10 years keeping the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center afloat, every year trying something new and more audacious to bring paying customers in through the doors. He oversaw the creation and funding of permanent exhibit galleries, school programs, teacher training and changing IMAX adventures. His “little museum that could” brought in two traveling exhibits annually, including massive undertakings with the China Museum of Science and Technology, Beijing, the *Mummy* exhibit with the British Museum, the *Dead Sea Scrolls* with the Israeli Antiquities Authority and *A Day in Pompeii*, which the Exploreum produced with the Italian Archeological Authority, Naples. The Pompeii exhibit subsequently toured to six other museums in the U.S.

Our condolences to family, friends and colleagues.

EXPLOREUM.COM

The **Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University** is the recipient of an **American Association for State and Local History Award of Merit** for *Remembering the Great War: Alabama and World War One*. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

Remembering the Great War: Alabama and World War One is a traveling exhibit created by the Draughon Center and the **Alabama Department of Archives & History**, with assistance from Industrial Design students and faculty in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction.

The exhibit commemorates the centennial anniversary of the state’s involvement in the war and enlivens an important period of history which often goes overlooked. It tells the story of the war from the perspectives of Alabamians whose lives were shaped by the conflict. For more information on the exhibit, its creators, and content, please visit: **REMEMBERINGTHEGREATWAR.ORG | AUBURN.EDU/CAH**

The **Alabama Historical Commission** (AHC) will administer a \$750,000 state-funded Grant Program in fiscal year 2019 (October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019), for improvements as well as educational programming at historic sites in Alabama.

Grants will be awarded to public or private entities who own and operate historic sites in Alabama. Grants will be awarded to entities that reflect an education-based mission, concentrate on educational programming, and reflect the geographical diversity of the state. Preference will be given to publicly-owned battlefields or structures constructed prior to 1840 that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and historic school structures. Grant amounts will not exceed \$20,000 for any one entity.

In fiscal year 2018, the Historical Commission received over 100 applications requesting more than \$4.3 million in funding.

Guidelines and the official 2019 Historic Sites Grant application that is due by August 15, 2018 are available on the AHC website, **AHC.ALABAMA.GOV/RESOURCES/2019_GRANT_GUIDELINES_APP.PDF**. AHC will announce the grant awards in October 2018.

Construction has begun on the new **Shelby County Arts Center** (SCAC) in Columbiana. The facility will be 30,000-square-foot and include the EBSCO Fine Art Gallery, a 200-seat black box theater, a metal-work foundry, music studios, and visual arts classrooms for drawing, painting and pottery. A 500-seat municipal mixed-use venue also will be part of the project.

The SCAC groundbreaking ceremony was held in May and the project is a collaboration between Shelby County, the city of Columbiana and the **Shelby County Arts Council**.
SHELBYCOUNTYARTSCOUNCIL.COM

The University of Montevallo is also creating a new **Center for the Arts** that will serve both students and the greater community. The facility will house performance venues and hospitality space, the university art gallery, offices, classrooms, studios, a multi-use digital fabrication lab and scene design and wardrobe shops. It is expected to be completed by August 2019. **MONTEVALLO.EDU**

AMA Classifieds

Thank you to all the **Blue Star Museums** who offer free admission to active-duty military personnel and their families through Labor Day! There are over two dozen Alabama museums (happily, too many to list here) honoring military this summer. See the entire list at WWW.ARTS.GOV/NATIONAL/BLUE-STAR-MUSEUMS.

Don't forget about The Official Travel Site of Alabama! The **Alabama Tourism Department** maintains a statewide Festival & Events Calendar and provides many other resources for tourists and for cultural attractions.

In May, Lee Sentell, AHC Commissioner and Alabama Tourism Director, announced that the Alabama travel industry grew by \$1 billion in 2017, to a record of \$14.3 billion in expenditures, and increased jobs by 7,399 to some 186,906 employees. **ALABAMA.TRAVEL**

Nominations are being accepted until July 31 for the *Vulcan Community Awards*. **Vulcan Park and Museum** annually recognize recipients from the Birmingham region in the categories of Hero, Servant Leadership, Game Changer and Newcomer. In addition to The Vulcans, special Spear awards will be given in four categories. The awardees will be honored at their annual dinner on November 1. See their website for more information. **VISITVULCAN.COM**

Join **Main Street Alabama** August 22-24 in Eufaula for the *5th Annual aLABama Downtown Laboratory* as they bring all of the elements of the Main Street Four Point Approach® together. Learn how working in all areas of the approach simultaneously can be the most significant method to move the needle in your downtown. Meet with other downtown enthusiasts and build a vital network for your local efforts. **MAINSTREETALABAMA.ORG**

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the **Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC)** is in Jackson, Mississippi on October 8-10. **SEMCDIRECT.NET**

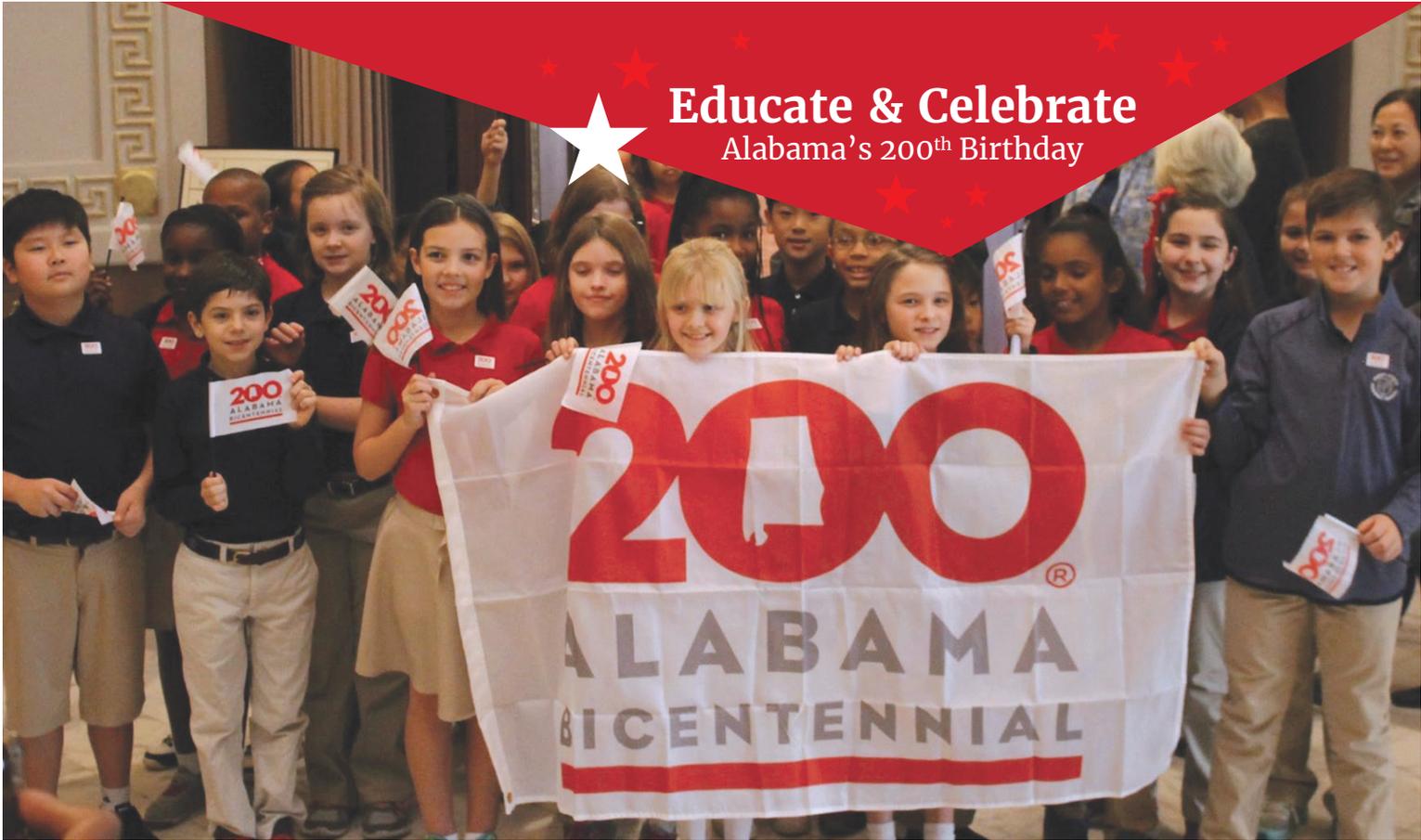


The free, interactive mobile app for the **Alabama Bicentennial PastPort**, a guide to nearly 300 historical destinations in Alabama, is now available. The app is designed as a companion to the

PastPort and contains detailed information for stamp sites, including contact information and addresses. The app also features historical content from the **Encyclopedia of Alabama**. The 174-page printed **PastPort**, a Time-Traveler's Companion to our Counties, can be stamped at select sites in each of our 67 counties and available for purchase at the exhibit host sites or at **Alabama 200** online shop. **ALABAMA200.ORG/PARTICIPATE/PASTPORT**

Making Alabama. A Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit continues its tour around Alabama! Four copies of the work are being experienced concurrently. Through the summer, you can visit the **Dowling Museum-Ann Rudd Art Center, Guntersville Museum, Alice Museum, Cherokee County Historical Museum, Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum** and/or other non-museum venues closer to your home! See the schedule at **MAKINGALABAMA.ORG**.

Join America's Annual Celebration of Boundless Curiosity: **MUSEUM DAY** is a nationwide event where participating museums and cultural institutions across the country offer free admission on Saturday, September 22, 2018 to anyone presenting a Museum Day ticket. Museum Day 2018 will showcase female trailblazers in the arts, science, innovation and culture. Visit the website for programming ideas. The **Smithsonian** organizes this annual celebration of museums. Participation is free and includes publicity and numerous resources, but registration is required via **SMITHSONIAN.COM/MUSEUMDAY**.



Educate & Celebrate Alabama's 200th Birthday

It's not every day that a state celebrates two centuries of statehood. Be a part of our statewide initiatives that focus on educating all students about Alabama's history and involve them in the bicentennial celebration.

Be a Part of Our Bicentennial Schools!

- Request an **ALABAMA 200** flag and fly it at your school.
- Apply to receive a \$2,000 grant for a community project and be designated an Alabama Bicentennial School.
- Engage in a community project for a chance to be recognized as an Alabama Bicentennial School of Excellence and participate in the official bicentennial commemoration on December 14, 2019.

Visit Alabama200.org and find out how you can incorporate Alabama's bicentennial into your curriculum.

To inquire about becoming a Bicentennial School, contact Erik.Haeuser@archives.alabama.gov or call 334.353.9152



#AL200 #ALABAMA200



★ Celebrate our state.