



# ALABAMA MUSEUMS *association*

## AMA 2017 Council

### executive committee

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

Kari Barley | *vice president*  
Pioneer Museum of Alabama

Kendall Chew | *secretary*  
Alabama Humanities Foundation

Ken Gaddy | *treasurer*  
The Paul W. Bryant Museum

### 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

Dana-Marie Lemmer | *district 5*  
Wiregrass Museum of Art

Ashlea Singleton | *district 6*  
Washington County Museum

### at-large representatives

Mario Gallardo | *place 1*  
Walnut Gallery

Dena Thurmond | *place 2*  
Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts

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

[WWW.ALABAMAMUSEUMS.ORG](http://WWW.ALABAMAMUSEUMS.ORG)

# NEWSLETTER

January / February / March 2018

Dear AMA Members,

I hope everyone is surviving the cold weather season! With the temperatures dropping, it is essential to make sure that you and your museum are cold weather prepped. While Alabama doesn't often experience extreme low temperatures, it's always best to have a plan in place. Below, please find a link to FEMA's website on preparing for winter storms.

[https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1408633655071-32caae446ef4ab2f4fccdb55f725c/PrepareAthon\\_WINTER%20STORMS\\_HTG\\_FINAL\\_508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1408633655071-32caae446ef4ab2f4fccdb55f725c/PrepareAthon_WINTER%20STORMS_HTG_FINAL_508.pdf)

You can also find recommended disaster prevention, planning, and response web resources on the AMA website.

<http://www.alabamamuseums.org/media/pdf/Recommended%20Disaster%20Prevention.pdf>

Plans continue for the 2018 conference in Tuscaloosa! Be on the lookout for the preliminary program to be announced at the end of January. The local committee is working hard to make this an exceptional conference. We hope to see everyone there!

All the Best,

Ryan Blocker  
AMA President

*Alabama Museums: Our Past, Our Present, Our Future*

March 4-6, 2018 in Tuscaloosa

Book your Embassy Suites hotel room by February 5  
for the \$154 conference rate.

Phone: 205-561-2500 | Use Group Code: AMA

# Congratulations!

**JOYCE SPIELBERGER** has been appointed interim executive director for the **Birmingham Holocaust Education Center**. She has served as a board member and officer in the past and will spearhead educating Alabamians about the history of the Holocaust and constructing a humane future. She most recently was a consultant with the Birmingham Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program and also served as executive director of Magic Moments for four years. Spielberger previously had a role as director of community relations and overseas programs for the Birmingham Jewish Federation. She's a graduate of both Leadership Birmingham and Leadership Alabama. Joyce replaces **REBECCA DOBRINSKI**, who left the organization in October after three years to pursue other opportunities.

**BHECINFO.ORG**



The **Huntsville Museum of Art** is proud to announce that the **Alabama Art Education Association** awarded their Director of Education/Museum Academy Laura E. Smith the prestigious *2017 Museum Art Educator of the Year Award*.

Among her many duties, Laura publishes the quarterly schedule of Museum Academy Master Artist Workshops and Classes for Adults, Children and Teens, develops and implements exhibition educational programming, along with Academy classes and workshops. Laura also works with both public and private area schools to promote art education in the community by developing and implementing the Children's Community Gallery, YAM: Exhibition for Youth Art Month, and the Teacher In-Service Professional Development Workshops. Additionally, Laura works with The Alabama State Council on the Arts to implement the annual VAA: Visual Arts Achievement Program. She also works with the local congressional office for the Congressional Art Competition for Alabama's 5th District. **WWW.HSVMUSEUM.ORG**

The **Alabama Academy of Honor** welcomed four new members on October 23, 2017, in the Old House Chamber of the State Capitol in Montgomery. This year's honorees are Alabama Governor Kay Ivey, award-winning journalist Cynthia Tucker Haynes, President and CEO of Sloss Real Estate Catherine Sloss Jones, and Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of the **U.S. Space & Rocket Center** **DEBORAH EDWARDS BARNHART**. The Huntsville Center is the largest spaceflight museum in the world and serves as the Official Visitor Center for NASA Marshall Space Flight Center and as a Visitor Center for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

Established in 1965, the Academy bestows honor and recognition upon living Alabamians for their outstanding accomplishments and service to the state and the nation. Membership is limited to 100 distinguished Alabamians and all of Alabama's living governors. In the course of the Academy's history, over 260 members have been elected. For more information about the Alabama Academy of Honor, visit **WWW.ALABAMAACADEMYOFHONOR.ORG**.

The **Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area** recently approved seven grant awards totaling almost \$60,000 to help fund projects that help economic development and tourism in northwest Alabama.

Grant awards that were approved include funding a portrait of mezzo soprano Patti Malone for the Scout Music House, in Athens, submitted by the Athens Arts League; interpretive signage for RIVERWILD, an accessible playground, garden and splash pad in Delano Park, Decatur, submitted by the Delano Park Conservancy; and development and restoration of the Tuscumbia Landing Historic Site, submitted by Sacred Healing Circle; Total awards were \$57,131.99, with \$123,118.01 submitted as match and overmatch.

The MSNHA spans the six Tennessee River basin counties of Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone and Morgan and focuses on the Tennessee River, music and Native American heritage. For more information on MSNHA and its next grants program cycle, visit **MSNHA.UNA.EDU**.



**The U.S. Space & Rocket Center** has partnered with **American Girl** for the 2018 Girl of the Year™, **LUCIANA VEGA™**.

Luciana's story of an 11-year-old girl with a passion for space and the desire to be the first person on Mars is told in

a chapter book series by author Erin Teagan. The first book in the series takes Luciana to **Space Camp**, where she learns the importance of leadership and teamwork for her journey to Mars.

To ensure the accuracy of Luciana's story, American Girl formed a four-member Advisory Panel that included the Rocket Center's CEO and Executive Director, **DR. DEBORAH BARNHART**, along with esteemed scientists and astronauts. Over the course of many months, a team of American Girl editors and product designers visited Space Camp and NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston to gain insight into a day in the life of a Space Camp trainee and future astronaut. American Girl's partnership with NASA was developed through the Space Act Agreement to inform and inspire the wider public and in particular young girls about the excitement of space and STEM careers.

On February 4, the Rocket Center is hosting a Luciana launch party that will include special activities and guests. The doll was made available nation-wide on January 1 and went on sale in the Center's gift shop on January 2. **ROCKETCENTER.COM**

The **Alabama Historical Commission** has contracted with SEARCH, a leading provider of cultural resources services, to conduct a maritime archaeological survey of four areas in the Alabama River near Selma, Dallas County, Alabama. Past investigations considered those four areas to have a high probability of containing Civil War material. An assessment of the integrity of those sites and their historical significance, based on National Register of Historic Places nomination eligibility criteria began last October. Since Selma was captured on April 2, 1865 artifacts associated with Selma's war industries have remained in the Alabama River.

**AHC.ALABAMA.GOV**

**GOVERNOR KAY IVEY** announced the launch of **Alabama Bicentennial Schools Program** on "Alabama Day," December 14. The program is designed to encourage all public, private, and homeschool students and teachers to participate in the celebration of Alabama's 200th anniversary of statehood. Every educational entity can receive a commendation from Gov. Kay Ivey suitable for framing and display in their school. Participating schools will also receive access to official bicentennial logos and a special bicentennial flag.

K-12 schools that seek to be designated an Alabama Bicentennial School must develop a project and submit a project proposal that reaches out to and provides some benefit for the community. This can take the form of a number of things, such as a beautification project, tech center development, historic building rehabilitation, a community-based play, dance, performance, etc. Schools are encouraged to define their own projects based on their own community/school needs.

Schools awarded the designation will receive a \$2,000 grant to help with their project. Up to 200 schools across Alabama may participate. 21 schools, 3 from each congressional district, will have a chance to be designated an Alabama Bicentennial School of Excellence, and participate in the official bicentennial commemoration ceremony. These 21 schools will be decided based on their community projects. The deadline for schools to submit project proposals is March 31, 2018. **WWW.ALABAMA200.ORG/EDUCATORS/BICENTENNIAL-SCHOOLS**

Additionally, the Alabama Bicentennial Commission is offering Summer Institutes for teachers.

**Bicentennial Summer Institutes** are hands-on professional development experiences for teachers in grades 3 through 5. Each 3.5-day session includes exciting field trips, activities, and guest speakers. All participants receive a \$400 stipend, lunch, books, supplies, and STI PD credit. Deadline for applications is January 22. For more information, please visit: **WWW.ALABAMA200.ORG/EDUCATORS/PROFESSIONAL-DEVELOPMENT/**

For more information, see the last page of this newsletter, call the **Alabama Bicentennial Commission** office at 334-242-4537 or visit **ALABAMA200.ORG**.

# AMA Classifieds

**LAURA ANDERSON**, state coordinator for the **American Association for State and Local History Leadership in History Awards** program, seeks nominations. Leadership in History Award winners serve as models and inspirations for others in the field. For more information about the awards program, visit [about.aaslh.org/awards](http://about.aaslh.org/awards). Know of worthy projects or publications? Please contact Laura at 205.558.3992 | [landerson@alabamahumanities.org](mailto:landerson@alabamahumanities.org) to discuss.

To celebrate the upcoming 200-year anniversary of Tuscaloosa, the **Tuscaloosa Bicentennial Commission** has formed to put together a year-long celebration that will culminate in the official celebration on the city's birthday December 13, 2019. As part of this celebration, the Tuscaloosa Bicentennial Commission has asked Yvonne Wells, a Tuscaloosa native and celebrated folk artist who is known internationally for her storytelling quilts, to create a quilt that celebrates the history of Tuscaloosa to be presented at the official bicentennial kickoff in December 2018.

Wells is looking for a group of four creative artists to join her in making the Bicentennial Quilt for Tuscaloosa which will consist of 2' x 4' panels. Under her guidance, these four artists will help bring the history of Tuscaloosa to life on the quilt in Well's story-telling style. Applicants must be able to hand-stitch and should demonstrate a creativity in the arts, while also being able to work well in a cooperative and constructive environment.

To see the timeline for the event, more biographical information about Yvonne Wells, or to apply to be a part of this project, [WWW.KENTUCK.ORG/YVONNE-WELLS-BICENTENNIAL-PROJECT/](http://WWW.KENTUCK.ORG/YVONNE-WELLS-BICENTENNIAL-PROJECT/)

*Share your announcements and professional needs with museums colleagues here!*

*Email information to [info@alabamamuseums.org](mailto:info@alabamamuseums.org).*

## Grant opportunity!

*Save America's Treasures* grants from the federal Historic Preservation Fund provide preservation and/or conservation assistance to nationally significant historic properties and collections. Funding has been authorized for the distribution of up to \$5 million in matching grants through Save America's Treasures in 2018. Grant amounts can range from \$25,000 - \$500,000, with a required dollar for dollar match from non-federal sources. **Application deadline is February 21, 2018.**

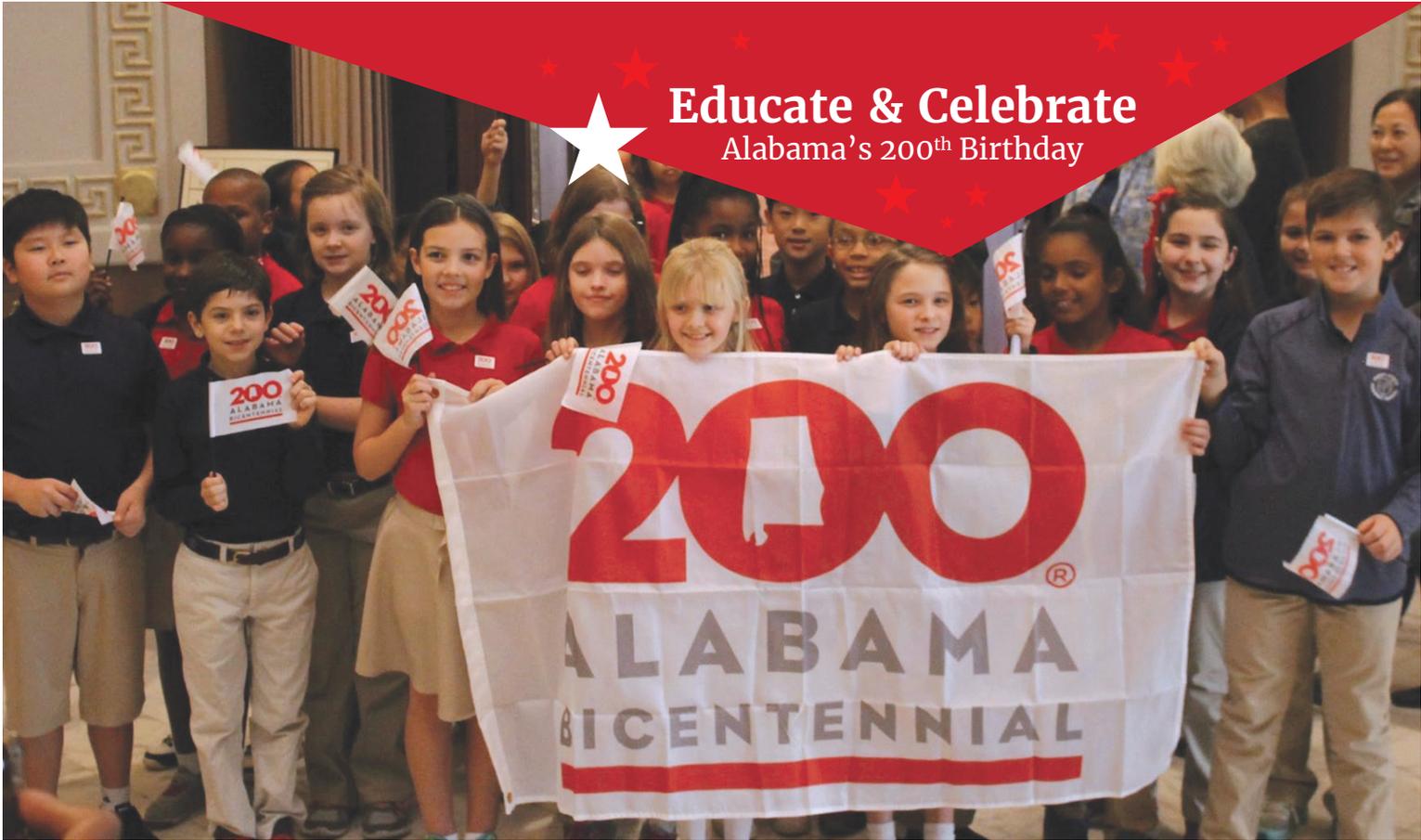
For complete guidelines and application, go to **NPS.GOV**. The Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts offers free grant application support for projects that may involve significant work or consultation by CCAHA. For assistance with your application: Contact Lee Price, Director of Development, at [lprice@ccaaha.org](mailto:lprice@ccaaha.org) or 215.545.0613.

Don't forget! Post your bicentennial event on the **Alabama Bicentennial Commission's** digital events calendar, viewable online at **WWW.ALABAMA200.ORG/EVENTS-CALENDAR**.

To submit your event, follow the green "Submit Event" button in the top right of the calendar and complete the following form. Only events with pictures will be included on the calendar.

Though all events held in Alabama are welcome, we encourage organizers to formally theme their events as bicentennial events by submitting an **ALABAMA 200** endorsement application, which will give access to logos, press release templates, poster templates, and space on all ALABAMA 200 calendars. You can find the endorsement application at their website above.

The **Alabama Museums Association** has updated their Disaster Preparedness and Response resources on their website. Review the lists now! **ALABAMAMUSEUMS.ORG/MEMBERS/RESOURCES.PHP**



## Educate & Celebrate Alabama's 200<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:Erik.Haeuser@archives.alabama.gov) or call 334.353.9152



#AL200 #ALABAMA200



★ Celebrate our state.