



ALABAMA MUSEUMS association

AMA 2019 Council

executive committee

Kari Barley | *president*
Alabama Agricultural Museum
Landmark Park

Brian Mast | *vice president*
Black Belt Museum

Kendall Chew | *secretary*
Birmingham Holocaust Education Center

***** | *treasurer*
Will be finalized at the next council meeting

district representatives

Dena Thurmond | *district 1*
Mary G. Hardin Center for Cultural Arts

Kristen Holmes | *district 2*
The Evelyn Burrow Museum

William Allen | *district 3*
University of Alabama Museums

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

Georgia Ann Hudson | *place 1*
Alabama Department of Archives & History

Eleanor Cunningham | *place 2*
Alabama Historical Commission

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

WWW.ALABAMAMUSEUMS.ORG

NEWSLETTER

April / May / June 2019

Dear AMA Family,

I am so honored to be the one chosen to serve you for the upcoming few years. This is an amazing organization full of even more amazing people. There is something special about museum people and the field itself. Once you have joined them, there is a sense that you have found “your people” and a true sense of family. I am honored to know each of you and elated to get to work even more closely with you all throughout my presidency.

I would like to thank everyone that had a hand in making the 2019 “Telling our Stories” AMA Annual Meeting in Montgomery so spectacular. From the local planning committee to those in attendance, you all made it a wonderful, educational experience.

Start making plans to join us for next year’s joint conference with the Georgia Museums Association in Columbus! The planning committees for both organizations are already hard at work to make it excellent.

I look forward to working with you all!

All the Best,
Kari



Ryan passing the gavel to Kari!

We're planning for you!



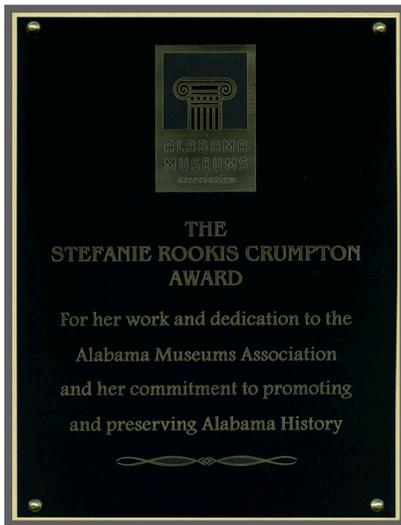
SAVE THE DATE

The Alabama Museums Association and the Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries (GAMG) are holding a joint conference January 26-29, 2020!

In 2016, GAMG approached AMA with the idea of joining forces for a combined conference. Since GAMG planned to hold their 2020 conference in Columbus, GA, the timing seemed appropriate. The format for the conference will change slightly, but the change allows us to offer additional opportunities for workshops, professional development, and networking with colleagues from a different state.

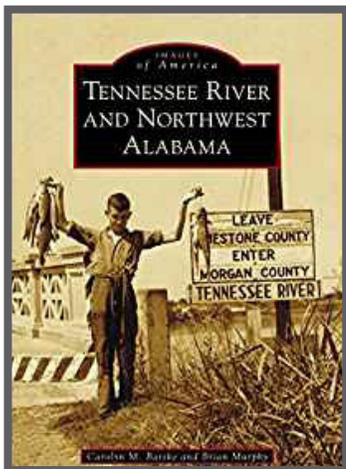
Be on the lookout for more details and a call for proposals in the next few months!

Congratulations!



EDITOR'S NOTE: I'm hijacking this newsletter to say THANK YOU to all involved, especially the AMA Council, for this unexpected honor presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Montgomery!

Cheers, Stefanie



CAROLYN BARKSE, director of the **Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area**, **BRIAN MURPHY**, curator of the **Florence Indian Mound Museum**, and **MSNHA** volunteers gathered images from the **University of North Alabama**

Archives, the **Alabama Department of Archives and History**, **University of Alabama**, **Florence-Lauderdale Public Library**, the **Lawrence County Archives**, the **Limestone County Archives**, the **Morgan County Archives**, and the **Library of Congress** to tell the story of the Tennessee River in the northwest Alabama region. Their book, *Tennessee River and Northwest Alabama*, was released in October. MSNHA.UNA.EDU | VISITFLORENCEAL.COM | ARCADIAPUBLISHING.COM

ANDI MARTIN joins the **Alabama Historical Commission** staff as the marketing and public relations manager. Before AHC, Andi oversaw marketing and communications with the **Alabama Bicentennial Commission**. Some of her prior experience includes four seasons with the **Alabama Shakespeare Festival** as assistant director of marketing.

BRUCE LIPSCOMBE, who has been with the AHC since 2008 (at **Gaineswood**, **Pond Spring**, and most recently at **Old Cahawba**), was promoted to site director of Pond Spring last fall. Bruce brings a wealth of museum experience and a deep knowledge of 19th century decorative arts to the position.

AHC.ALABAMA.GOV

KARA LONG, started a new job as collections & gallery experience manager with **Cook Museum of Natural Science** in Decatur. She was most recently site director of Pond Spring, the General Joe Wheeler Home from September 2013 until October 2018. COOKMUSEUM.ORG

CASSANDRA CAVNESS was selected as one of the twenty-five scholars for *Museums: Humanities in the Public Sphere*, an **National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute**. This is a four-week in-depth exploration of museums and curated cultural collections around Washington, DC. Cassandra is the humanities digital archivist at the **Alabama State University Levi Watkins Learning Center**. ALASU.EDU | MUSEUMSNEH.UCSC.EDU

LILI ANDERSON is the inaugural executive director of Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, with responsibilities for the activities of the **Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center** and the **Abroms-Engel Institute for Visual Arts**, effective March 15. Anderson has been interim executive director of the Alys Stephens Center since March 2018. UAB.EDU/CAS/AEIVA | WWW.ALYSSTEPHENS.ORG

The **U.S. Space & Rocket Center** is excited about the opening of their **INTUITIVE® Planetarium**. This state-of-the-art digital planetarium features amazing astronomy shows, live entertainment and exciting theater experiences. In addition to daily show offerings, special evening events are happening every week. At their first event on March 8, “Cocktails and Cosmos” focused on the Orion Nebula and other marvels in our sky while guests enjoyed a nebula-themed signature cocktail. **SPACECAMP.COM**

In early March, the **Paul W. Bryant Museum** at the University of Alabama reopened after a renovation to enhance the visitor's experience. The \$600,000 update added six 55-inch vertical monitors full of Alabama football history in various media. A 98-inch touch-screen television offers several videos.

Taking advantage of the month's closure to add the new technology, the space was repainted, re-carpeted and updates to electrical and air conditioning was made. See a teaser of the space here: **YOUTU.BE/KOOUW_ISZZW | BRYANTMUSEUM.COM**

Artist historian **DEAN MOSHER** has created nine murals to celebrate Alabama's bicentennial. The **Eastern Shore Art Center** opened an exhibit of the murals on January 4, including the unveiling of two of them to the public. *The Battle of Fort Mims* and *Tribute to the Merchant Marine* are the new additions that join Mosher's previous murals that pay tribute to the founding of Fairhope, the University of Alabama, Alabama's veterans and other historic moments. For more information, visit: **ESARTCENTER.ORG**.

The **Alabama Humanities Foundation** is celebrating literature and humanities with a new signature event, **Anabranch**. Adding two days to the well-known **Alabama Book Festival**, Anabranch will include humanities-focused speakers, presentations and educational offerings on April 11 & 12. On Saturday, April 13, the book festival will take place in **Old Alabama Town**. Authors will headline the day and be supplemented with songwriters, philosophers, scholars and filmmakers. **ALABAMAHUMANITIES.ORG/ANABRANCH**
ALABAMABOOKFESTIVAL.ORG
OLDALABAMATOWN.COM



In January, the **Mobile Medical Museum** unveiled the third and last commissioned work in a series of sculptural portraits by local artist **APRIL LIVINGSTON**. Titled *Motherwork*, the piece is a tribute to

the vital health care services provided by midwives throughout Alabama's history. The cast-iron sculpture shows eight pairs of life-size hands clasped together to form a circular, shield-like shape, with an open space between the hands that allows light to pass through. From the side view, the sculpture curves outward, resembling the swollen belly of a pregnant woman. Each pair of hands is cast from a real-life midwife or obstetric nurse.

The sculpture is in the Museum's Robert Thrower Medicinal Garden, along with *Portrait of Bessie McGhee*, depicting a beloved Poarch Creek midwife and herbalist; and *Portrait of Dr. James A. Franklin, Sr.*, showing one of Mobile's first and most successful African American physicians. The new sculptures have been designated a bicentennial project by the **Alabama Bicentennial Commission**. The Mobile Medical Museum will be offering curriculum-based tours and public programs throughout the year so that visitors of all ages can engage with the presented historical themes on many levels. **MOBILEMEDICALMUSEUM.ORG**

The **Wiregrass Museum of Art** has received grant awards totaling \$9,000 from the **Alabama State Council on the Arts**, The Caring Foundation of Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Publix Supermarket Charities, and Dothan Pediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics to support *Youth Art Month*, a national program held annually to recognize the achievements of artists in grades K-12, and the *Out of the (Art) Box* program, an art installation competition for high school students held as part of the museum's observance of Youth Art Month. The exhibition, on view in March, showcases an average of 100 juried student artworks. WMA is also the host site for Alabama's 2nd Congressional District Artistic Discovery Competition, held annually during Youth Art Month and open to all 11th and 12th grade students living in that congressional district. **WIREGRASSMUSEUM.ORG**

AMA Classifieds



The **National Art Education Association's Museum Education Division** and its partner, the **Association of Art Museum Directors**, have completed a large-scale impact study investigating the question: What are the benefits of facilitated single-visit art museum programs, guided by inquiry-based pedagogies, for students in Grades 4–6?

Following the release of the study's findings and reports in September 2018 and the culminating symposium at the Detroit Institute of Arts on October 13, 2018, the study User Guide is now available.

This User Guide is an easy-to-navigate hub for access to the Impact Study of Facilitated Single-Visit Art Museum Programs on Students Grades 4–6 findings, study-related publications, and tools designed to make the study's findings clear and relevant to a variety of audiences.

Study User Guide can be found here:

ARTEDUCATORS.ORG/LEARN-TOOLS/ARTICLES/472-STUDY-USER-GUIDE **HTTPS://WWW.ARTEDUCATORS.ORG/LEARN-TOOLS/ARTICLES/472-STUDY-USER-GUIDE**

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services MG-10-15-0079-15 and the Samuel H. Kress Foundation.



Registration is now open for *Blue Star Museums 2019!* Each summer, the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families work with museums across the country to provide free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel and their families. This summer marks the 10th year of the program. It will begin on May 18, Armed Forces Day, and run through September 2, Labor Day.

More than 2,000 museums across America participate each summer, including children's museums, fine art museums, history and science museums, zoos, and nature centers. For more information and to register, visit **ARTS.GOV/BLUESTARMUSEUMS**, and don't forget to check out #bluestarmuseums on Twitter and Facebook.

The **American Association for State and Local History** will hold its Annual Meeting and Online Conference in Philadelphia, PA from 28-31 August 2019.

Now in its fourteenth year, AASLH's **Small Museums Committee** is offering scholarships to any AASLH members who are full-time, part-time, paid, or volunteer employees of small museums. Each \$700 scholarship will cover the cost of both the conference registration and the Small Museums luncheon. Any remaining funds may be used to offset travel and/or lodging expenses. Recipients, though, must submit a post to the AASLH blog, Big Ideas for Small Museums, about their Annual Meeting experience. To qualify, the applicant must work for a museum with a budget of \$250,000 or less. They also must either be an individual AASLH member or work for an institutional member. Application forms are available at www.aaslh.org. The deadline for applications is 15 May. The committee will email award winners by June 1. For questions, please contact Bruce Teeple, Small Museum Scholarship Subcommittee Chair at mongopawn44@hotmail.com, or Aja Bain, AASLH Program and Publications Coordinator, at abain@aaslh.org

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INFO@ALABAMAMUSEUMS.ORG