



ALABAMA MUSEUMS *association*

AMA 2018 Council

executive committee

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

Kari Barley | *vice president*
Alabama Agricultural Museum
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

January / February / March 2019

Dear AMA Members,

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. 2018 was a busy year, but I am looking forward to what 2019 holds for Alabama museums!

The 2019 AMA conference is right around the corner. This year's conference is in Alabama's capital city, Montgomery, February 24th-26th. Our theme is *Alabama Museums: Telling our Stories*. We have an exciting mix of sessions focusing on topics from innovative technology that will allow small museums to reach audiences across the globe, to a panel discussion on interpreting difficult history. A preliminary schedule is available on the AMA website, or the AMA Facebook page.

Registration for the conference is now open! You can find more information and register online by following the link below.

ALABAMAMUSEUMS.ORG/MEMBERS/ANNUAL.PHP

As always, the AMA is here to serve our members. If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact your local representative. You can find their contact information on the AMA website, or follow the link below.

ALABAMAMUSEUMS.ORG/CONTACT/INDEX.PHP

Ryan Blocker
AMA President

Telling Our Stories

The Alabama Museums Association will meet
in Montgomery, February 24-26, 2019

The conference schedule, registration form and
host hotel information is on our website

ALABAMAMUSEUMS.ORG/MEMBERS/ANNUAL

*The last day to get the discounted hotel rate is February 5
and the early bird conference registration rate ends February 15.*

Congratulations!

The **Alabama Museums Association** awarded tuition scholarships for the first time to send two recipients to the 2018 *Jeckyll Island Museum Institute* (JIMI). Alabamians in the JIMI Class of 2018 are **THOMAS FIELDS**, curator of the **Abroms-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts** at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and **HEATHER SELLERS**, exhibits and membership manager at the **Cook Museum of Natural Science** in Decatur. JIMI, a program created and maintained by the **Southeastern Museums Conference** (SEMC) seeks to provide affordable leadership and management training to museum professionals. At JIMI, participants have the opportunity to learn current methods in the field and build networks with other museum professionals. Faculty members provide subject area expertise and practical approaches to administrative challenges. JIMI 2019 will be held in late January. The applications for JIMI 2020 are due in October. Check for updates on the SEMC website. **SEMCDIRECT.NET**. **UAB.EDU/CAS/AEIVA | COOKMUSEUM.ORG**
The grand opening of the Cook Museum of Natural History in Decatur is June 7, 2019!

WILL HAWKINS, formerly museum coordinator of the **Tuscaloosa Museum of Art: Home of the Westervelt Art Collection**, has been appointed executive director of the **Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society** (TCPS) in December. He succeeds **IAN CRAWFORD** who managed the organization since 2015. TCPS is comprised of the **Battle-Friedman House and Gardens**, **Murphy-Collins House (Murphy African American Museum)**, **Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion**, and **The Old Tavern**. **HISTORICTUSCALOOSA.ORG**

Space in the **GulfQuest National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico** in Mobile is being considered for a restaurant by city administrators. This is part of an ongoing initiative to make Water Street more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. Proposals from restaurateurs were due in early December and a new restaurant opening could happen by next spring. **GULFQUEST.ORG**

USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park staff members brought home prestigious awards during the **2018 Historic Naval Ships Association Conference** held in Bremerton, Washington. **SHEA MCLEAN**, curator, won the *Henry A. Vadnais, Jr. Award* for outstanding work in the areas of curation, collections management, exhibits and registration. **RHONDA DAVIS**, director of sales and marketing, won the *Dr. John C. Fakan Communications Award* for outstanding work in marketing and communications. **LEE BRYARS**, crew chief, won the *Historic Naval Ship Maintenance, Preservation and Exhibition Award* for exemplary work in daily maintenance and preservation of a historic vessel. Battleship Memorial Park earned more award than any other fleet member during this year's conference.

Battleship Memorial Park was also selected as the host site for the 2020 Historic Naval Ships Association Conference. This entity is a non-profit organization that links the public with historic naval ship museums and memorials around the world. Members currently represent 13 nations and 176 historic naval vessels. For more information, please visit their website at **HNSA.ORG**. **USSALABAMA.COM**

Alabama Humanities Foundation (AHF) grants are a catalyst for humanities programs across Alabama -- from celebrating Alabama's bicentennial with special events to a book festival full of noted authors to a popular reading series, AHF grants are awarded to organizations all across the state. They make it possible for incarcerated students and college students to learn side by side, help produce a documentary of Black Belt Blues, and more!

A full list of major grants and mini grants AHF awarded in this latest round of their three grant periods per year, and which were announced in December, are found on their website. The funds in total nearly reached the \$70,000 mark.

For information on how your museum may apply for humanities-based grants, review their grants section. **www.alabamahumanities.org/grants**



In Memoriam

Edgar Gaines Aldridge, founder of **ALDRIDGE GARDENS** in Birmingham, passed away on November 27, 2018. Eddie was recognized internationally for his wonderful contributions to the Gardens and nature, including discovering a native

Oak Leaf Hydrangea, *Hydrangea Quercifolia*, with his father. The "Snowflake" was patented by them both in 1971 and has grown worldwide. ALDRIDGEGARDENS.COM

The **MAKING ALABAMA Bicentennial Traveling Exhibit** continues its tour of all 67 counties. In addition, **Alabama Humanities Foundation** and **Alabama Public Television** have partnered to make the exhibit available at APT's building in Montgomery for tours by appointment throughout the year. For more, visit the web site -- Making Alabama - Celebrating the State's Bicentennial -- or contact **LAURA ANDERSON** (landerson@alabamahumanities.org / 205.558.3992). MAKINGALABAMA.ORG

The **American Sport Art Museum & Archives** on the campus of the United States Sports Academy has received a "Perfect 10" set of 10 serigraphs, each signed and numbered No. 10 in a series, by 2011 Academy Sport Artist of the Year painter Rick Rush.

The serigraphs depict various noteworthy moments in the history of football at the University of Alabama. Rush, known as "America's Sport Artist," has gained a worldwide following for his colorful paintings that depict a variety of sports. Rush has depicted high-profile sports figures and his works portray subjects of historic significance and include the Olympics, Super Bowls, World Series, and NCAA National Championships.

Founded in 1984, ASAMA is dedicated to the preservation of sports art, history, and literature. The ASAMA collection is composed of more than 1,800 works of sport art across a variety of media, including paintings, sculptures, assemblages, prints and photographs. ASAMA.ORG

In the spirit of giving, three Tuscaloosa county organizations came together this past holiday season to further implement each of their missions in the community. **Kentuck Art Center**, who orchestrated this collaboration, paid more than \$2,000 to the **University of Alabama's Chapter of Habitat for Humanity** and **Black Warrior Model Railroad Club**.

The three entities worked tirelessly during the month of October to organize and direct parking at the highly successful Kentuck Festival of the Arts. **AMY ECHOLS**, executive director of Kentuck Art Center, said the collaboration not only benefited the three organizations, but the entire community. "Kentuck has been so thankful to work with these two incredible organizations," Echols said. "Part of Kentuck's mission is to engage the community, and this was a no-brainer. But we would be remiss if we didn't also give a shout-out to several Boy Scout leaders from past Festivals who generously donated a full day of personal time to set up parking areas. With their help in supporting the students and parking leaders, Kentuck was able to continue parking thousands of cars at the Festival while engaging other nonprofits."

Because of this collaboration, the Black Warrior Model Railroad Club, located in the **Historic Train Depot** in Northport, was able to set up an elaborate model train production in Kentuck's **Georgine Clarke Building** for people of all ages to enjoy during the month of December. KENTUCK.ORG | BWMRRC.ORG | LEADANDSERVE.SA.UA.EDU/COMMUNITY-ACTION-TEAMS/HABITAT-FOR-HUMANITY

The University of Alabama at Birmingham *Art in Medicine* (AIM) program has received a "Wonders of Alabama" collection of more than 265 oils, watercolors, and mixed media artworks from Birmingham-based Energen Corporation. The art was acquired through a juried art competition from 1999-2015 that focused on Alabama artists. The AIM program is a collaboration between the **Alys Stephens Center** and UAB Medicine and includes art experiences, performances, installations, workshops and bedside activities. Part of the donation will also be housed in the **UAB Abrams-Engel Institute for the Visual Arts**. WWW.UAB.EDU/CAS/AEIVA

AMA Classifieds

The **Alabama Historical Commission's** cemetery program provides assistance in identifying, documenting, registering, and protecting Alabama's historic cemeteries. Through the cemetery program, the Alabama Historical Commission makes information on Alabama's cemeteries laws available; informs the public about general cemetery preservation guidelines; issues permits for substantial work - including, but not limited to the relocation of human remains in cemeteries at least 75 years old. For more information visit their website.

AHC.ALABAMA.GOV/CEMETERYPROGRAM

2018 was a fantastic year for *The Vulcans Community Awards* as they honored some amazing people that are making a tremendous impact on the Birmingham region. With the new year comes new opportunity! In 2019, Vulcan encourages you to nominate someone who has a positive influence on the Birmingham community. Nominations are accepted online from the general public until July 31. See all details at **VISITVULCAN.COM/EVENTS/THEVULCANS.**

South Arts' *Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers* enables communities and audiences to connect through the transformative power of film and are seeking additional Screening Partners to join them in the 2019-20 Southern Circuit season. Nonprofit, educational and governmental organizations in their nine-state region (Alabama is included!) are invited to screen new work from some of today's best filmmakers for an exclusive look at the art of filmmaking and the opportunity to learn about a host of relevant topics. Southern Circuit isn't just for film aficionados. They work with new and established indie film audiences that include high school and college students, community members of all ages, families, social clubs—everyone! If you want to bring indie film and filmmakers to your community, check out their website for more details. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2019.

For a full listing of South Arts' opportunities for individual artists and arts organizations visit **SOUTHARTS.ORG**

The *Reynolds-Finley Associates*, in conjunction with the Historical Collections (HC) unit of UAB Libraries, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), are pleased to announce the availability of **Reynolds-Finley Research Fellowships in the History of the Health Sciences** for 2019. These short-term awards of up to \$2,500 to individual researchers studying one or more aspects of the history of the health sciences during the 2019 calendar year. Intended to support research using the HC unit as a historical resource, the fellowship requires the on-site use of at least one of the unit's three components, which are the **Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences**, Reynolds-Finley Historical Library and UAB Archives. All application materials must be submitted by January 31, 2019 to receive consideration. For details go to:

UAB.EDU/REYNOLDS/FELLOW.

Mosaic, the magazine of the **Alabama Humanities Foundation**, is distributed free of charge. Sign up here **WWW.ALABAMAHUMANITIES.ORG/CONNECT/SIGN-UP-FOR-MOSAIC-MAGAZINE-DELIVERY**

Is your small or mid-sized museum looking for guidance on how to prioritize limited collections care funding and staff time? The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation's Collections Assessment for Preservation (CAP) program provides small museums with support for a general conservation assessment, which outlines specific prioritized recommendations on how to care for their collections. The assessment is a study of all the institution's collections, buildings, and building systems, as well as its policies and procedures. CAP is often a first step for small institutions that wish to develop a preservation plan, and CAP can serve as a fundraising tool for future collections projects.

Applications for the 2019 CAP program are open through February 1, 2019. Learn more and apply at **CONSERVATION-US.ORG/CAP**. For questions, contact Elizabeth Handwerk Kurt at ekurt@conservation-us.org or 202-750-3437.