

NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE



October to December 2025 - Fourth Quarter

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*Experience Yesterday Today at the
Augusta Museum of History!*

AMH CALENDAR

Brown Bag History Lecture

Wednesday, October 15, 12:30pm

Augusta Stories: An Italian American's
Story in Augusta

Guest Speaker: Dr. Ben Casella

Hands On History Workshop

Saturday, October 25, 1-4pm

Historic Portraits with A.C. Daniel

Curious Kids Program

Thursday, October 30, 10-11am

Friday, October 31, 10-11am

Historic Portraits Edition

Ofrenda & Dia de Los Muertos

Ofrenda up October 30-November 2

Dia de Los Muertos Discovery Day

Saturday, November 1, 1-3pm

Brown Bag History Series

Wednesday, November 12, 12:30pm

Augusta Stories In the AMH Collection

Speaker: AMH Registrar Alena Rensch

Holiday Gingerbread Village

November 20 through 30, 2025

Open every day except Thanksgiving

Gingerbread Fun Day

Saturday, November 22, 1:00pm

Performance from the Veterans Guitar

Ensemble, crafts, story time & more

Closed For Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 27, 2025

All Aboard The Museum Express

December 7 & 14

(11am, 1pm & 3pm Both Sundays)

AMH & EHH Closed

December 24, 25, 31 & January 1

Christmas and New Years Holidays

Jimmie Dyess Symposium

January 8, 2026, 5:00-6:00pm

Free to the Public

FROM THE DIRECTOR

What is so Special About America? Just the Facts!

As we begin the celebration of America's 250th anniversary, it's important to reflect on what makes this country so special. The journey begins with the three foundational documents of the United States: The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Briefly, the Declaration of Independence, written in 1776, announced that the American colonies were breaking away from Britain and explained that all people have natural rights that governments must protect. The Constitution, written in 1787, created the structure of the U.S. government and set up a system of checks and balances between the three branches. The Bill of Rights, added in 1791, includes the first 10 amendments to the Constitution and guarantees individual freedoms like free speech, religion, and the right to a fair trial. Together, these documents form the core of American democracy.

Why is the Declaration of Independence special?:

- Declares that **all people have natural rights** (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness).
- Claims governments must get their power from **the consent of the governed**.
- Justifies revolution if a government becomes destructive of those rights.



What is special about America's Constitution? It is the blueprint for how the U.S. government works.

- Creates a **system of checks and balances** between three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial.
- Establishes **federalism**—sharing power between national and state governments.
- Is the **oldest written national constitution** still in use.

What is the Bill of Rights and why is it special? It is the first 10 amendments to the Constitution.

- Guarantees **individual freedoms** like speech, religion, press, trial by jury, and protection from cruel punishment.
- Limits what the government can do to its people.
- Was added because **people demanded protections** from government abuse.

By having these three documents they do make America special — because they created a country where the power comes from the people, the government is limited, and freedom is protected by law.

Nancy J. Glaser
AMH Executive Director

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constructed by local artisan bakers with the delicious scent of gingerbread filling the Museum's Rotunda. Visitors are invited to bid on the gingerbread houses and to cast their vote for the People's Choice Award.

On November 22 from 1-3pm there will be a Gingerbread Fun Day with live music from the Veterans Guitar Ensemble, crafts for kids, a scavenger hunt in the Museum and story time. So mark your calendars, invite a friend and make plans to join the Museum as we welcome the holiday season with the annual Gingerbread Village.

This event is sponsored by ADP, Ameris, Surrey Center, Casella Eye Center and Raymond James.



All Aboard the Museum Express!

*Get up, get on, and get ready for the ride of your life. The Museum Express experience is magical for the young passengers and at the end:
All will Believe!*

Children are given a golden ticket to ride the **Museum Express** and will be entertained by the Conductor with this special story while on the train. They will enjoy hot chocolate, cookies, and a very special guest from the North Pole will make an appearance in the Museum's Rotunda! Don't miss out on this annual holiday event!

Ticket Purchasing Information:

Tickets are available to purchase online and are going FAST!

Cost: Child Ticket- \$10.00

Ticket Purchase Limit: 3 per sale

Please note that you are only purchasing tickets for children through the link. If you want to take pictures of your child on the train, adult admission to the Museum is \$5.00 and can be purchased at the Museum the day of the event. This admission is good for the rest of the day to explore the Museum after the Museum Express event.

Performance Capacity: 30 passengers per showing

Showtimes: Sunday, December 7, 2025 | 11 AM, 1 PM, & 3 PM

Sunday, December 14, 2025 | 11 AM, 1 PM, & 3 PM



Jimmie Dyess Symposium

Each year the Augusta Museum of History selects Americans who have outstanding records of service to their fellow citizens, their communities, and their country to receive the Distinguished American Award at the **Jimmie Dyess Symposium**. **Save the date, January 8, 2026** and plan to join us for this annual event.

2026 Distinguished American Honorees

Mrs. Helen Bissell

Mr. Monty Osteen

Colonel Walter "Joe" Marm Jr., Medal of Honor Recipient

SO MUCH MORE TO DISCOVER

Bowl, ca. 18th Century

This delicate salt-glaze bowl was brought to Fort Moore from England for use on the table of one of the nicer homes. Check out our colonial-period section of our Augusta's Story exhibits to see how this bowl has been partly reconstructed from fragments.

Loaned by South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology



Director's Chair, ca. 1998

Mr. James Brown reprised his role of Reverend Cleophus James on the movie sequel *Blues Brothers 2000*. His song, *Please, Please, Please* appears on the movie's soundtrack album. This piece of entertainment history can be found under the glow of the marquis entrance to *The Godfather of Soul*, Mr. James Brown exhibit on the second floor.

Loaned by Primary Wave Music

NEW DISCOVERIES

Fitz-Symms Photography Collection

Donated by Kirk and Lora Baxley in memory of Robert Symms, the

photographic collection of Fitz-Symms Photography captures the history of the Augusta region between the 1940's and the 1980's. To preserve this history, the Photography Collections Internship Program at the Augusta Museum of History processes this collection by scanning and rehousing its 800,000 photographic negatives. The following images represent just a fraction of the negatives which thus far have been processed.

Clarks Hill Dam Sailing,

September 6, 1953

A crowd watches sailboats from the shore on the Savannah River. The image was used for a mural at Bon Air Resort and in the Augusta Chronicle for a feature on the Augusta Sailing Club.



A.B. Beverages, March 1956

A team of Clydesdale Horses pulls a Budweiser wagon through downtown Augusta during a promotional event.

Broad Street. Augusta

March 24, 1959

This photo was taken from a ledge on the WGAC building and showcases Broad Street before the trees and parking pits were added. Some of the buildings visible in the picture include the Miller Theater, Hampton Hotel, and the Lamar Building.



Wilkinson Photography Collection

The Wilkinson Photography Studio collection has over 250,000 negatives documenting the CSRA's past. Robert Wilkinson Jr. was a prominent photographer in the Augusta area active from the 1940s-1980s. Donated by Wilkinson family members Linda Askey and Charles M. Askey, Jr., the collection is being digitized and cared for through the Photography Collections Internship Program. The following are a few discoveries made during the collection care process.



Wilkinson Studio, ca. 1940s-1960s

A man, likely John Carswell Wilkinson, makes a funny face while behind a camera. His brother, Robert Wilkinson, owned the Wilkinson photography studio. The large format camera has a No. 5 Universal ILEX Paragon Anastigmat lens.

North Augusta and Jackson NJROTC

BALL, ca. 1970s-1980s

A young woman poses for a photo at the NJROTC ball in North Augusta and Jackson, SC. She wears a tiara and holds a bouquet of red roses.



Bressler's Ice Cream, 1981

These images were taken for Bressler's Ice Cream in the Regency Mall in Augusta. Signage advertises thirty-three flavors of ice cream, frozen yogurt and Bressler's Original Ice Cream Bar.



Augusta Chronicle Photography Collection

Donated by the Augusta Chronicle, this collection of negatives is the work of various photographers. The collection spans from 1970-2001 and features many events around Augusta and the greater CSRA. To preserve this history and facilitate ease of access to this collection, the Archivist Intern at the Augusta Museum of History creates a log of metadata as a Finding Aid. The following images represent an example of the negatives processed.



Valentine's Day Feature, February 10, 1975

This photo is part of a feature that compared the prices of Valentine's Day candy, flowers, and other items to the prices of the year before. Here Mrs. W.W. Zealy is assisted by Gene Gibson in choosing flowers at a local florist's shop.



Children Making Valentine's Mailboxes

February 13, 1975

Children at Craig Houghton Elementary School make Valentine's Day mailboxes for their classmates to put treats and cards in.



Woman In Spring Hat

February 14, 1975

Davison's was a retail store chain founded in Atlanta in 1891 and came to Augusta as a direct competitor to J.B. White's. This photo was taken as a part of Davison's showcase of Spring women's hats.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

Master's Tournament Gnome, 2025

A novelty garden gnome from the 2025 Augusta



National Masters Tournament. The gnome features a shirt printed with the tournament's peach ice cream sandwich.

Donated by Mr. Stacy Talent



L.A. Pinkston Archival Collection, 1939-1945

A collection of recently discovered correspondence and personal papers of Georgia minister Leander Asbury Pinkston. Reverend Pinkston was a minister in both Atlanta and Augusta, and served as President of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia from 1937-1959. This archival collection reflects Pinkston's work at Tabernacle Baptist Church as well as his involvement in Augusta Civil Rights initiatives in the 1930s-40s.

Donated by Ms. Julie Warner

EXHIBIT UPDATE



A Sense of Identity: Flags and Banners

In 2025, the Museum's rotating textile case is featuring a four-part series focusing on the flags and banners of our permanent collection. The series explores the way in which these special textiles convey historical and cultural context, from symbolizing an entire nation to commemorating a specific event. The third installment of this series focuses on banners that represent groups and organizations. Featured items include flags for the Girl Scouts and Transportation Company 319. This installment will be on

"Miss Thomson", ca. 1920s

Miss Thomson sits atop the back of a car laden with flags and tassels at the McDuffie County Fair. A group of her supporters gathers around the vehicle for a picture.

Vinton McFeely Photography Collection

Donated by Mrs. Vinton McFeely

NAGPRA UPDATE



In 2022 the Augusta Museum of History revitalized its repatriation efforts through NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act). Since 1990, Federal law has provided for the repatriation and disposition of certain Native American human remains,

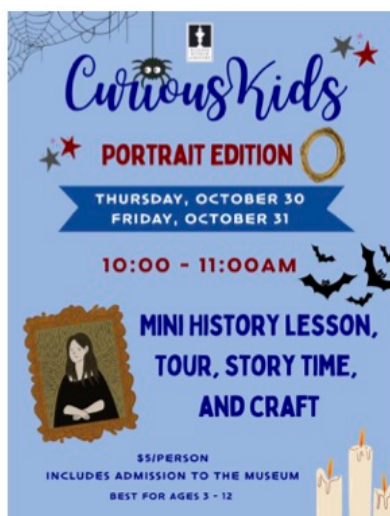
funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. This process includes research of Museum collections, consultation with members of Native American communities across the country, and communication with the National Parks Service to ensure that any objects housed within the Museum that have sacred or cultural ties to Native peoples are returned to their owners.

As of August 2025, the Augusta Museum of History has repatriated several items to their people of origin and has published two Notices of Intent to Repatriate in the Federal Register. The Museum is now moving towards successful repatriation with several other Tribes. The Museum continues the consultation process with multiple Native American communities to facilitate the respectful return of remains, cultural objects, and funerary items.

For more information on NAGPRA and the Repatriation process:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nagpra/index.htm>

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



AMH Curious Kids

The Augusta Museum of History presents, **Curious Kids: Portrait Edition**. Kids ages 3-12 are welcome to join in the fun of story time, an engaging craft and learn about the historic portraits on display in the Museum and the incredible people and stories they share. We will also connect this to the Museum's celebration of **Dia de Los Muertos** and the ofrenda that will be on display in the Museum's Rotunda.

There are two sessions to choose from, the very same thing will be presented at both sessions on Thursday, October 30 and Friday, October 31 from 10-11am. Cost is just \$5.00 per child and \$5.00 per adult. Children spots are limited to 25 per session so sign up today! **Click the button below to register.**

What's included

*Brief lesson on historic portraits in the Museum galleries

*Craft Supplies and instruction

*Story time in the Museum

*Portrait Scavenger hunt

*** Please note Adults must stay with the children for the entirety of the event. ***

Curious Kids Tickets [HERE!](#)



Brown Bag History Lecture Series

In 2025 the Augusta Museum of History has focused the Brown Bag History Lecture Series on the collection of oral histories from area families. This is the first major initiative of the Museum to preserve individual and family legacies and stories. So far we have heard from Dr. Lee Ann Caldwell, Brad Usry, Doug Herman, Phil Wahl, Helen Bissell, Flo Carter, Toni Seals-Johnson and most recently Virginia "Jean" Bowe Strickland. Through these lectures and interviews, the audience gains a unique understanding of Augusta's past, and is inspired to gather and share their own stories with their family and friends so that their stories are not lost.

The Brown Bag History Lecture Series is presented monthly by the Augusta Museum of History and is an ideal lunchtime break for downtown professionals, retirees, and students. **The lectures are free to Museum Members and \$5 for non-members, currently no registration required.** Participants may bring a lunch to enjoy in the Museum Rotunda from 11:30am to 12:30pm and the AMH will provide water, hot coffee and a dessert. The lecture takes place in the History Theater at 12:30pm with a short Q&A following. The recorded sessions are available on the [AMH YouTube channel](#) and shared on social media.



Augusta Stories: *An Italian American's Story in Augusta*

Wednesday, October 15

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Ben Casella



Augusta Stories: *Through The Museum's Collection*

Wednesday, November 12

Speaker: AMH Registrar
Alena Rensch

2026 Brown Bag History Lectures

More *Augusta Stories* are on the way in 2026! This series has been well attended and received by the public and the oral histories are a great addition to the permanent collection. Take a look at the *Augusta Stories* we will hear and record in 2026:

January 14- TBA

February 11- Tom Robertson

"The Story of the Robertson Family In Augusta"

March 11- Hap Harris

"His Family, His Dad & The Augusta Chronicle"

April 15- Frank Christian

"A Family of Photographers"

May 13- Deanna Brown Thomas

"The International Icon & His Family"

June 10- TBA

July 8- Jimmy Jacobs

"The Jacobs Family & the Formation of The Augusta Symphony"

September 9- Christine Mangelly

"A Musical Family In Augusta"

October 14- Penelope Ballas

"Luigi's Is All About Family"

November 18- TBA

The poster for the 'Hands On History' workshop features a large charcoal portrait of a man with a beard and glasses. To the left, there is a smaller portrait of a woman. The text on the poster includes: 'HANDS ON HISTORY WITH A.C. DANIEL', 'HISTORIC PORTRAITS', 'OCTOBER 25, 1-4PM', 'AT THE AUGUSTA MUSEUM OF HISTORY', 'LEARN ABOUT THE MUSEUM'S HISTORIC PORTRAITS, DIA DE LOS MUERTOS & HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN PORTRAIT OF A LOVED ONE.', and 'MADE POSSIBLE BY A GRANT FROM: Community FOUNDATION for the Central Savannah River Area'. There are also decorative orange flower graphics.

Hands On History Workshops

This year the Augusta Museum of History is hosting workshops for adult participants that blend the history of the CSRA with the arts. With AMH Head of Education, Krystal Lyon and local artist A.C. Daniel we have explored textiles through loom work and Edgefield face jars. This has been an insightful way to experience history. The next **Hands On History Workshop** is on **October 25 from 1-4pm** and the topic is *Historic Portraits*. Come learn about the many significant portraits on display in the Museum, hear the stories of local legends and then A.C. will demonstrate how to create your own portrait of a loved one with charcoal, pencil and pastels.

We will also tie in the Museum's celebration of *Dia de Los Muertos* and the community ofrenda that will be on display in the Museum's Rotunda.

Workshop tickets include: a brief tour of and discussion on the items in the Museum and their connection to Augusta, supplies to create an item, plus expert instruction and techniques from A.C., plus access to the Museum afterwards.

Tickets are just \$30.00 and this makes for a delightful afternoon, day date or a wonderful time between a parent and adult child. Click the link below to grab your tickets today!



Schedule A Group Tour

Group tours are an excellent way to explore Augusta's history and spend time with your staff, family or class. The Museum's staff can create a unique experience for your group. The Museum hosts tours and fieldtrips for children as young as 3 up to senior citizens.

The Museum is a large space so large groups are welcome. Special needs groups with wheelchair or walker participants are also encouraged to come. Use our online reservation form for easy registration, please note that time slots go fast and reservations should be made at least one month in advance. Groups of 10 or more people cost only \$2 admission per person.



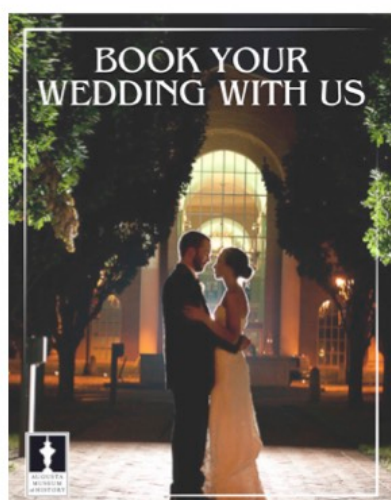
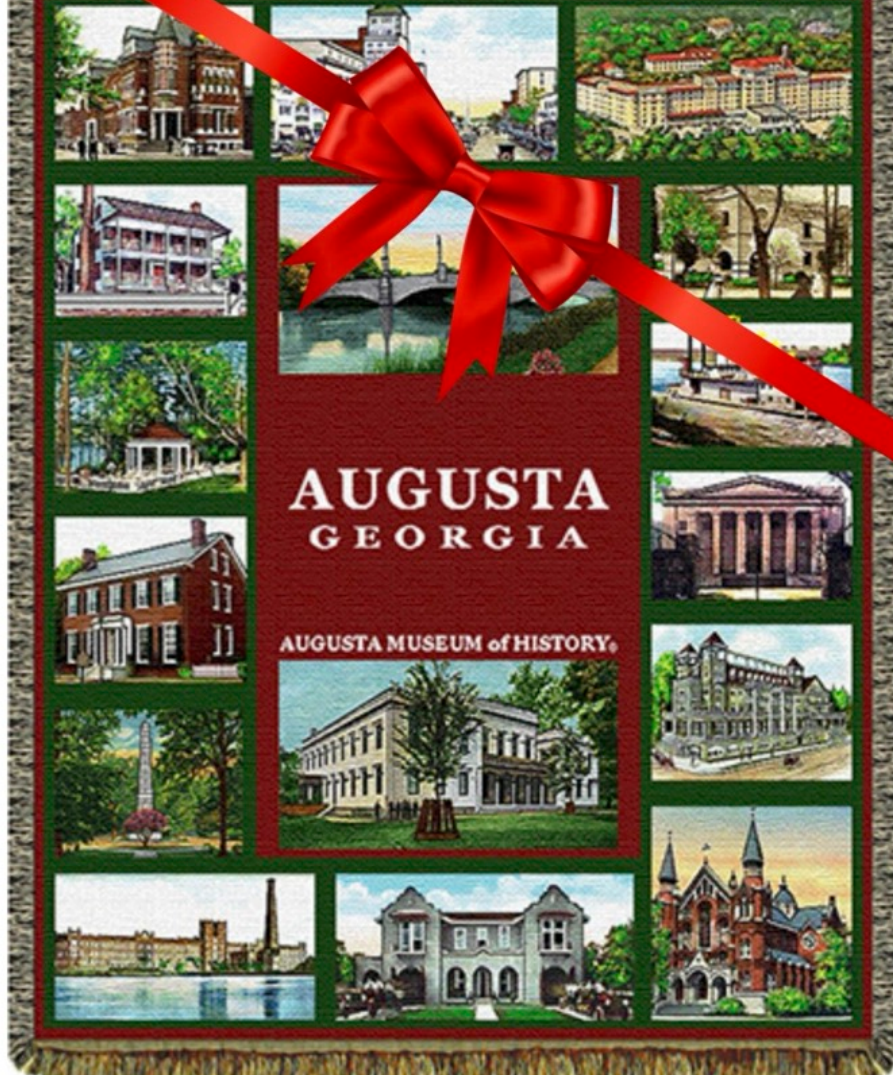
Click the button below to fill out the online form or contact the education department by calling 706-722-8454.

[CLICK HERE for Group Tour / Field Trip Registration Form](#)

SOMETHING EXTRA AT THE MUSEUM

Looking For Holiday Gifts? Check Out the AMH Kiosk

Need a gift for the history lover in your life? The Augusta throw blankets are large and soft and make the perfect accent for your living room or den. Plus they are a great conversation starter. Come by and pick one up today at the Augusta Museum of History.

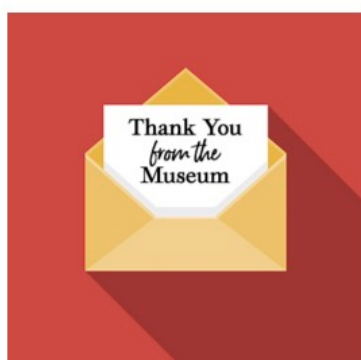


Host Your Event At The Augusta Museum of History

Whether you're looking to host a wedding, a corporate function, a special birthday, a class reunion or other singular event, we have the perfect space for you! Click the button to check out the different spaces and configurations the Museum can offer! If you have any questions or would like to set up a time to tour our spaces, please contact

Jazzmyne by email at admin@augustamuseum.org or call 706-722-8454.

[Click Here for Rental Info](#)



"Thank You" From The Museum

We appreciate your generous contributions and our wonderful Museum members. You make the Museum a special space for everyone. To see our current list of Donors, [click here.](#)

To view our Members, [click here.](#)

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MEMBERSHIP**



CLICK HERE TO JOIN

Augusta Museum of History, the only Museum in the CSRA accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, was established in 1937 for the purpose of preserving and sharing the material history of Augusta and the region. From a 10,000 year-old projectile point to a 1914 locomotive, to James Brown memorabilia the collections chronicle a rich and fascinating past. The museum is located at 560 Reynolds Street in downtown Augusta. Please call (706) 722-8454 for more information or visit www.augustamuseum.org.



Hours: Thursday-Saturday, 10am-5pm;

Sunday 1pm-5pm; Closed Monday-Wednesday

Admission: Adult: \$5 * Senior: \$4 * Child (6-18): \$3 * Child (5 & under): Free

Group tours (10 and up) available all week; must book in advance. Register here: https://bit.ly/AMH_FieldTripReg.

The 1797 Ezekiel Harris House, said to be "*the finest eighteenth-century house surviving in Georgia*", is located at 1822 Broad Street and is an excellent example of early Federal architecture. Fully restored in 1964 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Ezekiel Harris House is a reminder of the days when tobacco was the primary cash crop of Georgia. For more information, call (706) 722-8454 or visit www.augustamuseum.org.

Hours: Guided tours by appointment Tuesday - Friday, with the last tour beginning at 4:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, with the last tour beginning at 4:00 pm; Tours by appointment only Tuesday - Friday; Closed Sunday & Monday.

To schedule tours call (706) 722-8454.

Admission: Adult and Senior: \$2 * Child: \$1



**Augusta Museum of
History Hours**



**Ezekiel Harris House
Museum Hours**

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