



NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

January - March 2026 First Quarter

The Augusta Museum of History Proudly Presents:
The 16th Annual

Jimmie Dyess Symposium

Thursday, January 8, 2026
5-6pm, Museum Rotunda, Free Event

16th Annual Jimmie Dyess Symposium Thursday / January 8, 2026 / 5-6pm

The Augusta Museum of History is proud to present the Jimmie Dyess Symposium. The symposium was created and developed to recognize Marine Lieutenant Colonel Jimmie Dyess's courage as both a citizen and a service member of the United States Marines and to identify others who have shown similar valor or made civic contributions above and beyond the call of duty.

The symposium includes talks by several distinguished individuals, including the yearly recipients of the Jimmie Dyess Distinguished American Award. Major General Perry Smith, who served thirty years in the United States Air Force flying missions over North Vietnam and Laos, will provide introductory remarks.

Honorees for 2026 are local community leaders, **Mrs. Hellen Bissell** and **Mr. Monty Osteen**. We will also recognize Medal of Honor recipient, **Col. Walter "Joe" Marm Jr.**

All are welcome to this free event on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 5pm in the Museum Rotunda. For more information on the Symposium, please contact the Museum at [\(706\) 722-8454](tel:(706)722-8454).



Mrs. Helen Bissell



Col. Walter "Joe" Marm Jr.



Mr. Monty Osteen

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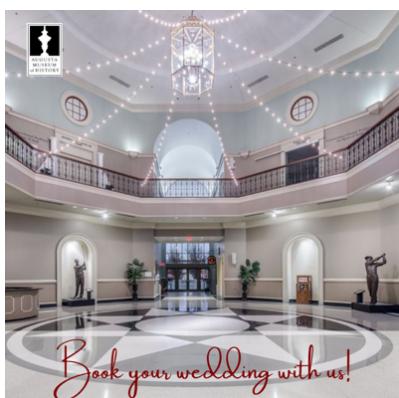
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New Volunteers

Education Programs

- Richmond Co. Fifth Grade Field Trips
- 2025 Brown Bag History Lecture Series
- Hands-On-History Workshop
- Curious Kids
- Schedule A Tour



AMH CALENDAR

AMH & EHH Closed
December 24, 25, 31 & January 1
For the Holidays

Jimmie Dyess Symposium
Thursday, January 8, 5-6pm

AMH & EHH Closed
Monday, January 19, 2026
Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observed

Brown Bag History Series
Wednesday, January 28, 12:30pm
Augusta Families: "A Family of Architects & Their Legacy in Augusta"
Bob Woodhurst

Super Museum Sunday
Sunday, February 8, 1-5pm
Free Admission To AMH

Brown Bag History Series
Wednesday, February 11, 12:30pm
Augusta Families: "Family Faces, Facts, and Fables: Robertsons, Barretts, Heards, and More."
Tom Robertson

Hands-On-History Workshop
Saturday, February 14, 1:00-3:30pm
Edgefield Face Jars

AMH & EHH Closed
Monday, February 16, 2026
Presidents' Day Observed

Music At The Museum:
Creative Impressions
Genius In Chains
Sunday, February 22, 3:00pm

Brown Bag History Series
Wednesday, March 11, 12:30pm
Augusta Families: "His Family, His Dad & the Augusta Chronicle"
Hap Harris

Curious Kids: Augusta's Astronaut
March 26 & 27, 10-11am



From The Director:

2026 the 250th Anniversary of America!

The 250th anniversary of the United States marks two and a half centuries since the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, and the birth of the United States as an independent nation.

It's a time to reflect on the founding principles of the nation, including the ideas of liberty, democracy, and self-governance. It's an opportunity for Americans to reflect on the country's founding, the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence, and the progress the nation has made.

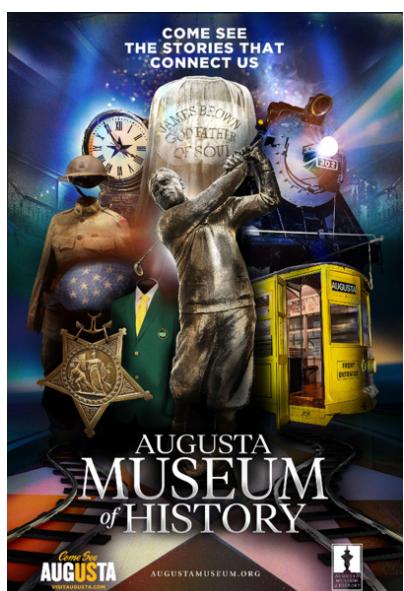
Locally there will be a range of cultural events and activities. These will include reenactments, festivals, public ceremonies, exhibitions, and educational programs.

Nationally it will provide an opportunity to recognize that the country will celebrate the resilience, innovation, and ongoing pursuit of a more perfect union despite facing numerous challenges over the past 250 years.

Globally America has been a major player in areas such as politics, economics, military power, and cultural influence. The 250th anniversary will give rise to discussions on America's place in the world today and in the future.

What the 250th Celebration Means:

- Honor and Memory: It's a chance to honor those who fought for independence and the generations that built the nation from its origins.
- Reconciliation and Growth: A time to consider how far the U.S. has come in terms of equality, justice, and freedom, while acknowledging areas where work remains to be done.
- A Moment to Reconnect with Core Values: It's an opportunity to revisit the principles of freedom, democracy, and equality upon which the nation was founded, and discuss how these ideals can continue to evolve in the modern world.



The Augusta Museum of History will take this opportunity to introduce a new innovative marketing campaign, discover aspects of local historical events, present individuals that have had a local impact, share significant artifacts from the collection, host programs at the oldest home in the Augusta area, the Ezekiel Harris House, share numerous family stories, and present a series of special displays and an exhibition on the foodways of the region.

Nancy J. Glaser
AMH Executive Director



Free Admission To The Museum

February 8, 2026 is Super Museum Sunday and the Augusta Museum of History is delighted to once again offer **free admission from 1-5pm**. in conjunction with the Georgia Historical Society. Come hang out with the Godfather of Soul, take an audio tour through Augusta's Story or test your history knowledge with one of our scavenger hunts. There's something for everyone at the AMH so put this date on your calendar and join us.



MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM

Creative Impressions will present a soulful celebration of African American music with "Genius In Chains". The performance explores the rich legacy of African American music, tracing its roots from various African countries to its modern influences across multiple genres.

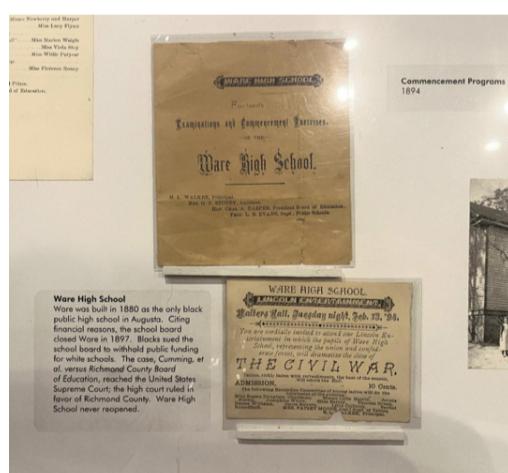
This FREE program at the Augusta Museum of History starts promptly at **3:00pm on Sunday, February 22, 2026** in the Museum Rotunda. Invite your friends and neighbors and share this amazing experience with everyone you know!

SO MUCH MORE TO DISCOVER

Ware High School, 1894

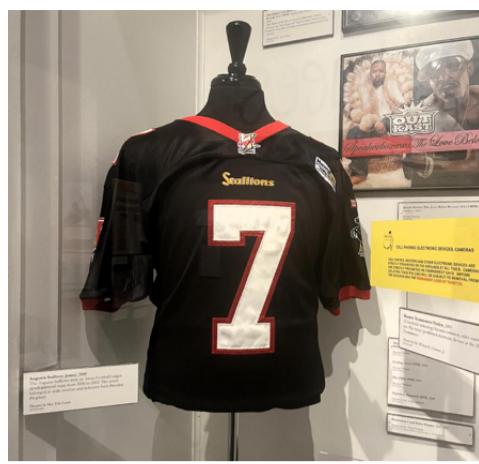
These programs, located in the education section of Augusta's Story, commemorate Ware High School. Ware was built in 1880 as the only Black public high school in Augusta. Citing financial reasons, the school board closed Ware in 1897. Black community members sued the school board to withhold public funding for white schools in response. The case, Cumming et al. vs. Richmond County Board of Education, reached the United States Supreme court, but the high court ruled in favor of Richmond County. Ware High School never reopened.

Donated by Mrs. Viola E. Evans



Augusta Stallions, 2000

Stop by the 2000s case of Augusta's Story to see this Jersey from the



Augusta Stallions. The Stallions were an Arena Football League developmental team from 2000 to 2002. This jersey belonged to wide receiver and defensive back Brendan Prophett.

Donated by Ms. Ella Lovin

NEW DISCOVERIES

Fitz-Symms 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.

Ajax Sew-Vac Store

December 11, 1952

This image shows the exterior view of Ajax Sewing and Vacuum Store (Ajax Sew-Vac Store) for the Ajax Sewing Machine Company. There are several sewing machines on display and Christmas decorations.



Abramson Advertising

June 1962

A gentleman drives a machine that assists with painting the lines on the street. This was taken near "Claussen-Lawrence" for Abramson Advertising Inc.

Confederate Powder Works Chimney

ca. 1980's

A feature shot of the remaining Confederate Powder Works chimney at Sibley Mill. This image was taken from further away showing the entire chimney and some of the mill behind it.



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 digitized and cared for through the Photography Collections Internship Program. The following are a few interesting discoveries made during the collection care process.

Georgia Railroad Bank & Trust, 1968

A group of men pose for a group



photo behind a desk at the Gwinnett Street branch of Georgia Railroad Bank and Trust. Among them, on the far left of the front row, is civil rights leader and Georgia House of Representatives member R.A. Dent.



Exchange Club Fair, 1982

Stacey Maddox stands proudly with her Best in Show ribbons that she was awarded in the Youth category of the Exchange Club's photography exhibition.



Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, 1985

Ralph M. Scurry, Jr. Poses with a collection of mounted deer antlers at his place of work.

Augusta Chronicle Collection

Donated by the Augusta Chronicle, this collection of photograph negatives was produced by different photographers who worked at the Chronicle. The collection spans time from 1970-2001 and features many programs and activities around Augusta and the region. To preserve this history and facilitate ease of access to this collection, the new Archivist Internship Program at the Augusta Museum of History, funded by the Porter Fleming Foundation, is creating a log of metadata in order to curate a Finding Aid. The following images represent a small portion of the negatives processed.



Vietnamese Families at Aldersgate Workshops

July 23, 1975

With the end of the war and the U.S. pulling soldiers out of Vietnam, many Vietnamese families migrated to the U.S. to flee potential persecution by

the new government. In July 1975, Aldersgate Methodist Church held workshops to help new migrants learn English and Southern customs. The program director, Mrs. Tison Connor, is quoted as saying that the program had *"really been a two-way learning experience; we have learned as much about the Vietnamese ways as they have ours."*



Miss America 1976 Visits Augusta, September 17, 1975

On September 6th, 1975, Tawny Godin from New York was crowned as Miss America 1976. Tawny was the tallest winner of the competition, at that point, at 5 foot 10 and a half feet tall. Her first stop in Georgia was Augusta as a part of her year-long tour where she would travel 350,000 miles around the country. She was interviewed and asked about her views on marijuana, pre-marital sex, and her first experience with the Southern dish of "grits."



Boy With Football

October 6, 1975

October is deep in the heart of football season, peak time for practice, and marking the point of transition to the critical mid-season games that solidify team standings and begin qualifying rounds for college playoffs and the Superbowl. Three-year-old John Mabil is pictured here playing with a football in his front yard where family members are on standby playing as well.

EXHIBIT UPDATE



A Sense of Identity: Flags and Banners

In 2025, the Museum's rotating textile case featured a 4-part series focusing on the flags and banners of our permanent collection. This series explored the way in which these special textiles carry historical and cultural context, from symbolizing an entire nation to commemorating a specific event. The final installment of this series focuses on the ways in which flags and banners convey meaning, whether literal or symbolic. Featured items include a Blue Star banner from WWI bearing the names

of local soldiers, and the 1954 Camp Gordon Signal Corps Training Center yearbook. This installment will be on display through the end of 2025. Beginning in 2026, the case will feature a new four-part exhibition celebrating the USA's 250th. The Wells Fargo Textile Case is located on the second floor of the Museum to the left as you exit the stairwell.

New Acquisitions



Child's Hand-Crocheted Poncho, 1970-1975

This handmade garment was crafted by Ethel Hammett for her niece, the Donor. A handwritten note included with the poncho reads, *"Fran, Aunt Ethel made this cape for you and I just couldn't give it away. Sentimental reasons, I suppose. Love, Mom."*

Donated by Ms. Francene Taylor

Roman Villa Sign, 1975

A carved wooden sign from the Roman Villa restaurant, which was renamed Pizza Villa in 1975 by owner Fred Ozanne. Today Roman Villa is remembered as part of the Villa Europa restaurant legacy in Augusta.

Donated by Ms. Peggy Schaffer

Collection Care Tip

Back to Basics: Agents of Deterioration

When it comes to preserving historical objects, there are ten main factors that can contribute to damage over time and must be managed. These are referred to as the Ten Agents of Deterioration. These factors include physical forces (natural disaster or damage due to human error, like dropping an object, theft and vandalism, fire, water, pests, light, incorrect temperature, incorrect humidity, and disassociation (loss of historical or provenance information about an object).

By considering these risk factors and actively working to mitigate them, museums can ensure the longevity of their collections for the future. For example, disaster preparedness plans are maintained so that there is a clear plan of action in the event of a disaster like flood, fire, or earthquakes. Security systems and careful exhibition planning can help to prevent theft and vandalism. We also take many steps to ensure ongoing prevention of deterioration, like monitoring the temperature and humidity of collections storage spaces and noting any pest activity. Maintaining a collections management system to catalog objects and information about them combats disassociation and misplacement.

These methods are just a few of the ways that museums work to care for the history they house. To learn more about the Agents of Deterioration, [VISIT THIS PAGE](#) from the American Institute for Conservation.

County Corner: Richmond County

New Year Celebration, 2000

Sparkling fireworks erupt on Broad Street in Downtown Augusta during

the New Year celebrations held to commemorate the turn of the millennium.

Donated by Mr. Bill Baab



NAGPRA UPDATE



As of 2022 the Augusta Museum of History has 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 rightful owners.

As of December 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 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>

Museum Volunteers

Over the holidays, the Museum had some amazing volunteers help out with the Museum Express. Annie Zhang, a senior at Davidson Fine Arts and 2026 National Merit Scholar, helped set up and serve hot chocolate and cookies to the Express participants. And Skip and Jackie Horne came in and were the most magical Santa and Mrs. Claus you've ever met. They greeted each child at their tables, listened to their lists, and if a child tugged on Santa's beard he would give a Jolly laugh of "Ho-Ho-Ho"! The Museum thrives with volunteers



for programs and collections. If you are interested in volunteering at the AMH [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more and join in the Museum fun.

Educational Programs

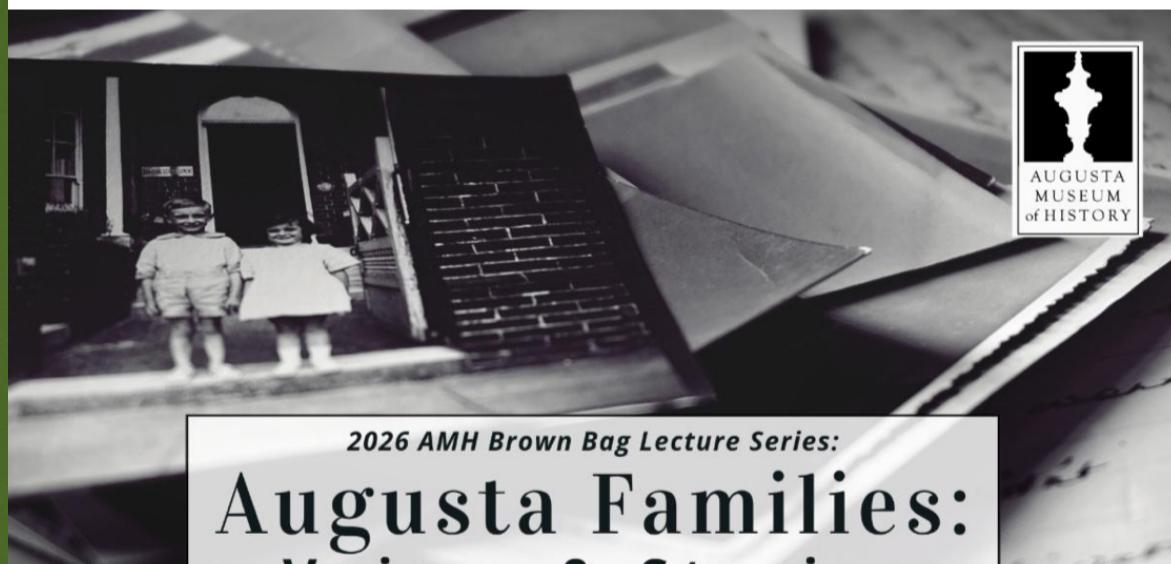
- *Richmond Co. 5th Grade Field Trips
- *Brown Bag Lecture Series 2026
- *Hands-On-History Workshop
- *Curious Kids
- *Schedule A Group Tour



Richmond County 5th Grade Field Trips

In 2026 the Augusta Museum of History will share Augusta's Civil Rights history from the 1960's & 70's with Richmond County fifth graders. This is the fourth year we have hosted the fifth graders. The Education Team works closely with the Richmond Co. Board of Education to schedule and plan these field trips. It was decided that the tours would start in October and November of 2025 and continue in January through early March. The students will learn about Haines Normal and Industrial Institute, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speaking at Tabernacle Baptist Church and about Mr. James Brown's song, *Say It Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud*.

The main focus of the field trip is a 20 minute long documentary called *The Steering Committee*, produced and directed by Augusta local filmmaker Hodges. This documentary shares how the young students from Paine College, peacefully protested segregation in Augusta. It's a fantastic documentary with interviews with the protestors like Silas Norman, Jimmy Dukes and many more. It is a privilege to share these stories with the Richmond County fifth graders, and we hope they will be inspired by the stories and history they hear.



2026 Brown Bag History Lectures

More Augusta Family stories are on the way in 2026! This series has been well received by the public and the oral histories are a great addition to the permanent collection. In the new year the Museum will host speakers who's families have shaped the CSRA's culture, structures and commercial spaces. Take a look at the Augusta Stories we will hear and record in 2026:

January 28- Bob Woodhurst

February 11- Tom Robertson

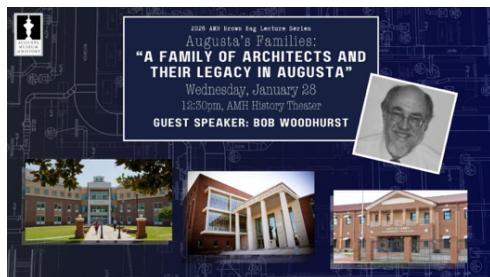
March 11- Hap Harris

April 15- Frank Christian

May 13- Deanna Brown Thomas

June 10- Cameron Nixon

July 8- Jimmy Jacobs
 September 9- Christine Mangelly
 October 14- Penelope Ballas
 November 18- Alena Rensch



Wednesday, January 28

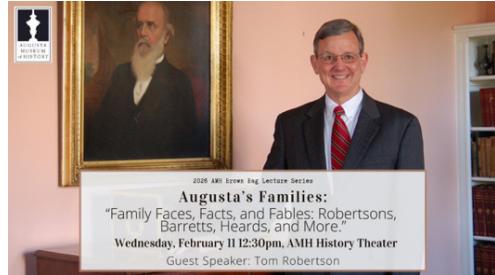
Augusta Families:
"A Family of Architects & Their Legacy in Augusta"

Bob Woodhurst

Wednesday, February 11

Augusta Families
*"Family Faces, Facts, and Fables:
 Robertsons, Barretts, Heards, & more"*

Tom Robertson



Wednesday, March 11

Augusta Stories:
"Family, Dad, and the Augusta Chronicle"

Hap Harris

The Brown Bag History Lecture Series is provided 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, no registration required.** Participants may bring a lunch to enjoy in the Museum Rotunda from 11:30am-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 will be available on the AMH YouTube channel and shared on social media.

Brown Bag Lectures



HANDS ON HISTORY
 FEBRUARY 14, 1-3:30PM
 AT THE AUGUSTA MUSEUM OF HISTORY



Learn the history behind the Edgefield face jars, create one with your own hands & tour the Museum

Hands-On-History Workshop

The Augusta Museum of History is proud to bring back the a Hands On History Workshop based around Edgefield pottery and the face jars. On Saturday, February 14, from 1-3:30pm, Krystal Lyon, AMH Head of Education, will share the history of these fascinating objects and show you some that are in the Museum collection. Then we will get our hands a little

dirty making our own face jars with air-dry clay. (No kiln firing needed) All supplies are included in the price and you can take home your vessel, extra clay and tools to keep on creating.

What's included:

- *All supplies for one face vessel (plus clay and tools to take home)
- *Instruction and techniques for how to create the vessel
- *Lesson on the history of the vessels
- *Tour of Edgefield pottery in Museum Collection
- *Admission to Museum after the workshop

The cost is just \$25.00 per person and this workshop is open to teens and adults. Registration for this workshop will go online in early January, keep an eye on the Museum website and social media for more details.



Curious Kids 2026

The popular Curious Kids program returns in March and there is so much explore at the Museum in 2026. From Augusta's Astronaut to the Yellow Trolley and even Mahjong and games from the past. The last Thursday and Friday of March through October, the AMH Education team will share a fun tour, story time, crafts, scavenger hunts and hands-on-history lessons that are great for children ages 3-12.

The first session is based around Augusta's own astronaut, Susan Still Kilrain, and the book she wrote [An Unlikely Astronaut](#). Registration for this session will start at the beginning of March so keep an eye out on the Museum's website and social media for more details.



SCHEDULE A GROUP TOUR

Use our online reservation form for field trips/tours of 10 or more. Reservations should be made at least one week in advance. Groups of 10 or more qualify for \$3, \$5 or \$7 admission pricing depending on what you want included.

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

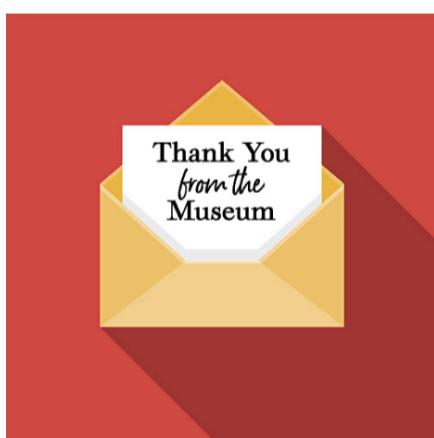


Looking for that special venue to host your event?

The Augusta Museum of History has got you covered! Whether you're looking to host a wedding, a corporate function, or any other kind of event, we have the perfect space for you!

Click the button to check out the *different* spaces we have to offer! If you have any questions or would like to set up a time to view our spaces, contact us at PrivateEvents@augustamuseum.org or by calling 706-722-8454.

[Click for Rental Info](#)



Thank You from the Museum

As always, we appreciate your generous contributions and our wonderful Museum members.

To see our current list of Donors, [click here](#).

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

We thank you!

The 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: \$7 * Senior: \$6 * Child (6-17): \$5 * Child (5 & under): Free

Group tours (10 and up) available Tuesday through Sunday; must book in advance.

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: Adults: \$7 Seniors 65 and older: \$6 Children 6-17: \$5 Children 5 & under: Free



Augusta Museum of History



Ezekiel Harris House

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