



NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

July-September 2026 - Third Quarter

[Museum Home](#)

[Education](#)

[Plan Your Visit](#)

[Collections](#)

[Exhibitions](#)

[Event Rentals](#)

[Museum Shop](#)



IN THIS ISSUE

From the Director

The Value of History

Events

- The Great Building Showdown
- 15th Annual JAMPCERT
- Night At The Museum
- Family Fun Day
- Behind-The-Scenes

News from Collections

- So Much More to Discover
- Fitz-Symms Collection
- Wilkinson Collection
- Augusta Chronicle Collection
- Exhibitions Update

Democracy

- New Acquisitions
- Collection Care Tip
- County Corner
- NAGPRA Update

Education Programs

- Red, White & Ready For Adventure Summer Camp
- 2025 Brown Bag History Lecture Series
- Curious Kids
- Schedule A Tour

AMH CALENDAR

AMH Open on Saturday, July 4th
10:00am to 5:00pm

Great Building Showdown

June 25th-July 5, 2026

Display In Museum Rotunda
Free To The General Public

Brown Bag History Series

Wednesday, July 8, 12:30pm

The Jacobs Family and Their
Musical Legacy
Speaker: Jimmy Jacobs

15th Annual JAMPCERT

Friday, July 10, 6pm

Free Event!

Red, White & Ready For Adventure Summer Camp

Monday-Friday, July 13-17

9:30am-12pm

Curious Kids Program

**Thursday & Friday, July 30 & 31,
10-11am**

Yellow Trolley Edition

Night At The Museum Fundraiser

Thursday, August 13th

Showtimes at 6:00pm & 7:30pm

Family Fun Day

Saturday, August 22, 1-3pm

With Performance from the Mangelly
Accordionaires



**Come See The Stories That
Connect Us!**

Curious Kids Program
Thursday & Friday, August 27 & 28
10-11am

Augusta Education Edition

AMH & EHH Closed for Labor Day
Monday, September 7

Behind-The-Scenes Saturdays
September 5, 12 & 19
Tours at 11:00am, 1:00 & 3:00pm

Brown Bag History Series
Wednesday, September 9, 12:30pm
The Musical Life and Story of the
Mangelly Family
Guest Speaker: Christine Mangelly

FROM THE DIRECTOR



The **value of history** is multi-layered—it's not just about dates and events, but about understanding humanity, ourselves, and the patterns that shape our lives. Let me break it down:

- **Understanding the Present-** History explains how societies, cultures, and institutions came to be. Without it, we risk repeating mistakes because we wouldn't see the causes behind current issues. For example, knowing the history of the civil rights era helps us understand ongoing struggles for equality.
- **Learning from Mistakes and Successes-** History is a vast record of human trial and error. Wars, economic collapses, social reforms—they all provide lessons. Studying them helps leaders and individuals make informed decisions.
- **Shaping Identity and Culture-** History gives communities a sense of identity. Traditions, languages, and values are rooted in historical experiences. Understanding history strengthens cultural continuity and pride, while also promoting empathy for others' experiences.
- **Critical Thinking and Perspective-** Analyzing historical events teaches critical thinking—examining sources, questioning narratives, and weighing evidence. It shows that events are rarely black-and-white, helping us develop nuanced perspectives.
- **Inspiration and Human Potential-** History is full of individuals and movements that overcame immense challenges. Learning about them can motivate us, showing what humans are capable of, from scientific breakthroughs to acts of courage.
- **Predicting and Shaping the Future-** While history doesn't repeat itself exactly, patterns often emerge. Economists, sociologists, and policymakers study historical trends to anticipate future challenges and opportunities.

In short, history is a **mirror to our past, a lens for the present, and a guide for the future.**

Nancy J. Glaser
AMH Executive Director



The Great Building Showdown 2026

The 6th annual Great Building Showdown is open to all for one more weekend, July 2-5, 2026 at the Augusta Museum of History! This **FREE EVENT** is in the Museum Rotunda, and it's a great spot to bring your family and friends during the holiday weekend.

This STEAM-event features a multi-build display honoring America's 250th. There is a six foot US Capital Building flanked by two life-sized bald eagles designed and built by Mark Lorah. Matt Hines built the 9-11 Memorial, Jeannette Bryan built Independence Hall, Carmela Gottesman built the Norman Rockwell Freedom Posters, Kipp Hoffman built Betsy Ross's Flag, Rob Claxton built a WWII Memorial, and Christopher Todd Holroyd, Jr. built the Battle of Okinawa. Play I-Spy with the displays or head over to the "It Takes A Village" building tables where architects young and old can design their own buildings and think outside the box.



15th Annual JAMPCERT

Come support the James Brown Academy of Musik Pupils at this year's JAMPCERT! On **Friday, July 10th at 6:00pm** JAMP will perform in the Museum Rotunda. This is a **FREE** performance and one you don't want to miss.

They will perform some of Mr. Brown's most recognizable tunes as well as different musicians that were influenced and shaped by Mr. Brown including Michael Jackson. Come have a "Funky Food Time" with JAMP at the Augusta Museum of History.



Night At The Museum 2026

Experience an evening of mystery and wonder at Augusta's very own **Night at the Museum**, where history comes alive! As the doors close and the lights dim, guests are guided through the Museum by AMH security officers. Guest will encounter ten characters from years gone by who will bring the city's historic past to life as they tell their stories. The Museum exhibits not only serve as a stage, but also become a setting for the joys, sorrows and lives of our historical figures and their eventful stories.

Guests will enjoy beverages (alcoholic and nonalcoholic) and light hors d'oeuvres, before and after their journey through time.

Two tour times will be offered. Please choose either the 6:00 pm time slot or the 7:30 pm time slot. Doors open for the first group at 5:30 p.m. and for second group at 7 p.m. **Tickets go on sale on Monday, July 13th and there are only 40 available per tour time.** Tickets are \$100 per adults and \$50 for military with id(Active & Veteran)

Night at the Museum (N@TM) is an annual fundraising event benefitting the Augusta Museum of History's preservation and exhibition efforts. The combination of theatre and museum education turns history into a personal, interactive experience.

For more information, contact the museum at [706-722-8454](tel:706-722-8454) or at amh@augustamuseum.org.



Family Fun Day

Join us on Saturday, August 22 for a family fun day! There will be a

community loom craft, games from your childhood, and the amazing music of the Mangelly Accordionaires. And it's all FREE and indoors so you can beat the August heat!

1:00pm: Mangelly Accordionaires Performance- Museum Rotunda

The Mangelly Accordionaires will be here sharing their fantastic tunes starting at 1:00pm. The Mangelly family is a historic family in the CSRA who started a music and dance school with a focus on accordions. They will share music based around America's 250th with the crowd.

1:00-3:00pm: The CSRA Loom Project- Garden City Room

Children and adults will have the opportunity to learn about loom and textile work while adding to the community loom. Come in and pick out your yarn or other textile, weave it through the loom or knot it in a specific spot and create something beautiful with your community.

1:00-3:00pm: Games of The Past- Activity Center

Have you ever played Tiddlywinks? How about Table Skittles? I'm sure you're familiar with Connect Four and Jenga! We will have board games from the past out in the Activity Center for you and your family to play with along with some group activities!

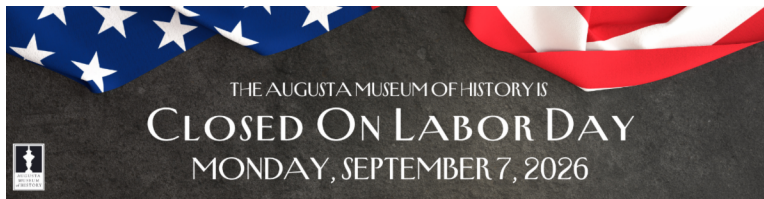


Behind-The-Scenes Saturdays

The Augusta Museum of History welcomes you to join Museum Registrar, Alena Rensch, behind-the-scenes to learn how to care for your family treasures and how the Museum cares for items in the collection.

Alena will demonstrate how the AMH collects, catalogs, preserves, studies, cares for, and displays archival collections. **You'll also get a chance to view some of the many artifacts in our collections not currently on display!**

Behind-the-Scenes Saturdays will take place on September 5, 12, and 19 with tours at 11am, 1pm and 3pm. Guests must be aged 8 or older to participate, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Each tour is around an hour long and is limited to 15 guests. This program is free with regular Museum admission.

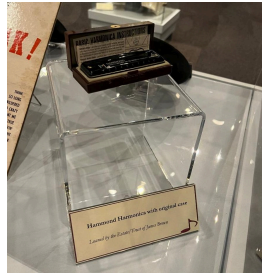


SO MUCH MORE TO DISCOVER

Augusta Lynx T-Shirt, ca. 1998

A T-shirt for the inaugural season playoffs for the Augusta Lynx hockey team. The team was a part of the East Coast Hockey league and played from 1998 to 2008. In May of 2026, it was announced that Augusta was bringing back a hockey team and reviving the Lynx name. See this piece of sports history in the 1990s and 2000s section of Augusta's Story.

Donated by the Augusta Lynx



Hammond Harmonica

ca. 1980's

In the Museum's *The Godfather of Soul, Mr. James Brown* exhibit, you can find this harmonica in its original case. The harmonica was one of many instruments Mr. Brown taught himself to play as he developed his unique style of music. His extensive talent for playing musical instruments also included the piano, organ, drums, and guitar, just to name a few.

Loaned by the Estate of James Brown, Primary Wave Music

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.

Meadow Gardens

March 1961

This exterior image of Meadow Garden was taken to be used for postcards. The historic home belonged to George Walton, a Georgia signer of the Declaration of Independence.



Coca Cola Bottling Company



June, 1954

An aerial shot of the Coca Cola Bottling Company that was at the corner of Fifth Street and Reynolds Street. The Savannah River can be seen in the top left corner.

Furniture Barn

August 1959

A large showroom at the Furniture Barn. The business was known for selling a variety of indoor and outdoor furniture.



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 interesting discoveries made during the collection care process.



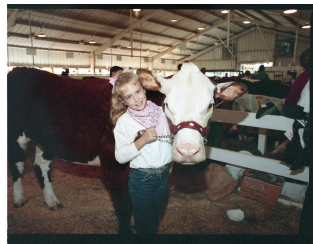
Downtown Augusta, 1970

In the Spring of 1970, Wilkinson Photography took a series of photos of Downtown Augusta. Blanchard and Calhoun, Augusta Savings and Loan Association, and Cassella's Jewelers can be seen in this image.

Castleberry's Food Company

1974

Two Castleberry's employees load cans of Austex Chili into trucks at the factory loading dock. The company produced canned meat products in Augusta from the 1920s through the early 2000s.



Exchange Club Fair, 1989

A child poses with her cow during a livestock competition during the Exchange Club's annual fair in Augusta. The competition featured cows, pigs, and other livestock animals.

Augusta Chronicle Collection

Donated by the Augusta-Chronicle, this collection of photo 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 Internship 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.



Boys playing leapfrog, 1976

Two boys play leapfrog, a children's game where players vault or "hop" over each other's backs. Leap frog has been a game widely played since the 1500s starting in England. The game has a variety of names in

other countries, such as *saute-mouton* or "leap sheep" in France, demonstrating just how widely loved this game is.



Theresa Rand building a porch, 1976

Theresa Rand, pictured here, was featured in the Chronicle for enclosing the front porch of her own home. After the passage of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act in 1974, which made it illegal to discriminate against a loan or credit applicant based on race, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, or age, many women were able to buy and own their own homes.



Soap Box Derby Winner 1976

The 1976 Soap Box Derby Race was held at the Fort Gordon's Derby Downs where 56 young people qualified and raced to represent Augusta in the International Derby in Akron, Ohio. Chris Ryan, pictured here, was the winner of the award for Best Car Representing the Bicentennial Year.

EXHIBIT UPDATE

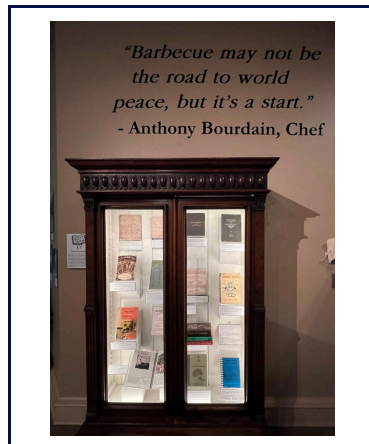
America 250th Exhibition

The second installment of *Where We've Been, Where We Are, and the Stories Along the Way: America's 250* was installed on April 13th and will be on display until July 19th. This exhibit highlights stories from the AMH collection as we observe the 250 anniversary of the United States' founding. Collections and Education departments are working in tandem to feature these items in chronological order on social media throughout the year.



NEW EXHIBITION: *Around the Table, Regional Foodways*

Opening to the public on June 24th, join us as we explore the rich history of food in the CSRA as it has been shaped by agriculture, industry, cooking innovations, and dining culture throughout the last two and a half centuries. Alena Rensch, curator of the exhibit, stated, *from farm-grown roots to favorite local dishes, learn about the individual people, places, and stories that make our region's food history unique.*



Free Exhibition On Display June 4-August 30 in AMH Rotunda

When the Declaration of Independence was issued, the idea that “*all men are created equal*” was revolutionary. The Founding Fathers unleashed a force that would shape modern history. This exhibition uses primary sources to illustrate how people from across the world have been inspired by the Declaration in their pursuit of equality and self-determination.

NEW ACQUISITIONS



Atlanta Olympics Blazer, 1996

This blazer was owned by Fred L. Powell Jr. of Augusta when he worked at the 1996 Olympic Summer Games in Atlanta. The 1996 Olympics were also known as the Centennial Olympics, it marked the 100th anniversary of the 1896 Summer Olympics in Athens, the inaugural edition of the modern Olympic Games.

Donated by Mr. Jesse L. Powell



Fox 54 Sign, ca. 1990's

An This large sign was outside the WFXG Fox 54 Station at its location on Washington Road.

Donated by WFXG FOX54

COLLECTION CARE TIPS

Pollutants & Collection Care

In the world of collections, *pollutants* can refer to a wide range of substances that have the potential to chemically react with an object. When caring for historical objects and archives, museums must consider the risk of pollutants and how to deal with them. By breaking them down into three categories, we can see how each type of pollutant can be identified and dealt with.

Airborne pollutants can be manmade or natural, and can come from construction activities, use of improper building materials, or even the surrounding environment of a museum. Dust and water vapor are also considered to be airborne pollutants, so regular cleaning and humidity control are important for maintaining a museum's collection.

Pollutants transferred by contact can include damage from using improper packaging to house and object, or a person handling an object without gloves. Contact pollution can also occur if an object is stored with another that contains potentially damaging chemical agents, such as the fatty acids found within tanned leather. Wearing proper PPE and keeping objects packaged separately from one another helps to prevent contact pollution.

Intrinsic pollutants are present when an object contains chemical compounds that are harmful to itself. This is common in objects that are made of multiple materials, for example, a pair of boots that may contain leather, metal, wood, and adhesive. All these components have the potential to interact chemically with one another, thus speeding up deterioration. Museums will monitor these objects for any signs of chemical interactions between these different components, and ensure that the storage and environmental conditions for the object are stable to minimize the risk to the various materials present in any given object.

COUNTY CORNER

Edgefield County

Crest Seat Cover Factory, 1949

Women sew seat covers on singer sewing machines in a large workroom. The factory was part of the effort to bring new industry to Edgefield County in the years after World War II. This included the Crest Manufacturing Company, Milliken & Company, Reigel, National Cabinet Company, Star Fibers, and others.

Donated by Kirk and Lora Baxley, Fitz-Symms Photography Collection



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 June 2026, the Augusta Museum of History has repatriated several items to their people of origin and has published several 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>

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



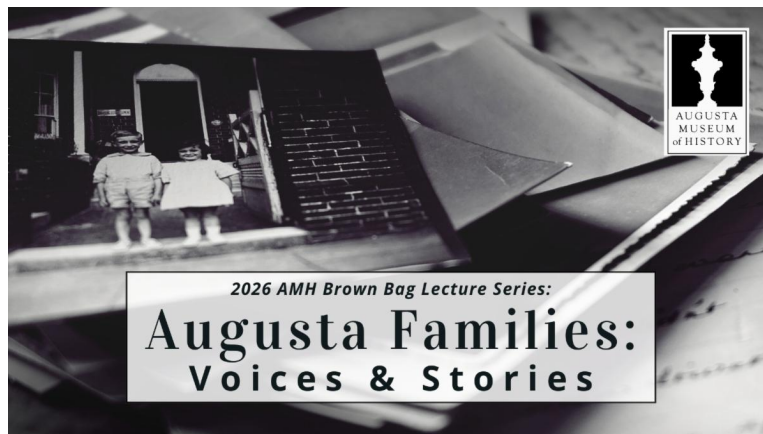
Red, White & Ready For Adventure Summer Camp

The Education Team is ready to offer something special for children this year, **Red, White**

& Ready For Adventure. With the America 250th Celebration, it's the perfect time to host a week-long half-day summer adventure **for rising 1st grade through 6th grade** that focuses on those early days of America and Augusta. On **July 13-17 from 9:30am-12:00pm** we will play fun games, create historic crafts, prep colonial food, and learn from the stories and exhibits in the Museum. Each day we will learn about a specific time in Augusta's history from the indigenous tribes and colonial times to the Revolutionary War and the time when Washington visited Augusta. History, fun, adventure, learning, curiosity and so much more for the children of the CSRA!

There Are only a couple spots left! Click the button below for more details and to register your child today!

[Register For Red, White & Ready For Adventure](#)



2026 Brown Bag History Lectures

More Augusta Family stories are on the way! In 2025 & 26 the Augusta Museum of History brought you the stories from families that have shaped the CSRA. From Flo Carter's music to Milledge Murray's Revolutionary family tree, each one presented us with a special history and perspective. These "**Augusta Stories**" have been recorded and can be watched on the AMH YouTube channel.

Please join us one Wednesday a month. Bring a sack lunch, and invite a friend for the lunch hour before the lecture, from 11:30am-12:30pm. The Museum serves water, coffee and dessert during this time. The lectures start promptly at 12:30pm in the History Theater and the cost is just \$5.00 to attend and free for Museum Members.

Here are the links to recent lectures and a look at the lectures that coming up from July to November.

[January 28- Milledge Murray](#)

[February 11- Tom Robertson](#)

[March 11- Hap Harris](#)

[April 15- Frank Christian](#)

[May 13- Deanna Brown Thomas](#)

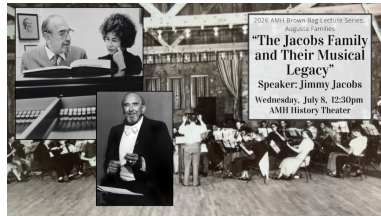
June 10- Cameron Nixon

July 8- Jimmy Jacobs

September 9- Christine Mangelly

October 14- Penelope Ballas

November 18- Alena Rensch



Wednesday, July 8

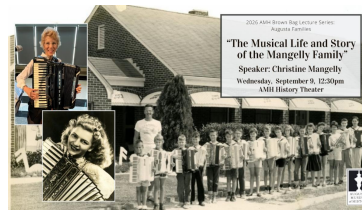
The Jacobs Family and Their Musical Legacy

Speaker: Jimmy Jacobs

Wednesday, September 9

The Musical Life and Story of the Mangelly Family

Speaker: Christine Mangelly



Brown Bag Lectures

Curious Kids
TROLLEY EDITION
10:00 - 11:00AM
THURSDAY, JULY 30
FRIDAY, JULY 31
MINI HISTORY LESSON,
STORY TIME, AND CRAFT
BEST FOR AGES 3 - 12
\$5/PERSON
INCLUDES ADMISSION TO THE MUSEUM
AUGUSTA MUSEUM OF HISTORY
560 REYNOLDS ST. AUGUSTA, GA

The Augusta Museum of History presents, Curious Kids!

Each month children ages 3-12 can learn about a part of the CSRA history through items in the Museum galleries. In July the focus is on the Yellow Trolley. Attendees will enjoy a fun story, a trolley-themed craft, activity, and learn how Augustans got around the CSRA before the Model T. There are two sessions to choose from, Thursday, July 30th and Friday, July 31st from 10-11a.m. The same program will be presented at both

sessions. 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 HERE TO REGISTER FOR JULY CURIOUS KIDS](#)



August Curious Kids

Education Edition

Focus on Haines Institute & Academy of Richmond County

September Curious Kids

Games of The Past Edition

Focus on Dominos, Mahjong, Cards & Other Fun Games



SCHEDULE A GROUP TOUR

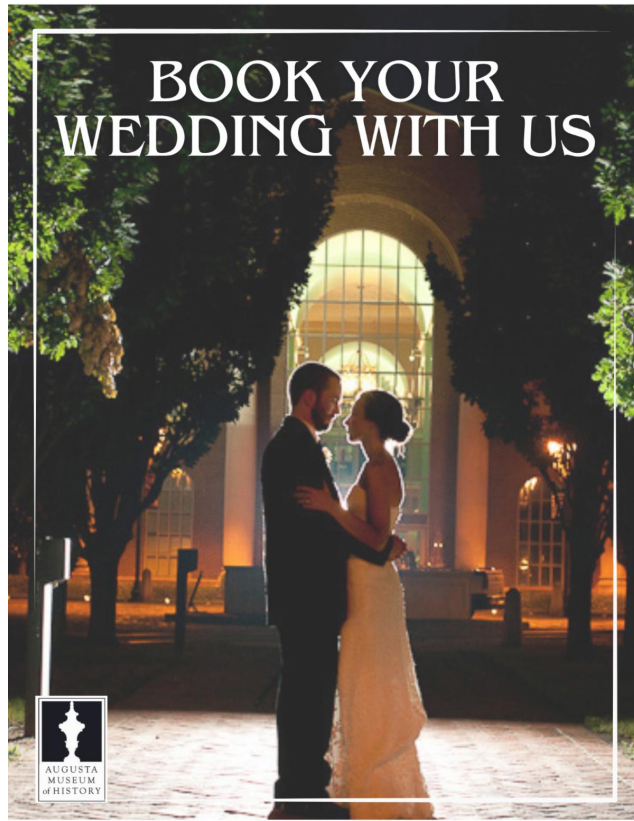
Group tours are an excellent way to explore Augusta's history and spend time with your staff, family or class. The Museum's staff will create a unique experience for your group. The Museum hosts tours and fieldtrips for children as young as 3 up to senior citizens.

The Museum can host large groups, groups with special needs, homeschool groups, family reunions, all are welcome at the AMH. And this is the perfect time to sign up for fall field trips! Use our online reservation form for easy registration. Groups of 10 or more people receive reduced admission, and the price varies based on what you want to do with your group.



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

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

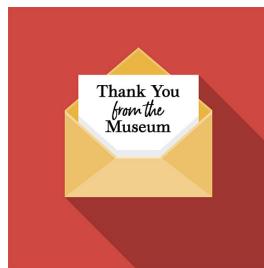


Looking For That Special Venue To Host Your Event?

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 706-722-8454 or email at PrivateEvents@augustamuseum.org

[Click for Rental Info](#)



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

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



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



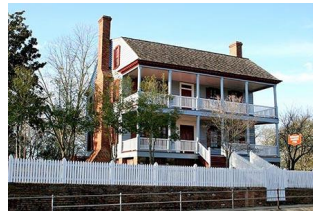
Hours: Thursday-Saturday, 10am - 5pm; Sunday 1pm - 5pm; Closed Monday-Wednesday. **Admission:** Adult: \$7 Senior (65 & Older): \$6 Child (6-18): \$5 Child (6 & under): Free

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 info call (706) 722-8454 or visit www.augustamuseum.org.

Hours: Guided tours by appointment only Tuesday - Friday, Every other Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, with the last tour beginning at 4:00 pm; To schedule tour call (706) 722-8454. **Admission:** Adult: \$7 Senior (65 & Older): \$5 Child (6-18): \$5 Child (6 & under): Free



Augusta Museum of History
560 Reynolds Street
Augusta, GA. 30901



Ezekiel Harris House
1822 Broad Street
Augusta, GA. 30904

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

[Donate Today](#)

[Become a Member](#)

