



## **Coastal Museums Association Annual Report 2022-2023 Membership Year**

### **Officers**

President: Luciana Spracher, City of Savannah Municipal Archives

Vice President: Tara Kelsey, Massie Heritage Center

Treasurer: Juliana Sims, American Prohibition Museum

Secretary: Billie Stultz, Savannah African Art Museum

Immediate Past President: Elyse Butler, Georgia Historical Society

### **Membership**

The 2022-2023 membership campaign resulted in a membership body composed of 42 Museum Members and 20 Individual Members.

### **Institutional Members**

- African Diaspora Museology Institute
- American Prohibition Museum
- Andrew Low House
- Catholic Diocese of Savannah Archives
- City of Savannah Department of Cultural Resources
- City of Savannah Municipal Archives
- Coastal Heritage Society (CHS)
- Congregation Mickve Israel/Gutstein Museum
- Davenport House Museum/Historic Savannah Foundation
- Fort Pulaski National Monument
- Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council
- Georgia Historical Society
- Georgia Salzburger Society
- Georgia Southern University – Laboratory of Archaeology
- Georgia Southern University Museum
- Girl Scouts First Headquarters (GSHG)
- Georgia State Railroad Museum (CHS)
- Green-Meldrim House
- Historic Bluffton Foundation/Heyward House Historic Center
- Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace



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- LAMAR Institute
- Massie Heritage Center
- Mercer Williams House Museum
- Midway Museum, Inc.
- National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force
- Old Fort Jackson (CHS)
- Ossabaw Island Foundation
- Palmetto Bluff Conservancy
- Pinpoint Heritage Museum (CHS)
- Savannah African Art Museum
- Savannah Area Council of Garden Clubs – Botanical Garden
- Savannah Children’s Museum (CHS)
- Savannah History Museum (CHS)
- Savannah Science Museum
- SCAD Museum of Art
- Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum
- Skidaway Island State Park
- Telfair Museums (Telfair Academy, Owens-Thomas House, Jepson Center)
- Tybee Island Historical Society
- University of Georgia Marine Extension (Aquarium)
- Webb Military Museum LLC
- Wormsloe State Historic Site

### **Individual Members**

- Moreton, Lydia
- Rogers-Price, Vivian
- Morris, Cora
- Arden-Joly, Susan
- Beck, Emily
- Brown, Amanda
- Brown, Kerry
- Cadoff, Joel
- Carr, Christian



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- Christie, Raymond
- Johnson-Simon, Deborah
- Jordan, Michael
- Seifert, Laura
- Logan-Reynolds, Sarah
- Mallot, Fiona
- McCammon, Dana
- Pirok, Alena
- Wagner, Kathryn
- Wanderman, Meredith
- Wheten, Wilma

### Monthly Programs

We are grateful for meeting sites provided at no cost by our membership. This year we were hosted by the Davenport House Museum, Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum, Congregation Mickve Israel, Massie Heritage Center, and the Savannah African Art Museum.

- September 7, 2022: September Membership Kickoff and Social
- October 5, 2022: Laurie Humphries, Director of Volunteers and Events with the United Way of the Coastal Empire
- November 2, 2022: Pamela Knowles, Director of Content Marketing for Visit Savannah, social media strategies
- December 7, 2022: Holiday Social and Potluck
- January 4, 2023: Charles Bowen, entertainment lawyer and founder of the Savannah Regional Production Alliance
- February 1, 2023: Active Shooter Training, Natasha Roman, Protective Security Advisor with the Department of Homeland Security (annual SHER program)
- March 1, 2023: Jacey Thomas, Georgia Historical Society intern, primary sources project
- April 5, 2023: CMA Member Showcase (Lightening Presentations featuring Alena Pirok, Georgia Southern University, Vivian Rogers-Price and Peter Nichols, Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, and Chris Sergi and Ginger Varner, Andrew Low House Museum; Table Displays featuring Luciana Spracher, City of Savannah Municipal Archives, Steve Smith, Massie Heritage Center, and Katheryn White, Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace)
- May 3, 2023: Dr. Micah Parzen, CEO of the Museum of Us, "The Pandemic as Portal: From the San Diego Museum of Man to the Museum of Us"



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- June 7, 2023: CMA Annual Awards of Excellence

### Awards of Excellence

The annual Awards of Excellence ceremony was held on June 7, 2023 at the Savannah African Art Museum. The Board created a new award to honor extraordinary museum and cultural leaders in our community.

- Individual of Excellence presented to Elizabeth DuBose, Ossabaw Island Foundation
- Award for Excellence in Leadership named in honor of Scott W. Smith
- Scott W. Smith Award for Excellence in Leadership presented to Jamie Credle

### Reciprocal Admission (RA) Program

39 museum members/sites participated in the RA program for the 2022-2023 membership year.

The CMA Board conducted a membership survey to determine if a printed or electronic RA card was preferable. In response to membership input, the Board shifted to a hard plastic reusable card. The cards feature a QR code/URL directing users to the RA program website (<http://coastalmuseums.org/ra/>) where current participants are listed. The cards are designed to be reused each year with a renewal sticker provided to renewed members/participants each November to update them. It is hoped that the first printing of cards will last 5 years before a new run needs to be printed.

### Kiah Fund

Membership approved an increase of the maximum Kiah Fund Grant award from \$300.00 to \$500.00 in response to increasing professional development costs.

Membership approved a 15% annual allocation from the regular funds to the Kiah Fund, providing \$1,046.27 to replenish the Kiah Fund.

Membership approved two Kiah Fund Grant requests:

- Alison Beckelhymer, Museum Guide at the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, to attend Indiana University's Archives Management Certification Program, \$500.00
- Anne-Solene Bayan, Assistant Curator at Telfair Museums, to support attendance at the AAMC Art Curators Conference, \$500.00

A Kiah Fund Committee was established to develop a proposal to utilize the Kiah Fund to support an opportunity for high school and/or college students interested in the museum/cultural field. Laura Seifert, Fort



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Pulaski National Monument, chaired the committee which resulted in membership approval of the Kiah Fund Guidelines being updated so that student members are now eligible to receive Kiah Fund Grants for internships and projects at Institutional Member sites.

### **Sustainability Committee**

A special committee was formed to look at various aspects of CMA's operations to suggest improvements to strengthen the organization's sustainability and longevity. To assist the committee with their work, a membership survey was sent out to get a better understanding of our membership body and their needs. The committee's recommendations resulted in membership approval of the following:

- Student Membership level added
- Individual Members given the right to vote (Institutional members votes weighted 3 to 1 against Individual Member votes)
- Membership Dues increased
- One-year pilot membership incentive program for the 2023-2024 membership campaign
- Membership campaign begins on June 1<sup>st</sup> with a hard cut off of September 15<sup>th</sup>
- Membership Committee focuses on outreach to potential and lapsed members
- Online payment option for membership dues improved
- Membership renewal form simplified
- Online payments accepted for lunch orders
- Meeting schedule adjusted to offer year-round programming that rotates between lunch meetings with speakers, special events, afterwork networking events, and virtual meetings with speakers

The By-Laws have been updated as needed, and the Board updated the Membership Campaign processes for rollout in June for the 2023-2024 campaign. The Vice President and Programming Committee are working on developing a meeting/program schedule for the 2023-2024 year that addresses the new meeting schedule.

### **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Robin Gunn, Ossabaw Island Foundation, prepared the slate of incoming officers, which was approved by the membership. Anne-Solene Bayan, Telfair Museums, will succeed Billie Stultz as Secretary. Adam Cusick, American Prohibition Museum, will succeed Juliana Sims, American Prohibition Museum, as Treasurer.



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**Annual Report - Tara Kelsey, Vice President  
Coastal Museums Association  
May 31, 2023**

I appreciate everyone's patience with cleaning up the List Serv for 2022-23. We purged about 30 non-active emails. To date, we have **183 registered emails in the list serv**. It will be cleaned up again at the end of the 2022-23 membership campaign to reflect active membership at that time.

Our scheduled programs for 2022-23 included programs on: Volunteer Coordination, Social Media Strategies, the state of the Film Industry in Savannah, and museums as sites of change. Our annual SHER program was conducted by a representative of Homeland Security. We hosted two socials, our annual Member Showcase, and were given a special research presentation by an emerging museum professional in our community. We averaged 15-20 attendees for each daytime meeting/program and well over 30 for our evening socials.

We slowly worked on our RSVP system for meetings. Our biggest issue of the year was reservations for lunches that were never paid for by the absent attendee. Treasurer Juliana Sims solved this issue by finding an online payment solution.



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**CMA Treasurer's Report June 2022 - May 2023  
Juliana Sims, Treasurer**

<b>Starting balance</b> as of 6/30/2022	<b>\$9,303.87</b>
Income	\$3,000.32
Expenses	\$4,287.42
<b>Ending balance</b> as of 5/31/2023	<b>\$8,016.77</b>

*\*All income and expenditures were appropriately completed and all payments were completed on time and appropriately.*

<b>Kiah Fund Balance</b> as of 5/31/2023	<b>\$2962.22</b>
<b>CMA Website Fund Balance</b> as of 5/31/2023	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Annual Audit**

The Audit Committee comprising Juliana Sims (American Prohibition Museum and CMA Treasurer), Joe Stahl (Board Member for the Savannah Botanical Gardens), Tara Kelsey (Massie Heritage Center), and Jordan Broam (American Prohibition Museum) met on November 16th, 2022, to review finances for FY 2021-2022. In accordance with CMA bylaws, Jordan Broam fulfilled the role of a non-CMA committee member.

**Committee Tasks:**

- Reconciling deposits, payments, withdrawals, and transfers in the CMA checking account.
- Ensuring the monthly CMA Treasurer's Reports corresponded with bank statements.

All of the financial information that was available to the Audit Committee was reconciled during the audit.

Checking Account: All financial information regarding deposits and expenditures was evaluated for reasonableness and verified when possible or necessary.

Treasurer's Reports to the Membership for the fiscal years reviewed and available are reflective of the deposits/expenditures and the bank statements.

The audit for FY 2022-2023 will be held in November 2023.