



Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2023
Congregation Mickve Israel

NAME	INSTITUTION / SITE
Luciana Spracher	City of Savannah Municipal Archives
Breana James	Georgia Historical Society
Kristin Singleton	Georgia Historical Society
Laura Seifert	Fort Pulaski
Glenda Anderson	Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council
Wilma Wheten	Individual
Danielle Hodes	Davenport House Museum
Elizabeth DuBose	Ossabaw Island Foundation
Dawn Brosnan	National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force
Pearl Fyderek	National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force
Jamie Credle	Green-Meldrim House
Joe Stahl	Botanical Gardens
Chris Sergi	Andrew Low House Museum
Christian Carr	Savannah College of Art & Design
Danielle Christian	Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace
Deborah Johnson - Simon	African Diaspora Museology Institute
Amanda Fournier	Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum
Adam Cusick	American Prohibition Museum
Anne-Solene Bayan	Telfair Museums
Kathryn White	Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace
Robin Gunn	Ossabaw Island Foundation
Tara Kelsey	Massie Heritage Center

Samantha Matera	Fort Pulaski
Alli Geremin	Savannah College of Art & Design
Ginger Varner	Andrew Low House

Member Introductions

Members were asked to introduce themselves, their affiliation, and whether they were new to CMA.

Approval of Minutes

Luciana Spracher, President of CMA, pointed out that CMA has gone “paperless,” meaning there would be no printed agenda or copy of the minutes at the business meetings. A copy of the minutes was shared ahead of time via email. There was one small edit to the May minutes caught ahead of time (it said the location was Massie Heritage Center but it was Mickve Israel).

A motion to approve the minutes with that edit was given by Robin Gunn and seconded by Kathryn White. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Adam Cusick, CMA Treasurer, outlined the treasurer’s report, noting that CMA started with \$8617,77 on May 3, 2023 and ended with \$9924.45 on October 4, 2023.

Luciana Spracher explained there would not be a vote for this item; the report is accepted as information.

Old Business

Elizabeth DuBose from the Ossabaw Island Foundation received the Award of Excellence. Luciana Spracher gave an overview of Elizabeth’s work as Executive Director of the Foundation since 1998. Her efforts have included the restoration of 12 historic buildings on the island and three 19th century slave tabbies for which the Foundation received a preservation award from the Historic Savannah Foundation and the Georgia Trust. During Elizabeth’s tenure, the Foundation increased annual visitation from 500 to 3,000 visitors. In 2020, when state legislation HB 906 threatened the Heritage Preserve protections across Georgia, including Ossabaw, Elizabeth rallied statewide opposition to the bill, including reaching out to President Jimmy Carter. As a result of her work, HB 906 died in a committee in the state Senate, assuring that all 336,000 acres of Heritage Preserve lands across Georgia at 120 sites would remain protected from resale and development. Since 2020, Elizabeth has served on the steering committee for the Save Butler Island Coalition, which is working to preserve, protect, and interpret the site from which families of enslaved people were deported and sold in 1859 during the Weeping Time sale in Savannah.

Membership Campaign Update

The deadline for membership renewal was extended and is closing this Friday at 5pm. As of September 29, 2023, CMA has 40 organizational/museum members. The following are new and/or returning members:

- Coastal Discovery Museum
- Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home
- Jekyll Island Authority - Mosaic: Jekyll Island Museum
- Richmond Hill Historical Society
- Third Infantry Division Museum

There are 20 individual members. They are historians, museum owners, museum professionals, museum volunteers, objects conservators, and preservation consultants. When asked why they joined, the following was stated as reasons: To develop and maintain professional relationships; To network, discuss, and share; To help support local arts and culture, local museums, and community organizations.

There is a new category for students. Currently, there are 11 student members from Georgia Southern and Savannah College of Art and Design.

Membership Resources

Luciana Spracher outlined membership resources, including:

The Kiah Fund, which is available for professional development and knowledge sharing. If you are interested in applying, please make sure you explain how your use of the Kiah Fund would benefit CMA more broadly. There is now a student member category with specific guidelines on partnering with institutions. Applicants are encouraged to carefully review the guidelines.

The Listserv, which is managed by Tara Kelsey, CMA Vice President, is useful for sharing information about your sites, exhibitions, programs, closures, emergency situations, and sharing educational opportunities. CMA members will receive an email at the end of the week about how to post to the listserv.

The Reciprocal Admission (RA) program provides opportunities for active CMA members to visit member sites. There have been questions about RA cards (and renewal stickers), which will be distributed in November with program information discussed at the November business meeting. The cards will go out in the mail after the meeting to the mailing address you provided on your membership form. Please be aware that CMA recently switched to reusable cards that should be good for 5 years. Student members do not get cards. If you have any questions about the RA program and the cards, please contact Luciana Spracher.

Audit Committee

Adam Cusick is heading the audit committee and will need a few volunteers to conduct the audit. Volunteers are expected to attend 1 in-person meeting. Please reach out to Adam if you are able to help.

Program

Tara Kelsey introduced the two presenters, Kiah Fund recipients Ginger Varner from the Andrew Low House and Anne-Solène Bayan from Telfair Museums.

Ginger Varner shared her experience working with Visit Savannah at the Phenom Girl Scout Convention in Orlando, Florida in July 2023.

Anne-Solène Bayan shared her experience attending the Association of Art Museum Curators Conference (AAMC) in New York City in May 2023.

Member Updates & Announcements

- Botanical Gardens (Joe Stahl)
Saturday, October 14, from 9am to 2pm
Annual plant sale on Eisenhower
- Tybee Island Historical Society (Lighthouse)
End of the month
Halloween themed fundraiser
- Georgia Historical Society (Breana James)
February 9
Georgia Day Expo
Theme: "Governing Across 3 Centuries"
GHS is implementing new ways to celebrate. If sites want to participate, they should reach out to Breana James.
- Dr. Deborah Johnson-Simon
Received the Setha M. Low Engaged Anthropology Award from the American Anthropological Association and will be a moderator on a panel about Black Women in Anthropology at the African American Research Library & Cultural Center in Ft Lauderdale, Florida in October. She published *Culture Keepers* cookbook with her grandson and asks that anyone interested in securing copies reach out to her.
Dr. Johnson-Simon shared that a funder has been engaged to help prevent the demolition of the Kiah House and the African Diaspora Museology Institute is joining the African American Civil Rights Network.
- Andrew Low House (Ginger Varner)
Book on John Norris is available in the giftshop
- The Ships of the Sea Museum (Amanda Fournier)
The Museum is presenting the exhibition *Outward Bound*. The opening reception is October 11, 2023 from 5:30 to 7:30pm and is free to the public.
- Massie Heritage Center (Tara Kelsey)
Massie is hosting a Native American festival
Objects will be exhibited starting November 4
- Fort Pulaski (Samanta Matera)
October 15

Fort Pulaski's 99th birthday
It will be free to visit the site on 10/15

- City of Savannah Municipal Archives (Luciana Spracher)
October 24
Open house in the archives
Objects will be on view related to African American history
- Telfair Museums (Anne-Solène Bayan)
October 12-14
Community in Conversation: Legacy of Slavery in Savannah closing events free and open to the public at Telfair and Savannah State University
October 14 will be a series of panels at Savannah State University

Next Meeting

What: CMA Business Meeting and Program
When: Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at noon
Where: Zoom (link to be sent via listserv)
Speaker: Rachel Strayer, Telfair Museums
Topic: Outreach for elderly audiences