No bones about it. It was another tough year. Meeting the art education needs of our community during a second year of an unrelenting pandemic was full of uncertainty.

While the pandemic infused an unsettling undercurrent, so many of you provided a silver lining to this odd time in our history. Some artists donated all the proceeds from the sale of a piece of art, other artists and teachers offered to donate their time to teach a class or workshop, hosts and hostesses opened their homes to some of the most memorable gatherings we’ve experienced, and then we were gifted with two major and unexpected donations from two area foundations.

Please take the time to read the many remarkable accomplishments that your support and perseverance provided in 2021. Grateful are we!

Laura R. Jennings
Executive Director

Al Brannon
President, Board of Governors

ANNUAL REPORT 2021
A Year of Perseverance
For as long as most of us can remember, we have yearned to make the museum more accessible to those with mobility challenges. Over time other inadequacies in the outdated circa 1892 facility were becoming impossible to ignore. The Board of Governors boldly chose to undertake a study of what was needed to solve existing shortcomings and position the museum for another 30 years of community service.

Callaway Foundation Inc. and 60 donors invested in the creation of a master plan concept. Once the architectural design team – Gensler- was selected in March, a six month analysis and plan development ensued, along with the input of several members of the community.

In August we had in our hands a three-phase plan for renovation and an addition. The “new” art museum will provide an impressive gateway to downtown. This master plan concept was presented to those who funded it and to city and county government leaders.

The board will do a thorough analysis in 2022 of the feasibility of a capital campaign, with a focus on the level of support the community is capable of giving. And yes, the hope still remains that a subset of the Wes and Missy Cochran Collection will become part of the museum’s permanent collection.
FUNDRAISERS ARE REALLY FUNraisers

**Affairs with Flair** - After vaccines set us free, museum supporters delighted in being together at a series of Affairs with Flair events in April and May. From an intimate brunch for six to several al fresco parties that averaged 50 guests and more, these fundraisers were mighty memorable. A special thanks to the hard work and selfless giving of our hosts and hostesses: Michael Anderson, Al Brannon, Gene and Oliver Carballo, Lisa and Charles Hudson, Dr. George and Nanci Lechacz and Ken Worthington and Gerry McGee.

**Festival of Wreaths** – This first annual fundraiser was a success, netting $8,500 for art education programs. This was possible because of the wreaths and art donated by local creatives and then auctioned at the festive cocktail party December 3. The sponsors who made it all happen were: Steve and Lynn Morgan, Castle & Key Distillery and Mare Sol. A super big thanks to Board Member and Treasurer Ken Worthington for the idea and organizing the event!

Did you know that in 2021 there were **6,705** individuals who visited or participated in a museum-sponsored event, most at no charge?
FAREWELL VICTORIA!

Our popular education coordinator, art teacher and artist Victoria Slagle took another job at the end of July’s summer art camps. She is missed! She inspired many young artists in her five years at the museum!

INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

Georgia State University student Ava Hector and Point University senior Joanna Gallman provided the extra intern power needed this year.

LaGrange resident and community volunteer Leigh Aiken and her support dog Max bring joy (and a wagging tail) to the office every time they report for work. Leigh spent tireless hours writing descriptions for images on the museum’s website. These descriptions aid in making our website ADA compliant for those with impaired vision.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM NAMED IN MEMORY OF OWEN C. HOLLERAN

An internship program was named in memory of Owen C. Holleran, Jr., a 21-year staff member. Holleran, who died at the age of 91 in May, was the Curator of Collections. The focus of the internship is museum studies and collections.

The first student under the newly named internship was Point University senior Joanna Gallman. The Calhoun, Georgia native assisted with the receipt and installation of the Who Are We? Exhibition featuring the works of robin holder. She also learned about artists and art collections from Wes Cochran, owner of the Cochran Gallery and long-time art collector.
The Legacy Museum staff filmed a cooking class in our demonstration kitchen in August as part of its “Gather Around the Table” series. They made Orange Fool, a custard like dish, using a 1777 era recipe that George Washington’s household would have enjoyed.

Trustbuilding held board meetings and a workshop in the Center for Creative Learning (CCL) entitled Inter-generational Trauma Transition with Dr. Kelly Veal in November.

Columbus State University art education graduate student Marlana Hurst held a one-woman graduation show in the CCL on May 6.

The museum’s Education Coordinator Victoria Slagle provided virtual art lessons for the students of Hillside Montessori for academic year 2020-21.

**Summer Art Camps A Hit**
The ever popular summer art camps, taught this year by Victoria Slagle and Hannah Jordan, allowed students to further explore their creativity while gaining professional instruction on best practices. Classes were limited to 12 students as a precautionary measure because of the pandemic.

**MiniArtful Visions**
Now in its 4th year serving K-1st graders from Meriwether County public schools, this program introduces students to developmentally appropriate experiences linking artworks in LAM’s collection to language and literacy. These students were scheduled to take field trips to the museum and have art museum teachers come to their classrooms. However, COVID protocols prohibited these activities. So the museum came up with a solution...

“The art kits were designed to not only improve creative and critical thinking skills, but also to aid in the development of vital social and problem solving abilities needed for a lifetime of learning,” said Director of Education Sallie Keith. Around 1,600 kits were assembled reaching over 375 students and their families. Each student received four art lesson kits to take home for continuing summer education. The kits, complete with an art lesson and the materials to produce a work of art. The funding came from a $5,000 Georgia Council for the Arts grant.
Workshops and Classes
From “Fundamentals of Photography” to a class on how to throw a great cocktail party, friends of the museum enjoyed the variety of offerings.

The Junior Service League’s Super Saturdays took a different twist at the beginning of the year with art kits given to students to do at home. JSL volunteers assembled the kits for distribution. By fall, in-person Super Saturdays resumed.

Steve Close had a steady group of adults painting on Wednesday mornings and the children’s art classes continued on weekday afternoons.

robin holder: Who Are We? Exhibition Impacted Students
Sallie Keith went into the Greenville High School and team taught with artist robin holder. This Identity Workshop included a virtual tour of the exhibition, discussion of artistic themes and hands on art production. robin holder zoomed in from her studio while Mrs. Keith facilitated in the classroom. Funding for this program was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts. Below is an excerpt from their teacher.

Hello Ms. Keith,

Thank you so much for bringing this experience to our students. It has had more of an impact than we envisioned. I had students come back saying that it was cool but hit them after they left and began explaining to others. One student even came because the assignments prompted him to open up about some of his current challenges. I love that art is changing lives.

Belinda L. Godfrey
Business and Marketing Educator
DECA Co-Sponsor
Connections Department Chair
OUTREACH: BEYOND THE MUSEUM WALLS

Food Pantry Relief
To provide some relief to those most impacted by COVID, we locked arms with our downtown not-for-profits and sponsored a food drive for the LaGrange Personal Aid Food Pantry. Working with the Lafayette Society for Performing Arts, the Legacy Museum and the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra, our supporters brought in $3,200 worth of cash and food donations in just one hot July morning.

Other outreach initiatives included:
COVID Memorial Wall- Area residents remembered their loved ones lost to COVID on the heart filled wall facing Lafayette Parkway.

Art Kits in Book Bags -150 art kits distributed to Ethyl Kight students through Blessing in a Book Bag weekend food program in collaboration with First United Methodist Church.

LaGrange Youth Enter Art in Chinese Exhibition - The City of LaGrange’s sister city of Liuzhou, China, asked that the children of LaGrange participate in an art show for an automotive exhibition that was held in September. The painting exhibition was the first step toward a cultural exchange. The museum was asked to coordinate this endeavor. The art was displayed at the 11th China-ASEAN (Liuzhou) Automotive Expo, which attracted consulates and foreign institutions stationed in China, famous automobile enterprises and more than 100,000 visitors.
CURATOR’S CIRCLE OUTINGS
Top donors and Curator’s Circle members enjoyed a Margaritas at the Museum party May 5 with the Chamber of Commerce’s HYPE (Helping Young Professionals Engage) board members.

Curator’s Circle members also had a May outing to the private Lake Martin garden of Jim Scott, followed by an al fresco lunch.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT: GRANTS AND PPP PLAYED CRITICAL ROLE
National Endowment for the Arts awarded a $20,000 grant for the robin holder: Who Are We? Exhibition. This exhibition was among the more than 1,100 projects across America totaling nearly $27 million that were selected during this second round of Grants for Arts Projects fiscal year 2021 funding.

LAM was the only art museum selected outside of the Atlanta area. The other two Georgia recipients were Emory University and the Fulton County School System. Out of the 77 museums nationally that were awarded grants during the second round of funding, only three museums were located outside of major metropolitan areas. LAM had to provide matching funds of $20,000.

Additional sources of funding:
• Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) - $27,500
• City of LaGrange awarded a grant for $25,000.
• WestPoint Fund – A long-time partner of the museum donated $17,500 to provide a 3-D camera and supporting art education classes so teachers can “take” students on virtual field trips.
• Georgia Council for the Arts Resiliency Grant- $10,000
• Georgia Council for the Arts Education Program Grant - $5,000
• Charter Foundation awarded a grant for $5,500 for four laptops, software, and technical support to interface with museum’s system.
• The sons of Morrill Hutchinson, the founder of the Creative Youth Art League (CYAL), provided financial support for CYAL.
• Junior Service League of LaGrange provided funds for art kits given out on Super Saturdays and to sponsor the summer art camp.
• Art Supplies, equipment and original art from the Estate of Elizabeth Sims - $8,000

Did you know the museum was selected as Best Museum/Gallery in the LaGrange Daily News’ 2021 Best of Troup County?
The Pasaquan Exhibition remained on display for another year at the domestic terminal atrium at the world’s busiest airport – Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta Airport. This collaborative exhibition with Columbus State University and the art museum remained on display for millions of travelers.

The museum loaned permanent collection lithographs to the Bo Bartlett Center at Columbus State University for their Art in the Spotlight which highlights national and regional partners in arts. The concept for this project is to showcase some of the best artworks from their partner’s collections and to develop a synergy between these arts organizations that will lift and raise awareness about the creative community in Columbus. The two prints are by female artists that worked with Wayne Kline at the Rolling Stone Press and highlight the vibrancy of contemporary visual arts in Georgia.

Looking Male, a photography exhibition curated from the Do Good Fund collection in Columbus, examined multiple ways of visualizing the New American South and the men that live in it. The exhibition, which ran February 5 to April 3, was curated by Columbus State University art professors Rylan Steele and Michael McFalls.

The Creative Youth Art League, an ever popular student art show now in its 28th year, ran April 18 – May 2. Students from private, public and home schools from a five county region valued the opportunity to display their art in a “real” museum and to have the opportunity to view the talent of their peers in other schools.
robin holder: Who Are We?, featuring the work of New York artist robin holder, officially opened on Juneteenth (June 19). The virtual exhibition and artist conversation with robin holder and Tina Dunkley is on the museum’s website and can be viewed for years to come. The exhibition consisted of works on paper and handmade artist books portraying the unique and vast complexities of our American identity and sensibility. Her work promotes a better understanding of our multicultural society. The museum collaborated with the Troup County Racial Trustbuilding organization in an effort to use the resources of this educational exhibition for the good of the community. The exhibition was also featured in the July edition of Black Art in America.

The Visual Artists Alliance of LaGrange (VAAL) not only gave area residents a chance to see the talent of the creatives who live in this region but also an opportunity to purchase art. The show opened with an impressive turnout on October 1 and ran until November 13.

Expanding Interpretations: Selections from the Permanent Collection was curated by Deputy Director Lauren Oliver and featured art from the museum’s almost 700-piece permanent collection. Works from local artists, Georgia artists and national and international artists were featured November 26, 2021 - January 15, 2022. The virtual exhibition will also be on the museum’s website for years to come.

Pop-up Exhibition honoring Elizabeth Sims
Upon the September 25 death of beloved local artist Elizabeth Seals “Sissy” Sims, the museum curated a pop-up exhibition of Elizabeth’s work. Elizabeth, an eighth generation Troup Countian, graduated from LaGrange High School and earned her BA degree in Fine Arts from Wesleyan College and her Masters in Fine Arts from the University of Georgia. She was the head of the audiovisual section of the University of Georgia’s School of Arts, under the direction of her teacher and cousin Lamar Dodd, for whom the UGA School of Art would be named in 1995.

She taught art in public school in Macon and LaGrange before joining the staff at LaGrange Memorial Library. She was a valued and active member of the art community in LaGrange for the past 50 years. Her artwork was distinctive in style. She always thought of herself as first and foremost an artist and continued to produce imaginative drawings throughout her life. She was a director of the LaGrange Artists’ Guild and her work is widely sought after locally as well as held in several galleries. Elizabeth often entered a piece into the Visual Artists’ Alliance of LaGrange’s annual exhibition and was always quick to donate a piece of framed art for the museum’s silent auction fundraiser.
An anonymous donor gave the museum a watercolor painting by Kathryn Keller, who had an autumn exhibition at Atlanta’s Spalding Nix Gallery. Raised in Arkansas and Mississippi, Keller now resides in Louisiana. She focuses on landscapes, cityscapes, interiors, and portraits.

Kathryn received her BA in 1974 from The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee where she majored in Fine Art and English. She studied at The Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock Arkansas, The Arts Student League of New York, The New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Visitors have greatly enjoyed discovering art by Andy Warhol on the second floor. Eleven pieces are on temporary loan from and include 10 pieces from the Cowboy and Indian series.