



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

## IMAGINING OUR FUTURE

**New mission:** Connecting our diverse community with visual arts and educational experiences

**New vision:** The cultural hub that sparks creative thinking and enriches our region

**FIVE NINE!!** That's right! For 59 years this community has provided the LaGrange Art Museum the means to deliver art experiences to this region. For that investment we are mighty grateful.

However, with this milestone we were keenly aware that this museum is at an important juncture as it prepares for its 60th anniversary.

### Strategic Plan

In January 2022 Board President Jenni Sampson began leading the board members through a strategic planning process. The executive board worked on simpler yet more compelling wording for new mission and vision statements that better reflect the museum's focus. The board worked diligently on the strategic plan that is nearing completion. This plan is essential as we one day embark on a capital campaign for renovations and improved accessibility.

### Community Needs

In addition, work has begun on analyzing the museum's relevance and ascertaining community needs and how to better meet them. Those studies will continue through 2023.

### You Did This!

You made 2022 a good one! With your partnership, the museum continued its 59 year legacy of supporting artists and the community through exhibitions, public programs, youth arts education and artistic development opportunities.

With sincere thanks,

Laura R. Jennings  
Executive Director

Jenni Sampson  
President, Board of Governors

## FUNDRAISERS ARE REALLY FUNraisers



### Art Disco

What a blast! As the night went on, disco-attired party goers even formed a conga line and wove throughout the Del'avant and then outside onto the sidewalk. This April 22 event, chaired by board member Michael Hutcheson, netted just over \$5,000 to benefit education programs.

This wild event was sponsored by Anonymous, Renasant Bank, Dexter Evans, Piedmont Newnan Hospital, KIA of LaGrange, Thomas and Elsie Harris, Patrick and Jackie Terrail, Hutchison-Traylor Insurance, Elite Nail Spa, Liz Greer, Frank and Marilyn Williamson and Dr. George and Nanci Lechacz.

### Unframed (and some framed) Pop-Up Art Sale

A week-long art sale was held in May of works of the late Elizabeth Sims and Jean Park and others. Elizabeth and Jean were two beloved artists in the LaGrange community. Elizabeth was known for her whimsical pen and ink drawings of animals. Jean Park's adoration of flowers took center stage in her watercolor paintings.



### Affairs with Flair

Art lovers were treated to four magnificent opportunities to socialize and dine at private residences. Ticket sales brought in \$7,900 to benefit children's education programs.

A shout out to our hosts, whose hard work and selfless giving amaze us: Drs. Debbie and Sandy Simmons, Barbara and Pat Holder, Jeff Denny and Luis Hernandez, April and David Lock and Michael Anderson.



## Festival of Wreaths

Hills & Dales Estate's Visitor's Center was the joyful setting for this holiday celebration fundraiser to support the museum's education programs. The December 2<sup>nd</sup> event featured wreaths by local artists, businesses, and talented community members. It netted \$9,000 in support of museum programs.

Ken Worthington, LaGrange Art Museum treasurer, chaired the event for a second year. Sponsors were Steve and Lynn Morgan, Mare Sol and C'Sons, Castle & Key Distillery, Ashley Mayfield and Marty Rothwell.



## GROUPS VISIT EXHIBITIONS

### Pathways

Twenty nine clients from Pathways toured the Southeast Regional Art Exhibition in April with education coordinator Ralph Dobbins. He then led them in a collage workshop. Each participant was given a binder full of collage materials and a tote bag, free of charge. Your donations make such programs a reality.

*Good afternoon Ralph,*

*I just wanted to thank you again for your hospitality today with our Mental health Peer group. I really appreciate your patience and the lessons that you had planned for them. Many of the clients expressed great gratitude for being able to visit the center and do art with you! You were truly amazing and I cannot thank you enough for allowing them that time at the museum.*

*Sincerely,*

*Bionca Bell*

*Peer/Psr Case Manager*

*Troup Out Patient Clinic*



### Auburn University Campus Club

The Auburn University Campus Club brought 90 women to take in the Southeast Regional Exhibition in late March and early April. The ladies followed their visit with lunch at Nutwood Winery. This is just one of many examples proving LAM is a tourism attraction.

### Interns And Volunteers

Georgia State University has brought us two hardworking interns. Adriane Berris, who is a printmaking concentration BFA major, was an assistant for summer art camp. She also has used the late Elizabeth Sims' printing press for student



### Interns And Volunteers Continued

demonstrations and for personal printmaking. Artist Elizabeth Sims' estate donated her printing press to the museum. Ava Hector, a psychology major, comes twice per week and provides the extra intern power needed.

### Art Team Building For Corporate Groups

A team of female employees from Duracell hosted a sip and clip collage class.

Wellstar West Georgia Medical Center hosted 20 physicians for a fluid art class with artist Jill Reynolds.

## ART EDUCATION

### Summer Art Camps A Hit

We had 101! Not Dalmatians but children ages 3-16 participating in our camp. Led by education coordinator Ralph Dobbins, the camp allowed students to further explore their creativity while gaining instruction on best practices.

### Super Saturdays are SUPER!!

Thanks to funding from the Junior Service League, Super Saturdays were available free to families seeking an art-making experience. The classes were offered the third Saturday of each month from 1-4 pm.

### Staff Update

Our director of education, Sallie Keith, retired after 12 years of education leadership at the museum. Her creation and implementation of literacy through visual arts outreach programs to local students were innovative and highly respected statewide.



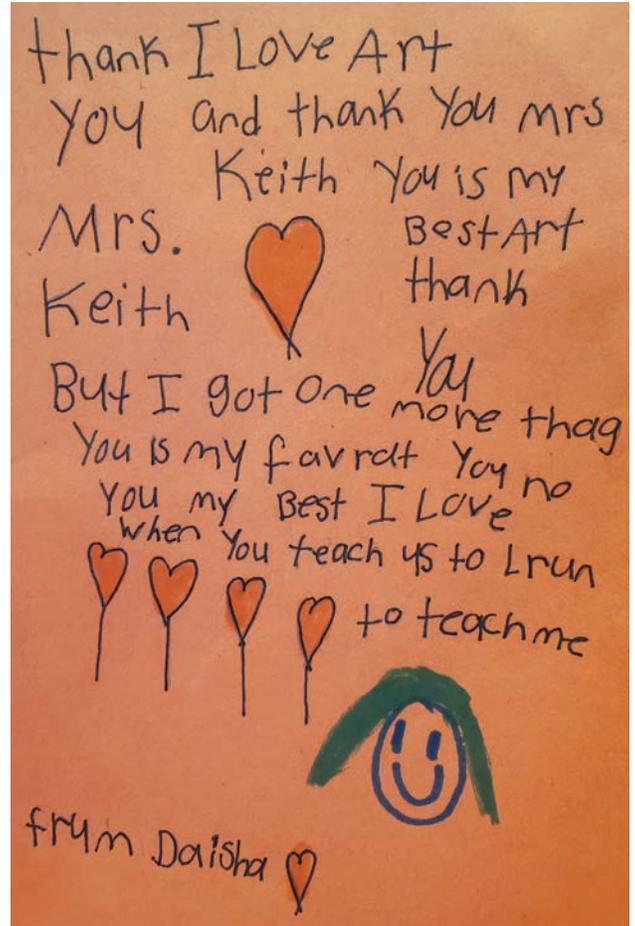
Ralph Dobbins was contracted to plan and deliver a vibrant array of art education offerings for adults and children. Victoria Larcheveaux was a devoted part-time employee for almost a year before taking a full-time job with the Troup County Archives.



## MiniArtful Visions Outreach

In its 5<sup>th</sup> year, this outreach program provided art education to children at the LaGrange Housing Authority and Meriwether County's Unity Elementary School. This program reached 25 adults and 105 children and is primarily funded by the Georgia Council for the Arts. This is an innovative early childhood arts integration learning program that links works of art in the LAM permanent collection to language, literacy and STEAM concepts.

Unity Elementary administrator, Dr Kimberly Boyd was so impressed with the student's enthusiasm and the high-level thinking demonstrated she requested adding a day to work with the 3rd-5th grades. Connecting with the summer school's STEAM focus, Sallie Keith, former education director, created an arts integrated lesson, recycling and the art of paper.



## OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM

### Bird Watching In Traffic

It appears to be universal! Everyone loves birds! Pine Mountain artist and LAM Preparator Dennis Bugg has created a community favorite on the exterior wall of the museum, facing Lafayette Parkway. Passersby honk, wave, shout and stick thumbs up as they sit at the red light watching Bugg as he paints the life-like birds. In all there will be 10 birds. Yet to be completed is the Bald Eagle, which has a 23-foot wing span, and coming soon is a hummingbird.



## COLLABORATIONS

### Food Pantry Relief

To provide some relief to those negatively impacted by sky-high inflation and the resulting food costs, we locked arms with our downtown not-for-profits and Nicole Smith's REMAX Results team to sponsor a food drive for the LaGrange Personal Aid Food Pantry. Working with the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra, the Legacy Museum, the Lafayette Society for Performing Arts and the Nicole Smith team, our supporters brought in nearly 1,500 canned and boxed food items and \$100 in cash. Thank you community members, local churches and Publix grocery store for the donations!!



### Margs At The Museum

Top donors and Curator's Circle members (those who donate a minimum of \$1,000 per year) enjoyed margaritas and live music on May 5 with the Chamber of Commerce's HYPE (Helping Youth Professional Engage) board members.

### Shared Spaces

A Sip 'N Paint fundraiser was held in the Center for Creative Learning in August to benefit the work of our local CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates). Participants painted a local icon - the Callaway Monument.

## EXHIBITIONS

### *Southeast Regional*

The fourth biennial LaGrange Southeast Regional opened February 18 at both LAM and LaGrange College's Lamar Dodd Art Center. The juried competition, open to artists in the Southeast, featured 117 works by 80 artists from eight states. The 2022 juror was Darcia Mia DeMarr. These exhibits provide the citizens of West Georgia, including Columbus, and East Alabama access to current artistic practice from throughout the United States and offer artists exhibition opportunities and purchase possibilities.

Artists, their families and friends from all over the Southeast come to LaGrange to see this regionally significant exhibition. Students from Columbus State University, Point University in West Point, LaGrange College, Southern Union and West Georgia Technical College study this exhibition as part of their course work. Callaway Foundation sponsors this exhibition.



### ***Creative Youth Art League***

The Creative Youth Art League's exhibition celebrated its 29th year with an April 30 opening. Over 160 art students and their families from 12 different schools and five homeschool groups turned out to see the pieces of art.

The Morrill Hutchinson Award for Best of Show is awarded to a high school student. The 2022 honoree was Holly Anderson from Harris County High School. The Wates Keller Award for Best of Show was awarded to Rylee Ray of Hogansville Elementary. The sponsors were The Kiwanis Club of LaGrange and the sons of Morrill Hutchinson and their wives. They are Tommy and wife Debbie; Bill and wife Beverly; and Chuck and wife Shelley. Curating the show was LAM's Sallie Keith and Victoria Larcheveaux.

### ***Butch Anthony and Lawrence Philp***

Summer brought an adventure with two exceptional exhibitions under one roof. Butch Anthony's "Art, Nature and Intertwangleism" and Lawrence Philp's "Color Play" drew crowds and delighted summer art camp participants.

Both artists live in the region. Artist Butch Anthony, a prolific, contemporary, self-taught artist with a keen eye for assembling objects and art in unique compositions, lives and works in Seale, Alabama. Originally from New York City, Lawrence Philp now has a home and studio in Rex, Georgia where he creates energetic, colorful and playful abstract paintings, assemblages and automatic drawings. Both exhibitions were curated by deputy director Lauren Oliver. Headstart of LaGrange brought 15 students in June to see this exhibition.

### ***Visual Artists Alliance of LaGrange***

Over 300 people were in attendance for the September 9<sup>th</sup> opening of the Visual Artists Alliance of LaGrange's annual exhibition. For the second year in a row Hogansville artist Sarah Scarborough Swanson won "Best in Show." Auburn, Alabama artist Laura Lewis judged the exhibition. Making the exhibition possible were Dr. Brent Brown, SouthState Bank, James and Guthrie Killebrew, Childress Dental Center and Dr. and Mrs. Tommy Harris.





### ***Eat. Sleep. Art. Repeat***

A fun, family-friendly exhibition entitled *Eat. Sleep. Art. Repeat* opened November 12<sup>th</sup>. Curated by deputy director Lauren Oliver, this exhibition features art from the permanent collections of the museum, LaGrange College's Lamar Dodd Art Center, works from the Wesley and Missy Cochran Collection and private collections.

"Food and sleep fuel our basic needs as human beings. Over the last few years the pandemic forced us to reconsider and adapt how, when and where those needs are met," Oliver explained. "Longing for a creative way to once again connect with our community, find commonalities, spark imagination, conversation, and appetites, the solution became obvious – an exhibition of art featuring food and sleep," she said.



Art by Kathe Kollowitz, Pablo Picasso, Wayne Thiebaud, Jacob Lawrence and Bob Blackburn are just a few examples of work featured in the exhibition. Local artists featured are Annie Greene, Tim Tauton, Chris Hagebak, Lanora Yates, and the late Priscilla Turner. Generous sponsors were Kia Georgia, Renasant Bank, Dairy Queen, Dr. Horlander and Dr. Kao and Govan Hospitality.

## **ACQUISITIONS AND COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT**

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.

### **Artwork Loan to The Bo Bartlett Center**

We partnered with The Bo Bartlett Center at Columbus State University to display works from our permanent collection in a dedicated space in the Woodruff Lobby. The concept for this project is to showcase some of the best artworks from regional collections and to develop a synergy between these arts organizations that will lift and raise awareness about the creative community in Columbus.

The pieces selected featured highlight the museum's permanent collection of over thirty works on paper created at the Rolling Stone Press. One of the few hand lithography ateliers in the Southeast, the Rolling Stone Press offered local, regional, and international artists the opportunity to collaborate with master printmaker Wayne Kline.



Artist Lawrence Philp donated artwork to the Permanent Collection

### Artwork Loan to LaGrange College's Lamar Dodd Art Center

Loaned eight artworks from our permanent collection for the exhibition *The Art of Play*. The exhibition focused on fun and relaxation and teamed famous artists with those literally unknown.

### Visit LaGrange Display

LAM created a month-long art exhibition in the lobby of Visit LaGrange, the city's tourism center. Visitors to the center in September saw works from the museum's permanent collection and student art work. Each month Visit LaGrange features a display by a tourism attraction.

### Fourth Annual Southeast Regional Purchase Awards

LAM added four new works to the Permanent Collection, thanks to Calaway Foundation's purchase award support for the biennial Southeast Regional.

*My artwork confronts the idea of gender and all of the absurdities associated with it— how gender constantly impacts our daily lives, the existence and use of gender stereotypes in media and popular culture, and how different people perceive and live gender in different ways.*

- Isabella Losskarn

*My work is a constant search for freedom in all its aspects. In my opinion, an artist, besides only developing studies about thematic areas, must work in the studios and workshops, experiment with different mediums and motifs, and most importantly, satisfy the needs of his clients, who are the ones that help in the development of personal styles and ideas. He hints that a true artist is someone that sustains his/her livelihood by way of artistic endeavors.* - Aldo Muzzarelli

*My work deals with themes of memory, psychology, landscape, and mythology. My current print series titled, *Nothing Left Unveiled*, deals with "unveiling" as it relates to uncovering the truths of many things, and making something once concealed known. I am referencing the process of pulling back the layers of our own stories, memories of events, and diving into the origins of our personal mythologies. I am conveying something that is in shadow or darkness, becoming "unveiled"— more visible, seen, and known.* - Liza Butts

### Artist Lawrence Philp donated artwork to the Permanent Collection

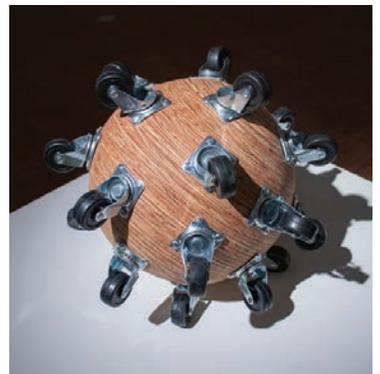
Born in Harlem, New York to immigrant Jamaican parents, Lawrence Philp had a passion for art at a young age. Growing up in Brooklyn, Philp's creativity took root early as he often copied cartoons he saw on TV and made hand puppets and marionettes. Once in high school, Philp began to take art more seriously and went on to be professionally trained in art. He enrolled into the Rhode Island School of Design, graduating in 1971 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts before receiving a Masters of Fine Arts from The University of Michigan in 1973. When he met Robert (Bob) Blackburn and was invited to his Printmaking Workshop, his inspiration to create soared.



Isabella Losskarn  
*Will You Cut That Up For Her*



Aldo Muzzarelli  
*Unprejudiced and Colorless Rain*



Martin Chamberlin  
*Ball for Rolling*



Liza Butts  
*Veils, 04*

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA), a strategic arm of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, awarded LAM two grants as part of its initial disbursement of grants for fiscal year 2023. The museum was awarded a \$5,000 Education Grant and a \$12,750 Bridge Grant.

LAM is the only arts organization in Troup County that was awarded funding this year. LAM received praise from the panel of peers who reviewed the grant requests. Among the commendations were LAM's continued devotion to putting on the biennial Southeast Regional Exhibition which provides community access to contemporary art and its provision for free admission and free monthly art making events for families. The LAM board was praised for financial stability and for evaluating strategic steps necessary to undertake a capital campaign for a much-needed renovation.



## ACCOLADES

Deputy director Lauren Oliver was one of sixteen national museum leaders selected to participate in the highly competitive Southeastern Museum Conference's (SEMC) Leadership Institute, April-October. *Leading for Today's Challenges* equips a new generation of museum leaders with outward-looking skills and strategies that increase their effectiveness as leaders and ability to create a productive and inclusive environment within the museum and among the museum's board. The program is proudly developed in partnership with the Association of African American Museums (AAAM).

## 2022 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

President: Jenni Sampson  
Secretary: Jessica Turner  
Treasurer: Ken Worthington  
1st Vice President: Jocie Scott  
2nd Vice President: Vacant  
Members at Large: Marty Rothwell, Debbie Simmons  
Past President Emeritus: Ethyl Ault

Connie Boccucci, Mary Higgins, Michael Hutcheson, Nanci Lechacz, April Lock, David Lock, Michael McFalls, Lynn Morgan, Sara Parmer, Renee Peters, Marty Hudson Rothwell, Jackie Teall