

# Georgia COUNCIL for the Arts



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*The mission of Georgia Council for the Arts is to cultivate the growth of vibrant, thriving Georgia communities through the arts.*



## **GCA Goals include:**

Expanding economic development opportunities through the arts.

Growing GCA's services to new audiences and communities.

Utilizing the arts to fortify education in the state.

Strengthening the arts sector in Georgia.

Building GCA's capacity for serving communities statewide.



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# GCA GRANT PROGRAMS

## General Operating Support

General Operating Support Grants provide general operating support for non-profit arts organizations based in Georgia.



## Arts Education

Arts Education Grants support Georgia Learning Standards-aligned arts learning projects for K-12 students.



## Project

Project Grants support single art projects such as an art exhibit, a theatre production, a series of workshops for children, or an artist residency. Project Grant applicants also can apply for capacity building projects, such as developing a strategic plan, creating a development plan, or providing professional development.



## Vibrant Communities

Support single art projects such as an art exhibit, a theatre production, a series of workshops for children, or an artist residency.



## Cultural Facilities

Provide support for the renovation, restoration, preservation or acquisition of an arts facility, and the purchase of equipment that supports arts programs.



## NTH Hometown Heroes

### New veteran-owned nonprofit focuses on helping homeless veterans

BY WEL THOMAS  
wthomas@ncsc.com

A local nonprofit is setting its sights on fighting homelessness amongst the veteran population.

Jamini Mahake, an Army veteran who served overseas in Operation Desert Storm, founded Crates and Cartons in 2023 as a way to provide aid to homeless veterans and their families.

Mahake expressed homelessness firsthand after leaving the military, as many of the veterans he met had a similar experience due to a lack of direction.

"I know how easily we can fall between the cracks of a system we were never trained to navigate," Mahake said.

Everything is structured in the military, Mahake continued. From the clothes, the food, the lodging - every minute is seemingly dictated for you, the constant, and that lack of direction after their service can prove troublesome for many veterans.

"Imagine for the first 18 years of your life, somebody else determines everything for you, and then one day, it ends," Mahake said. "If you don't have a good support system to help you, you're looking at it like a brand new person just graduating high school with no reality of the civilian world at all. You don't know how to open a bank account, you don't know how to rent an apartment. It comes all the way down to the basic needs of survival that many veterans just don't know because it was done for them."

Alongside the organization's secretary and treasurer Miranda Watkins,



Jamini Mahake stands beside the Georgia Council for the Arts sponsored off house.

hosted a Winter Wonderland at 71 Bob Wilson Road. The event featured a Christmas light walk in the forest, a Christmas tree and gingerbread village, as well as an "all village" that featured various small structures adorned with the event's sponsors.

Mahake and Watkins were so help so many veterans as they ran through Crates and Cartons, but if a veteran has an issue they can't solve, they work to get them in touch with someone who can.

"We work hand in hand with Veterans Affairs, Salvation Army, Goodwill, Wounded Warrior - projects like these are programs that have been established for years and have millions of dollars in funding," Watkins said. "So we're not trying to reinvent the wheel. What we're trying to do is fill in the gap between someone having a place to live and the training that they need in order to establish the life that they want for themselves."

Anyone interested in learning more about the organization can visit <http://cratesandcartons.com>.

Crates and Cartons strives to help veterans find stability after service.

#### Looking ahead

While Crates and Cartons is a new organization, that hasn't hindered their expectations.

They are currently looking for a space where they can host classes that teach veterans basic skills in personal finance and job searching. Mahake and



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## #KraKTeet4Kids

WORKSHOPS + CAMPS

We interview elders, read and write in Geechee, learn how We All Cousins, preserve the culture, and have a whole lotta fun doing it!

Class in session, but this ain't nothing like school.

[READ MORE](#)



## THE BOOK

The first-hand accounts in this book are transcribed directly from the grandchildren of the enslaved who laid the city's treasured cobblestone roads and introduced its famous red rice and deviled crabs. Those who lived through what can be considered the country's second wave of the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

Krak Teet catalogs stories of struggle—Ms. Madie's family of sharecroppers fleeing after her father sold a pig without permission, Mr. Roosevelt stuffing his mother's stab wounds with cobweb to stop the bleeding, and Ms. Florie marching Broughton Street twice a day to protest segregation—alongside stories of success—Queen Elizabeth Butler becoming Savannah's first black woman to own a car, Ms. Sadie making over \$500 a week running numbers, and the city's desegregation eight months before the Civil Rights Act passed.

[BUY NOW](#)



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# Exploring Partnerships – Creative Placemaking





Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute  
 Georgia Arts  
 Innovation Network



Perry, Georgia

## Join the GEORGIA ARTS INNOVATION NETWORK

**The Georgia Arts Innovation Network (GAIN) is a cohort learning program designed to help arts organizations strengthen their business models, connect with peers, and unlock new growth opportunities.**

**This program is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and is offered at no cost to participants.**

**Who should apply?**  
Leaders of small and mid-sized arts organizations and businesses in Middle Georgia

**What is included?**  
In-person learning events + networking with other arts leaders in Middle Georgia

**When will it be held?**  
6-month Program (March 2026-August 2026)

### WHY JOIN GAIN?

- Engage in peer-to-peer learning with other arts leaders in your region.
- Access training and coaching sessions led by instructors from Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute and Office of the Arts.
- Build lasting connections with other arts organizations or businesses, local leaders, and Georgia Tech resources.
- Work with community leaders to brainstorm new ways to integrate the arts into economic development efforts in Central Georgia.

**Questions?** Contact Caley Landau, GAIN Program Manager, at [caley.landau@innovate.gatech.edu](mailto:caley.landau@innovate.gatech.edu) or 404-947-1052.



About Programs **Resources** Calendar Stories Creative Change Coalition Donate

VIEW ALL FOR ARTISTS **FOR ORGANIZATIONS**

Showing 1-5 of 5



### Work with Artists: Find, Select, and Hire an Artist

A step-by-step guide by Springboard for the Arts to help organizations, agencies, and businesses find, select, and hire an artist.

FOR ORGANIZATIONS

Springboard for the Arts

View Resource



### Invest in Artists: Launch an Emergency Relief Fund

A toolkit for organizations and agencies on launching your own Emergency Relief Fund for Artists.

FOR ORGANIZATIONS

Springboard for the Arts

View Resource



### Creative People Power

A step-by-step guide by Springboard for the Arts to help organizations, agencies, and businesses find, select, and hire an artist.

FOR ORGANIZATIONS

Springboard for the Arts

View Resource

# Creative Placemaking Communities - Memphis

## April 2026



[HOME](#) | [Creative Placemaking Summit](#)



**BUILDING BRIDGES:  
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES THROUGH  
CULTURE AND COMMERCE**

# Resources- Tourism

- **Cultural Tourism Toolkit-**

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/node/101695>

- **How to Use Public Art to Boost Tourism**

<https://www.brhoward.com/new-blog/how-to-use-public-art-to-boost-tourism>

- **How Art Economically Benefits Cities**

<https://www.pps.org/article/how-art-economically-benefits-cities>

- **Cultural Tourism-Attracting Visitors and their Spending**

[https://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/pdf/2014/by\\_program/reports\\_and\\_data/toolkits/cultural\\_districts/issue\\_briefs/Cultural-Tourism-Attracting-Visitors-and-Their-Spending.pdf](https://www.americansforthearts.org/sites/default/files/pdf/2014/by_program/reports_and_data/toolkits/cultural_districts/issue_briefs/Cultural-Tourism-Attracting-Visitors-and-Their-Spending.pdf)



Photo Bot

AthFest  
Athens, GA

# Resources- Public Art

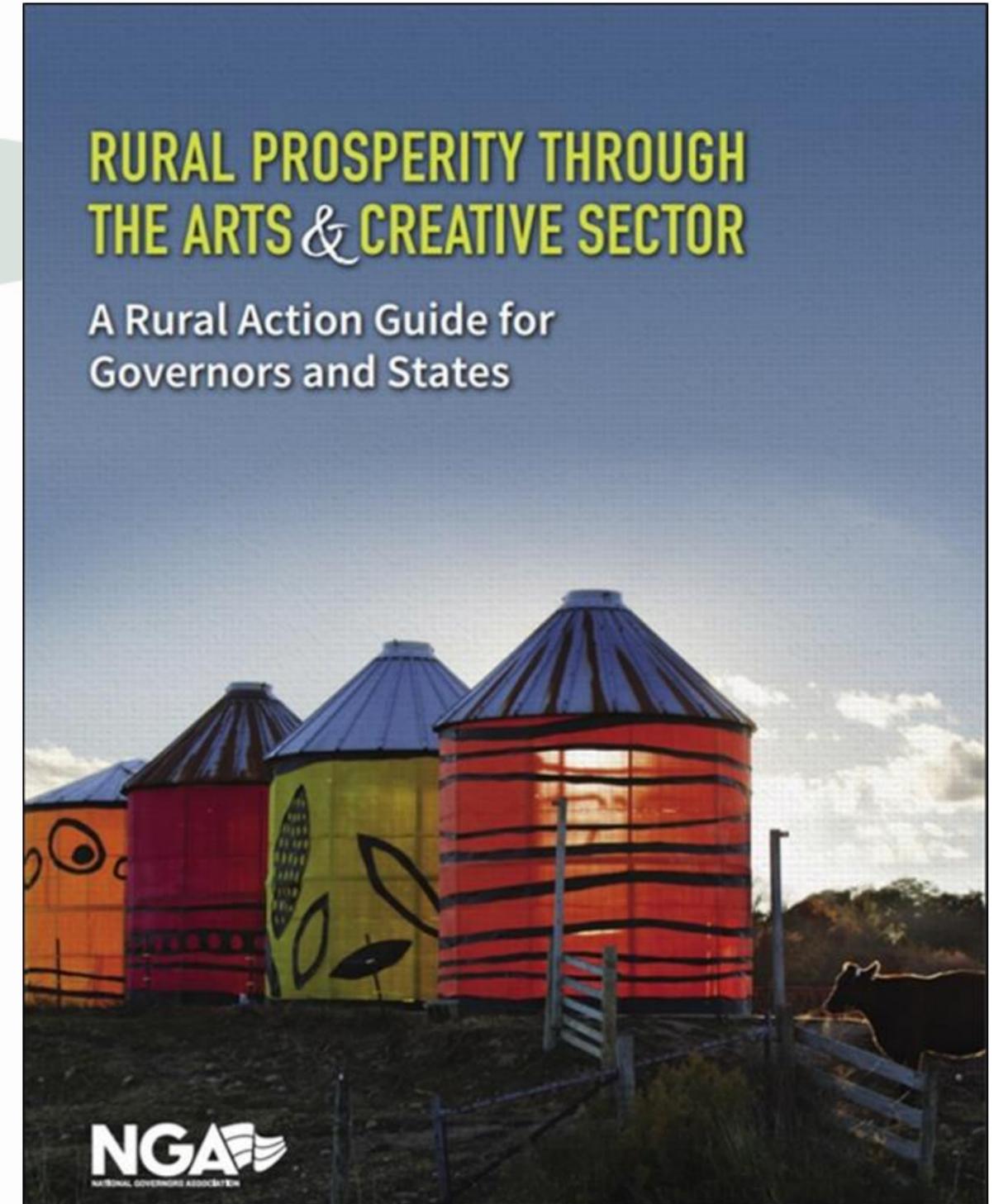
- **Project for Public Spaces:**  
<https://www.pps.org/article/pubartdesign>
- **Americans for the Arts:**  
<https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-topic/public-art>
- **Public Art Archive:** <https://www.publicartarchive.org/>
- **Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs Artist Registry:**  
<http://www.ocaatlanta.com/arts-hub/#search/artists>
- **Public Art and Creative Placemaking Toolkit:**  
<http://2vu7r51wf6it1bb04v1tratk.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Places-of-possibility-public-art-toolkit.pdf>



*The Peanut Farmer by Charlie  
Johnston  
Colquitt*

# Resources- Rural Communities

- **Rural Prosperity Through the Arts & Creative Sector:**  
[https://www.nga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/NGA\\_RuralArtsReport.pdf](https://www.nga.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/NGA_RuralArtsReport.pdf)
- **Americans for the Arts: Arts Resources for Rural America:**  
<https://blog.americansforthearts.org/2014/02/21/arts-resources-for-rural-america>
- **The Role of Arts-based Economic Development Strategies in Georgia Communities:** <https://gaarts.org/impact-of-the-arts/arts-and-economic-development/>
- **Municipal-Artist Partnerships:** <https://municipal-artist.org/>



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Photo Bot

AthFest  
Athens, GA

# Resources- Pop-Up Shops

<http://www.newyorker.com/business/currency/pop-shop-every-artist>

<http://artsandcrafts.about.com/od/openingastorefront/a/How-To-Open-An-Arts-And-Crafts-Retail-Pop-Up-Store.htm> <http://blog.thestorefront.com/how-to-set-up-a-pop-up-art-gallery-in-7-steps/>

<http://www.torquayheraldexpress.co.uk/Artists-pop-shop-brightens-town/story-22841066-detail/story.html>  
<https://www.etsy.com/seller-handbook/article/how-to-organize-a-pop-up-shop/43256725936>



# Resources- Art Funders

**Georgia Council for the Arts-** [www.gaarts.org](http://www.gaarts.org) State arts council that provides multiple grant programs for arts projects

**South Arts-** [www.southarts.org](http://www.southarts.org) Regional arts organization that provides grants to present theatre, music, dance or guest writers

**Georgia Humanities-** [www.georgiahumanities.org](http://www.georgiahumanities.org) State humanities council that provides grants for humanities-based cultural and education programs such as history exhibits, lectures, walking tours, oral history projects, etc.

**Fox Theatre Institute-** <http://foxtheatre.org/the-fox-theatre-institute/> FTI provides grants for the restoration of historic theatres

**ArtPlace-** [www.artplaceamerica.org](http://www.artplaceamerica.org)

**National Endowment for the Arts-** [www.nea.gov](http://www.nea.gov) National funder with multiple grant programs for arts projects. Rural communities should note two programs: Challenge America (\$10,000 to reach underserved audiences) and Our Town (up to \$200,000 for creative placemaking projects that are partnerships between arts organizations and local government)

**National Endowment for the Humanities-** [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov) National funder with multiple grant programs for humanities projects

**Citizen's Institute on Rural Design-** <http://rural-design.org/> An annual competitive opportunity to host an intensive, two-and-a-half day community workshop for rural communities with design challenges

**USDA-** [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov) USDA Rural Development forges partnerships with rural communities, funding projects that bring housing, community facilities, business guarantees, utilities and other services to rural America.



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