



Volume 49, Issue 2

Spring 2026

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SERA OFFICERS	
Chair:	Tricia Miller
Vice-Chair:	Tre'Anna Stewart
Secretary:	Alyssa Mangnone
Treasurer & Membership Chair:	Miranda Helton
Communications Chair:	Sabra Gossett
State Coordinator:	Alex Alexander
Scholarship Chair:	Elizabeth Le
Nominations Chair:	Kimberly Terbush

## Notes from the Chair

Tricia Miller

Dear SERA Members,  
Greetings from the pollen haze and sneeze-fest that is Spring in the southeast. I hope you are able to enjoy the warmer weather and beautiful flowers despite the allergies.

This is the time of year when we plan ahead for SERA's activities at the SEMC annual meeting. This year it will be in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on September 28-30 (Note the earlier time frame this year!). Many thanks to Tre'Anna Stewart, SERA Vice Chair, for her dedicated research into locations for a behind-the-scenes tour at the and the Registrars' Respite. Both are going to be excellent events! The **SERA Respite** will take place at Butcher & Bull Steakhouse, conveniently located at the Marriott conference hotel at 425 N. Cherry Street. To our vegan and vegetarian members, never fear! Despite being a steakhouse, there will be vegan and vegetarian options. The event is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 29, from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM**. We'll have an open bar with non-alcoholic options available and once again you will be able to RSVP and receive a wrist-band or lanyard for your drinks. Be on the lookout for the invitation to RSVP.

The **SERA Behind-the-Scenes Tour** will be held at the collections of Wake Forest University, including the Lam Museum of Anthropology, the University Art Collections, and the Z. Smith Reynolds Library collections (including Special Collections & Archives) on **Wednesday, September 30, from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM**. Due to the distance, we'll be providing bus transportation to and from the venue. If you are able to stick around on the last day of the conference, please join us! You can register for this event through the SEMC registration.

Please also consider attending the **SERA Annual Meeting Luncheon**.

This year, the luncheon will be on **Monday, September 28**. We will review SERA's activities over the past year and your participation as a member is important to the success of the organization. SEMC registration is open now, so reserve your spot and get your hotel room soon!

See you in Winston-Salem!  
Tricia Miller - Chair, SERA

Greetings SERA Members,

Thank you to the 20 members who have renewed since our winter newsletter and a big welcome to our 10 new members! This brings us to 82 current members for 2026 with 35 2025 members who have yet to renew.

As a reminder, SERA's memberships expire at the end of each calendar year. So, if you have not renewed since the 2025 SEMC Conference, your membership is now technically expired. Please take this opportunity to renew for 2026 if you have not already.

You must be a member in good-standing to qualify for SERA's upcoming conference scholarship opportunities and to attend our awesome annual respite at SEMC!

This year's Respite will be very conveniently located at the Butcher and Bull restaurant in the Marriott Winston-Salem, the conference hotel for SEMC 2026. Stay tuned for more information!

As of May 29, 2026, SERA has 117 active members, down from 127 (-7.87%) this time last year.

As of May 29, 2026, the current balance in the Chase checking account is \$7,440.09. The current balance in the PayPal account is \$4,464.80. The combined total on-hand is \$11,904.89, down \$2,808.01 (-19.09%) from the \$14,712.90 on-hand reported this time last year.

SERA's year to date fiscal activity for 2026 is outlined below. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Miranda Helton, Treasurer/Membership Chair

## SERA Income/Expenses: January 1, 2026 – May 29, 2025

▼ Assets	
▼ Current Assets	
▼ Bank Accounts	
BUSINESS CLASSIC (3379) - 1	7,440.09
PayPal Bank	4,464.80
<b>Total for Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$11,904.89</b>
▼ Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	150.00
<b>Total for Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>
▼ Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	0.00
<b>Total for Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total for Current Assets</b>	<b>\$12,054.89</b>
<b>Total for Assets</b>	<b>\$12,054.89</b>
▼ Liabilities and Equity	
▼ Liabilities	
<b>Total for Liabilities</b>	
▼ Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	11,150.36
Retained Earnings	46.07
Net Revenue	858.46
<b>Total for Equity</b>	<b>\$12,054.89</b>
<b>Total for Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$12,054.89</b>
▼ Revenue	
▼ Membership	
Associate	75.00
Individual	1,300.00
Institutional	450.00
<b>Total for Membership</b>	<b>\$1,825.00</b>
PayPal Sales	25.00
<b>Total for Revenue</b>	<b>\$1,850.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$1,850.00</b>
▼ Expenditures	
Business Registration Fees	15.00
Dues, Fees, & Subscriptions	47.99
Other Business Expenses	600.00
PayPal Fees	83.55
Reimbursable Expenses	45.00
Respite	200.00
<b>Total for Expenditures</b>	<b>\$991.54</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$858.46</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$858.46</b>

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## Membership

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### *New\* / Renewing Members*

#### AL

Pamela Bransford, Registrar  
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts  
Amy Federico, Assistant Registrar\*  
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts  
Paula Haymon, Collections Manager and Registrar  
Wiregrass Museum of Art

#### AR

Amanda Cheatham, Museum Registrar/  
Exhibition Designer  
Windgate Museum of Art at Hendrix College

#### FL

Kaitlyn Hof-Mahoney, Research Administrator  
Florida Museum of Natural History  
Deborah Van Horn, Senior Curator  
Walt Disney Imagineering

#### GA

Courtney Christy, Assistant Collections  
Manager\*  
Oglethorpe University Museum of Art  
Debra Holmes, Dean of Libraries\*  
College of Coastal Georgia  
Annelies Mondt, Retired  
Kevin Roldan, Associate Registrar  
Georgia Museum of Art  
Christy Sinksen, Senior Registrar  
Georgia Museum of Art

#### KY

Jennifer Spence, Curator  
Kentucky Department of Parks

#### LA

Toni Kiser, Senior Registrar and Director of  
Collections Management  
The National WWII Museum

#### MS

Cheryl Munyer Waldrep, Museum Curator  
Natchez National Historical Park

#### NC

Carrie Durran, Collections Manager  
The Schiele Museum  
Marian Inabinett, Curator of Collections  
High Point Museum

#### SC

Maggie Claytor, Associate Registrar  
Gibbes Museum of Art

#### VA

Jill Harris, Museum Registrar  
Virginia Museum of Natural History  
Angela Melton, Registrar/ Collections  
Manager\*  
Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History

### *New\* / Renewing Associate Members*

Leslie Freund, Collections Manager  
University of California, Berkeley

### *New\* / Renewing Institutional Members*

#### Atelier 4

Heather Haldeman, Senior Client Advisor\*  
Luke Lunsford, Project Management  
Steve Pardun, VP Sales and Business  
Development  
Kim Schantz, Director of Museum and  
Exhibition Projects  
Jonathan Schwartz, CEO  
Denise Tepe, Project Management\*  
Caitlin Wood, Project Management\*

#### Atlanta History Center

Olivia Davis, IML Inventory Assistant\*  
Amel Jackson, IML Inventory Assistant\*  
Gabe Taylor, Project Registrar

ALABAMA

Alex Alexander

*Collections Manager*

**Berman Museum - Anniston Museums and Gardens**

At the Berman Museum, we have been busy bees!

In February, we opened a lobby gallery titled "Ceremony & Remembrance" to share ceremonial pieces from our collection and various ways pieces have been used within ceremonies across the globe throughout history.



In April, I got married, and then we jumped into the deep end, getting ready for a whole new collections shelving system. If you're in the market for a company, Patterson Pope, a subcontractor of SpaceSavers, has been incredible and incredibly creative in their designs for us.



At the beginning of May, we will have paintings by Haitian artists from our collection on display at the Gadsden Museum of Art for two months, and we are very excited!

Pamela Bransford

*Registrar*

**Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts**  
Registrar Pam Bransford and Assistant Registrar Amy Federico had an unusual condition reporting challenge. They spent two days conditioning Black Masking Indians suits. The orange suit was made and worn by Big Chief Troy Young of the Algiers Warriors of New Orleans. This suit along with another big chief suit worn by Victor Harris and two little queens' suits all of the Mandingo Warriors are part of an upcoming exhibition, From Masquerade to Masking: West Africa to the Gulf Coast. Since Chief Troy's suit was made for this year's Mardi Gras there were not many condition issues other than some grime and a few broken feathers and missing rhinestones. The bead work was incredible, and it was interesting to examine the technique and think about the hours of work that went into creating the suits.



Rose Wood, registrar at the Birmingham Museum of Art, also has a New Orleans connection. She has been organizing the dispersal of loans for the BMA exhibition, Hayward Oubre: Structural Integrity from its final stop at the New Orleans Museum of Art.

## FLORIDA

**Sabra Gossett**

*Curator*

**Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum**

The Museum's new Artifact Readiness Center, or ARC, is now complete. The repurposed former gift shop at LC-26 has been transformed into secure, modern storage for accessioned artifacts. New shelving, cabinetry, and improved organization strengthen both physical and intellectual control of the collection and advance the Museum's preservation mission. More goodies to come, including UV filters for the lights and sheeting to keep away dust particles!



Regarding SEMC this Fall, SERA Treasurer Miranda Helton (Space Center Houston) and I are presenting on macro collections, i.e. things bigger than your storage space that usually weigh more than a ton! In this case - "Size Matters!"

In other news, our Director was recently in a cycling accident, so I have become the temporary boss! If that wasn't enough, we just had a rocket explode on the pad - less than a mile away from one of our facilities! Proud to be the only museum in the WORLD that has to contend with "exploding super rockets" as part of preventative conservation, facility maintenance, tour scheduling, and emergency preparedness.



Life is never boring on the Cape! Hence why the newsletter is so late this quarter.

**Valarie Kinkade**

*Principal*

**Museum and Collector Resource, LLC**



Museum and Collector Resource (MCR), based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has been working on a new project to assist the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) in Dania Beach, Florida this spring. Museum & Collector

Resource, and Paperboy Digital Consulting based in Boynton Beach, FL are working together with the IGFA to transform the E.K. Harry Library of Fishes and their material and natural history collections into a digital collection.

The E.K. Harry Library of Fishes was formed in 1973 with the goal of creating a unique repository and clearinghouse of fishing history and a database to support sport fishing research. The collection includes over 16,000 books, magazines, photographs, videos, and about 2,000 linear feet of archives. The collection covers over a century of data on world record fish catches and contains everything from massive fish mounts to tiny flies and lures. In 1999 the IGFA built a 35 million dollar museum to house its collection, but after 15 years the Dania Beach location closed to the general public due to lackluster attendance and high overhead. IGFA relocated its exhibits and Fishing Hall of Fame to the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium in Springfield, MO. However, the collections not on display did not transfer with the exhibits. Today the world's largest collection of fishing films, photos and publications on recreational fishing remains in South Florida. The objective of this project is to actualize the collection, turning it into the preeminent resource for data and images on this topic and making it remotely accessible.

MCR has been involved in the project planning to digitize this large collection to reenergize research into game fish and fishing with ramifications for fish migration and ocean resource sustainability, marine biology, as well as

environmental and conservation studies. The projects ahead will emphasize new research methods rooted in technological approaches through remote data access. Digitized photographs from the collection will include descriptions and AI tagging including geolocation, identifying individuals in images and fish species. Videos being digitized as part of the project will include fully searchable captioning, and data visualization tools will be applied to the collected metadata.

MCR's role in the project is also to collect metadata, handle the collections, and plan for the future of the physical collection after digitization. Other tasks will involve implementation of a Digital Asset Management System and interactions with Innovative Document Imaging, Inc out of New Jersey who will carry out much of the photograph and paper digitization. A key feature of MCR's work will be to ensure that tasks meet professional museum and archives standards as well as industry best practices.



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Bryan Benilous, Paperboy digital Consulting assisting in condition assessments after a small leak affecting IGFA Collections

## GEORGIA

### **Aimee Brooks**

*Collections Manager*

#### **The Columbus Museum**

At the Columbus Museum, Aimee Brooks and Miles Kirkpatrick have been busy with ongoing collections projects like cataloguing and inventory. Aimee is working on imaging a large part of the works on paper collection. Once imaged, the objects can be included on the museum's online collection database. They have worked on several exhibits including Georgia's Fall Line, VACATIONLAND: American Artists in Maine, and Monica Ikegwu: Through the Veil. This summer they will be working with Art Bridges to bring artwork in to focus on Asian American artists.

### **Katie Dillard**

*Director of Curatorial Affairs*

#### **Albany Museum of Art**

This summer, as communities across the nation commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States, the Albany Museum of Art invites audiences to experience five exhibitions celebrating the diverse voices that continue to shape the American story. As part of the larger America 250 summer dialogue, these exhibitions honor both history and the contemporary experiences that define our nation today.

Through film, photography, and visual art, visitors will encounter stories

rooted in local history as well as broader national conversations. One exhibition explores Albany's Civil Rights legacy through oral histories honoring those who helped advance school integration and social change throughout Southwest Georgia. Closely connected to this history, an art-meets-history exhibition revisits former Green Book sites in downtown Albany, reflecting on the importance of preserving places and stories that communities cannot afford to forget.

Other exhibitions turn toward identity, family, and belonging. A photographic series on modern fatherhood offers an intimate portrait of growing up in the South and the choices that shape who we become. Another vibrant exhibition of paintings approaches immigration through the lens of migrating birds, drawing thoughtful parallels between movement, adaptation, and the search for home.

In the museum's main gallery, visitors will encounter a powerful exhibition examining visibility, representation, and the politics of being seen within the Black experience.

While the semiquincentennial celebrates the nation's founding, these exhibitions remind us that America's story continues to evolve through the voices, histories, and experiences of its people.

### **Erica Hague**

*Collections Manager*

#### **Atlanta History Center**

The Atlanta History Center has been buzzing this spring, as we restart our IMLS grant project with the support of Gabe Taylor, Project Registrar, Amel

Jackson, Inventory Assistant, and Olivia Davis, Inventory Assistant. The collections side of this project will continue through the end of this calendar year, and will culminate in the digitization of 1,000 museum artifacts, the digital surrogates of which will be used in Traveling Trunk lesson plans for K-12 teachers to access for free online. These materials can be searched on our online search tool.

<https://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/learning-research/search-the-collections>

Jen Glaze, Associate Registrar, has also been working to complete the digitization of our Turning Point exhibit items, which came down last summer, in advance of the install of the new civil war and reconstruction exhibit entitled, More Perfect Union, which will open this July. We also recently completed the launch of our Centennial Anniversary exhibit, Atlanta in 100 Objects, which has a companion book. This exhibit and book are the culmination of several years of work across several departments, and highlight collection pieces that aren't often on display. This exhibit and book were launched alongside Bloomberg Connects material that allows for visitors to select paths within the collection of items to explore it in different ways.

**Christa McCay**

*Collections Manager*

**Marietta History Center/City of Marietta**

The Marietta History Center has been busy with numerous events related to America's 250th. The biggest being the cataloging images of the City of Marietta's 4th of July parades. The

pictures came from the City's Parks and Recreation department and currently stands at over 2,000 images entered.

With all the programming and events, we have kept exhibits to a minimum, but we are highlighting artifacts from our collection that tell the story of Marietta celebrating America's Centennial and Bicentennial. These artifacts include an 1876 reproduction of a 1776 military uniform and house wares from 1976.

Lastly, Christa will be at SEMC presenting a session entitled "What is Ethical? Collections Management, Donor Relations, and Museum Operations in the Modern Era" This session has non-profit, government, university museums and an independent fundraiser discussing what changes we are now seeing in Museum Ethics.

**Tricia Miller**

*Deputy Director of Collections and Exhibitions and Head Registrar*

**Georgia Museum of Art**

The Georgia Museum of Art is preparing for a large exhibition on the work of Edmonia Lewis. Born in 1844, Lewis became the first sculptor of Black and Indigenous (Mississauga) descent to achieve international recognition. Work on installation schedules, courier arrangements, and pedestal and case production is well underway and we look forward to the exhibition opening on August 8th.



The exhibition "Seams To Be: Exploring the Work of Georgia's Textile Visionaries" continues to travel throughout the state on its six-venue tour. This is the fourth installment of "Highlighting Contemporary Art in Georgia," a series of triennial traveling exhibitions that aim to make contemporary art accessible to large and small communities across the state. This chapter focuses on textile artists who are transforming traditions of craft while celebrating the labor of handwork.



Behind the scenes, the GMOA registrars are working with IT on the implementation of a Digital Asset Management system and working with a consulting curator on a reinstallation of our decorative arts galleries.

At SEMC this fall, Tricia Miller will be chairing the session "Back to the Basics, Revisiting Basic Condition

Reporting." This session features fellow registrars and contributors to the book "Basic Condition Reporting," Heather Culligan, Tommie Rodgers, and Katherine Stein, who will present an overview of the fundamentals and best practices of condition reporting, the advent of digital condition reporting, and examples of how digital tools can work alongside analog reports to streamline the condition reporting process.

## MISSISSIPPI

**Cheryl Waldrep**

*Museum Curator*

**Natchez National Historical Park**

At Natchez National Historical Park, Museum Curator Cheryl Waldrep is currently preparing a substantial archival donation for processing. The collection encompasses correspondence, postcards, receipts, business records, etc. and a selection of rare historic photographs associated with the Melrose estate. Once processed, the materials will be better preserved, and the resulting finding aid will enhance researcher access to this resource.

## VIRGINIA

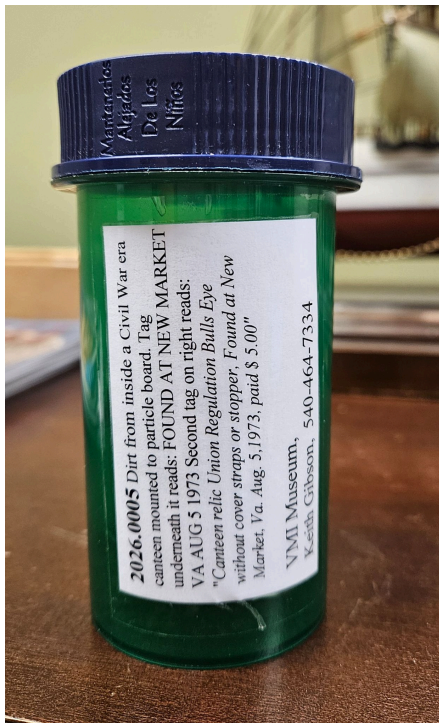
**Cathy DeSilvey**

*Registrar/Curator*

**Virginia Military Institute Museum System**

Recently the VMI Museum accepted a Civil War Union Regulation "bulls-eye" canteen that the donor said was excavated from the New Market Battlefield in 1973. VMI operates the

Virginia Museum of the Civil War and New Market Battlefield State Historical Park, and staff were curious if dirt still trapped inside the canteen would match a soil sample from the battlefield. The sample has been sent to Professor Scott Eaton, Ph.D., in James Madison University's Department of Geology & Environmental Science for testing. A similar sample will be taken from the battlefield to see how close their compositions match.



## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!!!



WINSTON-SALEM, NC • 2026

Two scholarships of \$900 are available.  
Apply by July 24, 2026.



Virtual Conference 2026

Three scholarships of \$150 are available.  
Apply by August 21, 2026.

For more information, visit:

[seregistrars.org/membership-information](http://seregistrars.org/membership-information)

SERA NEWS is published quarterly by the Southeastern Registrars Association.

The Southeastern Registrars Association (SERA) recognizes high standards of museum practice and fosters professional growth among museum registrars in the Southeastern region of the United States. We promote the exchange and dissemination of information and ideas through education seminars, publications and other means. SERA initiates and supports activities and projects which help create an atmosphere of cooperation and communication among, and between, registrars, other museum professionals, and those in related fields, and pursues further development of professional practices in the field.

Membership: Individual membership (\$25.00) is open to museum professionals who perform registrarial functions for institutions in the twelve states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Associate membership is also available to those outside the region or those employed by for-profit businesses or organizations who express interest in the objectives of SERA.

Membership Contact:  
SERA Treasurer/Membership Chair  
Miranda Helton