

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Registrars Association

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SERA OFFICERS

Chair:

Tricia Miller

Vice-Chair:

Tre'Anna Stewart

Secretary:

Alyssa Magnone

Treasurer/Membership

Chair:

Miranda Helton

Development Chair:

Ainsley Powell

Communications Chair:

Sabra Gossett

State Coordinator:

Alex Campbell

Scholarship Chair:

Elizabeth Le

Nominations Chair:

Kimberly Terbush

Notes from the Chair

Tricia Miller

Dear SERA Members,

It's hard to believe we are well into 2026 already. I hope the year has been good so far, despite the craziness that Mother Nature has been sending our way.

It's that time of year when we ask you to take a few minutes to renew your SERA membership. SERA is a great way to stay connected to your colleagues throughout the southeast and membership gives you access to resources for collections management, job listings, and eligibility for SERA awards and scholarships. While you're at it, encourage a colleague or friend in the field to join as well. Thank you!

The SERA Board will be meeting soon and I am excited to work with this great group of registrars. We are already working on plans for our annual meeting and activities at the 2026 SEMC conference. Winston-Salem will be a lot of fun and I hope to see many of you there.

If there is anything that the board can do to help you, please let us know. Whether it is helping you find panelists for a conference session or assistance with a tricky question, we are here to help support you.

All my best,
Tricia

Greetings SERA Members,

Happy 2026! As we start a new year, I am delighted to share that 54 of our current members have already renewed their memberships. Between our renewing members and our 2 brand new

members, we are off to an amazing start! Thank you to everyone able to join us in Montgomery.

I enjoyed seeing everyone and hope to see many of you again in Winston-Salem!

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. We currently have 49 2025 members who have not yet renewed. You must be a member in good standing to qualify for SERA's upcoming conference scholarship opportunities for both ARCS and SEMC. Please apply for these scholarships! We want to give you money, and your memberships help provide funds for these opportunities!

We had a great turnout at Dreamland BBQ for our Registrar's Respite this year. Make sure you stayed turned for this year's Respite details, and if you have any suggestions for Winston-Salem, we'd love to hear them!

As of February 24, 2026, SERA has 103 active members, down 16.89% from last year.

As of February 24, 2025, the current balance in the Chase checking account is \$8,225.09. The current balance in the PayPal account is \$3,991.03. The combined total on-hand is \$12,216.12, down \$2,081.65 (-15.70%) from the \$14,297.77 on-hand reported this time last year.

Below is our full statement of activity for 2024. We had a net loss for the year of \$2034.35 after paying for conference and award expenditures. I have also included our year-to-date statement

for 2025. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Miranda Helton, Treasurer/Membership Chair

Statement of Financial Position

THE SOUTHEASTERN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION, INC.

As of December 31, 2025

Account	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
BUSINESS CLASSIC (3379) - 1	8,173.08
PayPal Bank	2,948.35
Total for Bank Accounts	\$11,121.43
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	75.00
Total for Accounts Receivable	\$75.00
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	0.00
Total for Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total for Current Assets	\$11,196.43
Total for Assets	\$11,196.43
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Total for Liabilities	-
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	11,150.36
Retained Earnings	2,080.42
Net Income	-2,034.35
Total for Equity	\$11,196.43
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$11,196.43

Statement of Activity

THE SOUTHEASTERN REGISTRARS ASSOCIATION, INC.

January 1-February 24, 2026

Account	Total
Income	
Membership	
Associate	50.00
Individual	800.00
Institutional	375.00
Total for Membership	\$1,225.00
PayPal Sales	25.00
Total for Income	\$1,250.00
Gross Profit	\$1,250.00
Expenses	
Dues, Fees, & Subscriptions	47.99
PayPal Fees	57.32
Total for Expenses	\$105.31
Net Operating Income	\$1,144.69
Net Other Income	-
Net Income	\$1,144.69

MEMBERSHIP

New / Renewing Members*AL**Alex Campbell, Collections Manager**

Anniston Museums and Gardens

Ella Sykes, Collections and Gallery Manager

Alabama Museum of the Health Sciences

Rose Wood, Chief Registrar

Birmingham Museum of Art

FL**Megan Crawford, Special Collections Librarian**

Florida Gulf Coast University Archives and Special Collections

Heather Culligan, Registrar and Collections Manager

The Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art at Florida Southern College

Sabra Gossett, Curator

Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum

Valerie Kinkade, Principal

Museum and Collector Resource

GA**Aimee Brooks, Collections Manager**

The Columbus Museum

Brandy Lisser, Assistant Collections Manager*

Augusta Museum of History

Tricia Miller, Deputy Director of Collections & Exhibitions

Georgia Museum of Art

Solana Rostick, Registrar/Collections Manager

Clark Atlanta University Art Museum

Corinne Roth, Registrar and Collections Specialist

Delta Flight Museum

KY**Christopher Goodlett, Senior Director of Curatorial and Educational Affairs**

Kentucky Derby Museum

Laura Hendrickson, Director of Collections and Registrar

The National Quilt Museum

Connor Humphrey, Museum Curator

John James Audubon State Park

MS**Kathleen Barnett, Director of Collections Management and Registration**

Mississippi Museum of Art

Tommie Rodgers, Registrar

Lauren Rodgers Museum of Art

NC**Loran Berg, Collections Manager**

Mountain Heritage Center

Jordan Cao, Associate Registrar for Collections

North Carolina Museum of Art

Mary Hauser, Associate Director, Art Management

Gregg Museum of Art and Design

Corinne Midgett, Registrar

High Point Museum

Lauren Pacheco, Development Officer

Greensboro Science Center

Catherine Riddle, Collections Manager

Duke Lemur Center Museum of Natural History

Kimberly Terbush, President

Terbush Art, LLC

MEMBERSHIP

<p><u>SC</u> Megan Brigman, Registrar South Carolina Confederate Relic Room Alyssa Magnone, Associate Preservation Specialist Northeast Document Conservation Center</p>	<p>Culture & Heritage Museums Rylee Aquilanti, Archives Specialist Jillian Bingham, Director of Collections Carleigh Isbell, Archives Specialist Jen LaMaster, Collections Specialist Nancy Sambets, Director of Archives</p>
<p><u>TN</u> Elizabeth Le, Collections Manager and Registrar Hunter Museum of American Art</p>	<p>Historic New Orleans Collection Susan Eberle, Registrar Jennifer Ghabrial, Collections Manager Kylie Hewitt, Associate Registrar Beth Sherwood, Associate Registrar</p>
<p><u>TX</u> Miranda Helton, Collections Manager Space Center Houston</p>	<p>The Mariners Museum and Park Montana Coward, Collections Management Technician McAllie Givens, Collections Management Specialist Sarah Kelly, Director of Collections Management</p>
<p><u>VA</u> Alexander “AJ” Chrapliwy, Registrar and Collections Specialist* Science Museum of Virginia Catherine DeSilvey, Registrar/Curator Virginia Military Institute Museum James Ito, Registrar* Washington and Lee University</p>	<p>The Tennessee State Museum Rachel Chovan, Curatorial Assistant Ainsley Golden Kate Gunn, Curatorial Assistant Rachel Jacob, Assistant Registrar Brad Kavan, Chief Registrar</p>
<p><u>WV</u> John Spurlock, Registrar Huntington Museum of Art</p>	<p><i>New* / Renewing Associate Members</i> India Crawford, Senior Director Transport Consultants International Jeanne Nicolls, Collections Management Consultant</p>
<p><i>New* / Renewing Institutional Members</i> The Atlanta History Center Jen Glaze, Associate Registrar Erica Hague, Collections Manager Deb Wold, Project Registrar</p>	

ALABAMA**Haley Aaron***Registrar***Alabama Department of Archives and History**

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is pleased to reopen its permanent gallery spaces following a renovation project that lasted for most of 2025. In November, the ADAH opened Alabama Military Stories, a new permanent exhibit that honors the experiences of Alabamians in military service. The renovation project also resulted in major updates to the department's Children's Gallery and the permanent exhibit, Alabama Voices. ADAH staff members continue to plan updates to the First Alabamians gallery, which will highlight Native American history and culture. We anticipate opening the gallery in late 2026. Haley Aaron and Mary Taylor Peake have been working to secure loans and new donations for the exhibits.

Pamela Bransford*Registrar***Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts**

A big SERA Alabama welcome to Amy Federico, the new assistant registrar at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts! Amy moved from Newport News, VA and most recently worked at the Colonial National Historic Park and The Valentine Museum. She has a BA in Art History from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MA in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University. Her initial projects have included deaccessions and updating the emergency response plan. We are thrilled to have Amy join our team.

FLORIDA**Heather Culligan***Registrar & Collections Manager***The Ashley Gibson Barnett Museum of Art (The AGB) at Florida Southern College**

Heather Culligan, Registrar & Collections Manager at The AGB Museum of Art at Florida Southern College, has been working on the annual inventory since January. With the help of two interns from Florida Southern College, she will be inventorying the entire collection housed at the museum as well as the items installed on the college campus. In addition to the inventory, each intern is working on independent collections projects. Mary Kissane is working on inventorying and weeding catalogs in the Penfield Library while Ashley Dieckmann is working on data cleanup in TMS Collections.

Heather and the curatorial team are also working on upcoming exhibitions! One of the exhibitions, Here and Now: FSC Student Perspectives on the Collection, is an exciting collaboration with students currently enrolled in a Contemporary Art class at FSC. With guidance from AGB staff and Dr. Kristen Carter, who is teaching the course, each student is selecting a work from the AGB Permanent Collection and writing the object label. The exhibition will open May 2 and showcase the student's perspective on Contemporary Art and why each piece matters today. The curatorial team is also working on two additional exhibitions featuring works from the AGB Permanent Collection, an exhibit featuring the work of artist Andrea Dezso, and a photography exhibit featuring photographs from the local

newspaper, The Ledger.

Finally, the biggest news is that the AGB selected its new Executive Director, Dr. Daryl Ward! Dr. Ward will officially start March 2, but has been serving as the Interim Director since June 2025.

Sabra Gossett

Curator

Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum

The fun never ends on the Space Coast!

Our museum mascot, Rupert, returned from his time on the International Space Station with Crew-11! He was the first museum mascot (and armadillo) in space!

#FollowRupert



Just this month, we approved text and graphics for five new outdoor panels, four new artifact panels, and two new indoor interactive kiosks, featuring some of most historic sites and shining a light on our Cape pioneers.

I “completed” my first full hands-on inventory since becoming the Curator of CCSFM. I put that in quotes because I still have to submit inventory images to NMUSAF—but everything was accounted for—so WIN!

We also recently acquired some amazing, one-of-a-kind artifacts. News on that soon.

Finally, we have begun creating our new collections storage area! After decades of artifacts strewn across the Cape, stored in everything from lined Delta cabinets to what we nicely call “rustic storage,” all off-display accessioned items will now be stored in one controlled space (as size permits). And that space happens to be inside a blockhouse, so it will be secure and safe, even from rocket launches!

GEORGIA

Erica Hague

Collections Manager

Atlanta History Center

Atlanta History Center's Collections team has been on our A-game this winter. Project Registrar Deb Wold has been completing the final inventory updates for items removed this past summer from our Civil War exhibit, Turning Point. Initial counts estimated around 1,200 items, but that number increased to about 1,750 during deinstallation as we located additional pieces or created child records as needed. Associate Registrar, Jen Glaze has been adding contextual information and has already completed nearly 75% of the records. Collections Manager, Erica Hague spent much of this winter editing and attaching over 3,000 images to records. So far, 500 items are live on our federated search so far, with another 100 or so to be added in the coming months as we wrap up this part of the project.

2026 will be an especially full year for exhibits. We begin with the closing of Native

Lands in Howell Gallery in early March. This will be followed by the arrival of the NARA traveling exhibition Freedom Plane in late March. Throughout the year, we'll also be installing components for our 100th anniversary scavenger-hunt style exhibition Atlanta in 100 Objects, which is also being released in book form. In May, we begin installing A More Perfect Union, our new exhibit on the Civil War and Reconstruction, which opens in early July. After that, we'll debut our open-storage exhibit The Hard Hand of War, focusing on the evolution of military technology during the Civil War. We'll close out the year with the reopening of Howell Gallery featuring Exile From Georgia, an exhibit examining the removal of the Cherokee and Muscogee Nations from Georgia and the ongoing impacts of that removal.

This winter also marked the launch of a major five-year digitization initiative to double our current digital archival holdings. This includes digitizing both processed materials already accessible via finding aids and long-backlogged collections. Among the collections being processed are the Central of Georgia Railway materials, recently transferred from the Georgia Historical Society to reunite them with the Southern Railway collection for which we completed finding aids in 2025. Having both collections under one roof will greatly enhance researcher access and interpretation of Georgia's railroad development from the early 1800s to today. To prepare for this transfer, we completed a partial retrofit of one of our stacks in January, installing hundreds of new flat files to accommodate thousands of architectural drawings.

Christa McCay

Collections Manager

Marietta History Center/City of Marietta

The Marietta History Center launched a new online collections database last Fall, making thousands of artifacts, photographs, and archival materials accessible digitally for the first time. This includes detailed images and descriptions that you can search and browse by keyword or category great for students, researchers, and local history fans. This has been a longtime goal for Collections Manager, Christa McCay.





To mark its 30th anniversary, the Center launched a retrospective exhibit, *Marietta History Center at 30*, in January 2026. This exhibit uses artifacts from the permanent collection to trace the museum's development since 1996, including how pieces have been acquired and preserved and highlights the history of the historic Kennesaw House building itself. The exhibit was designed, fabricated, and installed by Christa and was a fascinating look into the Center's story.

Christa has also been working with different departments in the City to create online story maps telling the history of the buildings in downtown Marietta along with those who are buried in the Marietta City Cemetery. These projects have led to City departments sharing their own history with the Center, to help tell a broader history of the City.

Lastly, the Center staff attended and served on the planning committee for the Georgia Association of Museums conference in early February in Cobb County, GA. The MHC was a part of the Progressive Dinner evening along with other Marietta museums.

KENTUCKY

Jennifer Spence

Parks Museum Curator

Kentucky State Parks

Kentucky State Parks Museum Curator

Jennifer Spence reports that the agency has received grant funding from the America250KY Commission to support a variety of important projects across the park system.

The funding will advance several collections-based initiatives. These include the conservation of artifacts from the Fort Boonesborough settlement founded by Daniel Boone; the purchase of artifact rehousing supplies for the Mississippian Native American site Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site; new collection cabinets for Big Bone Lick State Historic Site to better preserve its archaeological and paleontological holdings; and archival supplies for Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site.

In addition to these collections projects, the grant will support two new research initiatives, and Kentucky State Parks is currently hiring for these positions. At General Butler State Resort Park, a historical researcher will be hired to examine the lives of enslaved individuals connected to the Butler and Turpin families, expanding interpretation of slavery at the site. A separate position will support research at Cherokee State Park, focusing on the park's history during the era of segregation, when it operated as a state park exclusively for African Americans.

MISSISSIPPI

Cheryl Waldrep

Museum Curator

Natchez National Historical Park

Cheryl Waldrep is busy planning our Museum Emergency Operations Plan training at Natchez National Historical Park. Each spring, the park hosts a dedicated training day to strengthen emergency preparedness and better protect our collections. The one-day program includes:

- Reviewing the park's emergency plan in an all-employee meeting
- Identifying priority collections with all employees present
- Practicing tabletop emergency scenarios in cross-disciplinary teams
- Live fire extinguisher training in partnership with the local fire department for all employees, volunteers, and partners

This annual training ensures staff, volunteers, and partners are confident and ready to respond to emergencies, safeguarding both people and collections. It's an invaluable opportunity for collaboration, learning, and answering important questions.

NORTH CAROLINA

Corinne Midgett

Registrar

High Point Museum

The High Point Museum has been busy! Our HVAC and roof replacement project took up much of 2025, with the museum being closed for about 7 months. During that time, registrar Corinne Midgett, curator of collections Marian Inabinett,



administrative assistant Crystal Williams, and intern Justin Wear were focused on protecting the collection. Many objects were removed from exhibit spaces, which gave staff the chance to update

cataloging, condition reports, and photography for those items. Several areas of the Permanent Exhibit were also refreshed with new artifacts and interpretive panels. Conservator Mark Erdmann provided advice throughout the project and we came through it with no damage to the collection.

The project was partially funded through an NEH grant that was terminated in April. With a lot of extra work, we were able to recoup about 70% of the original award thanks to the grant's termination clause. We're very grateful that we were still able to complete the project despite that setback.

Also during construction, Corinne and Marian worked with textile conservator Claudia Walpole to begin surveying the museum's large textile and costume collection. Several locally-manufactured pairs of hosiery were the focus of the 2025 Adopt-an-Artifact campaign.



In February, Corinne and volunteer Dan Smith led an object photography workshop for the North Carolina Museums Council. Dan has been volunteering with the museum for 3 years and has greatly improved our photography program. We were gifted a copy stand last year, which has sped up our work. The workshop covered basic photography principles and essentials, object photography on a budget, project planning, and digital preservation.



Jonathan Schwartz
CEO
ATELIER 4

ATELIER 4 recently collaborated with the South Carolina State Museum to transport “Big Percy,” a monumental sweetgrass basket by South Carolina artist Corey Alston. We collected the large-scale woven work from the artist’s home in Mt. Pleasant and transported it to Columbia for exhibition at the museum.

Due to project budget considerations, we did not use a traditional museum crate. Instead, ATELIER 4’s art handlers developed a custom stabilization and tie-down solution designed specifically for the basket’s woven structure and scale. We engineered internal supports and secure strapping methods to mitigate vibration and movement during transit while maintaining museum-level handling protocols.

The work is now safely installed and on

display at the South Carolina State Museum. The project reflects the collaborative effort between the institution and the transport team to balance preservation standards with financial realities — a challenge many organizations across the Southeast continue to navigate.

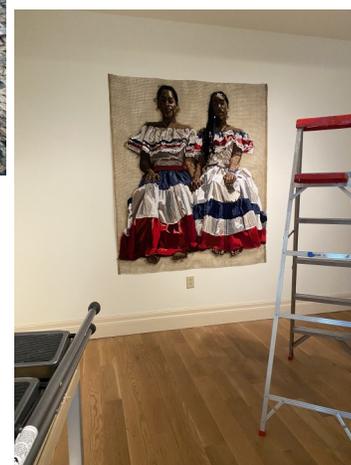
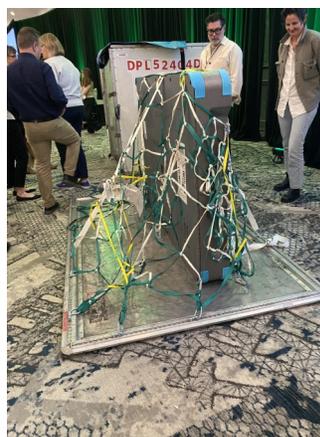
SOUTH CAROLINA

Maggie Claytor

Associate Registrar

Gibbes Museum of Art

The winter is flying by as we are almost near the end of a long stretch of installations. Highlights from the past few months include attending the ARCS conference in St. Louis, opening *Revelations: The Art of Leo Twiggs* in our 3rd floor galleries, and installing a new loan by our 2025 1858 Prize for Contemporary Southern Art, Kandy Lopez. The work, *Hispaniola III – Mia & Kenya*, will be on view in our Mary Jackson Modern and Contemporary Gallery for 1 year.



TENNESSEE**Robyn Thiesbrummel**

Director of Collections Management
South Carolina State Museum

The State Museum opened 2026 with a very special commission by renowned Gullah Geechee artist Corey Alston from Mount Pleasant, S.C.

This extraordinary piece not only enhances the museum's folk and traditional art collection but also marks a significant step in preserving and showcasing the ongoing legacy of Gullah craftsmanship in the 21st century. The basket, titled "Big Percy," was completed February 11th, unveiled February 19th, and is possibly the largest sweetgrass basket in the world, measuring over 4 feet tall! It provided a new challenge to the exhibitions and collections management staff, who has less than a week to create a custom base for display, photograph and catalogue the piece and moved it for the press conference and public display. The team took a moment to celebrate with the basket in its new display.

**Elizabeth Le**

Collections Manager and Registrar
Hunter Museum of American Art

Elizabeth Le, Collections Manager and Registrar at the Hunter Museum, is wrapping up 2025 acquisitions as well as processing new 2026 acquisitions that have started coming in, and preparations are being made to rotate out 2 galleries in early March. She has new college intern this semester from Southern Adventist University who is condition reporting and photographing the collection of Lewis Hine photographs on long-term loan from TVA. "Arriving Home" by Dennis Oppenheim, a 12-foot-high permanent collection sculpture, was originally sited in downtown Chattanooga 15 years as part of the Public Art program has



moved to the Hunter's sculpture plaza. The installation is slow going since the work is composed of 45 panels and each panel must be secured in place by 8 to 13 screws.

VIRGINIA**Cathy DeSilvey**

Registrar/Curator

Virginia Military Institute Museum

Our winter project was moving art out of VMI's Alumni Agencies' building in preparation for its

future demolition. This was a major undertaking as we have very little storage space in our museum's building. Luckily, we were able to transfer art to our Virginia Museum of the Civil War storage facility so we could free up some wall space! As you registrars know, it is a challenge when a bulk object move happens!



A FUNNY THING HAPPENED AT THE MUSEUM...



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