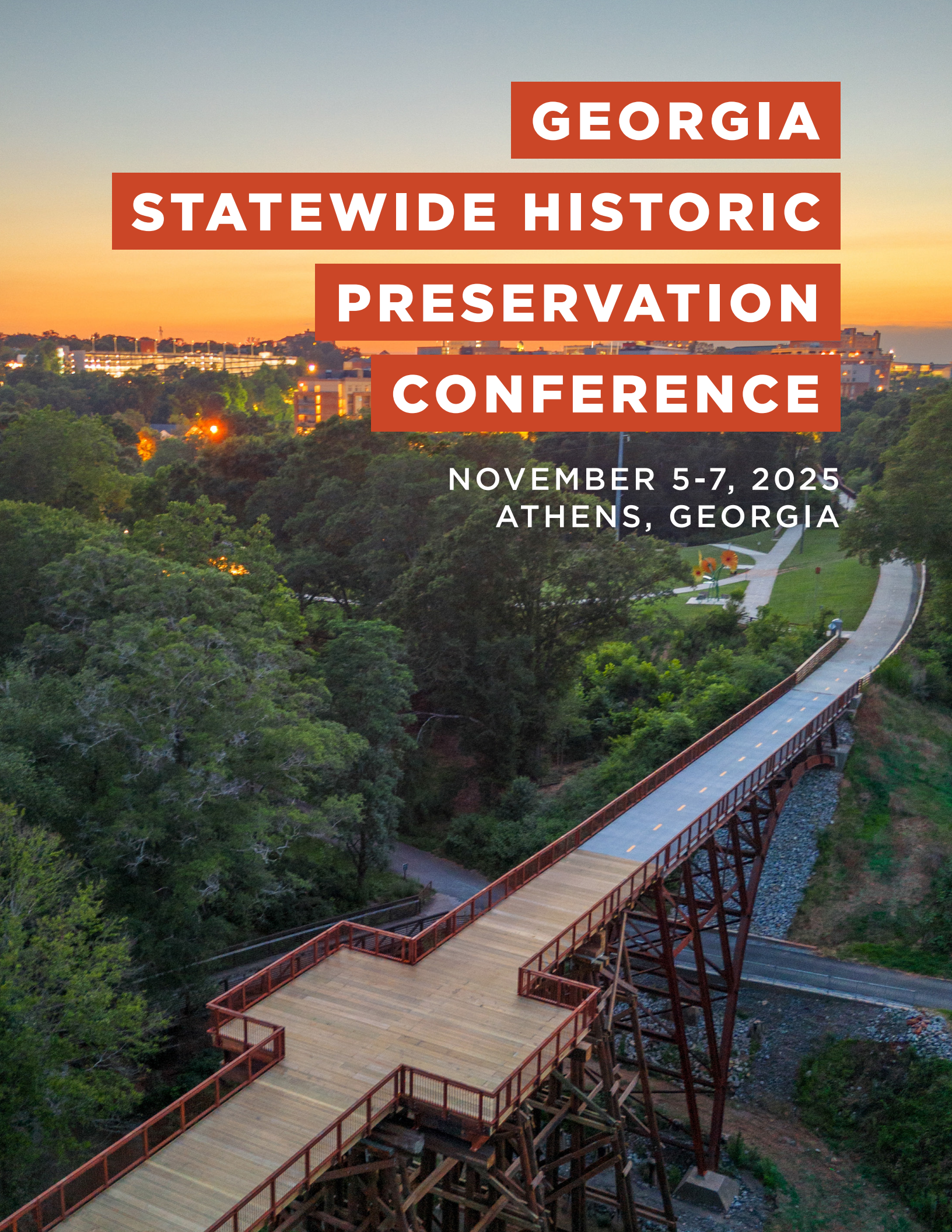




GEORGIA STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

**NOVEMBER 5-7, 2025
ATHENS, GEORGIA**



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Grab a free coffee or tea,
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The Community Gathering Room
is where connections happen.

Be sure to stop by. You never know who you'll meet!

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GEORGIA STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

REFER TO YOUR TICKET AND DETAILED AGENDA FOR TOUR LOCATION INFORMATION

Wednesday, November 5, 2025				
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM	Open Registration Taylor-Grady House 634 Prince Ave			
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM	National Register 201: Advanced Topics Workshop Taylor-Grady House 634 Prince Ave			
9:30 AM to 12:30 PM	Historic Rehabilitation Tax Incentives: An Advanced Look Workshop Historic Athens Firehall 489 Prince Ave			
10:00 AM	Linnentown History Tour	The Morton Theatre Tour	The Hill Tour	Athens Musical Legacy and Its Venues Tour
12:30 PM	Environmental Review 102: Defining the APE and Resolving an AE Workshop Taylor-Grady House 634 Prince Ave			
1:00 PM to 2:30 PM	Oconee Hill Cemetery Tour	University of Georgia Historic North Campus Tour	The Hill Tour	Brooklyn Cemetery Tour
3:00 PM to 4:30 PM	National Register 101: An Introduction Workshop Taylor-Grady House 634 Prince Ave	Beech Haven Estate Property Tour	Pulaski Heights Neighborhood Tour with Athens Mayor Kelly Girtz	T.R.R. Cobb House Museum Preservation Tour
5:00 PM	Welcome Reception Hosted by Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network Taylor-Grady House 634 Prince Ave			

Thursday, November 6, 2025			
8:00 AM to 9:00 AM	Open Registration First AME Church, 521 N Hull St		
9:00 AM	Keynote Address by Lane M. Burritt, Principal Conservator, Aeon Preservation First AME Church, 521 N Hull St		
	Please proceed to The Classic Center – 300 N Thomas St, Athens, GA 30601.		
11:00 AM	Open Registration The Classic Center, 300 N Thomas St.		
	A	B	C
11:00 AM	Understanding Architectural Drawings: A Primer The Classic Center - Athena B	Historic Preservation Advocacy in Georgia: Trends and Updates The Classic Center - Athena C	The Importance of West African Adinkra Symbols Embossed in Architecture, Corporate Logos, and Daily Use Items The Classic Center - Athena D
12:00 PM	Lunch On Your Own		
1:30 PM	The Design Process: From “What’s Wrong with My Building?” to “Open for Business!” The Classic Center - Athena C	Historic Preservation Commission Administration Roundtable The Classic Center - Athena B	Overview of the Preservation of African American Historic Schools in Georgia The Classic Center - Athena D
2:30 PM	Break		

GEORGIA STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SESSIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE CLASSIC CENTER - 300 N THOMAS ST, ATHENS, GA 30601

Thursday, November 6, 2025 <i>continued</i>			
	A	B	C
2:45 PM	Civil Sights: A Guide to Historic Preservation through Storytelling in Sweet Auburn, Birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement The Classic Center - Athena B	Losing the Saye Building: Power, Preservation, and a Parking Lot The Classic Center - Athena C	Removal and Relocating Murals The Classic Center - Athena D
3:45 PM	Break		
4:00 PM	The Georgia Historical Marker Program: Connecting Local Stories to Statewide Narratives The Classic Center - Athena B	Empowering the Next Generation: The Watson-Brown Foundation's Junior Board Program The Classic Center - Athena C	Revitalizing Together: Aligning HPCs, Main Streets, and DDAs for Downtown Success The Classic Center - Athena D
5:00 PM	Break		
5:30 PM	Opening Reception Founders Memorial Garden, 325 Lumpkin St		

Friday, November 7, 2025			
8:30 AM	Georgia Alliance of Preservation Commissions Annual Meeting The Classic Center, 300 N Thomas St		
	A	B	C
9:30 AM	2025 Georgia Statewide Preservation Conference Poster Session The Classic Center - Hallway	Preserving the Past, Building the Future: Integrating Historic Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Affordable Housing. The Classic Center - Athena C	Introduction to Historic Commercial and Residential Types and Styles in Georgia The Classic Center - Athena D
10:30 AM	Break		
10:45 AM	Laying the Foundation: Unlocking the Impact of High Performing Boards The Classic Center - Athena B	Survey Options for Local Governments The Classic Center - Athena C	On the Circuit: Networks of Black Entertainment in Georgia The Classic Center - Athena D
11:45 PM	Break		
12:00 PM	Transforming Downtowns Through Visualization: The RSVP Program The Classic Center - Athena B	Environmental Impacts on Cultural Resources: Basics and Beyond The Classic Center - Athena C	Locally Designated Historic Tax Credit Program The Classic Center - Athena D



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Georgia African American
Historic Preservation Network



GEORGIA STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Participants will be responsible for transportation to and from all sites.

Pre-registration required for tours and workshops.

Please stop by the registration table at the Taylor Grady House to collect your nametag before going to your tour.

Workshop 1

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

National Register 201: Advanced Topics

Join members of HPD's National Register team and fellow nomination professionals for a frequent preparer's workshop! Participation will be limited to experienced National Register preparers. We'll explore topics such as current trends in the program including evolving protocol for nominations associated with tax incentives rehabilitation projects in Georgia, feedback and highlights from recently released guidance from the National Park Service (NPS), and common nomination pitfalls and how to best avoid them! Additionally, this workshop will give participants the opportunity to present topics for discussion and dialogue with HPD National Register staff and with one another! Participants will be encouraged to bring questions, examples, and in-process National Register conundrums to the floor for group brainstorming.

Location: Taylor-Grady House 634 Prince Ave, Athens, GA 30601

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Historic Rehabilitation Tax Incentives: An Advanced Look

Tax Incentives are one of the most powerful tools preservationists have to preserve, rehabilitate, and return historic buildings to productive use. This half-day session will explore the economics of syndicating tax credits and using these credits as a development tool, as well as look at specific case studies to see how the standards were successfully applied. This session is presented in collaboration with Chris Jackson of Verity Works preservation consulting, Brent Watts, president of Cabretta Capital, and staff from the DCA's Historic Preservation Division. This session is intended for experienced users of the tax incentives programs, property owners, developers, architects, and consultants, as it will cover high-level topics. A more general introduction to the program and upcoming changes allowing for historic homes in local historic districts to apply will be held during the primary sessions of the conference.

Location: Historic Athens Firehall 489 Prince Ave, Athens, GA 30601

Tour 1

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Linnentown History Tour

Linnentown, once a vibrant African-American neighborhood on Baxter Street's west side, was demolished in 1962 under the Federal Urban Renewal Program. Residents were forced to relocate to public housing or find new homes, with minimal compensation, to make way for UGA's high-rise dorms. By 1966, all traces of Linnentown were erased.

The Linnentown Project, formed by descendants, aims to raise awareness of the community's destruction. The Linnentown Justice and Memory Project, established in June 2020, is tasked with creating plans for atonement. In February 2021, after two years of research and lobbying, the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County unanimously adopted the groundbreaking Linnentown Resolution for Recognition and Redress. Hattie Thomas Whitehead, a first descendant of Linnentown, is a key figure in The Linnentown Project. She also chairs the Athens Justice and Memory Project, addressing reconciliation and redress for the impacts of urban renewal on Black communities. Her memoir "Giving Voice to Linnentown" and its musical adaptation, "Linnentown: The Musical," have proven successful in educating the community. Join Hattie as she leads a powerful walking tour through the site of this once-vibrant Black community. She will share personal stories of her family, the neighborhood playground, community leaders, and the close-knit life that once thrived there. She will also reflect on the deep and lasting impact of urban renewal on children and families, recounting what it was like to witness the dismantling of her community—both then and in the years that followed.

Please note that this will be an outdoor walking tour.



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The Morton Theatre Tour

Built in 1910 by Monroe Bowers (“Pink”) Morton, the Morton Theatre is one of the first and the oldest surviving vaudeville theatres in the United States, uniquely built, owned, and operated by an African-American. In its heyday, the Morton Theatre hosted early acts such as Butterbeans and Susie, Blind Willie McTell, Curley Weaver, Cab Calloway, and Bessie Smith. The theatre also experienced the dawn of the silver screen as a movie house. The Morton Building housed not only the theatre, but also many of Athens’ black doctors, dentists, pharmacists, and other professionals. The fully restored Morton Theatre is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and was adapted as a performing arts space through the 1987 citizen-approved SPLOST (Special Projects Local Option Sales Tax) funding in 1993.

The Hill Tour

The Hill features several beautifully restored homes, each with unique architectural styles and rich histories. The Donald Epting House, dating back to around 1800, represents four distinct periods of construction, with the original log house from 1790 and later additions. Other notable houses include the Rock House, built in 1920 from locally harvested fieldstone; the Hodgson Lumpkin House, believed to be among the six original homes mentioned by Joshua Meigs in 1801; and the Quinn Cottage, built in 1930. These homes provide an authentic glimpse into Athens’ past, surrounded by gardens and scenic landscapes. Each of these homes were restored with the help of Athens native, Lee Epting, who will be leading the tours.

Please note that this will be an outdoor walking tour.

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Athens Musical Legacy and Its Venues Tour

Join Athens music historian Paul Butchart on a walking tour of the city’s legendary music scene. Hear firsthand tales from the “Art Rocks” era that produced bands like the B-52s and R.E.M. as you explore the sights and sounds that shaped our rich musical heritage. Many of these iconic music venues are housed in historic buildings repurposed for live performance, a testament to the power of adaptive reuse in preserving the past while fostering creativity and local economy.

Please note that this will be an outdoor walking tour.

Workshop 2

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

Environmental Review 102: Defining the APE and Resolving an AE Workshop

This session is designed with seasoned Section 106 practioners in mind and will briefly focus on practical tips for defining the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for various types of projects undergoing a Section 106 review, including those involving housing rehabilitation, new construction, water system improvements, and solar panel installations. The session’s main focus will include helpful tips on identifying appropriate mitigation activities and drafting a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to resolve an adverse effect.

Location: Taylor-Grady House 634 Prince Ave, Athens, GA 30601

Tour 2

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Oconee Hill Cemetery Tour

Established in 1856 to solve overcrowding in the town cemetery, Oconee Hill Cemetery is the final resting place of many prominent Athenians. It is also an excellent example of the 19th century’s natural landscape cemetery movement that began in Europe. It’s listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significant landscape architecture, decorative funerary markers, distinctive cast-iron fencing, a rare through-truss bridge, and a Sexton’s House of architectural significance. Join us for a tour of the cemetery and Sexton’s house.

Please note that this will be an outdoor walking tour.

University of Georgia North Campus Tour

Beginning with the construction of Old College in 1801, North Campus displays a variety of architectural styles from across the history of the university. Join Cari Goetchius, professor in the UGA College of Environment and Design’s Master of Historic Preservation program, for a walking tour through North Campus focusing on the history and preservation of buildings and landscape.

Please note that this will be an outdoor walking tour.

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

The Hill Tour

The Hill features several beautifully restored homes, each with unique architectural styles and rich histories. The Donald Epting House, dating back to around 1800, represents four distinct periods of construction, with the original log house from 1790 and later additions. Other notable houses include the Rock House, built in 1920 from locally harvested fieldstone; the Hodgson Lumpkin House, believed to be among the six original homes mentioned by Joshua Meigs in 1801; and the Quinn Cottage, built in 1930. These homes provide an authentic glimpse into Athens' past, surrounded by gardens and scenic landscapes. Each of these homes were restored with the help of Athens native, Lee Epting, who will be leading the tours.

Please note that this will be an outdoor walking tour.

Brooklyn Cemetery Tour

Join Linda Davis of the Friends of Brooklyn Cemetery for a walk through one of Athens' oldest African American cemeteries, tucked behind the Brooklyn and Hawthorne neighborhoods. Established in 1882, Brooklyn Cemetery is the final resting place for Black Athenians from the late 19th century through the present, including more than 40 veterans of both World Wars.

Linda, who has family buried in the cemetery, co-founded the Friends of Brooklyn Cemetery in 2006 and has spent nearly two decades leading its restoration. With the help of community members, volunteer groups, and student organizations, the Friends of Brooklyn Cemetery brought new life to a place long overlooked.

Please note that this will be an outdoor walking tour.

Workshop 3

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

National Register 101: An Introduction

Join members of the Georgia Historic Preservation Division's National Register team for a National Register 101 workshop! Designed for anyone seeking an introduction to the program and an overview of historic property research in Georgia, topics will include: what the National Register of Historic Places is, what it does and doesn't do, and how the program actually interprets much-talked-about terms like "significance" and "integrity." We'll explore how to think about eligibility, why and how to start a nomination, and tips for a successful nomination experience. The presentation will also include expert information about resources for historic property research, tailored to those interested in pursuing a nomination!

Location: Taylor-Grady House 634 Prince Ave, Athens, GA 30601

Tour 3

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Pulaski Heights Neighborhood Tour with Athens Mayor Kelly Girtz

Situated near downtown Athens, Pulaski Heights features narrow streets, natural ravines, and well-preserved early-twentieth century cottages in the Southern vernacular style. Originally inhabited by skilled tradespeople and small business owners, the area's unique allure now draws in residents who appreciate its tight-knit yet individualistic lifestyle. Join Athens Mayor Kelly Girtz on a journey through Pulaski Heights history, tracing back to its roots in the 19th century, navigating through changes in the post-war era, and witnessing its evolution into the 21st century.

Please note that this will be an outdoor walking tour.

Beech Haven Estate Property Tour

Established in 1863, St. James AME Church houses the second oldest AME congregation in Georgia. Beech Haven is a 149-acre historic site along the Middle Oconee River, featuring an Arts and Crafts-style house, stone sculptures, and bridges that reflect the influence of Charles Rowland's travels to Asia. The site also includes contributions by African-American master craftsmen Ike Osbourne and Jim Glenn. Originally used as a family retreat by the Rowland family, the property is now being developed into a public park, with significant efforts focused on preserving its unique architectural features.

Please note this will be an outdoor walking tour, including difficult terrain.

T.R.R. Cobb House Museum Preservation Tour

The T.R.R. Cobb House Museum tour will focus on the restoration of the house, as well as telling the story of its inhabitants throughout the house's history. The house was originally built around 1834, was owned by the Cobbs from 1844-1872, and then had various uses and owners until its move to Stone Mountain Park in 1985. The house returned to Athens in 2005 for a full restoration to its 1850s look. The tour will conclude with a special video presentation of an unreleased REM music video featuring the 1985 move to Stone Mountain.

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Welcome Reception

Hosted by the Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network

After a day of tours and workshops, mingle with fellow preservationists, architects, historians, and community leaders while enjoying hors d'oeuvres. Take in the stunning Taylor Grady House, while learning about GAAHPN's efforts and projects. The Taylor Grady House, built in 1844, is Athens' only National Historic Landmark. Recently, the house has entered a new era. Through an expansion of their interpretation programs, they strive to tell the story of the many African Americans who worked and lived in the home, becoming "a place where all hands are recognized." Their outreach program also aims to assist non-profits and community organizations by enhancing community engagement, supporting non-profit missions, and fostering partnerships.

Location: Taylor-Grady House 634 Prince Ave, Athens, GA 30601

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Participants will be responsible for transportation to and from all sites.

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Keynote Address by Lane M. Burritt

Lane M. Burritt, Principal Conservator, Aeon Preservation

Lane Burritt is a founding principal at Aeon Preservation Services. She is an architectural conservator with over 25 years of experience in historic preservation. Working on world-class historic properties and monuments, her clients have included the Architect of the Capitol, the General Service Administration, the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institution, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Naval Academy, private entities, and institutional clients. Her practice involves research, condition surveys, project design, contract documents, construction, and directing quality assurance and quality control on major projects. Comprehensive skills include in-depth moisture investigation, cost estimation, scheduling, and hands-on conservation implementation. Proficient in object verification, materials analysis, paint analysis, and other testing services. Her technical conservation includes paint analysis projects at the U.S. Capitol, the Treasury Building, and the Department of the Interior. She has also been involved in the environmental monitoring and forensic investigation of paint failure for buildings. Lane has conducted in-depth moisture investigations, hands-on conservation implementation, and non-destructive testing. Her latest hands-on project was the restoration of painted surfaces on the wood shutters at the Peacock Room at the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery. Current research and interests are in salt damage to masonry surfaces and the use of technology in non-destructive testing. Before starting Aeon, Lane worked for ten years as a Senior Conservator with John Milner Associates in the Preservation Technology Group. Previously, she worked in New York as a conservator. She holds an MFA from Savannah College of Art & Design, Graduate School of Building Arts. Lane has presented papers, lectured, and taught at national and international conferences and institutions, including APT, AIC, ICRI, the Preservation Institute, and Goucher College. She is a Professional Associate member of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC), which governs architectural conservators.

Location: First AME Church, 521 N Hull St, Athens, GA 30601

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM • Break

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Session 1

A. Understanding Architectural Drawings: A Primer

Joe Smith, Principal, Architectural Collaborative

Preservationists are often called upon to interpret architectural drawings, but preservation training does not always convey this skill. The convention of two-dimensional architectural plans, sections, and elevations has developed over centuries of design practice, but how do non-architects become fluent in understanding this graphic language? This session provides a beginner-level overview of architectural drawing conventions, also covering the library of symbols and notations common to such drawings. Learn to flex your plan-reading chops for friends and family!

Location: The Classic Center - Athena B

B. Historic Preservation Advocacy in Georgia: Trends and Updates

Ben Sutton, Senior Director of Preservation and Legislative Advocacy, the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation

Join Ben Sutton, Senior Director of Preservation and Legislative Advocacy at the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, for a look at the latest developments shaping preservation advocacy across the state. This session will provide updates on pressing legislative and policy issues—including proposed cuts to federal historic preservation funding and efforts to strengthen Georgia's state historic tax credits. The session will also showcase the Georgia Trust's Advocacy Toolkit, a practical resource designed to empower local advocates with the tools and messaging needed to make an impact.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena C

C. The Importance of West African Adinkra Symbols Embossed in Architecture, Corporate Logos, and Daily Use Items

Joyce G.D. Law, CSRA Region Co-Representative, Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network; Diversity Scholar, National Trust for Historic Preservation

Since antiquity, signs and symbols have been used to simplify and accelerate communication in a glance. Adinkra symbols of the Akan region of Ghana, stand out as ancient symbols that intrinsically store fables and philosophy. Global transmission has preserved the use and popularity of dozens of these symbols, originally numbering in the hundreds. The most frequently seen are applied as finishing touches to architecture, quilts, clothing, corporate logos, interior trim, and a vast array of daily use items. Although their traditional names have frequently been adjusted and their meaning either diluted or forgotten, the contemporary applications are still used in a respectful and appropriate manner. Selective symbols in this presentation illustrate how the influence of African art adorns the range of prestigious and simple settings. Enhanced skill in identifying and interpreting these culturally-based attachments increases value to any project where these symbols are present.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena D

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM • Lunch On Your Own

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Session 2

A. The Design Process: From “What’s Wrong with My Building?” to “Open for Business!”

Amanda Brown, Senior Project Manager, Bennett Preservation Engineering; John Bennett, Structural Engineer, Bennett Preservation Engineering

Bennett Preservation Engineering is a structural engineering firm focused exclusively on structural engineering for historic preservation. The staff has extensive preservation experience, is focused on the long-term conservation and maintenance of historic structures, and can advise on, design, and specify repairs for a variety of historic materials.

This presentation will walk through the design process as it relates to historic buildings. The presentation will begin with the evaluation and report phase, emphasizing how this allows the design team to understand the building's history, materials, current conditions, safety concerns, and future use. Building from this initial step, the presentation will explain the subsequent steps of as-built drawings, design development, construction drawings and specifications, and finally, the construction phase.

Case studies from Bennett Preservation Engineering's preservation work will be used to explain the different steps and emphasize the importance of the design process in the overall success of the rehabilitation or renovation project.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena C

B. Historic Preservation Commission Administration Roundtable

Amber Eskew, Preservation Planner, Athens-Clarke County; Nicole Josselson, City of Elberton Historic Preservation Commission member; Kenneth Thompson, City Planner for City of Thomasville

Administration of Certificates of Appropriateness and Historic Preservation Commission Procedures can be accomplished differently depending on the size and sophistication of the jurisdiction. Join a panel discussion with a variety of places represented to discuss the procedural side of local historic preservation programs including staff review, HPC review, inspection and enforcement.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena B

C. Overview of the Preservation of African American Historic Schools in Georgia

Darryl Nettles, Vice-Chair, Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network, Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Augusta University

The session will focus on recognizing, honoring, broadcasting, and preserving the unique contributions of African descendants in Georgia to U.S. history and world history. Representatives of the Georgia African American Historic Preservation Network (GAAHPN), which was formally established in 1989, have compiled a list of sites, places, and



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At Georgia Transmission, we're driven by our commitment to being a good neighbor to communities throughout the Peach State. Being successful in that commitment means doing our part to preserve the stories and lessons from our shared history, which will help shape an even brighter future for Georgia.



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people in Georgia for those interested in African American history. Some of the past preservation efforts have been to reuse, reinvest, and revitalize, especially schools in the state. In this session, we will revisit some of those stories, investigating successes, learning opportunities, and best practices. Space will be provided at the end of the presentation for a discussion on idea transfer. Particular attention will be paid to historic African American schools, both rural and urban, such as Cherry Grove Schoolhouse (Wilkes County); Willow Hill Heritage & Renaissance Center (Portal); Ware High School (Augusta); Athens High and Industrial School (Athens); and Scarboro House (Savannah), among others.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena D

2:30 PM - 2:45 PM • Break

2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Session 3

A. Civil Sights: A Guide to Historic Preservation through Storytelling in Sweet Auburn, Birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement

Gene Kansas, Author, Civil Sights, and Historic Preservationist, Gene Kansas | Commercial Real Estate

This presentation explores award-winning preservationist Gene Kansas' artistic, ethereal, and hands-on approach to historic preservation with readings and discourse centered around his book "Civil Sights" (UGA Press & Georgia Humanities) and through his work in Atlanta's Sweet Auburn historic district. Kansas' work in the Sweet Auburn district transcends conventional preservation, infusing artistic sensibility into the revitalization of Georgia's civil rights landmarks while honoring their spiritual and cultural resonance. Through transformative projects like the historic preservation of the Atlanta Daily World Building and the reimagined Southern School Book Building (home to SNCC in 1963), Kansas demonstrates how preservation becomes both cultural meditation and community revival on an American Main Street.

The presentation will examine how Kansas' methodology creates poetic dialogues between Georgia's historic spaces and contemporary communities, transforming preservation into a form of artistic storytelling. By highlighting his intuitive balance of reverence for place with innovative vision, we'll discuss a unique model of preservation that honors civil rights history while ensuring these sacred spaces continue to inspire and serve as living testaments to the state's rich cultural heritage. The session will provide practical guidance on how this approach can be adopted in other communities, offering a framework for meaningful preservation that balances cultural significance with contemporary purpose.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena B

Kansas will be available to sign copies of his book *Civil Sights* immediately following the session, from 3:45-4:15 in the Community Gathering Room (Athena A). Copies of the book will be available to purchase at the sponsor table.

B. Losing the Saye Building: Power, Preservation, and a Parking Lot

Chris Jackson, Principal, Verity Works LLC; James Reap, Professor Emeritus, College of Environment & Design, University of Georgia and Panel

In 2025, despite strong recommendations for its preservation and a viable private offer to rehabilitate it using historic tax credits, the Athens Mayor and Commission voted to remove the Saye Building from the West Downtown Athens Historic District—clearing the way for its demolition and replacement by a surface parking lot. This summer, the 1911 building was razed - just blocks from where we gather.

This panel brings together professionals from the legal, nonprofit, planning, and preservation communities to examine how the decision unfolded, what it reveals about the limits of local planning and preservation authority, and how public-private collaborations could have offered a better outcome. Panelists will explore the legal implications of the city's settlement agreement, the role of advocacy and public input, and the institutional and political pressures that shaped the result. The session will also highlight how historic tax credits can provide a feasible, sustainable alternative to demolition.

More than a local controversy, the Saye Building case presents a cautionary tale—and a call to action—for preservationists across Georgia.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena C

C. Removal and Relocating Murals

Edward Howard, Architectural Historian, Cultural Resources Management, Fort Benning; Janine Noel, Architectural Historian, Fort Benning, GA

The presentation is to be on an unexplored topic - Intact Removal of Murals (IMR). Cultural Resources Management (CRM) at Fort Benning is looking into the possibility of removing some of its seven c.1970 murals from interior walls and adhering them to portable media such as canvas or plywood. They will soon be under threat for an upcoming renovation. With no published guidance of IMR, CRM has experimented with various innovative methods of removal, some of which have brought limited success. The mural sizes range from 8-20 square feet. While not examples of high artistic talent, these are statements of light humor, appropriate to the former recreation room they decorated, and fine examples of minimalist mid-century cartoon art.

The building itself dates to about 1930 and is NRHP eligible; however, the murals have not yet been evaluated for potential as contributing elements. The building will soon undergo rehabilitation for needed repairs and thus the murals might be under threat.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena D

3:45 PM - 4:00 PM • Break

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Session 4

A. The Georgia Historical Marker Program: Connecting Local Stories to Statewide Narratives

Elyse Butler, Manager of Programs and Special Projects, Georgia Historical Society; Breana James, Historical Marker and Program Associate, Georgia Historical Society

The Georgia Historical Society will supply historic preservation professionals with applicable information about the Georgia Historical Marker Program, a statewide program that offers the public an opportunity to learn about Georgia's history in the places where it happened. Comparing preservation programs and the marker program, the session will highlight the marker program's ability to recognize significant people, places, and events through executive summaries, regardless of the existence of extant structures related to the marker subject. Relevant and local examples to the Athens-Clarke County area will be highlighted on the conference's 2025 location and will include Rosenwald schools, houses of worship, and more. Briefly, the session will share the history of the program and illustrate how communities can get involved through the volunteer-driven marker maintenance program and the regular marker program, in which the Society works with applicants and their communities to erect new historical markers each year.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena B

B. Empowering the Next Generation: The Watson-Brown Foundation's Junior Board Program

Ashleigh Oatts, Curator, Watson-Brown Foundation/ T.R.R. Cobb House Museum; Franke Smith, Curator, Watson-Brown Foundation/ Hickory Hill; Melinda Gales, Education Coordinator, Watson-Brown Foundation/ Hickory Hill; Matt Davis, Director, Washington & Lee University Institutional History Museum and Galleries

Discover how the Watson-Brown Foundation's Junior Board program is cultivating future preservationists through hands-on grantmaking. This session will introduce the structure and goals of the Junior Board, a unique initiative that empowers high school students to research, evaluate, and fund historic preservation projects in their local communities. Current and former program advisors will share insights on student training and mentorship strategies, followed by a case study highlighting a successful student-selected grant project. The session will conclude with a Junior Board alum reflecting on how the program shaped their understanding of history, community service, and leadership. Attendees will leave with actionable ideas for creating youth-focused preservation initiatives in their own communities.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena C

C. Revitalizing Together: Aligning HPCs, Main Streets, and DDAs for Downtown Success

Cherie Bennett, Director, Office of Downtown Development, DCA; Taylor Smith, Economic Development Director, City of Thomaston; Monica Callahan, Director of Planning, City of Madison

Downtown revitalization is most effective when local partners work toward a shared vision. This session will dive into how Historic Preservation Commissions (HPCs), Main Street programs, and Downtown Development Authorities (DDAs) can collaborate to drive strategic, preservation-based economic growth. Each entity brings a unique set of tools, whether it's regulatory oversight, financial incentives, or community-driven planning, and aligning these efforts can accelerate project success and long-term impact. With input from experienced local practitioners, this session will share practical examples of cross-sector collaboration, highlight common challenges, and offer strategies for building trust and shared goals. Whether you're just beginning to coordinate efforts or looking to refine existing partnerships, you'll gain valuable tools and inspiration to strengthen your team's collective impact. Join us to learn how working toward a shared vision can unlock your downtown's full potential.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena D

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Opening Reception

Join us for hors d'oeuvres and drinks at the Founders Memorial House and Garden. Established in 1939 by the University of Georgia College of Environment + Design, the historic garden celebrates the history of American gardening and commemorates the founding of the Ladies Garden Club, now known as the Garden Club of Georgia. The Founders House, dating from the mid-19th century, was the 20th century headquarters of the Garden Club of Georgia. Both now managed by the CE+D, the house, outbuildings, and garden are active teaching environments for students of historic preservation, cultural landscapes, and landscape architecture.

Location: Founders Memorial Garden, 325 Lumpkin Street, Athens, Georgia 30602

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Sessions will be held in The Classic Center - 300 N Thomas St, Athens, GA 30601.

8:30 AM - 9:15 AM

Georgia Alliance of Preservation Commissions Annual Meeting

The Georgia Alliance of Preservation Commissions is pleased to host our annual meeting at this year's Statewide Preservation Conference in Athens. The membership will be presented with the annual report from the Board of Directors. Business items will be voted on if needed. A short PowerPoint will outline the year in review, serving historic preservation commissions across the state of Georgia. Breakfast will be available for the first 50 attendees!

Location: The Classic Center - Athena B

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Session 5

A. 2025 Georgia Statewide Preservation Conference Poster Session

Chad Keller, Director, Master of Historic Preservation Program, Georgia State University

This session is an opportunity for current students and recent graduates (no more than 5 years out) to present their work in a professional setting and introduce them to the larger preservation community of Georgia. Oral presentations may be a bit daunting for those new to the field, and a poster session is a great way for them to gain that first conference experience. Topics will focus on issues impacting historic preservation, public history, or related fields.

Location: The Classic Center - Hallway

B. Preserving the Past, Building the Future: Integrating Historic Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Affordable Housing.

Taneisha Brooks, Equitable Housing Program Director, Historic Athens; Denise Sunta, Engagement Coordinator, Historic Athens; Hattie Whitehead-Descendant of Linnentown & Author, "Giving Voice to Linnentown"

This workshop will explore Historic Athens' Preservation Impact Division, which oversees two preservation-focused rehabilitation programs that align historic preservation with affordable housing. These initiatives rehabilitate historic homes, prevent displacement, and honor cultural legacies while addressing affordable housing needs.

A key focus will be Linnentown, a once-thriving Black neighborhood in Athens displaced by urban renewal. The discussion will highlight the Athens Justice Memory Project, which secured the first-ever reparations for Linnentown descendants. These funds launched the Equitable Home Preservation program, ensuring continued investment in preserving historic homes and stabilizing communities.

Participants will gain insights into engaging stakeholders, building partnerships, and using sustainable practices to transform historic properties into affordable housing solutions. The session will provide practical strategies to apply similar approaches in other communities, promoting both housing stability and cultural preservation.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena C

C. Introduction to Historic Commercial and Residential Types and Styles in Georgia

Joe Smith, Principal, Architectural Collaborative

This presentation was made at past Statewide Conferences and, in modified forms, at various HPC trainings in years prior. It covers the concepts of architectural type vs style, why these two classifications are used, and includes photo examples of Georgia buildings representing the major historical styles popular in the state. Both commercial and residential examples are presented.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena D

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM • Break

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Session 6

A. Laying the Foundation: Unlocking the Impact of High Performing Boards

Victoria Prevatt, Owner, GoodWorks Consulting, LLC

A strong, engaged board of directors is the backbone of any historic preservation nonprofit. This interactive session dives into the “best and next practices” for nonprofit board leadership, equipping participants with practical strategies to foster highly engaged and effective boards. We’ll explore the essential legal and ethical responsibilities of nonprofit boards, trends shaping the nonprofit sector, and ways to inspire board enthusiasm and engagement.

Learn actionable strategies to build stronger nonprofit boards.

- Roles & Responsibilities: Clarify legal and ethical board duties.
- Best and Next Practices: Embrace the tried-and-true strategies, and learn new ways to enhance the board experience.
- Welcome New Ideas: Consider the exciting trends shaping the future of nonprofits.

This session provides clear steps to strengthen your board’s impact – which will strengthen your organization’s impact. Perfect for nonprofit board members and staff, preservation nonprofits, and all community leaders ready to build a strong foundation for success!

Location: The Classic Center - Athena B

B. Survey Options for Local Governments

Moderator: Emily Cochran, Survey Coordinator, Historic Preservation Division, DCA;

Panelists: Chanelle Campbell, City of Kennesaw; Jennifer Dickey, Professor, Kennesaw State University; Jennifer Martin Lewis, Director, Center for Community Design and Preservation, College of Environment + Design, University of Georgia; Hayden Dutton and J. Jones, Master of Historic Preservation Students and FindIt Surveyors; Mark Beatty, Director, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission - Planning and Government Services Unit; Jody Graichen, Historic Preservation Planner, Northeast Georgia Regional Commission - Planning and Government Services Unit

This panel will discuss the options for historic resource surveys for local governments who have not received HPF funding. Certified local governments are eligible to apply for the locally-funded survey program, and have three options in completing the survey: 1) using local funds to hire a consultant to conduct the survey, 2) survey conducted by volunteers, 3) survey conducted by students. The panel will explore the benefits of each option for survey, including the mutual benefit of having students survey for a locality.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena C

C. On the Circuit: Networks of Black Entertainment in Georgia

Moderator: Mary Joseph, Community Outreach Coordinator, DCA;

Panelists: Wes Nimmo, Historian, New South Associates; Renee’ Donnell, Historian/New South Associates; Leigh Burns, Director of Community Partnerships, Fox Theatre; Lynn Green, Facility Supervisor, Morton Theatre

The proposed format for this roundtable discussion will focus on the Georgia Chitlin Circuit Heritage Trail project. Mary Joseph of DCA will act as moderator for the roundtable. Ms. Joseph will introduce the roundtable topic by describing the heritage trail project concept and its goals. Leigh Burns of the Fox Theatre, who has a wealth of knowledge about historic theatres in Georgia, will speak about the Fox Theatre grant program and the importance of funding the heritage trail project study. Lynn Battle Green with the historic Morton Theatre located in Athens, Georgia, will then speak about her knowledge of the Morton Theatre’s role in the Chitlin Circuit and its importance to the story of Black theaters in the state. NSA historians Wes Nimmo and Renee’ Donnell will then speak about the study completed this year, including their research and findings, and discuss specific examples of Chitlin Circuit venues.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena D

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM • Break

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Session 7

A. Transforming Downtowns Through Visualization: The RSVP Program

Danny Bivins, Senior Public Service Associate, University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government; Kaitlin McShea Messich, Public Service Associate, University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government; Chris Higdon, Manager, Community Development Georgia Municipal Association

This session will highlight the Renaissance Strategic Visioning and Planning (RSVP) Program, a preservation planning initiative led by the University of Georgia’s Carl Vinson Institute of Government in partnership with the Georgia Municipal Association, the Georgia Cities Foundation, and the Lyndhurst Foundation. RSVP assists Georgia

communities in revitalizing their historic downtowns through design-based planning, extensive public engagement, and student collaboration. The program integrates preservation planning into strategies that promote walkability, economic resilience, and a strong sense of place. Since 2013, RSVP communities have leveraged more than 500 million dollars in public and private investment through these efforts.

The session will begin with a hands-on five-minute exercise to demonstrate the power of community visualization, one of RSVP's key tools for sparking investment and guiding transformation. Case studies from Gainesville and Bainbridge will illustrate how communities have used visualization and collaboration to align historic preservation with real-world implementation. Attendees will walk away with practical ideas for applying these approaches in their own communities through a scalable, partnership-driven model.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena B

B. Environmental Impacts on Cultural Resources: Basics and Beyond

Cari Goetcheus, Professor, University of Georgia

Since the 1940s, historic preservation professionals and advocates have considered real estate development as the primary threat to historic resources; however, accelerating impacts of temperature, rainfall, drought, sea level rise, and changing wind and soil conditions, has revealed another set of emerging threats.

This presentation will offer an introduction to the variety of ways changing environmental impacts have and are affecting cultural resources, with specific examples of ways to address issues impacting historic buildings, landscapes, and archaeological sites.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena C

C. Locally Designated Historic Tax Credit Program

Molly McLamb, Tax Incentives Program Manager, Historic Preservation Division, DCA; Ryan Stoddard, Tax Incentives Architectural Reviewer, Historic Preservation Division, DCA

The Historic Home tax credit program has been available for over 20 years for homeowners with properties listed on the National Register and the Georgia Register. Legislation passed last year opened this program to include primary residences that are designated at the local level, both individually and in local districts. This session is designed to promote and educate the public on these exciting changes and go through the application process, including how we evaluate eligibility and how we review the proposed work based on DCA's Standards. This session is primarily designed for Local Governments, Non-Profits, Consultants, and Homeowners with homes in Local Historic Districts.

Location: The Classic Center - Athena D





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