



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Augusta Attractions Offer Free Admission on *Smithsonian Magazine's* 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Museum Day

Augusta, GA (25 August 2009)—On Saturday, September 26, 2009, the **Morris Museum of Art, Augusta Museum of History, 1797 Ezekiel Harris House, the Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson, Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art, Lucy Craft Laney Museum, and National Science Center's Fort Discovery** will participate in the fifth annual **Museum Day, presented by *Smithsonian magazine***. A celebration of culture, learning and the dissemination of knowledge, *Smithsonian's* Museum Day reflects the spirit of the magazine, and emulates the free-admission policy of the Smithsonian Institution's Washington, DC-based properties. Doors will be open free of charge to *Smithsonian* magazine readers and Smithsonian.com visitors at museums and cultural institutions nationwide.

Last year, upwards of 200,000 people attended Museum Day, with all 50 states plus Puerto Rico represented by over 900 participating museums, including 84 Smithsonian affiliate museums. This year, the magazine expects to attract over 1,000 museums.

"We're pleased to celebrate National Museum Day with our friends and colleagues at all of Augusta's museums and cultural attractions," stated **Kevin Grogan, director of Augusta's Morris Museum of Art**. "Every day, year in and year out, all of these fine institutions educate, inform, enlighten, and entertain the residents of and visitors to the CSRA, and they contribute significantly to the economic vitality of this community and the quality of life here."

"Museum Day is an outstanding way to participate in a nationwide celebration of the country's cultural offerings," said **Nancy Glaser, executive director of Augusta Museum of History**. "I want to encourage area residents to visit the Museum to experience yesterday today!"

"Augusta is full of fascinating historic sites, including several outstanding historical museums. Just as the Smithsonian is a window on our Nation's past, the Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson is a window on Augusta's past that would ultimately affect the entire Nation as well as the world. Visitors should take the opportunity to experience the 1860s and see how a young boy growing up here during the Civil War would go on to influence our lives, even today," said **Erick Montgomery, executive director of Historic Augusta, Inc.**

"A work of art in its own right, historic Ware's Folly has enthralled architectural enthusiasts for almost two centuries. We are pleased to once again open the doors of Ware's Folly and join

other area attractions for the fifth annual Museum Day. Visitors will be offered the opportunity to view two exceptional collections of contemporary artwork, including the featured finalist in our 2009 national juried fine art competition, *A Sense of Place*, and an exciting exhibit of work by Augusta ceramicist, Shishir Chokshi," said **Rebekah Henry, executive director of Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art.**

**Rob Dennis, president and CEO of National Science Center** said, "Being a part of Smithsonian Museum Day is a great way for National Science Center to become involved with another national organization that recognizes the value of promoting education and learning initiatives."

**Christine Miller-Betts, director of the Lucy Craft Laney Museum** said, "We are delighted for this opportunity to share the Smithsonian Magazine's Annual Museum Day issue with our friends and colleagues from around the nation as we strive to inform and encourage an appreciation of art, history, and preservation to all whom we serve."

Visit [www.smithsonian.com/museumday](http://www.smithsonian.com/museumday) to download your Museum Day Admission Card.

Attendees must present the Museum Day Admission Card to gain free entry to participating institutions. Each card provides museum access for two people, and one admission card is permitted per household. Listings and links to participating museums' can also be found at [www.smithsonian.com/museumday](http://www.smithsonian.com/museumday).

### **Morris Museum of Art**

Founded in 1985, the Morris Museum of Art is the oldest museum in the country that is devoted to the art and artists of the American South. The museum's permanent collection of approximately five thousand paintings, watercolors, drawings, prints, photographs, and sculptures, dating from the late-eighteenth century to the present, is displayed in galleries dedicated to, among other things, antebellum portraiture, the Civil War, genre painting, still life, landscape, Southern Impressionism, and Modernism in the South. It is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., and on Sunday, noon–5:00 p.m. For more information, visit the museum's web site at [www.themorris.org](http://www.themorris.org) or call 706-724-7501.

### **Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History**

The Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History is the former home of Lucy Craft Laney, who made many contributions to Augusta, and the state of Georgia. This unique house museum has four permanent exhibitions: The Lucy Craft Laney Collection; the Ebony Legacy, which reflects the contributions that African Americans have and continue to make in the Central Savannah River Area, which include Frank Yerby, John Hope, John Tutt, Butterfly McQueen, Jessye Norman and many others; The Pilgrim Life and Health Insurance Company; and The Alice Davis and Charles Smith Collection. In addition, we have a small James Brown Collection. The museum is located near the original site of the Haines Normal and Industrial Institute. The Museum also has a Children's Academy program. The museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and closed on Sunday except for special events. For additional information, please call 706-724-3576 or visit our website at [www.lucycraftlaneymuseum.com](http://www.lucycraftlaneymuseum.com). The mission of the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History is to promote the legacy of Lucy Craft Laney through art, history, and the preservation of her home.

### **Augusta Museum of History**

Founded in 1937, the Augusta Museum of History is Augusta's oldest historical agency devoted to the preservation and presentation of local and regional history. Located at 560 Reynolds Street in downtown Augusta, the Museum is home to the award-winning permanent exhibition, "Augusta's Story," a 12,000 year journey through the region's rich and diverse past. In 2005, the Museum achieved accreditation by the American Association of Museums (AAM). The Augusta Museum of History is Augusta's only accredited museum and one of only fourteen in the state. From early Indians to The Godfather of Soul, James Brown, Augusta's history is brimming with the people and the forces that make Augusta a historical journey worth taking. Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm; Sunday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm; Closed Monday. Admission: Adult: \$4 • Senior: \$3 • Child (6-18): \$2 • Child (5 & under): Free. Please call (706) 722-8454 for more information or visit our website [www.augustamuseum.org](http://www.augustamuseum.org).

### **1797 Ezekiel Harris House**

The 1797 Ezekiel Harris House will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Museum Day. Said to be the "finest eighteenth-century house surviving in Georgia", the Ezekiel Harris House is an outstanding example of early Federal style architecture. Fully restored in 1964 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Ezekiel Harris House is a reminder of the days when tobacco was the primary cash crop of Georgia. Hours: Guided tours every Saturday 10:00 am—4:30 pm; Tours *by appointment only* Tuesday—Friday; Closed Sunday & Monday. Admission: Adult and Senior: \$2 • Child: \$1.

### **Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson**

The Boyhood Home of President Woodrow Wilson, an award-winning restoration by Historic Augusta, Inc., is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and has been designated an official "Save America's Treasures" site. It is Georgia's oldest presidential home and is located at 419 Seventh Street. Guided tours are offered on the hour Tuesdays-Saturdays from 10 am-5 pm. The last tour begins at 4 pm. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and \$3 for students. For more information call 706-724-0436 or visit [www.wilsonboyhoodhome.org](http://www.wilsonboyhoodhome.org).

### **Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art**

Founded in 1937, and housed in historic Ware's Folly (c. 1818) and the Walker-Mackenzie Studio (c. 1907), the mission of the Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art has been to provide opportunities for visual arts education and to develop visual arts awareness and appreciation throughout the greater Augusta community. Gertrude Hebert Institute of Art serves as the only independent non-profit visual art school and contemporary art gallery in the Central Savannah River Area. The Institute is proud to offer studio art classes and workshops on an ongoing basis for art enthusiasts of all ages, from beginners to professionals. As a non-profit contemporary art gallery, the Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art presents over 20 exhibitions each year, spotlighting regional, national, and international artists in a variety of styles. WALKER-MACKENZIE STUDIO AND WARE'S FOLLY GALLERY HOURS: Tuesday – Friday, 10am – 5 pm, Saturday by appointment. Free Admission!

### **National Science Center's Fort Discovery**

National Science Center's headquarters, Fort Discovery, is located on the Riverwalk in downtown Augusta. This 128,000 square-foot family-oriented math and science center fires the imaginations of children and adults by making math, science and technology come alive with 250 hands-on exhibits, custom digital theater programs, a portable planetarium, educational workshops and demonstrations. Fort Discovery also serves as the home-base for an array of national educational outreach programs. For more information, please visit our web site at [www.NationalScienceCenter.org](http://www.NationalScienceCenter.org).

## **Smithsonian**

Founded in 1970 with the launch of *Smithsonian* magazine, Smithsonian Media – comprising *Smithsonian* magazine, *Air & Space*, goSmithsonian, Smithsonian Publishing Digital Network, Smithsonian Books and advertising for Smithsonian Channel – allows the intellectually curious to indulge and engage their passions for history, the arts, science, the natural world, culture and travel. Smithsonian Media's flagship publication, *Smithsonian* magazine, has a circulation of more than two million. This multi-media network is also affiliated with the world's most visited museum and research complexes at the Smithsonian Institution. For more information, visit [www.smithsonian.com](http://www.smithsonian.com), [www.airandspacemag.com](http://www.airandspacemag.com), and [www.gosmithsonian.com](http://www.gosmithsonian.com).

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