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The Georgia Museum of Art's Department of Education Successfully Hosts 210 Educational Programs in Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Athens, Ga. -- The Georgia Museum of Art's department of education hosted 210 educational programs that attracted 9,272 visitors for the fiscal year 2008-2009. The programs served state residents of all ages through Art Adventures, Family Days, the Big Read and Senior Outreach, among others. Cecelia Hinton, curator of education, and Carissa DiCindio, associate curator of education, planned and managed every aspect of the programming. The Georgia Art Education Association recognized DiCindio with the museum educator of the year award for her work.

The 2008 summer program, Art Adventures, served 756 people at different venues in Athens-Clarke and surrounding counties and consisted of morning and afternoon sessions that included art activities and introductions to the museum's exhibitions. In the studio workshop, children learned to create their own landscapes from coordinator Bryna Bobick and instructors Erin McIntosh, Jessica Bennett and Catherine Brantle. At the conclusion of the summer session, families were invited to join the open classroom for Family Day: Summer Landscapes.

Family Days, another educational program, drew 3,182 attendees over the course of 18 events. The Georgia Museum of Art welcomes and encourages all families to attend these hands-on, free educational events that serve a diverse and international audience.

After the museum closed for construction in March 2009, Family Days traveled to several different venues in the community, such as the Lyndon House Arts Center and the State Botanical Garden of Georgia. A Silly Sun Visors booth at AthFest hosted 500 people during the local music festival.

The museum joined with UGA Libraries in September 2008 on the Big Read, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services. To work toward restoring reading to the center of American culture, the project implemented events and discussions using the book "Bless Me, Ultima," by Rudolfo Anaya. The Big Read Kick-off Event at the Lyndon House Arts Center was attended by 500 people.

The museum's department of education also offered a three-part Senior Outreach

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Program, prepared by Diane Barret, to involve older adults at local community centers and assisted-living homes. During nine events with 196 in total attendance, the seniors participated in tours, hands-on activities and lectures relating to the paintings of Everett Gee Jackson, one of San Diego's most important modernist artists.

Just My Imagination is a year-round outreach program that offers art workshops for all ages. Artists Jackie Slayton Methe and Toni Carlucci taught the workshops at various state libraries and community centers, including the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library, the State Botanical Garden of Georgia, the Stone Mountain Library and the Jefferson Public Library. Funded by the Turner Family Foundation, Just My Imagination offered 10 workshops, such as "Ink Painting and Printmaking" and "Furry, Fluffy Felt Fun," and had 196 attendees.

The department's film series, sponsored by the UGA Parents and Families Association, offered 13 films that attracted 622 viewers. Hundreds of university students frequented the Latin American, Classic and Summer Film Series and benefited from the introductions given by Janice Simon, Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor in Art at the Lamar Dodd School of Art.

University professors of art history, art education, historic preservation and literature presented to 31 K-12 teachers in the July 2008 Picturing America Teachers Seminar, funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. During the three-day workshop, teachers attended hands-on sessions, lectures, field trips and tours of private collections to learn about how art can illuminate American history and culture in the classroom.

The department of education relied heavily on Jenny Gunn, curatorial assistant, as well as docents, graduate students, student interns, artists, specialists and volunteers, without whom Georgia's official state museum of art could not have reached nearly 10,000 people through its educational programs this past year.

Visit the Georgia Museum of Art website at www.uga.edu/gamuseum or call 706.542.GMOA (4662).

Museum Information

Partial support for the exhibitions and programs at the Georgia Museum of Art is provided by the Georgia Council for the Arts through appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The Council is a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Individuals, foundations and corporations provide additional museum support through their gifts to the Arch Foundation and the University of Georgia Foundation. The Georgia Museum of Art is located in the Performing and Visual Arts Complex on the East Campus of the University of Georgia. The address is 90 Carlton Street, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, 30602. The museum's galleries and shop are now closed in preparation for construction of the museum's expansion. Events and programming will continue while the museum is under construction as part of "GMOA on the Move," a series of off-site events and exhibitions. For more information and event times and locations, please visit www.uga.edu/gamuseum.

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