



Springing Ahead

What an amazing year it has been thus far for the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History. February 2026 was one of the busiest months that I can recall in my 22 years at the museum. We averaged nearly 75 visitors per Saturday for the month, with nearly 800 people coming to the museum for either a tour or to take part in one of our events. There was no drop-off in March as we continued to see excited and inquisitive visitors from all over coming to experience our museum. On April 8th, our Men on the Bag production was viewed by nearly 60 patrons, coming from as far away as Taiwan. What an exciting time it is to work at the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History.



But the great work that we are do can only continue with the support of our community. I thank all of the businesses, organizations and individuals that continue to support us. But I would like to speak not just to our tried and true supporters, but to potential, first-time donors. As most of you know by now, a good portion of our funding in the past came from a grant awarded to us by the city of Augusta. But in their short-sightedness, some of the commissioners and the mayor chose to cut the proverbial legs out from underneath many of the cultural and healthcare institutions in our city. We, the heartbeat of the Garden City deserve better. But as the Executive Director of the Laney Museum I am not going to wait around for the political winds to change.

Help me to be proactive in ensuring the financial stability of the museum by supporting us. This may be one of the most worthwhile investments you can make. Don't take my word for it. Just pay a visit to one of our youth-related programs: the annual quiz bowl, two summer camp sessions, and our summer sewing camps. Parents can't wait to enroll their children and students in many instances stay with us from elementary school through high school graduation. We can continue to have these programs and more with your support!

Thank you again River Region for sticking by us and making it loud and clear that we are one of the crown jewels of the region. We will continue telling the stories of our community, creating public art that visually communicates the importance of our history, and spreading the good news about this marvelous city.

Corey Rogers, Executive Director

Grants received FY 2025 - 2026

- Augusta National Golf Club Community Impact Fund
- Creel-Harison Foundation for Hurricane Helene Restoration
- Destination Augusta for Marketing and Product Development
- JB White Foundation Fund for grant training
- JB White Grant for the purchase of museum management software
- Community Foundation Grant for the museum's Golden Block Griots Oral History project
- Watson-Brown Junior Board grant to record the oral histories of Vietnam Veterans
- Wingstop Charities for Children's programming



Community Partners of the Lucy Craft Laney Museum

InFocus Church • The Greater Augusta Arts Council • Augusta Housing and Community Development

Understanding Food Deserts and Food Swamps

For the March Community Luncheon, The Laney Museum and the Augusta University IRB teamed up for a presentation on food deserts and food swamps that explored related health and cancer risks and highlighted relevant research impacting communities nationally and in the CSRA. Malcolm S. Bevel, PHD, MSPH, an assistant professor of Medicine Cancer Prevention, Control & Population Health at MCG, Augusta University, spoke to a sold-out crowd.

We appreciate the support of our community partners who helped or provided resources for the event - Piedmont, The Cancer Center and Golden Harvest Food Bank - as well as Leo's Produce who provided fresh apples and oranges.



Black History Month

As always, February was a steadily busy month for the museum as visitors and groups from all over visited in celebration of Black History Month. Attendance at the museum reached nearly 800 visitors who enjoyed museum tours or participated in museum programs. Heavily in demand, Corey Rogers, executive director and historian, spoke at multiple community engagements, sharing Augusta's Black History to nearly 350 attendees.



Author Talk and Book Signing - Michael Dock

The Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History welcomed back Michael Dock for the release of his sophomore book, *Addicted to Chaos: Solomon's Remorse*. Michael Dock, aka The Wednesday Gentleman, is a graduate of Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School and the University of Georgia. Last year, Mr. Dock made his debut appearance at the Laney Museum with his first book, *Addicted to Chaos: The Prelude*.



Advanced Placement Students Visit the Laney Museum

In March, the Laney Museum hosted over 100 students taking Advanced Placement African American History courses throughout the Richmond County High Schools.

The theme of the tour was the History of African American Churches in Augusta, 1787-1970. Executive Director Corey Rogers coordinated a fascinating tour route that highlighted churches in Augusta's downtown.

Students stopped off for tours at Springfield Baptist Church, given by Aveda Wright and for tours at Tabernacle Baptist Church, given by Autumn Smith. Tours at the Laney Museum were given by Corey Rogers and Toni Dean and included a special visit from the late author and Haines alum Frank Yerby, played by Leon Maben.



New ESPN series will feature The Patch

Augusta University's Latria Graham was interviewed at the Laney Museum this spring for an Augusta-focused episode of a new golf-related ESPN series, *Where it Lies*. Producer Annie Hayes says, "the show is about municipal golf courses, the communities that support them, the people who play them, and the histories behind them." Graham was interviewed about the history of Augusta's Municipal Golf Course, aka "The Patch".

The journalist says she first learned about the "The Patch" and the story of Augusta's Black Caddies while attending a performance of the Laney Museum's *Augusta's Black Caddies: Men on the Bag*.

In its May/April 2024 issue, *Garden and Gun* Magazine featured her article, "Masters of the Green: The Black Caddies of Augusta National."



Quiz Bowl

The Laney Museum held its annual Quiz Bowl this past March with two returning teams, Old Storm Branch Baptist Church and Judah United. The students enjoyed vigorous and competitive rounds of questions on black history and current events. Old Storm Branch retained its multi-year streak of being the Laney Museum's Quiz Bowl Champions.



Augusta Mini Theatre Exhibition

The Laney Museum highlighted the 50-year anniversary of the Augusta Mini Theatre with an exhibit this past February and March that included rarely seen photos of students from the 1970s to present. The theatre's luncheon was held in conjunction with the exhibit and featured Augusta Mini Theatre Alumni and staff who shared stories about the Augusta Mini and its impact on their lives. Mr. Tyrone Butler started the organization in 1975, meeting at the Wallace Branch Library on Laney-Walker Boulevard. In 2008, the Augusta Mini Theatre moved into a 9,333 square-foot building on 11 acres on Deans Bridge Road. In February, it held a ribbon-cutting for its new 142-seat theater.



New Exhibit - African American Cotillions

In partnership with the Rosa T. Beard Debutante Club and in celebration of its 61st Cotillion this past March, the Laney Museum opened up its newest exhibition, "African American Cotillions: History, Culture, Tradition". The opening kicked off with a lecture by Dr. Nikita Harris, Cotillion Historian and Curator and also founder of the National Black Debutante Project, who gave an historical overview on the history of black cotillions dating back to the 18th century with roots in Europe. The African American Cotillions exhibit will be on display at the Laney Museum March 29 - May 9.



Upcoming Exhibit: The Arc of the Caddie

The Arc of The Caddie merges a traditional interpretive exhibition with the power of live museum theater. The Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History gallery floor will transform into a stage, seating guests within a central 180-degree arc. Surrounded by memorabilia, music, interpretive artistry, and immersive storytelling, attendees will observe history in motion... while sitting within it. This bold initiative is a groundbreaking work of living history theater. The Arc of The Caddie is a first-of-its-kind multi-media exhibition that breathes life into Black golf history, forging a powerful, dynamic connection between the audience and the objects on display. As an immersive interpretation of a rich cultural history, this multi-sensory journey provides a powerful tool for deepening the audience's engagement with a profound history of the Black caddie that spans more than two centuries. The Arc of The Caddie Interpretive Exhibition will run mid-May - July. The Arc of The Caddie Live Museum Theater performances occur on select dates only in June and in July. The theater performance will include excerpts from the Augusta Black Caddies: Men on the Bag experience.



35th Anniversary of the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History

The museum celebrates 35 years on June 8, 2026. Multiple celebrations are planned throughout the year. The first weekend in June, the museum will host an anniversary celebration weekend focusing on history, culture and fun. Stay tuned for more details.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Leon Maben, former Laney Museum Board President on being recognized in February as a Living Legend at the 2026 Crown Kingdom Cultural Center Living Legends Awards Service.



Visit us on
Facebook
for the latest
news and special
announcements!

New Admission Fees: Effective starting April 1, 2026

- Adults: \$10.00
- Seniors: \$7.00
- Military: \$7.00
- Under 17 remains at \$3.00 dollars

Augusta's Black Caddies: Men on the Bag

The Museum's April performance of Augusta's Black Caddies: Men on the Bag was packed with golf enthusiasts from around the world who were in town for the 2026 Masters Golf Tournament at the Augusta National. Men on the Bag highlights the careers of two black caddies, Willie "Cemetery" Perteet, personal caddy to President Eisenhower, and Willie "Pappy Stokes", known as the Godfather of Black Caddies. After the performance, audience members enjoyed a Q&A session which gave a behind-the-scenes look at the world of caddies. Panelists were - Living Legend caddies Tommy "Burnt Biscuit" Bennett; Otis "Buck" Moore; Lawrence Bennett, chauffer supervisor and manager of the Green Jackets Closet at the Augusta National Golf Club as well as Cora Collier Thomas and Vanessa Peterson Fox, daughters of deceased caddies.



The Patch

The Lucy Craft Laney staff attended the March grand opening of newly renovated "Patch" - the Augusta Municipal Golf Course. It was such a great honor to be a part of this celebration which honored long-time Laney Museum supporter - Mr. Jim "Big Boy" Dent with the naming of Jim Dent Way - a captivating and scenic entrance lined with rolling hill views that welcomes golf lovers to this historic course.

Mr. Dent was a PGA Tour, pioneering golfer from Augusta, the Sand Hills Community, whose golfing career began as a caddy at golf courses here in the Garden City. Dent would later go on to become a professional golfer after perfecting his swing at Augusta Municipal Golf Course under the mentorship of Lawson "Red" Douglas. Dent passed away on May 2, 2025.

In the photo: Cynthia Riley, Leon Maben, Toni Dean, Corey Rogers

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Exhibition Schedule

March - May 9:	African American Cotillions
May - July:	Arc of the Caddie
July - August:	Solo Exhibition Theron Cartwright
September - October:	“The Scoop and The Tea: The History of African American Barber Shops and Beauty Salons in Augusta”
November - December:	Annual Quilting Exhibition with the Brown Sugar Stitchers

Upcoming Events

May 15	Golf Tournament Reception and Induction Ceremony with National Caddie Hall of Fame President Jeff Harrison Inducting Nathaniel “Ironman” Avery, Arnold Palmer's 4x winning Black Caddie
May 2	Golden Blocks Block Party Health and Resource Fair 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
May 16	Laney Museum's 10th Annual Golf Tournament, Back at The Patch
May 16	America 250: Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Prince Hall 4:00 PM
June 1 - 5	Summer Camp Session 1 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
June 8 - 12	Summer Camp Session 2 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

The poster features a teal background with a pattern of golden confetti. At the top right, a green box contains the text: "MAY 2ND 11AM-2PM 12TH And PHILLIP ST." The main text reads: "TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH GOLDEN BLOCKS Block Party HEALTH & RESOURCE FAIR". Below this, it says: "FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR ALL AGES, FREE RESOURCES, FREE FOOD AND FREE ENTERTAINMENT". At the bottom, there are logos for: a purple circular logo with a figure, DPH (Department of Health), The Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History and Community Center, a pink stylized logo, a colorful hand logo, Piedmont AUGUSTA, and the AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY Institutional Review Board.

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Photos



GAM Awards



Museum visitors and retired nurses



Museum Visitors From Out of State



Museum App and Miss Laney Reenactor



Retired Nurses visiting museum



Museum App and Mr. Yerby Reenactor

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10th Annual Golf Tournament



Lucy Craft Laney Museum ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**SOLD
OUT!**

Sat., May 16, 2026

Back at The PATCH Golf Course!

1928 Jim Dent Way, Augusta, GA 30909

Honoring Nathaniel "Ironman" Avery, Black Caddie for Arnold Palmer
Celebrating Mr. Avery's induction to the Caddie Hall of Fame with Hall of Fame President
Jeff Harrison on May 15th at The Augusta Municipal Golf Course (The Patch)



The Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

- Four-person best ball tournament (*Captain Choice*)
- Location: The Augusta Municipal Golf Course (The Patch)
- Tournament Check In: 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
- Tee-time: 9:00AM - Shotgun Start
- Golfer's Entry Fee: \$110 per Golfer
 - Early Bird: Now - May 10th
 - \$125.00 per Golfer after May 10th
- *No Onsite Registration. Limited to 120 Golfers*
- Registration includes One Museum Tour Admission
- Tournament Meal sponsored by The Patch Culinary Team
- Golf Tournament Reception on Friday, May 15th, 6:00PM - 9:00PM at The Patch. Special Guest Jeff Harrison, President of the National Caddie Hall of Fame with the Induction of Black Caddie Nathaniel "Ironman" Avery. Tournament Reception is not open to the public.

**Call 404-488-3207 to reserve your spot
or register at LucyCraftLaneyMuseum.com**



James and Jocelyn Vincent



Andrew Reese



The Harris Group



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Delta House, Inc.

The Lucy Craft Laney

MUSEUM OF BLACK HISTORY
AND CONFERENCE CENTER

(706) 724-3576

AFRICAN AMERICAN COTILLIONS

HISTORY • CULTURE • TRADITION


MARCH 29 - MAY 9

Experience the beauty, tradition, and legacy of African American cotillions.



Free and open to the public!

Opening Lecture

 Sunday, March 29
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

A.R. Johnson Magnet School
1324 Laney Walker Blvd.
Augusta, GA 30901

Dr. Nikita Y. Harris
Cotillion Historian & Curator



NATIONAL BLACK
DEBUTANTE
PROJECT



Saturday
May 16th
4:00pm



CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PRINCE HALL

Join the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History, in partnership with Meadow Garden, the Home of George Walton, on Saturday, May 16th at 4:00 p.m., in the Lucy Craft Laney Museum Conference Room, as we celebrate America 250 by highlighting the life and legacy of Prince Hall, namesake of Prince Hall Freemasonry.

Our guest speaker will be **Mr. Dave Gillarm**, Grand Historian for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia.

This event is free and open to the public.

Please RSVP to Cynthia Riley
at 706-724-3576 or
cynthia@lucycraftlaneymuseum.com no
later than Wednesday, May 13th.

1116 Phillips Street, Augusta, GA 30901
706.724.3576 • LucyCraftLaneyMuseum.com

Mr. Dave Gillarm



Delta House, Inc.
The Lucy Craft Laney
MUSEUM OF BLACK HISTORY



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LUCY CRAFT LANEY MUSEUM
OF BLACK HISTORY

Summer Camp

Camp One: June 1 - 5, 2026

Camp Two: June 8 - 12, 2026

Grades 2nd through 8th • 9 a.m. to Noon

Teaching children the value of
ART, HISTORY & PRESERVATION

Activities include: Journal Writing, Field Trips, Educational Workshops,
Financial Literacy, Arts and Crafts, Sign Language, Sewing
and Etiquette Classes and a Celebration of Juneteenth

Cost: \$20 dollars for one week of camp



To reserve a space, and for volunteering opportunities please
call 706-724-3576. (Limited slots, so you don't want to miss out.)

The Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History • 1116 Phillips Street; Augusta, GA 30901

www.LucyCraftLaneyMuseum.com