



Monthly Report- November 2008  
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**Tourism Product Development Grants** – Posted on [www.marketgeorgia.org](http://www.marketgeorgia.org) Deadline is December 30, 2008. Maximum grant amount for this round is \$8,000. Match must be at least 60% cash; in-kind can be up to 40%.

**Group Tour Boot Camp** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> session of the Group Tour Boot Camp will be held in Macon at the Georgia Music Hall of Fame December 11-12, 2008. There is **NO COST** to attend the Boot Camp! Overnight accommodations are available at the Hilton Garden Inn Macon/ Mercer University for \$109.00 per night. Please confirm your attendance with Katie Baasen at [kbaasen@georgia.org](mailto:kbaasen@georgia.org)

**Consumer Travel Show Co-op Opportunities** – There are several consumer travel shows with co-op opportunities available with the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Contact Pam Kruseck, Consumer Sales Mgr, at 404.962.4175 or email Pam at [pkruseck@georgia.org](mailto:pkruseck@georgia.org) if you have any questions. The Classic South Travel Association will be participating in the Savannah Southern Women's Show in February with Pam and we need volunteers to work the Show- please let me or Beda Johnson know if you can help work this show. It is a great opportunity to market your community and or attractions!

**Calendar of Events:** The Georgia Calendar of Events publication will soon be going to press so please make a special effort to go to the [www.exploregeorgia.org](http://www.exploregeorgia.org) website and enter all your events for 2009. They will be pulling information from the website database within the next 2 weeks.

The GDEcD is pleased to partner with the **Governor's Agriculture Commission** in planning a celebration of '**Ag Week 2009**' at the state's **Visitor Information Centers (VICs)**. The week long celebration will take place **March 15 - 22, 2009**. More than 13 million travelers stop by Georgia's 11 Visitor Information Centers each year to find helpful Information Specialists who offer travel information, directions and much more on Georgia's destinations and attractions. "We believe this is a perfect venue to showcase our state's diverse agricultural products and our growing numbers of agritourism operations", said **Gilda Watters**, managing director of the **Georgia Tourism Foundation**. "Additionally, it is an ideal venue to educate tourists and locals on how Georgia's number one industry - agriculture - impacts our economy and environment." More information will be available soon.

**The Grassroots Arts Program** has just announced the grants that have been issued to the various arts organizations in the region. Thanks to the Greater Augusta Arts Council for working with our Classic South communities to provide them with some very beneficial arts grants that will help promote the arts in the Classic South. Those counties receiving funding are : Burke, Columbia, Lincoln, Richmond, Hancock, McDuffie, Taliaferro, Warren, Glascock, Johnson and Washington Counties. If you have any questions about the Grassroots Arts Program please call the Greater Augusta Arts Council in Augusta 706.826.4702.

### Upcoming Events:

- December 5, 2008:** Georgia Holiday Celebration- Georgia Visitor Center on I-20 in Augusta. For more information contact the Visitor Center staff at 706.737.1447 or email [augusta@georgia.org](mailto:augusta@georgia.org)
- January 20, 2009:** Classic South Travel Association Meeting- 10:00am at the McDuffie Museum on Main Street in Thomson- Guest speaker will be Gilda Watters from the Ga. Dept. of Economic Development. Gilda will be highlighting the new Creative Economies Marketing Initiative
- January 27, 2009:** Tourism Day at the Capitol in Atlanta.
- March 1-2, 2009:** Save the Date for the 2009 Winter Chautauqua Conference in Dalton.
- April 20-21, 2009:** The **2009 Techno Tourism Conference** will be held at the Classic Center in Athens. The conference will focus on social networking tools, campaigns and demonstrations showcasing applications on a PC. More information will be available soon.

