

BRIEFING BOOK

Board of Directors Meeting | November 15, 2023



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GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FIRST QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS, FISCAL YEAR 2023

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On the cover: In [Thomasville](#), known as Georgia’s Rose City, experience a vibrant downtown revitalized by public-private partnerships and visionary local leaders. Museums, historic homes, restaurants, and small businesses are tucked around every corner of this picturesque small town.

COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS



The “Art of Georgia” exhibit highlights the talents of Georgia artists and the uniqueness of the state. Selected by the Georgia Council for the Arts and the Office of the Governor, the artworks are displayed in the Governor’s Mansion and the State Capitol.

QUARTERLY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

1. Bridge, Project, and Arts Education grants

In July, Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) announced that more than \$3.5 million in competitive grant funding will be distributed to recipients across the state as part of its [Bridge, Project, and Arts Education grants](#). A total of 269 grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 were awarded as part of the state’s initial disbursement for fiscal year 2024. Grants for this first round reached 47 counties in the state.

2. Second round grant applications

GCA received 57 Cultural Facilities Grant applications and 60 Vibrant Communities Grant applications in August. Cultural Facilities requests total more than \$2.2 million and Vibrant Communities requests total \$278,000. Cultural Facilities Grants help arts organizations carry out capital projects on their facilities, while Vibrant Communities Grants are specifically for rural communities that did not receive grants in the first round of funding.

3. Art of Georgia exhibit announced

In August, GCA announced the chosen entries for the [“The Art of Georgia IV: Landscapes”](#) exhibit, highlighting work from contemporary Georgia artists. Since 2012, the “Art of Georgia” exhibits have displayed 398 works of art by 276 Georgia artists. This year, a total of 98 pieces were selected from 81 artists representing 39 counties from all regions of the state, making it the largest-ever “Art of Georgia” exhibit.

4. New Council Members

Governor Brian Kemp appointed three new members to the Council, who will each serve a three-year term: Bryan Brooks, Atlanta; Linda Nicholson, Barnesville; and Joanne Chesler Gross, Atlanta. In addition, State Representative Kasey Carpenter, Dalton; and State Senator Emanuel Jones, Ellenwood were named ex-officio members of the Council.

CENTER OF INNOVATION



The AgTech team visited MarJac Poultry in Gainesville at the invitation of GDEcD Board Member Mulham Shbeib. Tours and meetings with leadership provided an in-depth understanding of company's most recent expansion.

QUARTERLY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

1. 4 Fungi's Regenerative to build greenhouse facility in Metter

An AgTech client, [4 Fungi's Regenerative](#) announced it will establish a sustainable controlled environment agriculture (CEA) and food production company in Metter, creating almost 50 new jobs and \$27 million in investment. In partnership with the Georgia Grown Innovation Center, the Center of Innovation helped 4 Fungi's grow from an incubator to its first standalone facility.

2. Manufacturing team awards Commercialization Grant

The Manufacturing team recently awarded a Center of Innovation Commercialization Grant to Georgia Southern University to support research needs for a local Statesboro company. More to come!

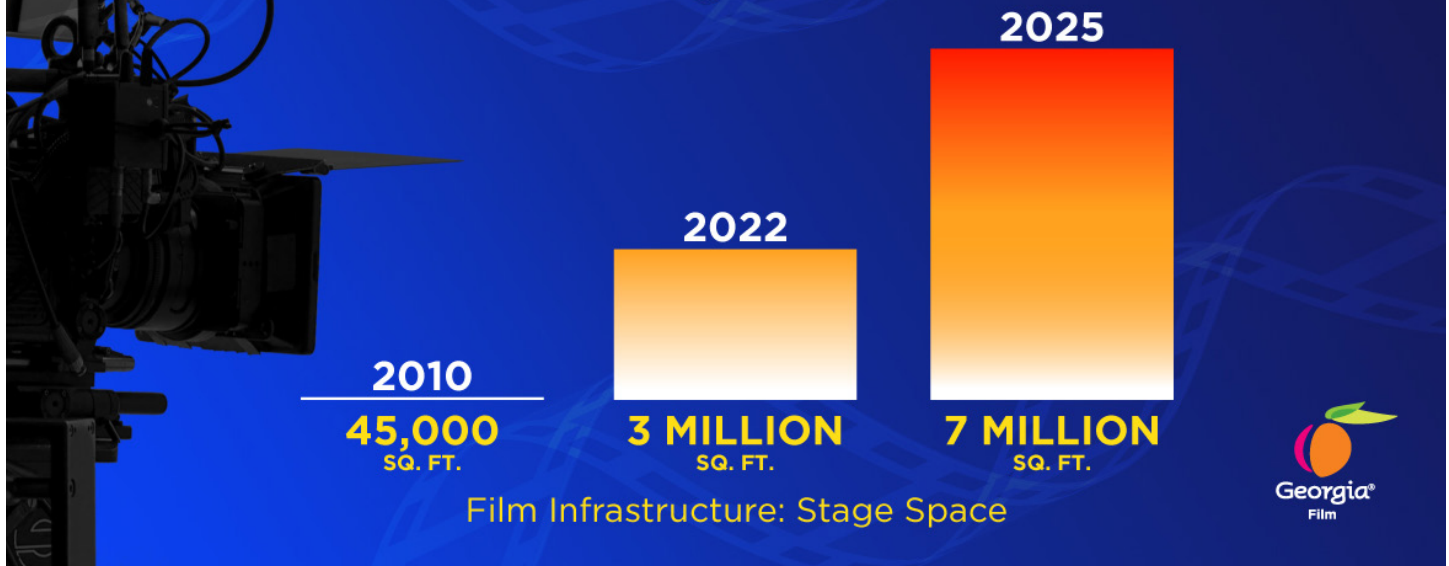
3. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta industry roundtable

In August, Executive Director David Nuckolls participated in a diverse roundtable and listening session with Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta President Raphael Bostic and Federal Reserve Governor Michelle Bowman. During this roundtable he presented some of the trends the Center of Innovation team sees in local industry as well as the recent economic development successes of the Department.

4. Albany Rotary Club presentation

In September, Nuckolls spoke to the Rotary Club of Albany about the Center of Innovation and the ways its teams can support local industry.

Georgia's Film Stage Space is 2nd-Highest in U.S.



According to a recent report out of Los Angeles, Georgia has now surpassed New York as the state with the second-highest amount of soundstage footage in the U.S., and is poised to become No. 1 if this growth continues as projected.

QUARTERLY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

1. Celebrating 50 years of the Georgia Film Office, film, TV productions spend \$4.1B in FY23

As the state celebrates 50 years of the Georgia Film Office, fiscal year 2023 was another blockbuster for the film and television industry as [productions spent \\$4.1 billion in Georgia](#). The State of Georgia hosted 390 productions, including 31 feature films, 55 independent films, and 241 television and episodic productions in addition to commercials and music videos between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, despite a shortened production calendar due to the Writers Guild of America and Screen Actors Guild strikes.

2. Georgia film impact: For every \$1 spent, \$6.30 is returned to Georgia

A recent Georgia Screen Entertainment Coalition study found that Georgia's film industry is responsible for \$3.54 billion in labor value and \$5.54 billion of additional economic value. Every \$1 in film tax credits generates \$6.30 in economic impact for the state. Film tourists spent \$172 million in the state in 2022.

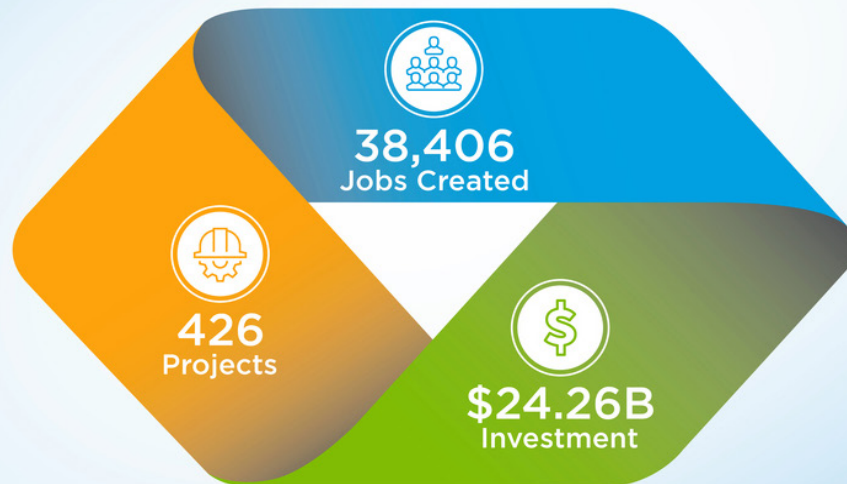
3. Cinespace Studios acquires EUE/Screen Gems studio

In late September, Cinespace Studios acquired the former EUE/Screen Gems studio campus in Atlanta. This move is part of Cinespace's efforts to provide a diverse portfolio of studios and resources to accommodate productions of all sizes under one global network.

4. "Georgia Unscripted Roadshow" shows local impact of entertainment industry

The Georgia Film Office has been participating in all of the Georgia Entertainment News "Georgia Unscripted Roadshow" events. The event highlights Georgia's creative economy and the impact of the entertainment industry in each community. Featuring educational panels and networking opportunities, the Roadshow has visited Athens, Marietta, Roswell, Augusta, Columbus, and Warner Robins.

Georgia Economic Development FY23 Year-End Totals



Georgia broke economic development records for the third year in a row. The state has experienced consistent growth with annual investment increasing 131% and job creation up 19% compared to three years ago.

QUARTERLY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

1. Governor Kemp accepts prestigious James A. Van Fleet Award on behalf of GDEcD

At the Korea Society's 2023 Annual Dinner in New York, Governor Kemp accepted its signature honor, the [James A. Van Fleet Award](#), on behalf of GDEcD. Established in 1992, the award is presented annually "to one or more distinguished Koreans or Americans in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the promotion of U.S.-Korea relations." At least 144 facilities with Korean parent companies operate in the state, and over the last three years, Korea has committed to creating more jobs in Georgia than any other country through foreign direct investment.

2. Georgia breaks economic development records for third year in a row

For the third year in a row, the state of Georgia [broke economic development records](#) during fiscal year 2023 (FY23). Total investments in facility expansions and new locations totaled more than \$24 billion, resulting in 38,400 new jobs through 426 projects supported by the Global Commerce team. When excluding the two largest projects in state history – Rivian and Hyundai Motor Group – from the previous year's job creation figures, total jobs as a result of FY23 projects exceeded the previous record by more than 2,800 new positions. Annual investment totals have also increased by 131% over the last three years.

3. Rural investment growth

During the past 10 years throughout Georgia's 118 designated "rural" counties with a population under 50,000, communities have welcomed 1,567 project locations or expansions bringing more than 74,000 jobs and over \$23 billion in investment into communities.

4. Small business outreach

With more than 1.1 million small businesses that call Georgia home, GDEcD continues to work alongside sister agencies to maximize awareness of available state resources and grow support. GDEcD's Director of Small Business Outreach represented GDEcD at the Georgia Department of Revenue's (DOR) inaugural Small Business Advisory Group meeting. This group was formed by DOR to provide guidance on how to best serve Georgia's growing small business community.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Governor Kemp, First Lady Marty Kemp, Commissioner Pat Wilson, Director of Korean Investment Yoonie Kim, and the International Relations team warmly welcomed Korean Consul General Sangpyo Suh to Georgia.

QUARTERLY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

1. Economic development mission in Montréal, Quebec

In advance of the SEUS-CP conference, members of GDECD's International Relations, International Trade, Communications, and Global Commerce teams visited Quebec to meet with existing Canadian industries and potential investors. They also caught up with representatives in Georgia's Montréal office, who provide on-the-ground insights and connections for Georgia businesses looking to export their products to Canada.

2. Ireland delegation visits Georgia ahead of 2024 gridiron matchup in Dublin

In preparation for next year's "Aer Lingus Classic" between Georgia Tech and Florida State, a delegation from Ireland visited Georgia. Led by Minister Dara Calleary, the group was joined by Irish Consul General to Georgia, Caoimhe Ní Chonchúir. Mark your calendars: the Yellow Jackets will be playing at Dublin's Aviva Stadium on August 24, 2024.

3. Korean and Guatemala Consuls General welcomed to Georgia

Governor Kemp, First Lady Marty Kemp, Commissioner Wilson, and the International Relations team welcomed Korean Consul General Sangpyo Suh and Guatemalan Consul General Erwin Roberto Archila Falla. These meetings with the Consuls General reinforced the long-standing partnerships with both countries and Georgia. During the previous three fiscal years, Korea led in foreign direct investment in the Peach State. Announced economic development projects from a diverse array of industries across the state from Korea will create more than 12,600 new jobs and \$10.3 billion in investment.

4. Meeting with Japanese Consul General ahead of SEUS-Japan

Governor Kemp, Commissioner Wilson, and the International Relations team held a formal meeting with Japanese Consul General Mio Maeda at Georgia's State Capitol. Japan has been one of the state's top three investors and trading partners for many years, contributing to thousands of jobs. This year, Georgia is celebrating 50 years since then-Governor Jimmy Carter opened Georgia's Tokyo office, and also the 50th anniversary of the opening of Japan's Consulate General in Atlanta.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE



In September, the International Trade team took four Georgia companies to pursue business development opportunities at defense and securities trade show DSEI.

QUARTERLY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

1. Trade team hosts Georgia defense sector exporters at DSEI in London

Georgia exhibited at the Defense & Security Equipment International (DSEI) trade show in collaboration with GDEcD's UK trade representative to help Georgia exporters identify and arrange meetings with potential distributors, representatives, partners, and end users. CodeMettle (Sandy Springs), InVeris Training Solutions (Suwanee), Pyrotechnic Specialties Incorporated (Byron), and Trenton Systems (Duluth) participated in the September event. In 2022, Georgia exports of selected defense and security products totaled \$9.2 billion.

2. Metro Export Challenge "Pitch Day" grant competition

In August, six metro Atlanta companies competed in front of a live audience for \$30,000 in grant funding to support their export growth. [Pitch Day](#) was organized and hosted by Metro Atlanta Chamber, and GDEcD Deputy Commissioner Mary Waters served on the judges' panel. The top three grant winners were: first place, Jetaire Group (Fayette County); second place, Safely (Fulton County); and third place, Urban Tea Party (DeKalb County).

3. Export grant funding awarded by U.S. Small Business Administration

Georgia was awarded its fourth consecutive State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration in September. The award makes an additional \$136,000 in financial support available to eligible Georgia small business exporters through [GDEcD's Go Global Georgia initiative](#). This competitive, reimbursable grant program is for international-related activities that build export capacity and promote increased global sales. The Go Global program has supported more than \$18.2 million in exports from Georgia businesses.

4. Georgia participates in Southeast U.S.-Canadian Provinces (SEUS-CP) Conference

Former GDEcD Commissioner and current Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr led the official delegation to the 14th annual SEUS-CP conference in July, demonstrating the strength of Georgia's partnership approach to economic development and government. Delegates attending the conference in St. John's, Newfoundland, met key business contacts in the green and blue economies. The SEUS-CP Alliance enhances trade and investment opportunities and reinforces the importance of the long-standing U.S.-Canada relationship.



At the 2023 Georgia Governor's Tourism Conference in September, Governor Kemp announced that the state saw record levels of visitation and spending in 2022.

QUARTERLY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

1. Governor Kemp announces record-breaking year for tourism

Presented by Explore Georgia, the 2023 Georgia Governor's Tourism Conference drew more than 400 tourism industry professionals from across the state. Governor Kemp announced that Georgia achieved a [record-breaking year](#) for tourism in calendar year 2022, welcoming the largest number of visitors the state has ever seen. Kemp shared that 167.7 million domestic and international visitors in 2022 brought in \$39.8 billion in spending, surpassing the previous record set in 2019 by \$2 billion. The tourism industry also generated a record \$4.7 billion in state and local tax revenue, a 10.1% increase over the previous record year of 2021.

2. American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) Annual Meeting & Exposition 2023

In August, Explore Georgia and tourism partners from across the state made an impact at ASAE 2023. As the largest generator of business for Georgia's meetings and conventions destinations, the trade show's location in Atlanta this year allowed Georgia to exhibit the strongest statewide convention marketing presence to date, showcasing 13 destinations from across the state to thousands of association professionals looking for the optimal spots for their organization's future meetings.

3. Georgia captures eight rankings in Travel + Leisure's World's Best Awards

Readers of Travel + Leisure, one of the world's leading travel publications reaching 16 million readers every month, voted multiple Georgia travel destinations and brands into top spots across eight categories of the magazine's World's Best Awards for 2023. The Golden Isles won the No. 1 best U.S. islands, No. 13 best islands in the world, and two of the top 10 resorts in the South, The Cloister and The Lodge at Sea Island. Savannah was named one of the Top 5 favorite U.S. cities, with a Top 10 domestic airport and Perry Lane as the city's best hotel. Atlanta's InterContinental Buckhead, an IHG Hotel, was voted the best in the city, and Delta Air Lines placed in the Top 3 domestic airlines.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **November 15: [U.S. Travel Association's Future of Travel Mobility Conference](#) – Washington, D.C.**
Explore Georgia representatives will gather with global travel and business leaders, government officials, and policy makers to engage on central issues shaping travel mobility's future, including innovative and emerging travel, seamless and secure travel, and sustainable travel.
- **November 28-29: [Georgia Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus \(GACVB\) Group Sales Symposium 2023](#) – Brookhaven**
Presented by the GACVB and the Southeast Tourism Society (STS), professionals from the 13 STS-affiliated states and Washington, D.C. will join field experts from across the country to network and learn applicable techniques.
- **November 29-December 1: [Economix](#) – Atlanta**
GDEcD's Global Commerce team will join site selectors and economic developers from around the country at The Battery in Cobb County to share insights and practical tools to enhance work in their communities.
- **December 3-7: [Travel South International Showcase 2023](#) – Memphis, Tennessee**
More than 400 tourism professionals participate in three days of intensive meetings with the goal of driving more visitation to the South.
- **December 4-6: [State International Development Organizations \(SIDO\) Best Practices Conference](#) – Savannah**
Georgia's success in trade and investment will be shared with trade leaders from across the U.S. as they convene to share best practices in export promotion and learn firsthand about Georgia's partnership approach to economic development.
- **January 23-26, 2024: [Shooting, Hunting, and Outdoor Trade \(SHOT\) Show](#) – Las Vegas, Nevada**
The National Shooting Sports Foundation's annual event includes advanced manufacturers located in Georgia such as Glock, H&K, Remington Firearms (RemArms), Norma Precision Inc., and Taurus USA.
- **January 29-31, 2024: [Georgia Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus \(GACVB\) Annual Conference](#) – Cartersville**
The GACVB's annual conference unites tourism professionals from across the state with industry suppliers as well as travel and hospitality affiliates to share successes and find solutions in promotions and product development.
- **January 29-31, 2024: [Travel and Tourism Research Association Marketing Outlook Forum 2024](#) – Houston, Texas**
Explore Georgia's research team will discover the latest strategies, data, and tools that help inform and drive innovative business decisions.
- **January 29-February 1, 2024: [Arab Health](#) – Dubai, UAE**
Led by GDEcD's International Trade team, a delegation of seven Georgia healthcare companies will participate in the trade show, which attracts more than 68,000 healthcare professionals, distributors, and importers from Europe, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, and Asia. Georgia is exhibiting for the 11th consecutive year.
- **February 7-10, 2024: [SCAD aTVfest*](#) – Atlanta**
Professionals from all spheres of TV and media content production participate in this international festival in Savannah to discuss industry trends, showcase the best work, and participate in master classes with students being trained in this Georgia industry.
- **February 13-March 7, 2024: [Atlanta Jewish Film Festival*](#) – Atlanta**
A multi-week cinematic exploration of Jewish life, culture, and history, this festival is well-attended annually, drawing festival-goers to Georgia theaters. With well-known Georgia sponsors from business, nonprofit, and creative organizations including Georgia Council for the Arts, AJFF has become one of the most prestigious Jewish film festivals in the world.
- **February 23, 2024: [Poet Laureate's Prize application deadline](#)**
Affiliated with Georgia Council for the Arts, the annual competition is designed to encourage students in grades nine through 12 to write original poems and engage in the art form of poetry.
- **March 22-24, 2024: [Atlanta International Documentary Film Festival \(Atlanta DocuFest\)](#) – Atlanta**
For 19 years, the annual Atlanta International Documentary Film Festival (Atlanta DocuFest) brings the best in independent documentary film and video from across the globe to Georgia's capital city, drawing visitors and spotlighting Georgia's place in the global film community.
- **May 16, 2024: [Georgia Logistics Summit](#) – Savannah**
Presented by the Center of Innovation, the Georgia Logistics Summit is the Southeast's premier supply chain and logistics event. The 2024 Summit will focus on regional and state issues surrounding this critical ecosystem in driving Georgia's growth.

**Film festival passes are often available for Board Members. Please contact the Film Office if interested.*

DIVISION PROFILES

COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) empowers the arts industry in Georgia and artists around the state to cultivate healthy, vibrant communities that are rich in civic participation, cultural experiences, and economic prosperity. As a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Georgia Council for the Arts provides grant funding, programs, and services statewide that support this vital industry, preserve our cultural heritage, and create increased access to high-quality arts experiences.

Contact: Tina Lilly, Executive Director | 404.962.4827 | tlilly@gaarts.org

CENTER OF INNOVATION

Exclusive to Georgia, the Center of Innovation helps Georgia businesses “clear the path” to innovation and growth through expert advice and navigation to the right resources through six key industries: Aerospace, AgTech, Energy Technology, Information Technology, Logistics, and Manufacturing. While providing a wide range of services and programs to businesses of all types and sizes, the Center of Innovation connects new and expanding businesses to expert staff members, external partners, and independent mentors who can help spark inspired solutions for challenges and opportunities of any size.

Contact: David Nuckolls, Executive Director | 478.462.4130 | dnuckolls@georgia.org

FILM OFFICE

The Georgia Film Office develops the state’s film, television, and commercial production industries by marketing the state to production companies; location scouting; and coordinating the filming needs of companies with other state agencies, local governments, and citizens. The office actively works to develop the industry’s infrastructure and workforce, certifies projects under the *Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act*, and oversees the Camera Ready community program to engage municipalities throughout Georgia.

Contact: Lee Thomas, Deputy Commissioner | 404.962.4048 | lthomas@georgia.org

GLOBAL COMMERCE

The Global Commerce team seeks to increase jobs and investment through locating and expanding businesses, including small businesses. The Global Commerce division includes statewide and existing industry project teams, small business, and International Representatives in strategic regions around the world.

Contact: Kristi Brigman, Deputy Commissioner | 404.962.4037 | kbrigman@georgia.org

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The International Relations team is dedicated to strategically cultivating and expanding the State of Georgia’s international relationships. These responsibilities include serving as the state’s liaisons to foreign governments and the Consular Corps, coordinating international missions, and welcoming visiting dignitaries and delegations, in addition to serving as a link for bi-national chambers that are invested in Georgia’s international business community.

Contact: Nico Wijnberg, Director, Chief of Protocol | 404.962.4834 | nwijnberg@georgia.org

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

GDEcD’s nationally recognized International Trade team works to bolster Georgia exports and brand the state as a competitive source of quality products and services. The team includes International Representatives located in 12 strategic global markets and assists Georgia companies with expanding their sales worldwide. GDEcD’s International Trade professionals provide Georgia businesses with the Global Insight and Global Connections they need to successfully diversify their international customer base.

Contact: Mary Waters, Deputy Commissioner | 404.962.4120 | mwaters@georgia.org

TOURISM

Explore Georgia, the tourism division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, is the state’s official destination marketing organization. Through its home office in Atlanta, nine visitor information centers, and a network of representatives across the globe, Explore Georgia inspires travel to and within the state through marketing programs developed and executed in partnership with the state’s travel industry. Georgia travel and tourism generated \$73 billion in total economic impact and supported more than 442,600 jobs in 2022. A record 167.7 million domestic and international visitors brought in \$39.8 billion in spending.

Contact: Mark Jaronski, Chief Marketing Officer | 404.962.4082 | mjaronski@georgia.org



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