

# CULTURAL HERITAGE

*This section focuses on arts,  
cultural, and historic preservation  
resources for community and  
economic development.*



## Arts and Culture

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## Historic Preservation

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# ARTS AND CULTURE

## ALABAMA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS (ASCA)

Albert B. (“AP”) Head  
Executive Director  
201 Monroe Street  
Montgomery, AL 36130-1800

Phone: (334) 242-4076  
E-mail: [al.head@arts.alabama.gov](mailto:al.head@arts.alabama.gov)  
Web: <http://www.arts.state.al.us>

### OVERVIEW

ASCA was created by Executive Order No. 29, on April 8, 1966 by Governor George C. Wallace, stating that “The practice and enjoyment of the arts are of increasing importance to the personal welfare of the people as a vital aspect of our cultural heritage and as valued means of expanding the scope of our educational programs.” The Act of 1967 placed the State in the official position of recognizing, encouraging, and supporting the growth and development of the arts in Alabama.

### MISSION

The mission of ASCA is to promote Alabama’s diverse artistic and cultural resources. The Council continues to stimulate growth of the arts and its impact in Alabama by working with a wide range of arts organizations, individual artists, educational institutions, and communities. In directing this effort, the Council has established goals which reflect current philosophy and priorities. These goals were defined through the agency’s five year plan, *A State Blueprint for Supporting the Arts*.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Provide opportunities for Alabama students to learn in, through and about the arts
- Ensure the arts as an integral and essential component of education in the State of Alabama
- Provide professional development opportunities for Alabama artists, educators and administrators in arts curriculum development
- Support partnerships between schools, artists and arts organizations that foster excellence in arts education

## ALABAMA HUMANITIES FOUNDATION (AHF)

1100 Ireland Way, Suite 101  
Birmingham, AL 35205

Phone: (205) 558-3980  
Website: [www.ahf.net](http://www.ahf.net)

### MISSION

The Alabama Humanities Foundation is the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and strives to create and foster opportunities through grants and AHF-conducted programs, for scholars and the public to interact and explore human values and meanings through the humanities.

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

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The AHF offers the people of Alabama opportunities to explore the humanities through public programs such as seminars, workshops, lectures, exhibitions, documentary videos, and films. Founded in 1974 as a vehicle for awarding grants to grassroots organizations in Alabama, the AHF now also conducts its own programs benefiting teachers, school children, families, and the general public.

## **CAROLINE MARSHALL DRAUGHON CENTER FOR THE ARTS & HUMANITIES**

Jay Lamar  
Director  
Pebble Hill  
101 Debardeleben  
Auburn University, Alabama 36849-5637

Ph: (334) 844-4946  
E-mail: [lamarja@auburn.edu](mailto:lamarja@auburn.edu)  
Web: <http://www.auburn.edu/cah>

## **MISSION**

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The Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities strengthens the bonds between the academic community, the arts, and the general public through quality programs in schools, towns, and communities around the state.

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

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- Alabama Center for the Book: A partnership of individuals, agencies, and organizations that love and support books and reading in Alabama. It sponsors public programming and disseminates book, literacy, and reading information. ACFTB also highlights Alabama's literary culture and heritage and, as an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, promotes national initiatives on books and reading
- Alabama Issues Forums: In cooperation with the David Mathews Center for the Civic Life and a number of local partners, CMD CAH coordinates deliberative forums in communities around the state. Deliberative forums offer the public an opportunity to discuss significant issues of concern in a non-threatening and non-divisive environment. Forums foster dialogue among citizens-not debate-and lead to an informed and engaged public demonstrating civic responsibility
- Alabama Voices: Brings writers to communities for workshops, readings, and other community writing/reading events. Funded by the Alabama State Council on the Arts, Alabama Voices offers 10 to 20 programs annually, focusing on under-resourced communities.
- College of Liberal Arts Speakers Bureau: a highly visible and competitive annual College of Liberal Arts speakers program that showcases college scholarship in venues both on and off campus.
- Connections: Communities, Schools, and the People Who Made Them - Studies the relationship among schools, education, and communities. Using local history and personal memory to explore how and why communities established and supported their schools, Connections asks whether highlighting a history of community action and commitment can bring fresh energy to local education today
- Discover Auburn Lecture Series: Year-long series featuring programs on AU research, history, and other topics of interest.
- Draughon Seminars in State and Local History: Annual Center offering that brings new research in Alabama history to public audiences throughout the state.

- Life of the Mind: The center's new signature event to emphasize the importance of the humanities in the development of the Auburn students' experiences and life-long exploration of perennial questions in humanistic inquiry. The annual program will broadly highlight facets of a liberal arts education that are infused in disciplines across the University spectrum in order to facilitate students' capacity to grapple with and engage issues of thoughtful, useful, and responsible citizenship
- New Perspectives: Alabama Art – Annual lecture series focused on Alabama's rich visual arts; offered in Auburn and around the state.
- Pebble Hill Books: A cooperative publishing venture of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities and the University of Alabama Press. Designed to publish works that grow out of or contribute to the Center's programming, Pebble Hill Books preserves and disseminates scholarship and creative works by Auburn University College of Liberal Arts faculty and by Center associates



# HISTORIC PRESERVATION

## ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

John Neubauer, Col USAF (RET.)  
Executive Director

Mailing Address:  
468 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, AL

Physical Address:  
P. O. Box 300900  
Montgomery, AL 36130-0900  
Phone: (334) 230-2690  
Web: [www.preserveala.org](http://www.preserveala.org)

### MISSION

The mission of the Alabama Historical Commission is to foster awareness of the value of historic structures, sites, and objects that reflect the heritage of all Alabamians.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Grants are awarded by the Alabama Historical Commission for preservation projects to record prehistoric and historic places, to encourage their preservation or promote awareness of them, to develop plans to protect them, and to provide funds for restoration or excavation.

The commission also awards grants through its Certified Local Government Grant Program. There are two defining criteria for these grants: they go only to local governments that have been certified by the Alabama Historical Commission as having passed an ordinance that allows them to establish historic districts, and they are not awarded for “bricks and mortar” projects. The grants are awarded to have survey work done, for planning, and for education. Programs offered include the Survey Planning and Grant Program, Alabama Main Street Program, and Alabama Historic Preservation Tax Credit.

## ALABAMA MAIN STREET PROGRAM

Elizabeth Brown  
Chief of Staff, Alabama Historical Commission  
468 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, AL

Phone: (334) 242-3184  
Web: <http://www.preserveala.org>

### PURPOSE

Administered through the Alabama Historical Commission, the Alabama Main Street Program assists communities in organizing a revitalization process that supports the economic stability of downtowns. The program is an innovative downtown revitalization effort within the context of historic preservation. The program was designed for small cities with a population of 50,000 or less.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The program capitalizes on the unique character of the historic commercial district while promoting progressive marketing and retail management techniques.

## ALABAMA PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

Chip DeShields  
Executive Director  
P. O. Box 2228  
Montgomery, AL 36102 -0228

Phone: (334) 834-2727  
E-mail: [alpresal@bellsouth.net](mailto:alpresal@bellsouth.net)  
Web: <http://www.alabamapreservation.org>

### **PURPOSE**

The Alabama Preservation Alliance is a statewide non-profit organization devoted to preserving the cultural resources of Alabama's past.

### **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

As a grassroots citizens' group, the Alabama Trust provides a statewide voice for preservation efforts. The Alabama Trust assists local groups around the state in seeking viable alternatives to demolition and making presentations to public officials concerning the value of preservation.

- Endangered Properties Trust: Through the Endangered Properties Trust, the Alabama Trust administers two funds. The Intervention Fund is a last resort source of loans, gifts, materials and services to save imminently threatened historic buildings. The Revolving Fund is used to transfer historic properties acquired through gift, option or purchase to preservation-minded owners, with the proceeds returning to the fund for future projects.
- The Places in Peril Endangered Properties List: Some landmark structures are lost simply because the public is unaware of neglect or impending demolition. The Alabama Trust actively solicits its membership and local historical/preservation organizations for important locations to place on a list, published annually in its newsletter, featured in Alabama Heritage magazine, and announced at an annual event. This program has led to at least 8 sites having been saved outright over the past 12 years, and the status of another 26 improved.
- Outreach: The quarterly newsletter, *The Trustee*, is a valuable source of information on preservation activities around the state. The Alabama Trust conducts Rambles in historic places that offer members the opportunity to tour places not generally open to the public and to interact with other members with common interests. Programs on a variety of preservation issues and subjects can be presented in locations across the State.