

UPCOMING EVENTS

CENTURY CLUB PARTY	MARCH 27
CAMEO GUILD EASTER EGG HUNT	APRIL 13
JEMISON WORK DAY	APRIL 19
PROGRESSIVE DINNER	MAY 8

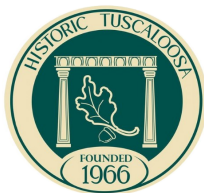
www.historictuscaloosa.org/calendarofevents
www.historictuscaloosa.org/visit-us

Historic Tuscaloosa
P.O. Box 1665
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403
Phone: (205)758-2238
info@historictuscaloosa.org
www.historictuscaloosa.org

Non-Profit Org
US Postage paid
MMS

The Preservationist

NEWSLETTER | SPRING 2025



THE PRESERVATIONIST

The official newsletter of Historic Tuscaloosa

SPRING 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the Director	2-3
Cameo 2024 Year in Review	4-5
New Cameo Directors	6-7
2024 Ramble to Athens, AL	8-9
2024 Halloween Season	10-11
Events Committee Updates	11-13
2024 Lecture Series	14
2024 Social Media Growth	15-16
5:1 Match	17
2024 Contest Awards	18
2024 Tinsel Trail	19
2025-2026 Board Members	20
New Board Members	22-25

A Message from the President

What an exciting time this has been for Historic Tuscaloosa! Our membership continues to grow, we have had wonderful participation in our events from both our members and the public, we have four new Historic Tuscaloosa Cameo Guild Directors and last but not least, we were offered a 5-1 match from the City of Tuscaloosa in order to continue the upkeep of our wonderful structures.

I will be honest, as exciting as the offer was from the city, the brief timeline given to raise the rather large sum of \$50,000 was extremely daunting. I was worried that we would not reach our goal in time and leave much needed funds on the table. I cannot tell you how impressed I am with our board of directors who developed the idea to make this request from the Tuscaloosa City Council and who followed through by not only making financial commitments themselves, but reached out to Historic Tuscaloosa Members and leaders of our community to join us in making an investment in preservation. We not only met our goal, but surpassed it! These funds, along with the seed money raised for the match, will assist us in keeping our magnificent properties healthy and well maintained for years to come.

2025 was kicked off by a much needed work day at The Battle-Friedman Home. It was a wonderful day of hard work and fellowship. I truly appreciate everyone who participated in transforming the beautiful house both inside and out. We hope to have more work days in the future to ensure that all of our structures are well cared for and ready for visitors.

This Spring is full of Historic Tuscaloosa events including the Cameo's Easter Egg Hunt, The Century Club Party, The Progressive Dinner and possibly another Historic Tuscaloosa Ramble. I hope to see both old and new members at these exciting, upcoming events.

Thank you so much for all that you do to help us preserve and promote Tuscaloosa County's historic resources.

I am so proud to be a part of this organization!

— SHAWN WYATT

A Message from the Executive Director

Greetings and good tidings to my fellow preservationist. What a busy past year we have had. It seems like each year, they seem to go faster and faster, and last year was no exception. Historic Tuscaloosa has traveled to Athens on our annual Ramble, hosted numerous events, saw a tremendous uptick in our Cameos, successfully reached a five-to-one deal with the city, partnered with different organizations, and advocated for historic preservation.

Over the past year, we have hosted numerous events highlighting our fantastic structures. Our Progressive Diner was a tremendous success in not only raising funds but also gathering some new memberships. As always, our Holiday Open House hosted hundreds of people moving through each one of our houses. This would not be possible without the help of Greensboro, Ceres, Tuscaloosa/Northport, and Goldenrod Garden Clubs. Some of our Cameos decorated our tree at the Jemison, and of course, the Rountree's at the Capitol provided tier-one entertainment for our guests. We also hosted our first ever "Tablescapes" with rave reviews and people asking if they can lay out a table next year! More on all these events later. We remain one of Tuscaloosa's most sought-after wedding venues and one of the best places for engagement parties, reunions, and event rental locations.

This past year, we saw a major uptick in our Cameo numbers, which has breathed fresh air into the organization and helped bring it back to the forefront of the community. With four fantastic ladies heading up the group, our numbers have increased, our outreach to the community has increased, and visibility has surged. The other day, I received a random text from an old friend inquiring about when his daughter can apply; things are looking better and better for our young ladies.

We also completed our annual Ramble a little later than usual, but a fantastic time was had. This year, we headed off to Athens, Alabama, and they absolutely rolled out the red carpet for us. We saw five houses in one day, and I don't think we could have squeezed another in even if we wanted to. We will have more on this shortly.

We also secured a five-to-one match with the City of Tuscaloosa for the maintenance needs of the city-owned buildings, the Murphy, Battle-Friedman, and Jemison. These funds will be used for badly needed projects that Historic Tuscaloosa has paid out of pocket in the past.

Historic Tuscaloosa has continued to be a valued resource for schools across our community. We have continued working with Auburn's Rural Architectural Program and numerous classes at the University of Alabama and Stillman. We have seen continual interest from home school groups and a handful of other regular school groups. Our daily tour numbers have held steady, and meeting folks from all over the United States and worldwide is always interesting! One of our most interesting tours was a descendant of an enslaved individual who worked for the Jemison's here in their weekend townhouse! What a connection that was.

I am often asked what I can do to help Historic Tuscaloosa. The simplest way to help is by encouraging friends and neighbors to become members. You do not have to live in a historic house or neighborhood; just a simple love of historic preservation and our community is all that is required. It is our goal to add 100 new members this year, and with a population of over 100,000, we should be able to do this with your help. See our membership page at www.historictuscaloosa.org for more information. Another way to give is through estate gifts. Numerous projects have been completed and accomplished from these heartfelt gifts, and they are always deeply appreciated.

Lastly, I would like to thank each of you for your continued support of Historic Tuscaloosa. While we are in a better position than in years past, your support means more than ever! If I could, I would personally thank each and every one of you but know that each day, we take the best care of our historic structures and do the best we can to put the organization in the best possible position. Because of your giving and support, we have continued to be a force of good for Tuscaloosa, and we look forward to moving forward in support of historic preservation!

WILL HAWKINS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
HISTORIC TUSCALOOSA

Cameo 2024 Year in Review

The Cameo Guild 24-25 Season brings exciting changes. First, there are four new co-directors: Traci Ferguson, Anne Guthrie, Susan Halliday, and Angela Hunter. The co-directors have divided the responsibilities of guiding the Cameos.

We will emphasize education about our historic structures, etiquette, the decorative arts, and building relationships among our members. We currently have members from eight different high schools in Tuscaloosa County. A new addition for this Season is our sophomore members. These young women will be able to participate in all events but are not required to wear period dresses or earn as many hours as our junior and senior members. We are thrilled to have these young women learn “the ropes.”

The Cameos have a new partnership with the Arts Council of West Alabama to serve as hosts for events at the Dinah Washington Arts and the historic Bama Theatre. The relationship is a result of the senior Cameos’ request to serve at their most-loved historic structure.

Events for Fall 2024 included the annual 5K & Fun Run in October, serving as ushers for the Bama Theatre Film Series, Dickens Downtown, and Historic Tuscaloosa Christmas Open House. The Annual Presentation of Senior Cameos was held at the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center on January 12, 2025. Each Senior Cameo received a beautiful pearl necklace as a keepsake.

Upcoming events are the Cupids & Cameos dinner dance, the annual Easter Egg hunt on April 13th, and our scholarship presentation and recruitment tea to be held on April 27th.

By the conclusion of this season, our members will have provided more than seven hundred service hours. Membership applications will be on March 29, 2025, on the Historic Tuscaloosa website: <https://www.historictuscaloosa.org/cameoguild>. We encourage members of the Century Club to forward the application to an interested young woman.

— ANN GUTHRIE



Let's Welcome our New Cameo Directors



ANGELA HUNTER

A native of Mobile, Alabama and a new resident of Northport, Angela Hunter, graduated from the University of Alabama with Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a minor in Business Administration. Angela has been married to Jeremy for 24 years and they have five children. Angela's daughter Ella Claire is a rising senior in Cameo and they both look forward to a great year with all the girls.

SUSAN HALLIDAY

Susan Halliday is an experienced leader in her hometown community of Tuscaloosa promoting social skills, philanthropy, and positive relationships. Although she was the 2nd female to graduate with a degree in finance from Auburn University in 1976, her many affiliations include a successful career at The University of Alabama where she retired as Director of Events, Endowment Accounts, and Recruitment. Other organizations she joyfully served that are dear to her heart include Family Counseling Services (a United Way Agency), Jr. League of Tuscaloosa, College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Board, and Alpha Chi Omega Sorority. She is currently involved with the Belle Arts Study Club, Druid City Jr. Cotillion, Tuscaloosa Holiday Cotillion, three Mardi Gras organizations, Les Danseurs Dinner Dance Society, P.E.O. Chapter N Philanthropic Sisterhood, and Christ Episcopal Church. Over many years she has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions for outstanding leader of service, dedication, and integrity. She looks forward to spending time with Cameo Guild. Susan is married to Patrick Halliday, and they have 3 daughters who served as Tuscaloosa Belles and as Debutantes with the Tuscaloosa Holiday Cotillion. They love spending time with their 9 grandchildren and 107 other immediate family members of five generations.



TRACI L. FERGUSON

Traci is a native of Greensboro, Alabama and a 1997 graduate of the University of West Alabama Ira D. Pruitt School of Nursing and she is employed with United Health Care as a Practice Performance Manager. She has lived in Northport for 14 years and is a member of First United Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa. Traci has one daughter, Ella Kate, who is a senior at Tuscaloosa County High School.

ANNE GUTHRIE

Anne Wilson Guthrie is a Tuscaloosa native, with her family first settling in Northport in the 1830's. Anne is a graduate of the University of Alabama with a B.A. in 1996 and a Juris Doctorate in 2000. She and her father are active preservationists and practice law in a 100 year old home. Anne and her husband Dan have proudly raised their three children to appreciate Tuscaloosa's unique history. In addition to the Cameo Guild, Anne is active with the First United Methodist Church of Tuscaloosa, the Arts Council of West Alabama and the Kristen Amerson Youth Foundation. Anne served as a Tuscaloosa Belle.

Our Ramble to Athens, AL

This year, we took our annual Ramble to Athens, Alabama. Now, this trip was later in the year than it usually is, Brock Jones did a tremendous job of once again finding and helping us see some spectacular homes! We left on a chilly Saturday morning with a bus loaded with guests, plenty of snacks, and some beverages for the trip as well. When we arrived in Mooresville, we picked up our tour leaders for the day, who made sure we were well taken care of and were kind enough to share the wonderful and diverse history of the area. Pammie Jimmar, Lakin Boyd, Nancy Shotts, and Garth Lovvorn were knowledgeable and gracious guides for our day. I am happy to report that all these folks and the homes we visited survived the tornado in December of 2024.

We started the day off and the home of Kathy and Johnny Garrett, the Cedars named for the abundant cedar trees on the property. This gracious home had a commanding view of the area and took our breath away. From here, we traveled to Cotton Hill, the home of Cecil Armstrong. Named after the hill, it sits overlooking vast tracks of cotton fields, which look like fine winter snow when in bloom. From the double front porch to the gigantic fireplace and breathtaking dining room, this home was indeed one of a kind. After a quick bite to eat at Ro's in downtown Athens, we moved on to the Vining-Vasser-Lovvorn house, the home of Linday and Lovvorn. Not only was the home itself stunning, but they were kind enough to recruit other family members and station them throughout the house, telling the history and charm of the place that had more stories than Aesop's fables. A visually stunning home with grounds just as fine, it was a tremendous introduction to Downtown Athens. We next visited the Beaty-Mason home owned by Amy Crane. This home is under complete renovation and restoration, which gave those of us who don't understand the complexities of restoring a historic home along with the cost and extra maintenance that goes along with it. We did have trouble staying on time with this home as being able to see through the walls and discovering where windows used to be was fascinating. From there, we went to the Walker-Kuykendall house home of Allison and Wayne Kuykendall. This lovely well-shaded home was built with some fabulous antiques and beautiful restoration. The woodwork and appointments in the home were stunning, and everywhere you looked, a new detail was to be found. Lastly, our final stop for the day was the Donell House. This stunning house museum and event space treated our weary group to a table of treats and a specialty cocktail unique to the home (they would not disclose the ingredients).

On hand, there were numerous docents to answer questions we had. The connection between the front half and back half of the house was fascinating and a great topic of conversation. From here, we headed home with our valiant travelers full of new knowledge; some made new friends and a better understanding of the grandeur of Athens, Alabama. We can't wait to make our next Ramble and hopefully have as much fun and gain new knowledge on our next trip.

— WILL HAWKINS



Recap of the 2024 Halloween Season at Historic Tuscaloosa

This year, we took a new approach to the Halloween season at Historic Tuscaloosa, stepping outside our usual traditions to showcase the Italianate beauty of the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion in a way we've never done before. For the first time during my time here, we leaned into the mansion's unique architectural style to create a memorable and immersive Halloween experience that captivated both the curious and the adventurous.

In partnership with The Gorgas House Museum, we co-hosted a special Halloween event called Mourning Matters, which delved into the social and cultural expectations surrounding mourning and grieving in the post-Civil War and Victorian eras. On October 29, we invited the community to step inside one of Tuscaloosa's oldest historic homes and explore how mourning practices evolved during this significant time in history. The event provided guests with an intriguing look at death rituals, funeral customs, and the art of remembrance during a time when grief was often expressed in elaborate ways.

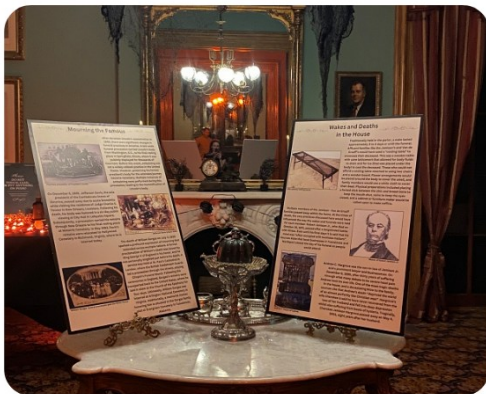
To make the event even more accessible, the Gorgas House offered a free shuttle bus service that transported guests between the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion and The Gorgas House Museum, allowing them to enjoy both locations from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Visitors were able to tour both homes, view our carefully curated exhibits, and hear spine-chilling ghost stories that added a touch of mystery to the evening.

But that wasn't all that was new this year. To elevate the atmosphere and enhance the experience for our visitors, I'm proud to say that we partnered with Party Wow, a local company known for its stunning decorations. Their generous support and dedication to creating an unforgettable atmosphere helped us attract attention, making this Halloween season a truly special one. With Party Wow's help, we were able to transform the spaces into eerie yet elegant settings that perfectly matched the historic charm of the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion.

Halloween has not traditionally been a significant event for Historic Tuscaloosa, but this collaboration and our partnership with Party Wow align with our mission to involve local governments, educational institutions, and organizations in projects that promote the preservation and appreciation of Tuscaloosa's historic sites.

By celebrating the history of mourning and its cultural significance, we were able to further our mission of preserving the rich heritage of our community and offering educational experiences that encourage both tourism and local involvement. This event was a perfect example of how Historic Tuscaloosa is continuously finding innovative ways to engage the public, build partnerships, and create events that highlight the history and beauty of our beloved historic homes and buildings. We are proud of this season's success and look forward to future events that celebrate our history while engaging the community in meaningful ways.

— SARAH-KATHERINE HELMS



Updates from our Events Committee

The Events Committee has been hard at work!

In October, we welcomed our newest members with a cocktail reception at the Old Tavern. We were very pleased with the response and look forward to keeping this on our annual calendar.

In November, we celebrated the Crimson Tide football season with a Bloody Mary/Mimosa Brunch tailgate at the Battle-Friedman House and Gardens. It was a great morning of excellent food, yummy beverages, beautiful weather and awesome team spirit!

In December, keeping with tradition, we opened our Yuletide Socials with Christmas Open House at all five of our structures. Area garden clubs beautifully decorated each house in readiness for the festivities. We welcomed approximately 200 visitors across the five locations treating them to refreshments and entertainment. Christmas Open House is a free event open to the public each year on the first Sunday in December for the enjoyment of our community.

Open House was followed by Bourbon and Barbeque, which was once again a resounding success. The evening was highlighted by Mr. Luke Alexander who gave a guided tasting of three unique bourbons. A specialty bourbon cocktail was served with a deliciously savory barbeque dinner with all the fixins'! It was a night to be remembered by everyone who attended. Bourbon and Barbecue is a ticketed dinner that sold out its second year in a row, so be sure to watch for a notification next year to get your tickets early!

Pine and Prosecco was the third event during Yuletide Socials. Attendees created beautiful arrangements of Christmas greenery under the direction of Leska Graves-Taylor. It was an intimately fun time of creativity and fellowship after which each person took home their own arrangement. Watch for fresh new details to Pine and Prosecco next holiday season!

Tailgate Party

Last weekend in January, we saw Timeless Tablescapes. Held for the first time at the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion, this was one of the most stunningly beautiful events by Historic Tuscaloosa. 12 tables were uniquely decorated by 25 area designers/vendors and arranged throughout the parlors of the mansion. Historic Tuscaloosa decorated the formal dining table, showcasing a set of china donated by long-time member Vassar Hemphill. Plans for 2026 Timeless Tablescapes are already being made and you will not want to miss it!

The Events Committee is currently working on the next two events that are coming up in the next few months. The Century Club Party will be held on March 27th and is open to all Century Club members, Junior Century Club members, Sustainers, and Grand Benefactors. The Progressive Dinner will be May 8th and is a ticketed event. Watch your emails and mailboxes for information on both.

None of these parties and fundraisers would be possible without the tireless involvement of this committee. A HUGE "thank you" to each of one of the Events Committee members for their ideas, effort, time, and energy. They, indeed, are an amazing group of volunteers!!

Be sure to keep up with our events by visiting historictuscaloosa.org, and our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram.

— PAM MARSHALL



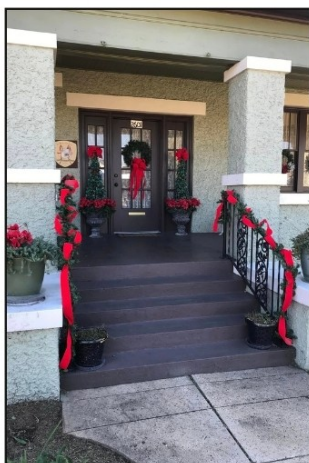
Bourbon & Barbecue



Holiday Open House at the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion



Holiday Open House at the Murphy-Collins Museum



2024 Lecture Series: A New Location, a Strong Crowd, and Exceptional Presentations

In 2024, we embarked on an exciting new chapter for our Lecture Series by hosting our events away from the Jemison Mansion, for the first time, at Room 214 in Farrah Hall on the University of Alabama campus. While this change of location was a new experience for our audience, it didn't affect the turnout. We were thrilled to see a fantastic crowd at each lecture, proving the community's continued interest in our discussions and events.



The series started on July 25 with George Adair's captivating talk on "The Bryce Hospital Coal Mines." His deep dive into this fascinating and lesser-known topic drew a substantial audience eager to learn more about this piece of local history.

On August 22, we were fortunate to have Dr. Jennifer Feltman share her expertise in "The Notre-Dame Restoration and Collaborative Research at UA." Her insight into the restoration efforts and the valuable research being conducted at the University met with great enthusiasm and admiration from those in attendance.

Finally, our series concluded on September 26 with Dr. Sharony Green's engaging lecture about using the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion as a "lab" for University of Alabama students to explore our shared past. Dr. Green's unique perspective and her exploration of history in the context of contemporary research resonated deeply with all who attended.

The success of this year's lecture series was not just in the variety of topics or the high caliber of speakers but in the strong participation from our community. We saw a great turnout at every event, and the discussions were thought-provoking and enriching.

We invite you to join us for this year's lecture series, where we promise even more intriguing topics and outstanding speakers. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of a vibrant, engaged community that shares a passion for history, research, and discovery.

— SARAH-KATHERINE HELMS

2024 Social Media Growth Recap for Historic Tuscaloosa

As part of my role with Historic Tuscaloosa, I manage our social media accounts, and in 2024, I'm proud to say that we've seen significant growth and engagement across our platforms. When I first took on this responsibility, I understood that the key to success would be creating content that engaged our followers and aligned with our mission to educate the public about our county's heritage, preserve local history, and promote appreciation for Tuscaloosa's historic assets.

Our social media efforts began in earnest back in September 2023, when we had around 3,000 followers. From there, I focused on developing a strategy that would connect both residents and history enthusiasts, ensuring that each post we shared resonated with our core values: educating citizens about Tuscaloosa's rich heritage, collecting and organizing information related to local history, and encouraging the preservation of the area's historic buildings and landmarks.

In 2024, I tailored our posts to engage with these objectives by:

- Highlighting the significance of historic homes and buildings throughout the county.
- Sharing educational content about local history gave our followers a deeper understanding of Tuscaloosa's past.
- Promoting preservation efforts and raising awareness about maintaining our local historic sites.
- Showcasing our events and collaborations, such as Mourning Matters and our lecture series, which have sparked excitement and increased participation from the community.

By focusing on consistent, meaningful content, we've been able to grow our social media following significantly. As of the end of 2024, we've expanded our reach, growing our followers from 3,000 in September 2023 to 10,000 today—a testament to the success of our strategy and the growing interest in preserving Tuscaloosa's rich history.

This increase in social media engagement has also allowed us to build stronger connections with our community, reach new audiences, and raise awareness of Historic Tuscaloosa’s mission. It has provided a platform for us to engage with citizens and partners, ensuring that our county’s history remains at the forefront of public consciousness.

As we move into 2025, we are committed to continuing this momentum, building our social media presence, and using it to further our educational and preservation efforts in Tuscaloosa County.

— SARAH-KATHERINE HELMS

LET’S GET SOCIAL

HISTORIC
TUSCALOOSA

Follow us on



Instagram

Scan QR Code to Find Us!



@HistoricTuscaloosa

HISTORIC
TUSCALOOSA

Like & Follow us on



Facebook

Scan QR Code to Find Us!



@HistoricTuscaloosa

Historic Tuscaloosa receives 5:1 match from the City of Tuscaloosa

This past year, Historic Tuscaloosa was able to secure a five-to-one match with the City of Tuscaloosa. In a very short time, our members and community members were able to raise the maximum match of \$50,000. The City then contributed \$250,000, bringing the total to \$300,000. If you are not aware, the City of Tuscaloosa owns the Battle-Friedman House and Gardens, the Murphy Collins House, and the Jemison Van da Graaff Mansion reverts to the city. Over the past decades, Historic Tuscaloosa has shouldered the cost of maintaining each of these buildings along with the two that we own, the Old Tavern and the McGuire-Strickland House. This wonderful match stipulates that it can only be used for capitol projects for the city-owned properties' care and upkeep. A few examples are HVAC repair/replacement, electric upgrades and repairs, water damage, paint, and other projects that appear for the regular maintenance of the buildings. Historic Tuscaloosa has operated at a deficit for most years and the leading cause of this is the annual upkeep of these three historic buildings. We cannot thank the City Council and our Board Members who led the charge and helped us secure these funds. I, the Executive Board and General Board, will ensure that these much-needed funds are used judiciously and account for the entire amount. If you gave to the match, thank you, your continued support of Historic Tuscaloosa means the world to us, and we cannot continue our mission of preserving our shared past for future generations without you.

— *WILL HAWKINS*

It's Time to Renew your Membership



It's time to renew your membership!

Scan the QR code or visit ↓

www.historictuscaloosa.org/membership-levels

2024 Contest Awards

As the event coordinator for the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion and the Old Tavern, I proudly announce our incredible achievements in the *2024 Tuscaloosa Community Votes Awards!*

The Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion earned Platinum (1st place) in the Wedding Venue category, while the Old Tavern took home Gold (2nd place) in the same category! The Murphy-Collins home was given Bronze (3rd place) in the Museum category, and Historic Tuscaloosa was a top pick for the non-profit category.

We're also thrilled that the Jemison Mansion was named a top finalist in the Wedding Venue category in another voting contest, the *2024 Tuscaloosa Community Choice Awards*, in November 2024.

But here's the thing: while I worked hard to get us nominated, we can't win these awards alone - we need your votes! Your participation is what made these awards possible, and it's what will continue to keep us on the map. Every vote increases our chances of winning, gives us free publicity, and helps us grow our presence in the Tuscaloosa community.

So, if you're a proud supporter of our venues, take a moment to vote next this year! We will send updates via email once voting begins. Your vote counts, and together, we can continue to shine!

Thank you all for your continued support!

— SARAH-KATHERINE HELMS

WEDDING VENUE
THE FARM
 3099 Hwy 60, Akron, AL 35441
 205.826.1222
 Find Us On Facebook

FINALISTS
Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion
historictuscaloosa.org
Tuscaloosa River Market
tuscaloosarivermarket.com

18 | NOVEMBER 2024 | Tuscaloosa County Community's Choice Awards

2024 WINNERS AND FINALISTS

ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

BIRTHDAY PARTY VENUE
THE VENUE TUSCALOOSA
 650 WOODBURN BL, TUSCALOOSA, AL 35413
 205.343.4444
www.thevenue.com

FINALISTS
PartyPalooza
partypalooza.com
UpStage Trampoline Park
upstagetrampolinepark.com

EVENT - LOCAL
TUSCALOOSA RIVER MARKET
 500 JIM MORRIS HWY, TUSCALOOSA, AL 35415
 205.249.5251
tuscaloosarivermarket.com

FINALISTS
Ortha Farms People's Patch
orthis.com
Live at the Plaza
liveattheplaza.com

EVENT VENUE
TUSCALOOSA RIVER MARKET
 500 JIM MORRIS HWY, TUSCALOOSA, AL 35415
 205.249.5251
tuscaloosarivermarket.com

FINALISTS
Mercado Sans Angulthmaster
mercadosansangulthmaster.com
The Venue Tuscaloosa
www.thevenue.com

ENTERTAINMENT
THE SHAW
 688 HUNTER DR SE, TUSCALOOSA, AL 35411
 205.763.0200
partypalooza.com

FINALISTS
Tuscaloosa Trampoline Park
upstagetrampolinepark.com

FESTIVAL/FAIR
KENTUCKY ART CENTER AND FESTIVAL
 301 MAIN ST, TUSCALOOSA, AL 35410
 205.343.1522
kentuck.org

FINALISTS
Wassellville Native American Festival
wassellville.com
Tuscaloosa Oktoberfest
tuscaloosaoktoberfest.com

NOTEL
THE ALMAYR, A TRIBUTE
PORTFOLIO HOTEL
 2071 6TH ST, TUSCALOOSA, AL 35411
 205.870.7200
thealmayr.com
Embassy Suites
ihg.com
Local Hospitality
localhospitality.com

TOURIST/SEASONAL
ATTRACTION - LOCAL
TUSCALOOSA RIVER MARKET
 500 JIM MORRIS HWY, TUSCALOOSA, AL 35415
 205.249.5251
tuscaloosarivermarket.com

FINALISTS
Ortha Farms People's Patch
orthis.com
Live at the Plaza
liveattheplaza.com

WEDDING VENUE
THE SHAW
 688 HUNTER DR SE, TUSCALOOSA, AL 35411
 205.763.0200
 Find Us On Facebook

FINALISTS
Jemison Van de Graaff Mansion
historictuscaloosa.org
Tuscaloosa River Market
tuscaloosarivermarket.com

WHAT ARE THE COMMUNITY CHOICE AWARDS?

HOW IT WORKS

PHASE #1
 The nomination phase. The public submits their favorite businesses and organizations in each of the 150+ categories.

PHASE #2
 The voting round. The top five nominees in each of the 150+ categories move on to this round, where the public votes on the winners.

PHASE #3
 The celebration! A special awards ceremony is published in the newspaper. This makes a handy desktop guide to the top businesses and organizations in the area.

COMMUNITY CHOICE AWARDS

In select markets, a gala-style live awards show is held to celebrate the top three finalists, and the winners are announced. In addition, nominations, voting and final results will be available on your local paper's website during each phase.

Historic Tuscaloosa's Participation in the 2024 Tinsel Trail

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Carrie Fitts Real Estate for their generous sponsorship of a Christmas tree on this year's Tuscaloosa Tinsel Trail. Thanks to their support, Historic Tuscaloosa had the opportunity to decorate a tree and once again participate in this beautiful holiday tradition. This marks our second time being part of the Tinsel Trail, with our first involvement taking place just two years ago.



This past year's experience was especially meaningful, as we learned that the only way to guarantee a tree on the Tinsel Trail is to secure a sponsor. Carrie Fitts Real Estate made this possible, and we are incredibly grateful for their commitment to our community.

Looking ahead, we're already making plans for the 2025 Tinsel Trail, and we've begun narrowing down several exciting themes that tie directly to the rich history of Tuscaloosa. We hope to bring even more of our community's past to life in a festive, creative way.

If you're interested in supporting this cause—whether by donating decorations or contributing in other ways—please don't hesitate to reach out. Your generosity helps ensure that we can continue to bring the history of Tuscaloosa to the forefront of this cherished holiday event.

Over the last 12 years, the Tinsel Trail has grown into a local holiday tradition, attracting tens of thousands of visitors. A sponsored tree or display remains on view at the heart of the city for six weeks, offering a fantastic opportunity to promote your business or organization while celebrating the spirit of the season in a fun, creative way.

Once again, thank you to Carrie Fitts Real Estate for making this year's participation possible, and we look forward to continuing our involvement in the years to come!

— SARAH-KATHERINE HELMS

2025-2026 Historic Tuscaloosa Board

*To develop an awareness and appreciation
of the historical and cultural heritage of
Tuscaloosa County.*

Shawn Wyatt
President

Evans Fitts
Vice President

James Brazil, Jr.
Treasurer

Susan Huffman
Secretary

Cal Wilson
Parliamentarian

Pam Marshall
Past President

Fred Andrus
Marc Brakefield
Glenna Brown
Chaslee Coleman
Gabrielle Cruz-Uribe
Linda Ford
Serena Fortenberry
Claire Friday
Charles Gerdau
Courtney Gora
Marty Hamner

Mayci Hartley
Brock Jones
Sherry Jones
Amy Matthews
Joanne Miles
Paul Moreton
Frances Pool
Judi Rabel
Ruby Simon
Angie Sterling
Elizabeth Wyatt

Cameo Guild Directors

Traci Ferguson
Anne Guthrie

Susan Halliday
Angela Hunter



Grand Benefactors

Ms. Jessica Cicatiello
Mr. and Mrs. Evans Fitts
Ms. Claire Friday
James I. Harrison Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. William Griffith
Mr. and Mrs. Brock Jones
Ms. Joanne Martin
Mr. and Mrs. David Morrow
Mr. and Mrs. David Pugh
Mrs. William Rabel
Mr. and Mrs. Luther Richardson III

Sustainers

Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Anderson
President and Mrs. Stuart Bell
Dr. Glenna Brown
Mrs. John D. Cade
Dr. and Mrs. Glen Cowan, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. David Cruz-Uribe
Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Farmer
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Fitts
Drs. Regina and Andrew Harrell
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Haubein
Mr. and Mrs. Joshua P. Hayes
Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Haynes
The Honorable Joanne Janik & Mr. Brian Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. Drew Kyle
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Leigh
Dr. and Mrs. Rodney Marshall
Col. and Mrs. William Pool
Dr. Richard Rhone
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Sanders
Mr. and Mrs. Mem Tierce
Drs. Angelia and Douglas Woodward

Let's Welcome our New Board Members



PAUL MORETON

I grew up in Charleston, MO, and made my way to Tuscaloosa, where I earned my Bachelor of Business Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Alabama. I later completed my M.B.A. at Vanderbilt University. My career has always been driven by a passion for new software product development, constantly exploring how technology can shape the future.

In 2020, my wife Angie and I moved back to Tuscaloosa and bought our first historic home, and now we're fortunate to own three houses in different historic districts around the city. Angie and I go way back—we started dating in college, and we tied the knot right after graduation. Over the years, our family has grown with two married children and three beautiful grandchildren, and we cherish every moment with them. We're huge fans of Alabama sports and love the convenience of being so close to everything in town. Life in Tuscaloosa has been a wonderful journey, and we wouldn't have it any other way!



MAYCI HARTLEY

Hi! I'm Mayci Hartley! I was born and raised in Tuscaloosa! I had the privilege of serving as the President of The Belles while in high school. I attended Birmingham Southern College and studied sociology. When I graduated I moved to D.C. to work at the Capital One Arena! I had so much fun, but missed home and moved back shortly. Now I am enjoying Tuscaloosa and being involved in the community! I currently work at Sugo Italian and have loved being able to pursue a love of learning about wine!



FRED ANDRUS

I have called Tuscaloosa home for over 20 years. My wife, Deborah Keene, and son, Benjamin, and I enjoy living in the historic district, which is part of the reason I want to contribute to enhancing the unique historic character of our city. My interest in preservation began in my hometown of Charleston SC, where my family has long been active in historic and civic activities. I also have a professional interest in history though my career as Professor in Geological Sciences at the University of Alabama where my research specialties include geoarchaeology. I am a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, where I serve as President Elect of its Geoarchaeology Division. I have taken part in excavations of historic properties such as the Nathaniel Russell House and Snee Farm in South Carolina. I often apply geochemistry to archaeological materials to understand the human environment of the recent past, and fossils to understand deep Earth history. Much of my research has been in the Southeastern US, Pacific Northwest, Alaska, Peru, Central America, and recently, the Mediterranean. I enjoy music, traveling, cooking, gardening, and sailing at the Tuscaloosa Sailing Club where I currently serve as Commodore-elect.

JOANNE MILES

Born in Brooklyn NY. Graduated from Marymount Manhattan College with a BA in History. Spent the following three years after graduation as a volunteer in Nigeria where I taught at a secondary school and at the University of Nigeria. A lot was learned in those three years from creating a library at the secondary school, to driving a van full of students to another distant school on a somewhat narrow path, to taking a student to the hospital who had a snake bite in the middle of the night. I found I didn't have a problem doing what needed to be done under unexpected circumstances. Asking people to help with a much needed project, realizing that in an emergency the old fears or discomforts dissolve, and with the success of the library I could create something that wasn't there before. The years after Nigeria included a family, more moving and living in several different places but once our three children were in school I always ended up volunteering for something, meeting new people, learning new skills. Mostly ended up doing promotion and publicity for non - profit

organizations or events in several different locations - we moved a lot! Belief in your topic or organization and in the people at your organization or the people who will benefit makes it easier to work for wherever you are. I Went back to school at UA and received a Masters Degree in Advertising and PR. Have continued to promote and publicize where and when if asked. This is my second time on the Board and I am very happy to be back



We have new Historic Tuscaloosa t-shirts available for purchase!

These shirts are long sleeve, cream colored, and feature Historic Tuscaloosa's logo on the front with an image of Battle-Friedman on the back.

We have sizes Small through XXLarge.

They are \$25 each.

Come by the office at 1305 Greensboro Avenue to purchase yours. These won't last long, so be certain to grab yours asap!!



Front



Back