



## Explore Gwinnett Kicks Off Artober with \$150K+ in Grants to Local Nonprofits

*Annual Month-Long Celebration of Art and Culture Returns in October*

**LAWRENCEVILLE, Ga. – (October 6, 2022)** – Explore Gwinnett is thrilled to announce the return of Artober Gwinnett – a month-long celebration of art and culture aimed at increasing participation in events throughout the county by highlighting art organizations, venues and the artists who shape the vibrant, creative community. Following the excitement of the organization’s recent grant distributions to local art-focused nonprofits, Explore Gwinnett will promote dozens of art and cultural organizations throughout the month of October, in addition to hosting four official Artober Gwinnett events.

"We are so excited to celebrate Artober Gwinnett by showcasing the wide variety of art and culture our community offers," Victoria Hawkins, senior director of marketing and destination development at Explore Gwinnett, said. "This event furthers our mission to increase Gwinnett County’s profile as a cultural, inclusive destination where the arts educate, elevate and inspire."

Now in its third year, Gwinnett Creativity Fund (GCF) Project Grants provide financial support to Gwinnett County arts and cultural programs with the goal of continuing to expand the community’s diverse cultural scene. Explore Gwinnett is pleased to announce over \$150,000 of grant funds to be distributed to local arts organizations.

Grant recipients include Atlanta International Night Market, Aurora Theatre, Fezziwig Foundation, Fresh Films (Dreaming Tree Foundation), The Hudgens Center for Art and Learning, Live Arts Theater, Inc., Norcross Gallery and Studios, North Metro Academy of Performing Arts, Players Guild at Sugar Hill, Spectrum Autism Support Group, Suwanee Arts Center, Suwanee Public Arts Commission and Urban MediaMakers Film Festival.

Below are a few signature events happening during Artober Gwinnett:

- **[Banjos & Brews](#)** – Explore Gwinnett will kick off Artober with live bluegrass music by the Brian Stephens Band, beers and fun at Monkey Wrench Brewing in Suwanee, Georgia, on Thursday, October 6, from 6 to 9:30 p.m.
- **[Duluth Farmers & Artisan Market](#)** – Kids can join Explore Gwinnett at its tent on the Duluth Town Green on October 9 from 2 to 6 p.m. for free sand art projects while parents shop with local vendors selling handmade items and locally grown foods.
- **[Spirits & Spirits](#)** – This Halloween special will take place at the Lawrenceville Arts Center on Friday, October 28 at 8 p.m. and will feature cocktails, a pumpkin carving demonstration, a true crime panel featuring stories of local cases and an afterparty with a live DJ. Tickets range from \$18 to \$25 and are available [online](#).
- **[Pawcasso Day at the Hudgens](#)** – Last but not least, attendees are invited to a Halloween-themed Pawcasso Day with their four-legged friends at the Hudgens Center for the Arts on Saturday, October 29, from 1 to 4 p.m. View the work of Pablo Picasso while fur babies create a paw-print painting of their own to take home. Pet-friendly vendors, costume contest, giveaways, DJ and art

activity stations will be available for human children as well! Tickets can be purchased on [Eventbrite](#) for \$5 per dog and free for their adoring owners. Guests can also make an additional \$5 donation to Hudgens for caricature drawings.

For more information on Artober Gwinnett, visit [exploregwinnett.org/artober](http://exploregwinnett.org/artober) or contact [hailey@exploregwinnett.com](mailto:hailey@exploregwinnett.com). To learn more about the 2022 GCF Project Grants, visit [www.GwinnettCreativityFund.com/Award-Recipients](http://www.GwinnettCreativityFund.com/Award-Recipients).

For more information about Explore Gwinnett, visit [exploregwinnett.org](http://exploregwinnett.org). Stay up-to-date on the latest Explore Gwinnett news by following [@ExploreGwinnett](#) on Instagram or [ExploreGwinnett](#) on Facebook.

#### **About Explore Gwinnett**

Serving as the official tourism organization of Gwinnett County, Explore Gwinnett consists of 16 cities north of Downtown Atlanta. Gwinnett County offers award-winning dining ranging from authentic Asian fare to southern delights, an abundance of shopping, arts programming, outdoor activities and more. Locals and tourists alike can explore various culinary offerings with special year-round events including Sippin' in the Suburbs Beer Tours and Seoul of the South Food Tours. Gwinnett County is a flourishing community for artists and also serves as a thriving production hub for popular films and television series.

###

#### **Media Contacts:**

Cameron Trice

Hemsworth Communications

770-286-2207 / [ExploreGwinnettPR@HemsworthCommunications.com](mailto:ExploreGwinnettPR@HemsworthCommunications.com)