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Athens Now //
November 2018
Athens Convention & Visitors Bureau

Athens
LIFE UNLEASHED



Newsmakers // Opportunities // New Developments in Tourism

Athens CVB hosts the Midwest Travel Journalists Association

The Athens CVB hosted three top-level journalists from the Midwest Travel Journalists Association on November 5-6 as part of a statewide media visit. The journalists were interested in the music scene in Athens, due to the musical influence of R.E.M. and The B-52's, as well as the live music scene that continues today.

The journalists enjoyed the Music History Tour with Paul Butchart and visited several venues. They especially loved the dining experiences offered, which included Five & Ten for brunch, the Graduate Hotel for breakfast, and the Last Resort Grill for lunch. Other top highlights included Kindercore Vinyl, UGA Special Collections Libraries, the State Botanical Gardens of Georgia, and a visit to UGA's North Campus.

These journalists represent media outlets with more than



Recreating the R.E.M pose near

Welcome, Joel VanDusen!

The Athens CVB is excited to welcome Joel VanDusen, our new Sales and Services manager. Joel graduated from Berry College in Rome, Georgia, in December of 2016. Since then he spent a summer working in the communications field in Leogane, Haiti. He just finished up a year-long program as a guest services intern at Sharptop Cove - A Young Life Camp in Jasper, Georgia. He moved to Athens in September with his wife and has absolutely fallen in love with the city and its unique culture. Joel's primary job duties include managing and servicing groups utilizing the Athens Housing Bureau. He'll also be responsible for group servicing, weddings, and socials. Contact him at:

Joel VanDusen
Sales and Services Manager
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706-357-4579



CVB sales team wins competition to host GRPA in 2020



Members of the sales teams from the Athens CVB and The Classic Center, along with The Classic Center Executive Director Paul Cramer, presented to the Georgia Recreation and Park Association (GRPA) Annual Conference in Jekyll Island on November 6. Athens was among two finalists to host the 2020 Annual Conference and Trade Show. Following a spirited presentation from the Athens team and a round of voting from the GRPA delegation, Athens was selected as the host city! The conference will be held in Athens October 5-8, 2020, generating an estimated direct spending of \$481,000. The group will have 500 attendees and 1700 rooms booked in Athens-Clarke County.

CVB team participates in the UGA Special Collections Tour

The CVB team participated in the UGA Special Collections Libraries new series beta tour. The group went to the Peabody Archives, viewed the model of Richard B. Russell's office, and the Hargrett Library Gallery. The tour also included some fun emoji games



as well as a chance to strike a pose as one of the posters on display. Can you guess who is doing which pose?

Header Image (Not pictured Adrienne Mino)
(left to right) Venessa Banks, Jeremiah Cook, Jay Boling, Christin Walker, Nick Arnold, Alvieann Chandler, Joel VanDusen, Hannah Smith, and Chuck Jones

Hospitality Newsmakers

Congratulations to Tommy Valentine, who has been named the new executive director of the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, which oversees the Athens Welcome Center and Classic City Tours.

[Click here to learn more about Tommy Valentine.](#)

Athens has a major presence in *Georgia Trend*. The Expat and The National have both been awarded Silver Spoons for 2018, Maepole has received a Silver Milepost. This high honor only recognizes 10 restaurants in the state in each category. It is wonderful to see Athens is well represented by these amazing restaurants.

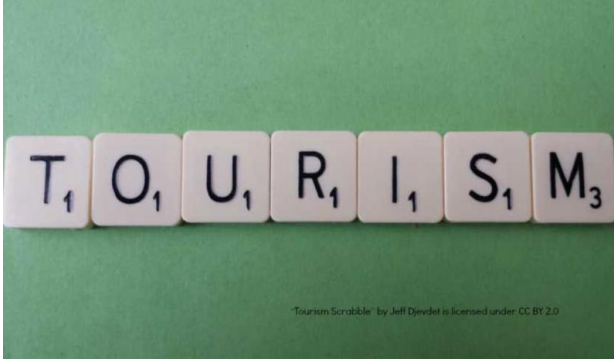


[2018 Silver Spoon Awards](#)

Don't Miss Out: Opportunities



The [Flavor of Georgia Food Product](#) Contest is now accepting entries. The contest showcases delicious, innovative, and market-ready prototypes or commercially available food products. Finalists and winners have benefited from increased exposure, publicity, business contacts, and sales!



The Local Product Development Grant applications are now open! The Athens CVB, along with The Classic Center, and Classic Center Cultural Foundation are again funding a matching grant program to assist local entities in developing new tourism products and experiences that will attract new overnight visitors to Athens-Clarke County. Extra points will be awarded to projects that contribute towards recommendations made in the [music product development team report](#). All application materials must be received by **5 p.m. on December 14, 2018**. [Click Here](#).



Athens-Clarke County is now eligible for grants through the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) Office of Tourism Product Development (TPD), thanks to our completion of a Music Tourism (TPD) review and report. TPD Resources Team Grant applications are now open and will be due on **Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018**. More information and the application packets are available at www.MarketGeorgia.org. (You may be asked to register your e-mail in order to view-download).

Athens in the News

- "Top Ten Bleisure Travel Destinations," CarRentals.com
- "20 New High-Alcohol Craft Beers to Warm Your Bones This Fall and Winter" FoodAndWine.com

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