IDEAS 2018
AN INNOVATION SHOWCASE OF CHANGE-MAKERS FROM ACROSS THE GCN COMMUNITY
By Marc Schultz

As we all know by now, nonprofits must innovate constantly in order to keep up with the demand for our work – as well as the ever-shifting nature of funding, outreach techniques, employee needs, the issues facing our communities, and much more. That’s why, for the fifth year, we’re devoting this showcase to the innovative advances of our members and partners: the practices and strategies that are multiplying impact, sharpening talent, leveraging supporters, and demonstrating exactly why we’re needed on the front lines of Georgia’s most pressing challenges.
Though the ‘creative placemaking’ term is new, the practices it encompasses are not – people have always incorporated arts and culture into meeting the collective needs of their communities provided,” said Manager of Communications Strategy Nicole Gurgel-Seefeldt. Among many topics, the project examines the community-building power of arts and culture in addressing First Peoples and immigrant rights, incarceration, gentrification, and re-centering marginalized histories. “Creating Place highlights our impact on the field of arts and social justice, and the power of vibrant, compelling storytelling to make a nonprofit mission resonate.”

This spring, Alternate ROOTS launched the Creating Place initiative, a multimedia collection of reflections, challenges, and offerings to the growing national dialogue around “creative placemaking,” a term defined by the NEA as a collaborative cross-sector effort to “strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, city, or region around the arts and cultural activities.” Including first-person accounts and reporting, films and podcasts, photos and other visual works, Creating Place was launched around a robust digital book that brings together the voices of 30 different ROOTS members – multidisciplinary artists and grassroots cultural organizers who live across the South – and represents one of the most extensive documentation projects in the 42-year history of the arts-and-activism nonprofit.
FEEDING THE ECONOMY

SOWING SECURITY IN A FINANCIAL SERVICES DESERT

To expand the reach of their work and further leverage their partner relationships, Clearpoint, a division of Money Management International, opened the Norcross-based Hispanic Center for Financial Excellence (HCFE) in 2012, bringing practical education and individualized advice to a community too often overlooked by the financial services industry. Offering help for credit and debt reduction, budgeting and saving, and building assets – including courses in buying a home and opening a business – the HCFE was designed around the unique needs of the Hispanic community, providing first, second, and third-generation Spanish-speakers with financial action plans and long-term counseling. Even better, all its services are offered free of charge. In just a few years, the success of the Norcross location led Clearpoint to open a second HCFE in Miami.

Alongside its own staff, Clearpoint calls on a range of corporate partners to provide expert training and counseling for HCFE clients, including SunTrust and COUNTRY Financial. COUNTRY’s Walker Clark is one such volunteer: A bilingual financial representative based in Marietta, he educates Center clients on insurance through Clearpoint’s home-buying classes. “Many times in the Latino community, providers don’t fully explain insurance,” reported Clark. “The opportunity to address their needs and obstacles through the HCFE is a real privilege.”

EMPLOYEE EMPOWERMENT

ESCAPING THE OFFICE TO EXPAND THE IMPACT

For a year now, Friendship Force International (FFI) has been entirely decentralized: Every staff member works remotely, many from spots around the globe, including Japan, Australia, Germany, and Brazil. The advantages of hiring programs staff from within the regions they support were clear from the start, giving FFI first-hand cultural and on-the-ground expertise, but implementing a work-from-home policy for staff headquartered in Atlanta has also provided a number of benefits, including saving staff the time and cost of commuting, a more flexible work week, and overhead savings on rent that can be reallocated to mission delivery.

Director of Finance and Operations Matthew Nidek reported that, because they had been gradually increasing remote-work time and the number of overseas staff, implementation of the all-remote approach happened organically. Still, there was much to learn in terms of hiring, training, accountability, communications, and morale; addressing the challenges took a good deal of research and learning-by-doing. Today, FFI uses a number of tools to help them stay connected, informed, and moving forward, including generous use of Google Hangouts and GoToMeeting for video-conferencing, collaborative Google Docs, WhatsApp, and other technology-based solutions.

“One way I keep staff informed is with a brief review of projects and milestones, which I report every Monday in an all-staff email,” said Nidek. “We base our all-staff meeting agendas off of those emails, which also include schedules for vacations and important meetings, a message from the CEO, and social icebreakers and good-news stories to bookend the business agenda.”
As they celebrated their 5th anniversary, Giving Kitchen returned to their DIY roots – the years before they had opened award-winning restaurant Staplehouse – by giving its supporters a way to “make your kitchen a Giving Kitchen.” Through the GK Supper Club peer-to-peer fundraiser, they provide everything supporters need to host dinner-party fundraisers (except the food and drink): branded invitations, menus, and place mats; a how-to-host guide and support-the-team talking points; and, of course, a form for donations. (They even thought of audio ambience, curating a 119-song Spotify playlist.) Originally conceived as a one-week, one-off campaign, the GK Supper Club’s success – with 30-plus hosts, approximately 155 diners, and over $25,000 raised – has led them to make it an annual fundraiser.
ALL-INCLUSIVE

PREPPING A NEW GENERATION OF PROS

In 2017, Women In Technology (WIT) launched an internship program to give its youngest members a real-world perspective on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) careers. The WIT Internship Program, funded by a grant from the NCR Foundation, leverages WIT’s corporate partnerships by exposing students to the application of STEAM education at some of Atlanta’s top technology companies. Over the course of the program, female high school and college students gain professional work experience within the context of the constantly-evolving business and tech environment. Participating students get the chance to strengthen soft skills like verbal and written communication while also developing a first-hand understanding of the field’s requirements, challenges, and day-to-day operations.

CROSSING CAUSES

NURTURING THE ARTIST IN AT-RISK YOUTH

Continuing their tradition of collaboration with youth-serving organizations, The Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia (MOCA GA) has partnered with CHRIS 180 to offer specialized tours and educational workshops for their clients, at-risk youth and young people growing up in (and growing out of) the foster care system. These museum visits are led by teaching artists, who are carefully selected to lead conversations and projects that enrich the lives of these children and young adults.

“Few museums offer students a chance for hands-on experiences with artists in their medium, and even fewer design these programs with the training necessary to serve at-risk youth,” said MOCA GA Development Officer Amy Kicklighter. Having partnered with a number of organizations over the years to introduce homeless youth to Georgia contemporary art, said Kicklighter, they know how to ensure a secure environment, outlets for expression, and encouragement, and are excited to flex that knowledge in service of a new audience.
FEEDING THE ECONOMY

FILLING THE TALENT GAP FOR IN-DEMAND INDUSTRIES

The goal of WorkSource Cobb/CobbWorks is to connect out-of-work talent with jobs by helping them apply and pay for quality job-training programs. Though unemployment rates are dropping, companies in high-demand industries such as healthcare, manufacturing, and technology are still struggling to find talent with the right set of skills. To meet this demand, and maximize the opportunity for their clients, WorkSource began an "Express" training promotion, prioritizing short-term training programs specifically for those industries, and speeding up applications for them. Making it clear in their communications which programs qualify, and giving their clients an "express" code to use when applying, staff are able to expedite them through the process and get them into training, and a job, as soon as possible. “The result of the promotion was an influx of interest,” said Communications Manager Nicole Carsten. “Applications doubled within a month.”

EXPORTING EXPERTISE

A SOLUTION TOO BIG FOR ONE SCHOOL

For more than half a century, the specialized approach developed by The Schenck School has empowered students with dyslexia to excel academically. To make their expertise available beyond the 250 kids in their school, the School’s leadership decided to establish a separate nonprofit that could serve the community across Georgia, and beyond. “It was almost a moral imperative,” said Director of Development Cathy Coleman. “We have this figured out, so how can we do more?”

After some six years of planning, The Dyslexia Resource was established in 2014 to educate parents, train teachers, partner with schools, and take the Schenck model on the road. In just four years, DRT has established a number of partnerships, including in-school engagements with Purpose Built Schools Atlanta, Marietta City Schools, and Atlanta Public Schools; involvement in a new graduate certificate in dyslexia at the University of Georgia’s College of Education; a contract to train APS teachers; and more. Even better: All of these activities generate revenue for the new nonprofit, limiting its dependance on donations. And they’re actively working to scale their techniques further using software developed by the Hill Center in North Carolina, allowing them to serve as many as four kids in the time it would otherwise take to serve one.

“We recognize that you can’t just take what we do at Schenck into another school and say, ‘This is how you do it,’” said Head of School Josh Clark. “These schools have their own culture, and their own pressures.” Navigating those differences has involved many conversations with teachers and administrators, and “a conscious effort to become part of the school community, not just people who come in to deliver a service.” In that regard, one of the more important changes they’ve made since the program’s launch, said Clark, was adjusting the schedules of their in-school remediation specialists so they could each lunch with the teachers. “It’s easy to fall into a savior syndrome. We’re very consciously making sure this is a true partnership: Everyone at these schools have expertise we don’t, and we want to learn from them, too.”
To better serve their artists and help generate new content, Dad’s Garage Theatre decided to simplify their intellectual property policy. The new policy, according to Communications Director Matt Terrell, goes like this: “Anything you make for Dad’s Garage is YOURS.” Several attorneys on their board with IP experience helped them craft the new approach. Explained Terrell, “We had lots of different, often contradictory, IP policies before this. We wanted to have one central policy that encourages the creation of new work, and promotes an artist-centric culture.”

Under the new policy, Dad’s Garage doesn’t make any ownership claim over their artists’ work (such as when they write a scripted show), and artists are free to do whatever they want with the work after it leaves the Dad’s Garage stage. The one stipulation is that any future iterations must include the line “This work was initially created at Dad’s Garage Theatre” in the show information. The new policy is retroactive, covering anything created in the improvisational theater company’s entire 23-year history.

To answer the need for affordable housing in Atlanta – especially among seniors – Southface partnered with developer Columbia Residential, the Atlanta Housing Authority, and the City of Atlanta to turn an old midtown high-rise into a model for equitable growth. Affordable and green-certified, 10th & Juniper is now a healthy, energy- and cost-efficient home for some of Atlanta’s aging, disabled, and low-income individuals and families. “Every design element and mechanical improvement will have a positive effect on residents,” wrote Southface Project Manager David Bailey in a recent essay published by SaportaReport. According to Southface projections, improvements in ventilation, insulation, and elsewhere will keep monthly utility costs down by producing, on average, a 31 percent reduction in energy consumption and a 25 percent reduction in water usage.
EXPORTING EXPERTISE

A NEW CLASS OF STUDENT AMBASSADORS

This summer, GEEARS: Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students graduated the first of its Atlanta Early Education Ambassadors, a group of parents, grandparents, teachers, and community members who will recruit and advocate for early learning participation in Atlanta’s Washington and Douglass communities. Developed in partnership with Atlanta Public Schools, the program begins with a workshop series that provides communications and leadership training, plus a working knowledge of Atlanta’s early learning options and the process for enrolling in them. Next, Ambassadors share their knowledge throughout the community – at gatherings, events, and their own workshops – illuminating the value of early education and recruiting families to sign their kids up for child care and pre-K.

With expert trainers from GEEARS, APS, the United Way of Greater Atlanta, the YMCA of Greater Atlanta, the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, and more, said Pre-K Recruitment Specialist Dawan Barfield, participants gain insight “from some of Atlanta’s brightest early education advocates and experts.” One new Ambassador, Edwina Robinson, said she joined the program after struggling to find quality education resources for her son: “Not only did I get the information I needed to help myself, but I feel equipped to help parents all over Atlanta.”

The second class of Atlanta Early Education Ambassadors is currently underway.

SECTOR SUPPORT
FUELING GOOD

As part of its ongoing efforts to “Be a Fuel for Good” in the communities they serve, Gas South has committed to giving back 5 percent of its profits to help children in need, and are actively redirecting their efforts for maximum impact. Among other hands-on investments, the region’s largest energy provider has devoted money and volunteers to schools in Cobb County and Atlanta, the United Way of Greater Atlanta, YMCA of Metro Atlanta, Junior Achievement of Georgia, MUST Ministries, Action Ministries, Pebble Tossers, and more – including GCN’s own GAgives on #GivingTuesday, where they’ve once again committed $7,500 in prizes for top fundraisers serving children in need.
For seven years, Fill Ministries weighed different ideas for ensuring a steady flow of produce for their food delivery program and community pantry, **Meals by Grace**, which serves between 500 and 700 people a week. Aiming to secure the freshest food possible, which studies show is essential for growing brain connections, they discovered the answer in aquaponic farming: a way to grow organic produce and fish year-round in a single, symbiotic system. With community support, they secured six acres of land and built a greenhouse with the capacity to produce over 274 pounds of produce per week and 1,050 pounds of fish quarterly. Currently run by Operations Manager and “head farmer” Steve Daniels and supported by a crew of volunteers (with funding for dedicated staff in the works), the greenhouse is now providing 65 pounds of aquaponically-grown lettuce and tomatoes per week for the families served by their food program, supplemented by traditionally-farmed fruits and vegetables. Meanwhile, the ecosystem is developing apace for the first fish harvest.

**Meals by Grace** has also started training adults with disabilities in greenhouse tasks and will soon offer greenhouse skills training to client families and veterans. A second greenhouse is currently in development and a funding campaign for another is underway; ultimately, they plan to have eight greenhouses altogether, making it the largest aquaponic farm devoted to feeding the hungry and job training in the Southeast.

**KILLER APP**

**ON-THE-GO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Thanks to the United Way of Greater Atlanta, Metro-area residents have a new, always-at-hand way to find out where they can give their time and skills: The VolunHere app, created with app developer Dragon Army. United Way Chief Marketing Officer Elizabeth Ward said that they recognized how people were using their phones to schedule their lives, and realized they could boost volunteerism by offering a tool that fits it into their lives seamlessly, lining up when and where with “exactly what they care about.” The resulting app provides an up-to-date list of volunteer opportunities at hundreds of organizations across United Way of Greater Atlanta’s 13-county service area, which can be filtered by time of day, location, and cause area. There’s even a handy dashboard that gives purpose-driven Atlantans a FitBit-style tracker for their good deeds.
SECTOR SUPPORT

BROADCAST FOR GOOD

This year, WXIA-TV 11Alive launched a new segment on its daily Atlanta & Company show called Community Connection. Hosted by Community Correspondent Myra Sky, the segment highlights people and organizations making a difference in the community, promoting upcoming fundraising events, volunteer opportunities, and other ways to give back. “It is our mission to inspire Atlanta to come together and support the wide range of local organizations and nonprofits working tirelessly every day,” said Sky. Recently featured organizations include the Center for the Visually Impaired, the Atlanta Community Food Bank, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and Hands On Atlanta.

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

A HIGH-RISE FOR ATLANTA’S WINGED RESIDENTS

Long in the works, Atlanta Audubon just finished its new Bird-Friendly Habitat Educational Exhibit in Piedmont Park, complete with Georgia’s first Chimney Swift Tower. Dedicated in late September as part of their celebration of Georgia Grows Native for Birds Month, the exhibit includes a native plant garden that makes an ideal habitat for birds and other wildlife, demonstrating to park visitors the value of native grasses and wildflowers. The 24-foot-tall Chimney Swift Tower that stands alongside it provides a home for the urban-dwelling Chimney Swift, a bird that migrates to Georgia each year to mate, nest, and raise hatchlings while helping clear up the mosquito problem for their human neighbors (one swift can eat up to 1,000 bugs each day). The tower serves as a replacement for their disappearing habitat – chimneys, which are increasingly being capped – and should help reverse their dwindling numbers. It will also provide a powerful visual treat for area residents: Reports Atlanta Audubon Director of Membership and Communications Dottie Head, “In late summer and early fall, swifts descend on these towers at dusk, forming a large swarm that pours into the chimney like smoke in reverse.”

DISRUPTIVE FORCE

THE FOUNDATION FOR A LASTING HOME

For many families facing homelessness and poverty, money management plays a major role in their challenges. That’s why Rainbow Village, a transitional housing program, teamed with Operation HOPE to provide financial coaches for their clients. Operation HOPE helps individuals from low- to moderate-income families “disrupt” poverty, helping them establish banking lines, purchase houses, start businesses, and begin earning living wages. Starting this summer, two Operation HOPE coaches began working with Rainbow Village case managers and residents in a variety of areas – including cash management, credit, savings, and budgeting – to help their clients increase savings, decrease debt, improve credit scores, and pave the way to their financial independence.
ALL-INCLUSIVE

FIVE WAYS TO DIVERSIFY VISITORS

In just two years, the High Museum of Art has tripled its nonwhite audience: Currently, 50 percent of their attendees belong to a racial minority, nearly matching the demographics of its in-town Atlanta community, where 51 percent of residents are nonwhite. So how did the High do it? A deliberate, multi-pronged approach, cogently broken down in an artnet News report by Editor Julia Halperin:

START WITH CONTENT: Of the High's last 24 exhibitions, 14 have focused on artwork by artists of color, gay artists, women, and other under-represented populations. The museum has also reduced the total number of shows presented, focusing more on the High's permanent collection, which includes many African-American artists.

CHANGE THE MARKETING STRATEGY: Rather than focus on a few blockbuster shows, the High now devotes 60 percent of its marketing budget to promote a cross-section of exhibitions; the remaining 40 percent promotes it as a destination for families and young professionals. They’ve also added a friendly new motto, “Here for you.”

TWEAK ADMISSION FEES: Overhauling its classic “tiered” fee system (in which adult admission, at $19.50, was high among its peer institutions nationwide), the High now charges all visitors the same price, $14.50, with free admission for children 5 and under. This has made the museum feel more welcoming to potential visitors, said Director Rand Suffolk.

GET DOCENTS INVOLVED: The demographics of those who guide visitors was actively diversified by the docents themselves; in 2017, nonwhite docents made up 33 percent of the cohort.

DIVERSIFY STAFF: Though Suffolk admits they still have much work to do in this area (an industry-wide issue), the High grew the percentage of nonwhite staff by 4 percent over two years.
KILLER APP

AN ONLINE RESOURCE FOR THE FOSTER-CURIOS

Helping address the overtaxed foster care system in Georgia, which includes 14,000 children and fewer than 4,800 homes (according to the most recent data from DFCS), the United Methodist Children’s Home (UMCH) has launched the state’s first web portal dedicated to increasing awareness of those children’s needs, and recruiting Georgians to help in meeting them. Fosternow.com is UMCH’s innovative new website, housing simple instructions, inspiring video testimony, and county-by-county statistics to help every visitor understand the circumstances of children who find themselves in the system, and the variety of opportunities to provide relief – including a clear explanation of the requirements for becoming a foster family, and a simple way begin the process.

SECTOR SUPPORT

LEGAL EASE

To maximize the return on investment for both their nonprofit clients and their volunteer attorneys, Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta launched the Rapid Remedy program in 2016, through which an attorney spends a half-day completing a single project with a nonprofit, like producing a new employee manual, finalizing a contract, or establishing proper worker classifications. Forty-one nonprofits have participated since Rapid Remedy’s 2016 launch, including senior housing assistance organization HopeWorks; their Executive Director Michael Kimsey said that the program helped “gave them confidence moving forward, without questions of compliance looming over us.”
EXPORTING EXPERTISE
CAREER DEVELOPMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

During the 2017-2018 school year, the Tommy Nobis Center launched a new program to apply their expertise — helping adults with disabilities gain independence through career training and job placement — to those still in school. The Early Youth Employment Services (EYES) pilot began with a collaboration joining the Center’s program specialists and vocational rehabilitation counselors with Cobb and Hall County schools. The purpose of the program is to engage with students with disabilities to identify the kinds of careers they want to learn more about, and equip them with the foundational job readiness skills they’ll need to be successful. Guest speakers included a welding student from Georgia Trade School, a celebrity chef and culinary instructor for The Art Institute of Atlanta (and his junior-celebrity chef daughter), and a childcare professional from the YMCA of Metro Atlanta; field trips took students to Lexus Nalley Smyrna and Kroger for further career exploration. A summer session, held in June, gave students the opportunity to gain training and first-hand work experience in a variety careers.

With a 100 percent satisfaction rating from Cobb County school participants and a successful summer youth program under their belts, the Center kicked off the 2018-2019 school year with EYES classroom training in 15 high schools in Cobb, Pickens, and Hall Counties, with plans to serve an additional high school in Banks County in late October.

REACHING BEYOND
THE MUSEUM THAT EMAILS ITSELF

Expanding the reach of their mission while engaging thousands of supporters where they are, Heritage Sandy Springs began publishing The Sandy Springs Gazette in 2016, a weekly online journal featuring original articles pertaining to the city’s history. Every article is based on an oral history from the Heritage Sandy Springs Museum archives, highlighting the history and cultural experience of both individual residents and the community at large. With over 12,400 views monthly, the organization has seen its audience grow far beyond the Metro Atlanta area, garnering click-throughs from across the country and internationally. In February 2017 and 2018, they took the project a step further, creating print editions and distributing them throughout the community free of charge, reaching those who may not have online access. “The Gazette takes history off of the shelf, making it more accessible to the public, reinforcing our shared heritage and cultural identity, and promoting the nonprofit and museum,” said Executive Director Carol Thompson.
EMPLOYEE EMPOWERMENT
BENEFITS BEFITTING THE MISSION

This year, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia (HMHB) launched their first comprehensive paid parental leave policy since their 1974 founding. Though they had always offered full-time employees the option to use short-term disability alongside protected leave, they recognized that it is important to offer an equitable policy designed to protect and pay employees when building their families.

Working with Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta, HMHB set its Organizational Management Committee to the task of drafting and reviewing the policy, which was finalized for their FY19 Employee Handbook. The new policy – which provides 8 weeks of paid parental leave, covering men as well as women, and adoption and foster care as well as birth – is, according to HMHB ED Elise Blasingame, the fulfillment of a dedication to “walk the walk.” Said Blasingame, “We advocate all the time for local businesses of all sizes to include a paid parental leave option. Employer accommodation policies for families have a tangible impact on maternal and infant health outcomes. If a medium sized non-profit like ours can make this change, we hope others will find a way to follow suit.”

CROSSING CAUSES
AN UNEXPECTED DUET

A “pas de deux” effort between Frazer Center and Atlanta Ballet has resulted in a multi-faceted collaboration between two organizations with disparate missions – respectively, helping Atlantans living with disabilities lead fuller and more independent lives, and providing world-class dance performances and training.

To start with, 12 participants in Frazer’s Adult Program have joined twice-a-week dance classes at the Atlanta Ballet Centre for Dance Education; Frazer clients are also taking advantage of opportunities to volunteer in the Atlanta Ballet costume shop. Meanwhile, the Frazer Center’s campus, with its surrounding 39-acre Frazer Forest and historic Cator Woolford Gardens, will provide unique and inspiring venues for outdoor performances by Atlanta Ballet’s second company, Atlanta Ballet 2.

Bringing together these two organizations is the Collaboration Innovation Grant challenge, a competition for members of the Building Community Network (led by The Home Depot Foundation and GCN) that funds groundbreaking partnerships.

“This partnership will give the adults in our program the chance to broaden their horizons by learning new skills and meeting new people in the professional community,” said Frazer Center CEO Paige McKay Kubik. At the same time, Kubik said, the Center is excited to host Atlanta Ballet 2 performances, which promise to “bring the entire community together, whether you are a dance enthusiast, disabilities advocate, or nature lover.”
SECTOR SUPPORT

THE START OF A NONPROFIT FINANCIAL WELLNESS MOVEMENT

Financial literacy – let alone “financial wellness” – can be a hard to achieve for anyone in the present-day economy. For those in the nonprofit sector, where the work is often all-consuming and the compensation less-than-ideal, getting organized financially can be even tougher. That’s why GCN partnered with the SunTrust Foundation to put together Mission:Money, a financial wellness resource specifically for nonprofit employees and employers.

Featuring articles that demystify a wide array of critical topics – from budgeting to insurance to taxes, credit, major purchases, retirement, and workplace benefits packages – Mission:Money serves as a one-stop guide for nonprofit pros no matter where they are in their journey to financial wellness. It also offers a robust guide for employers looking to better educate their people and, in the process, cut down on a leading source of employee stress and underperformance. “Workplace financial wellness programs aren’t just another trendy benefit – they’ve been shown to increase satisfaction and productivity,” said GCN CEO Karen Beavor. “They’re also cost-efficient for organizations of any size.”

Mission:Money also hosts free events in Georgia and online, including an October workshop on retention strategies, presented in partnership with Mutual of America, and a November webinar on starting a workplace financial wellness program, and a spring 2019 HR Summit, Competing For and Keeping Top Talent, all posted to gcn.org/events.

IDEAS 2018

REACHING BEYOND

PUPPETRY FOR PARTY PEOPLE

Though it’s long held appeal for adults and children alike, the Center for Puppetry Arts is looking to become known as a more grown-up destination with an after-hours, 21-and-older Puppet Party Series. The program began in August with the Puppets and Pints gathering, complete with craft beer, live “nerd-grass” music, bar games, and a chance to experience the museum in a child-free environment. The series returns in February with Galentine’s Night, and Puppets and Pinot in April.
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