



The Office of Secretary of State

Karen C. Handel
SECRETARY OF STATE

David W. Carmicheal
DIRECTOR
ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Steven W. Engerrand
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
ARCHIVAL SERVICES

May 1, 2008

ATLANTA, GA. Secretary of State Karen Handel announced today that libraries, museums, and archives throughout Georgia will benefit from a \$40,000 grant awarded to the Georgia Archives by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The money is the first step in *The Healthy Collections Initiative* that, according to Handel, "will ensure that our state's cultural heritage collections are preserved for future generations."

Christine Wiseman, the *Healthy Collections Initiative* project manager, says that an IMLS survey in 2005 showed that 80% of cultural institutions in the United States do not have a disaster plan, and 77% do not have specific funding for preservation. "We stand to lose library books, archival records, and museum objects if we do not take proactive steps to preserve them. The planning grant gives us a chance to plan a larger project to preserve Georgia's cultural collections."

During this planning grant, *The Healthy Collections Initiative* will identify all collections-holding organizations in Georgia, develop and test a survey to assess collections care and emergency readiness in Georgia, and consult with tourism experts to heighten the visibility of cultural repositories in the state. If a larger, implementation, grant follows, a full assessment of cultural institutions would determine what steps Georgia needs to take to protect its cultural resources. In addition, a directory of all cultural institutions will be created and mapped to a GIS system. Such a system, according to Wiseman, would provide specific location information for use by both tourists and emergency planners.

"This project is unique because the resulting GIS database can pinpoint the location of any cultural repository in the state, including a summary of the type of collections held and contact information for key staff members. This type of centralized information would have helped speed up the response along the gulf coast after Hurricane Katrina, a situation we want to prevent from occurring in Georgia" said Georgia Archives Director David Carmicheal.

“In addition, results from the assessment will help to outline a set of preservation strategies for measuring the level of collections care and guide long range planning for Georgia’s cultural repositories”.

Grant partners provide a comprehensive representation of collecting institutions in Georgia (archives, libraries, museums and historical societies), as well as organizations that can assist in promoting the importance of collections care statewide and raise the visibility of collecting repositories. Partner organizations include [Georgia Public Library Service](#) (Office of the State Librarian), [Georgia Association of Museums and Galleries](#) (GAMG), [Georgia Emergency Management Agency](#) (GEMA), [Georgia Historic Preservation Division](#), [Dept of Natural Resources](#) (HPD), [Georgia Humanities Council](#), [Society of Georgia Archivists](#) (SGA), [Georgia Department of Economic Development](#), and the [Southeastern Library Network](#) (SOLINET).

For more information, visit www.GeorgiaArchives.org and click on the “Healthy Collections Initiative” icon, or contact Christine Wiseman, Preservation Services Manager at the Georgia Archives (cwiseman@sos.georgia.gov or 678-364-3761).

Karen Handel was sworn in as Secretary of State in January 2007. The Secretary of State’s office offers important services to our business community, our government, and our citizens. These services include an efficient and secure election process, and the regulation of corporations, securities, and professional license holders. The Office also manages the state archives and the Capitol museum.