

HOUSTON MUSEUM of DECORATIVE ARTS



HE TOOK A WILL AND FOUND A WAY

Among the antiques lovers and museum aficionados, there may be no single name better known in Chattanooga than that of the late Anna Safley Houston. An eccentric recluse, but one who "knew her stuff", she trusted few, but, fortunately, one of them was her attorney, the late Blaine Buchanan, who took a leading role in preserving the integrity of her collection after her death. And that preservation and the careful documentation of each item and the selection of a possible permanent home for the amazing collection depended largely on the dedication of Mr. Buchanan, his wife Irene, and other supporters. Hard work and dogged determination, not to mention financial support of the effort, eventually led first to the short-term availability of another Bluff View house and finally to the purchase of the very suitable home at 201 High Street. Blaine's daughter Betty reminds us that his 10 year journey was done pro bono. Upon meeting Anna for the first time, he described her as standing on the porch sweeping, dressed head to toe in a black dress with a small dog at her side, looking like a witch. He pulled his car into the drive, parked far enough away, stood outside the car and when she demanded his business, told her, I'm your attorney; as requested by you, I'm going to prepare your will. And thus began the long journey for Blaine. Now, several decades later, we make tribute to the remarkable man who offered, along with his legal help, his kind spirit of friendship and dedication to the memory and accomplishment of a most unusual woman.



The Houston is proud to lead the way for the 2nd Annual Museum Hop to be held Aug. 9 & 10, 10-5pm. NINE local museums will participate including Songbirds Guitar, TVRM, Medal of Honor, 6th Cavalry, Bessie Smith CC, Coker Car, International Towing, & National Park Partners Chickamauga, Chattanooga Moccasin Bend. For only \$20 participants can tour ALL the museums in two days! This collaboration with other museums is just one more way that the Houston is making a difference in the community.

Hours

Wednesday- Saturday:
12-4 p.m.

Admission

Adults: \$9
Children (4-17): \$3.50
Students (with current id): \$5
Active Military: \$5

Keeping Up with the Houston



@houstonmuseum

thehoustonmuseum.org

houstonmuseumchattanooga@gmail.com

Houston Highlights



Jim McDowell

Join artist Jim McDowell in a one man performance of slave potter,

David Drake

The Houston Museum is bringing African-American potter Jim McDowell to Chattanooga for two events in July.

- Saturday, July 21 — Houston Museum Outreach Coordinator Lilly Waters will hold a class for 30 children, who will create pottery while learning about “Dave the Potter,” face jugs, and traditional clay art techniques from Mr. McDowell at Scenic City Clay Arts.
- Sunday, July 22 — Mr. McDowell will portray “Dave the Potter” in a one-man performance at the Chattanooga Theatre Centre.

Inspired by his family’s oral tradition and his own research, McDowell makes face jugs based on a folk tradition of pottery vessels that are made in the form of a human face. Because the graves of African-American slaves were not allowed to have stone grave markers, their families sometimes used face jugs instead.

“We have a rare, highly treasured Edgefield face jug in our collection,” said Houston Museum Executive Director Amy Autenreith. “And Jim McDowell embodies that history in the face jugs he makes and with his one-man performance. We want to share this experience and knowledge with Chattanooga.”

Tickets are \$20 per person but Houston members only pay \$15. Call the museum for details.

Education Outreach

The outreach program is excited to start our second year of summer classes! We kick off with our American Textiles program on June 14 followed by our Occupational Shaving Mugs program on June 21st, the World of Glass class on June 28th and we will finish off the four week session with our Victorian Tea Party on July 12th. The cost for attendance is \$8.00 per child and the age range is 7-12. The classes begin at 1:30 p.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. We invite our members to help spread the word! Please have anyone who would like to attend contact outreach coordinator Lilly Waters at houstonmuseumoutreach@gmail.com or call 423-267-7176 to register

-Lilly Waters



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