



Georgia Production Partnership (GPP) Announces South Georgia Regional Meeting Location

The meeting, sponsored by the Georgia Film Office, will be held at Valdosta State University, on October 11.

ATLANTA, August 24, 2018 - As Georgia's booming film industry continues to break records; Georgia Production Partnership announces the South Georgia Regional Meeting, to showcase the opportunity the film industry brings to all of Georgia. The GPP Regional Meeting sponsored by the Georgia Film Office, a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD), is being presented in cooperation with the Valdosta State University Film and Video Society. This third and final GPP Regional meeting of 2018 will take place at Valdosta State University on Thursday, October 11th from 1:30-2:30p.m., in the VSU Student Union Theatre, (1500 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, Georgia 31698).

The primary audience for GPP's South Georgia regional meeting is the regional economic development professionals and city and county leaders from 57 South Georgia counties. Students are also invited to gain a better understanding of the opportunities their studies in established South Georgia and Coastal Georgia film educational programs will give them in allowing them to live and work right here in Georgia.

The meeting will feature **Mike Riley, Location Manager of the hit AMC series The Walking Dead**, who will be taking our audience through the details of what really brings interest from entertainment projects in choosing specific locations. Mike is a seasoned Location Manager. Not only has he done a masterful job in finding shooting locations for the Walking Dead since 2010, he's also been the Location Manager for such hit films as Sweet Home Alabama, Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?, Bobby Jones: Stroke of Genius, Diary of a Mad Black Woman, Warm Springs, and Stomp the Yard.

Also on the panel will be Craig Dominey, Manager of the Camera Ready Georgia program, who'll be sharing information about Georgia's unique and successful "Camera Ready" program. This groundbreaking initiative was started in October 2010 to bring film and television production to communities across the state by offering production companies easier, faster and better access to county production resources and location information. Numerous Georgia counties have enjoyed the economic impact of film and television production through the Camera Ready program, including local hires, tourism, hotel stays and purchases of goods and services. Currently, all 159 Georgia counties are Camera Ready certified by the Georgia Film Office.

The **Executive Director of The Georgia Film Academy (GFA), Jeffrey Stepakoff**, will also be a featured panelist. Jeffrey will talk about how the GFA is preparing our student workforce for entertainment jobs, in addition to educating local communities toward efficient practices to attract entertainment projects to their areas. The Georgia Film Academy is an example of forward-thinking infrastructure in our state - a collaborative effort of the University System of Georgia and Technical College System of Georgia supporting workforce needs of the film and digital entertainment industries. The academy certifies workforce ready employees in needed areas, connects students and prospective employees with employers, and offers a unique capstone experience for top students that will provide them a path to employment in Georgia.

Our panel discussion will be moderated by Georgia Production Partnership's Chair of Industry & Community Relations, Malenka Warner.



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Georgia Production Partnership's goal in hosting regional meetings around the state is to share the knowledge of how Georgia communities (outside of Atlanta) are attracting film productions to their cities.

Pre-registration for the meeting is required. The cost is \$10 for all non GPP members (Free to GPP members). Deadline to register is **Sunday, October 7th** at midnight. Attendees can register at: bit.ly/SGARegional

About GPP

The Georgia Production Partnership (GPP) is a 501c6 nonprofit coalition of companies and individuals who are active in the state's film, television, music and digital entertainment industries. Since 1995 our top priority has been to protect the production tax incentive and strengthen our industry. GPP's mission is to:

- Engage the community to protect the tax incentive;
- Activate individuals through activities to advance all parts of the industry; and
- Educate the Georgia workforce to strengthen and grow the industry.

About GDEcD

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is the state's sales and marketing arm, the lead agency for attracting new business investment, encouraging the expansion of existing industry and small businesses, locating new markets for Georgia products, attracting tourists to Georgia, and promoting the state as a destination for arts events and location for film, music and digital entertainment projects, as well as planning and mobilizing state resources for economic development. www.georgia.org

About Valdosta State University Film and Video Society

The VSU Film and Video Society is a student organization that educates its members on multiple aspects of the film industry and helps them pursue a career in the field.

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