



ATLANTA QUILT FESTIVAL

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

18th ANNUAL ATLANTA QUILT FESTIVAL OPENS JULY 31st

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**“MUSIC MOVES MOVEMENTS” EXHIBIT PREMIERS AT SOUTHWEST ARTS CENTER
GALLERY AND EVELYN G. LOWERY CASCADE LIBRARY**

SHOWCASES MORE THAN 150 AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSPIRED QUILTS

(ATLANTA, South Fulton) July 29, 2026 --Atlanta Quilt Festival (AQF) announces its 18th annual festival and juried exhibition scheduled for July 31– September 5th at the Southwest Arts Center, 915 New Hope Road SW, South Fulton, GA 30331. The unveiling of the two- part ***Music Moves Movements*** exhibit headlines the festival. It features a new collection of approximately 50 original art quilts that celebrate how music inspired political movements throughout history. A soundtrack of resistance and change is also available to play while you view the quilts. Part One of the exhibit will be on display at the **Southwest Arts Center Gallery** and part two will be on display at **Evelyn G. Lowery Cascade Library**, 3665 Cascade Rd, Atlanta, GA 30331.

Quilt Artist **Jeanette Walton** is the featured Master Quilter for 2026. AQF is thrilled to reintroduce the talented Walton to Atlanta. After spending several years in the city, she moved to California but has now returned. While in California, Walton furthered her skills as a certified Judy Niemeyer teacher, conducting classes on quilt cruises and at the prestigious International Quilt Festival in Houston. Now, she is eager to share her expertise with AQF quilters as we embark on the creation of “Star Baby.” Classes are available for Friday, August 14th and Saturday, August 15th, 2026. In addition, Walton will host a Trunk Show on Saturday, August 15th, 2026 to showcase her quilt collection.

“We are thrilled to see how much the AQF has grown over the last 18 years, and we are very excited to share that growth with our local community and quilt lovers everywhere,” said O.V. Brantley, CEO & Co-Founder of Atlanta Quilt Festival. “Our partnership with the City of South Fulton & Southwest Arts Center has truly taken us to the next level.”

City of South Fulton, Southern Poverty Law Center, the Modern Quilt Guild Southeastern Quilt & Textile Museum are major partners for this year’s festival. The **Opening Reception** for AQF is Sunday, August 2nd from 11am – 4 pm at Southwest Arts Center. In addition to viewing the exhibits, attendees can shop vendors, attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 2 p.m., and enjoy refreshments. The Opening Reception is free and open to the public. AQF will also host classes and lectures throughout the month of August. The full lineup and tickets are available at www.atlantaquiltfestival.com. The exhibits are open daily and are free and open to the public.

About the Atlanta Quilt Festival

The Atlanta Quilt Festival, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of African American quilts and other textile art. Since its founding, the festival has showcased the work of quilters, doll-makers and fiber artists from across the country and offered educational programming to keep traditional and contemporary quilting techniques alive for new generations.

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