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Fernbank Museum's *A Timeless Affair* Gala Raises Funds to Inspire & Educate

Honoring Trustee Teresa M. Finley for Outstanding Service

(AUGUST 27, 2026) Atlanta, GA — Fernbank Museum will host its annual fundraising gala, *A Timeless Affair*, honoring Teresa M. Finley on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. Set beneath Fernbank's iconic dinosaurs, the evening will bring together Atlanta's philanthropic, business and civic communities for an unforgettable celebration of science, nature, culture, and the power of curiosity.

Proceeds from the gala will support Fernbank's world-class exhibitions, immersive giant screen films, family programs and experiential nature education. Further support will go towards Museum Access Scholarships, which help more than 14,000 students from Title I schools visit the museum on field trips each year.

Celebrating a Legacy of Leadership

This year's gala honors Teresa M. Finley, whose leadership and philanthropy have helped shape Fernbank's growth and impact for more than 15 years. Since joining Fernbank's Board of Trustees in 2011, Finley has served in many roles including Board Chair. Most recently, Finley has served as co-chair of the museum's THRIVE Campaign, a transformational \$27 million initiative supporting new exhibitions, expanded educational opportunities and greater accessibility.

"Teresa's leadership continues to propel Fernbank into an ambitious new chapter," said Fernbank President and CEO, Jennifer Grant Warner. "Her commitment to fostering curiosity and inspiring future generations reflects the very heart of our mission. We are thrilled to celebrate her and the lasting impact she has made on our museum and our community."

For Finley, the evening represents both a celebration and an opportunity to invest in Fernbank's future.

"A Timeless Affair is truly one of Atlanta's most remarkable evenings. It is a formal, festive, and unforgettable celebration beneath the dinosaurs with family, friends and colleagues," said Finley. "This event offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate together while making a meaningful investment in Fernbank and the many children and families whose lives are enriched by the museum."

An Evening to Remember

Guests will begin the evening with a sunset cocktail hour on Fernbank's Dinosaur Plaza, surrounded by Fernbank's magnificent dinosaurs and the natural beauty of the Museum's campus. A seated dinner featuring inspired cuisine, decadent desserts and live music, sets the stage for an elegant evening of celebration, connection and philanthropy.

The event will also include live and silent auctions offering an exceptional collection of experiences, including exclusive travel opportunities, premier sports and concert packages, distinctive fashion and lifestyle offerings, and thoughtfully curated "buy-in" experiences designed to bring guests together.

A "Fund-A-Need" paddle raise will benefit the Fernbank Museum Access scholarship fund, which helps more students experience the wonder of the Museum.

"There is something magical about gathering beneath Fernbank's dinosaurs" said Laurie Hood, Co-Chair of *A Timeless Affair*. "But what makes this evening extraordinary is knowing that every gift helps open the doors of Fernbank to the next generation of curious minds."

Co-Chair Amy Nelson added, "This year's *A Timeless Affair* is an evening you simply don't want to miss – curated, yet a bit unexpected, fun, with philanthropy at its heart. From the elegant sunset cocktail hour to the unique auction experiences, and the opportunity to make an impact on children and families, this is going to be a very special night."

Leading the Celebration

Led by Event Chairs, Laurie Hood and Amy Nelson, *A Timeless Affair* also features Patron Chairs, Vanessa and Robin Delmer, and Burch and Mark Hanson; Corporate Chair, Kristen Manion Taylor, Senior Vice President of Brand Experience, Delta; and Scholarship Chair, Sara McDonald Youd.

In advance of the gala, patrons and sponsors will be invited to an exclusive Patron Party hosted by Natasha and Christopher Swann. Patron levels begin at \$2,500 per couple, and tables of 10 begin at \$15,000. Additional ticket and sponsorship opportunities are available.

The signature sponsors include Coca-Cola Bottling Company UNITED, The Coca-Cola Company, Delta Air Lines, Georgia Natural Gas, The McClatchey Foundation, and Union Pacific with Norfolk Southern Railroads.

For more information about *A Timeless Affair*, tickets, sponsorship opportunities and patron levels, visit FernbankMuseum.org/ATimelessAffair

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ABOUT FERNBANK

Fernbank is one of the most popular and iconic cultural destinations in Atlanta. Known as Atlanta's Science and Nature Experience, Fernbank invites guests to discover a World of Wow through an expansive natural history museum, 4-story giant screen theater, and 75 acres of nature adventures in WildWoods and Fernbank Forest. One of the oldest not-for-profit conservation organizations in the country, Fernbank was founded in 1939 to preserve Fernbank Forest, the largest urban, old growth, Piedmont forest in the United States. The museum and giant screen theater opened as "a school in the woods for nature studies" on Oct. 5, 1992, and is today known for its giant dinosaurs, hands-on STEAM* programming, immersive experiences, and year-round nature exploration. Visit [FernbankMuseum.org](https://www.FernbankMuseum.org) for more information and join the conversation on Facebook, Instagram, X, YouTube and TikTok.

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