

Athens-Clarke County
Leisure Services Department

2018



Fiscal Year
Annual Report



www.accgov.com/leisure

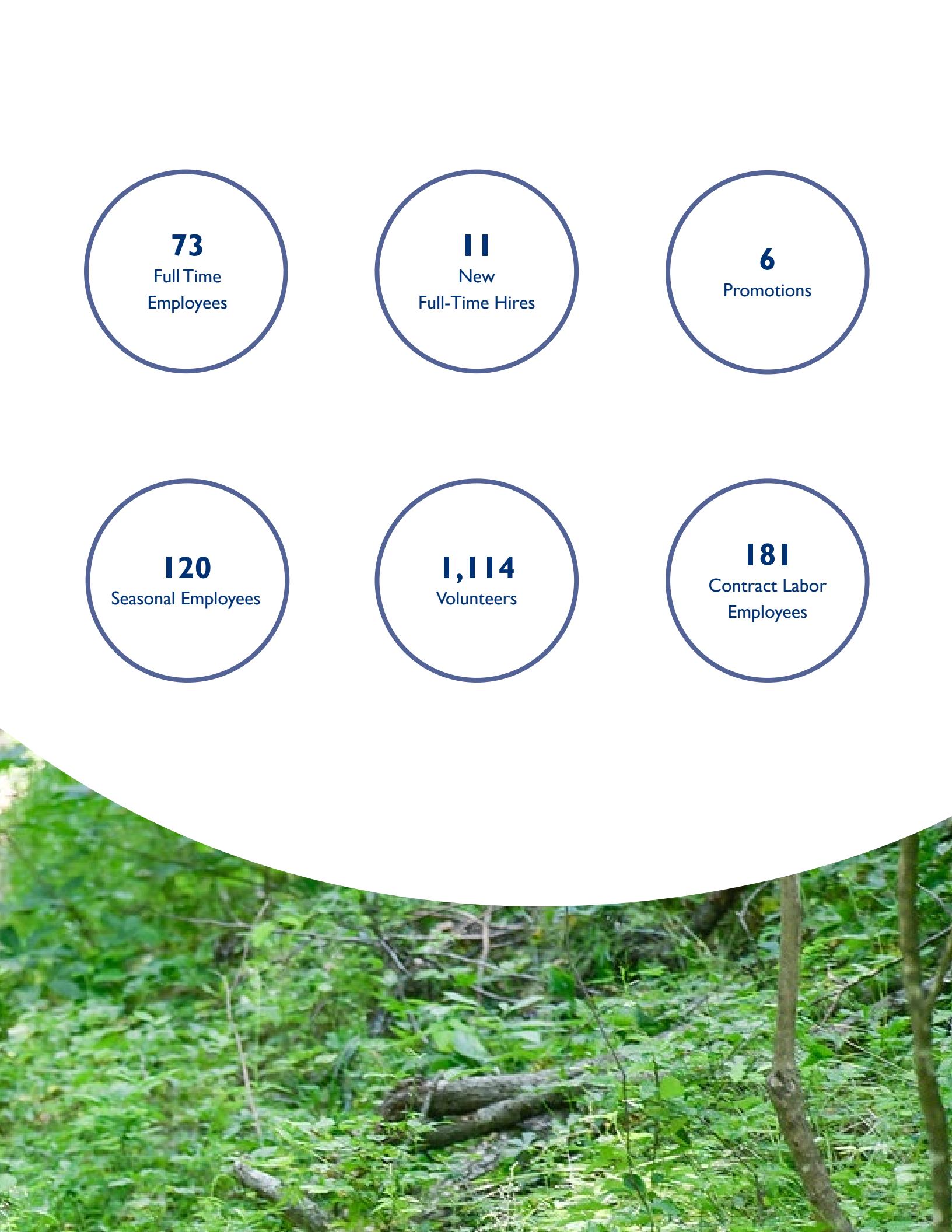
Who We Are

The Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Department staff spent Fiscal Year 2018 growing and improving. The award-winning department saw significant change with a new director and a new organizational structure, while conducting hundreds of arts, nature, recreational, and sports programs. A special highlight included The Georgia Recreation and Park Association recognizing the department with the District 7 “ Agency of the Year Award.” This recognition is a reminder of the outstanding work our employees and volunteers provide to our community. We look back at the previous year as an indicator of what we can expect in the upcoming year – expanding facilities, extensive programs, and accomplishments of which to be proud.

Our Mission

ACC Leisure Services builds a healthier and more livable community by providing opportunities to learn, to create, and to play in quality parks, programs, and facilities that are valued by our citizens.





A photograph of a forest floor. The ground is covered in a dense layer of green, leafy plants and small shrubs. Several fallen tree trunks of varying sizes are scattered across the scene, some lying horizontally and others vertically. The lighting suggests a natural, outdoor environment with dappled sunlight filtering through the canopy.

73
Full Time
Employees

11
New
Full-Time Hires

6
Promotions

120
Seasonal Employees

1,114
Volunteers

181
Contract Labor
Employees

With Whom We Partner

Partnerships are one of the Leisure Services Department's strong suits. During the past year, the Department partnered with several organizations to enhance facilities, programs, and services for the community. Many of these organizations also provided volunteer support.

Community partners include:

Athens Academy

Athens Area Arts Council

Athens-Clarke County Library

Athens Cultural Affairs Commission

Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau

Athens Downtown Development Authority

Athens Housing Authority

Athens Institute of Contemporary Art

Athens Little League

Athens United Soccer

Black Male Leadership Society

Clarke County School District

Dawg Camp Fusion

East Athens Little League

Envision Athens

Friends of Athens Creative Theatre

Georgia Adopt-A-Stream

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Georgia Forestry Commission

Georgia Museum of Art

Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia

Green Acres Baptist Church

Lyndon House Arts Foundation

Morton Theatre Corporation

National Council of Negro Women

Northeast Georgia Boy Scouts of America

Northeast Georgia Youth Football

Oconee Rivers Audubon Society

Sandy Creek Nature Center Inc

Skate Park of Athens

Southern Off Road Bicycle Association

Tallassee Partners

Upper Oconee Watershed Network

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

The University of Georgia

Visual Arts Guild.



Pictured is the North Oconee River Greenway, which was expanded in March to College Station Road.

More Trails!

On April 6, the Leisure Services Department hosted the North Oconee River Greenway expansion ribbon cutting. Approximately 100 people attended the event that highlighted the new 2-mile addition to the paved path. The ACC segment of the Firefly Trail was dedicated on October 20.

What We Did



10,710
Citizens with
Online Accounts



25,173 Pool Visitors



16,073
Registered Program
Participants



19,471 Splashpad Splashers



5,790
Camp Opportunities



1,046
Programs

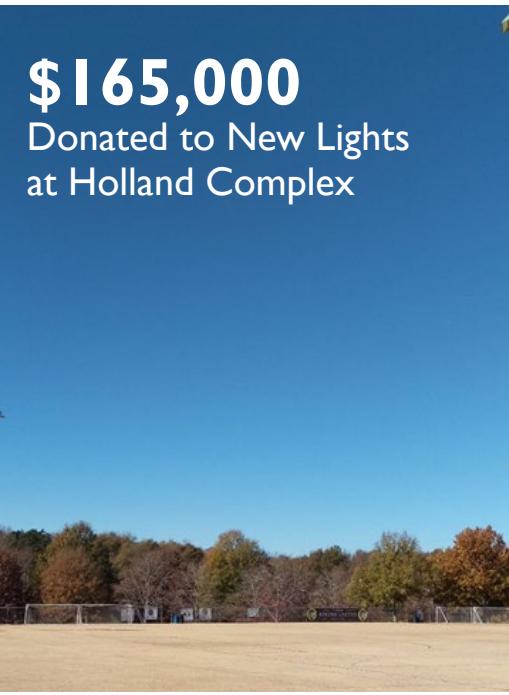




66,327
Annual Sandy Creek
Park Visitors



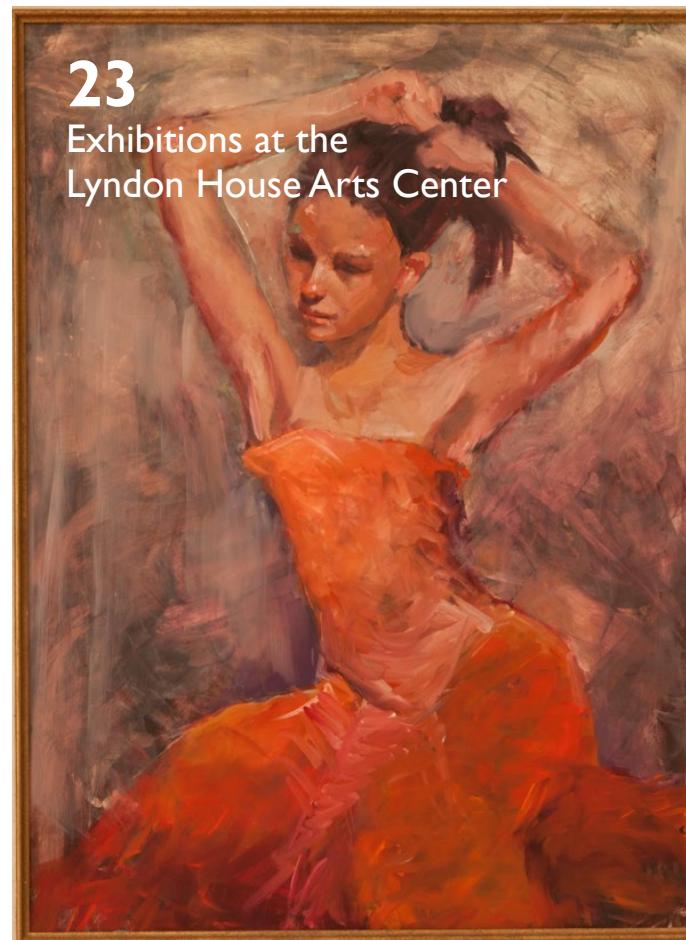
197
Playground Inspections



\$165,000
Donated to New Lights
at Holland Complex

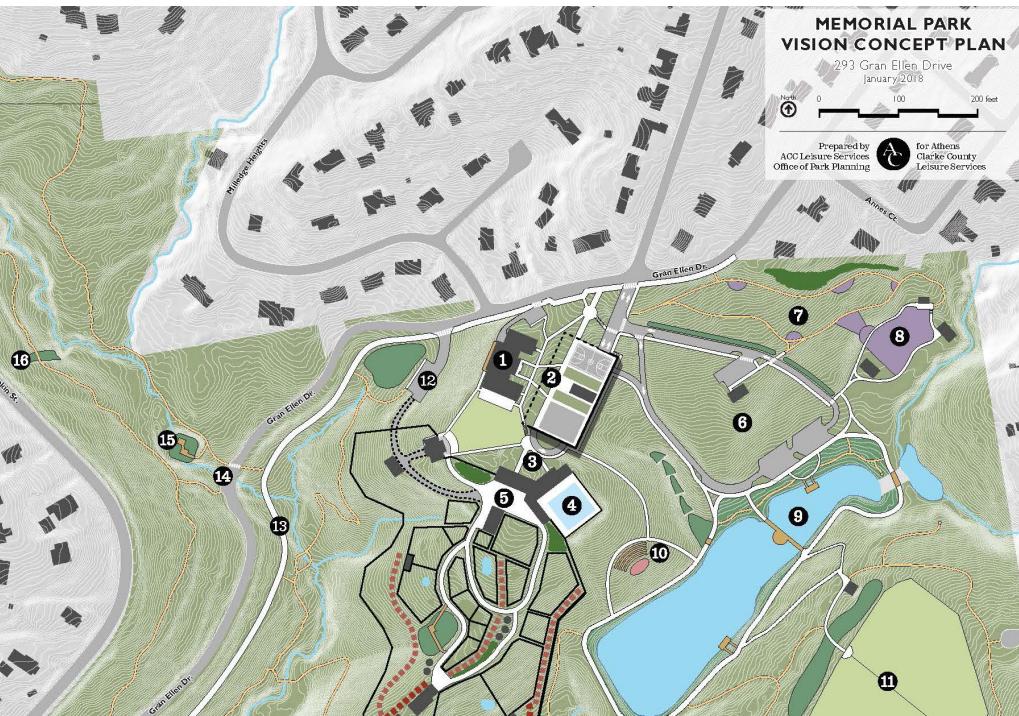


401
Swimschool
Participants



23
Exhibitions at the
Lyndon House Arts Center

What We Planned



In 2018 the Office of Park Planning has developed and revised master plans for Bishop Park, Dudley Park, Memorial Park, and Southeast Clarke Park.

Park Planning

The Office of Park Planning provides design and planning services for the Leisure Services Department. Park Planning leads the development of Park Master Plans, develops standards for park facilities and amenities, and provides oversight of construction projects for the Leisure Services Department. Other projects include managing the Greenway Network Plan and developing park branding and signage elements.



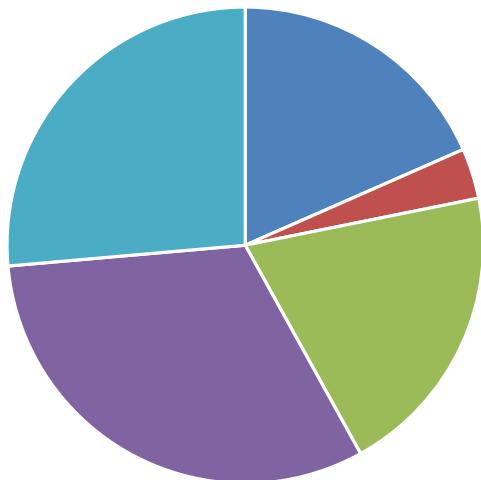
New signage found at the Lyndon House Arts Center.

I Saw the Sign

The Leisure Services Department installed new entrance monument signs at East Athens Community Center, East Athens Educational Dance Center, Lay Park, Lyndon House Arts Center, and Memorial Park.

What We Earned and Spent

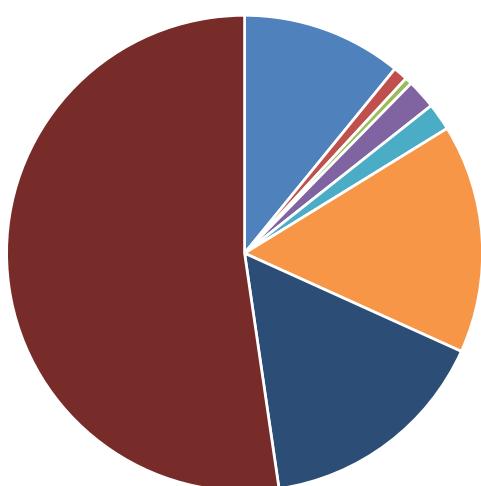
FY 2018 REVENUES



31.7%		Program Fees
26.4%		Rental Fees
20.1%		Entrance Fees
18.4%		Camp Fees
3.4%		Donation and Merchandise Sales

\$1,131,880 Total Revenue

FY 2018 EXPENDITURES



52.3%		Programming
15.9%		Maintenance
15.6%		Administration
10.9%		Utilities
2.0%		Vehicles
1.9%		Indirects
1.0%		Non Capital Equipment
0.5%		PR & Marketing

\$7,169,083 Total Expenditures

Awards and Achievements

District 7 Agency of the Year Award



- o Georgia Recreation and Park Association: District 7 Agency of the Year Award.
- o Athens Convention and Visitors Bureau: Louis Griffith Hospitality Leadership Award presented to Didi Dunphy, Lyndon House Arts Center Program Supervisor.
- o The American Council Engineering Companies of Georgia (ACEC Georgia): Engineering Excellence Honor Award recognized the ACC Rails to Trails program.
- o Georgia Project WET (Water Education for Teachers): Georgia Project Wet Facilitator of the Year awarded to Kate Mowbray, Program Specialist at Sandy Creek Nature Center.
- o The Keep Georgia Beautiful Foundation: “Distinguished Service” in the Community Beautification Award to the Weed Warriors.
- o GRPA Marketing and Visibility Section: The Lyndon House Art Passport won the Publication Award.

Firefly Trail

In October, the first mile of the Firefly Trail was opened to the public. Ultimately this “rails to trails” project will be 39 miles in length, connecting Athens to Union Point. The trail has been in development for over seven years and was funded through Georgia Department of Transportation, Leisure Services, and SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax).



Greenway Expansion

In April, the North Oconee River Greenway 1.9 mile expansion was officially opened. The Oconee Rivers Greenway is a linear park system that provides wildlife corridors, open spaces, and a family-friendly multi-use path for the public's enjoyment. Currently, the North Oconee River Greenway System provides miles of concrete multi-use path that is designated for non-motorized use.



Rittenberry Sculpture Garden

In May, Leisure Services continued adding public art to facilities and hosted an art dedication ceremony at the Lyndon House Arts Center. The Harold Rittenberry Jr. Sculpture Garden was installed to highlight the metal art of the legendary local artist. The goal of the project was to bring more public art to the community and to enhance the enjoyment and learning of Lyndon House visitors.



92%

of the available 5,790 camp openings were filled.

97.5%

of the survey respondents indicated they would recommend Leisure Services summer camps to another family.

7,299

children participated in environmental science contractual field studies at Sandy Creek Nature Center and elementary schools across the district.



This year, the Leisure Services Department introduced the **P.L.A.Y. (Partners Leading Athens Youth) Fund** to fill the gap between the Leisure Services scholarship and the program fee. There was a total assistance of

\$10,746

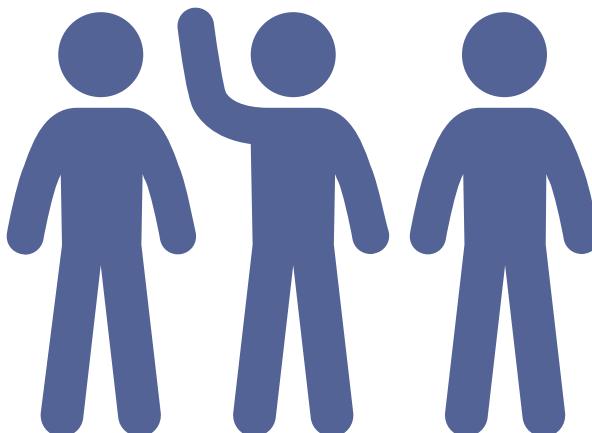
2,177

tickets sold by Athens Creative Theatre (ACT) for various productions.



23,182

hours of service were provided by volunteers across the department.



Staff planned and executed the “2018 Downtown Parade of Lights.” There were approximately

1,200 participants and 12,000 spectators.

Photography

Richard Hamm, Cathy Padgett, and Shannon Williams

Design

Connor Monley



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