Georgia and the nation are in the midst of several major K-12 public education reforms, including charter school initiatives, teacher effectiveness programs and the implementation of common core curriculum standards. Many foundations direct a majority of their payout to education-related grants. How can private philanthropy best leverage its assets to support effective innovations and ensure a quality education for all children in the state?

August 15th, 7:00 pm
New! Dinner and a Movie: “The Lottery”
The Tubman African American Museum
340 Walnut Street, Macon, Georgia 31201
Directed by Madeleine Sackler and shot by award-winning cinematographer Wolfgang Held, “The Lottery” uncovers a ferocious debate surrounding the education reform movement. Interviews with politicians and educators explain not only the crisis in public education, but also why it is fixable. A call to action to avert a catastrophe in the education of American children, “The Lottery” makes the case that any child can succeed. Join your colleagues for a buffet dinner and film viewing. Fueled by insights from leading thinkers and actors in the educational arena, participants will engage in lively and interactive discussion. Our venue, The Tubman African American Museum, is the largest museum in the Southeast dedicated to African American art, history and culture. (Additional cost of $40 to attend.)

August 16th, 9:30 – 10:00 am
Coffee and Networking

10:00 – 10:15 am
Welcome
Macon State College Interim President, Dr. John Black
GGA Meeting Co-Chairs, Lesley Grady and Suzanna Stribling

10:15 – 10:45 am
Keynote: John White, State Superintendent of Education, Louisiana
John White began his career in education as a high school English teacher in Jersey City, NJ. He then worked for TFA New Jersey and went on to become executive director of TFA-Chicago where he doubled the number of teachers recruited to work in South Side and West Side schools and established one of the most innovative principal training programs in the country. In 2006, White was recruited to New York City where he served as Deputy Chancellor of Talent, Labor and Innovation and helped oversee much of New York’s Race to the Top plan, including overhauling the city’s teacher effectiveness system. In 2011, White became Superintendent of the state-run Recovery School District in New Orleans where he worked to revamp failing schools, implement a city-wide enrollment process, and developed a program to monitor charter schools statewide. He is a 2010 member of the Broad Superintendent’s Academy, received a B.A. in English with distinction from the University of Virginia, and earned a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from New York University.

10:45 - 12:00 noon
Relinquishers and Reformers: A conversation about public education reform in Georgia
A recent op-ed in Education Week states: “The problem is immense. The solution must be big enough to match it. But there is good news. It is possible to challenge the status quo while honoring good teachers and defending public education. It is possible to encourage innovative, creative, and new solutions to tackle the challenges facing our public schools. And it is possible to provide all of our children with equal access to a free, quality public education, not just those lucky enough to live in an area with a great school..." – Eli Broad
Is it? How?

Panelists:
Louis J. Erste, Charter Schools Division Director, Georgia Department of Education
Dr. Lynn M. Plunkett, Ed. D., Superintendent, Floyd County Schools & Member, Charter Advisory Committee, Georgia Board of Education
John White, State Superintendent of Education, Louisiana
Danny Shoy, Program Director, East Lake Foundation, moderator

12:00 – 1:00 pm
Networking Buffet Lunch
1:00 – 2:15 pm
**Georgia’s Race to the Top and Beyond**
Georgia was awarded $400 million over 4 years to implement a robust statewide education reform strategy designed to achieve significant improvement in student outcomes. Half of the award will be used for State level implementation and half disbursed directly to 26 partner school districts. These districts represent 41 percent of Georgia’s public school students, 46 percent of Georgia’s students in poverty and 68 percent of the state’s lowest achieving schools. How will the state incorporate what we learn in RT3 and sustain its successes in year 5? How does RT3 inform the policy agenda at the state level?

**Panelists:**
Will Pinkston, Principal, Sync Strategies, Nashville, TN
Kristin Bernhard, Education Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Nathan Deal
Penny McPhee, President, Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, moderator

2:15 – 2:45
**Private Philanthropy and Public Education: Working Together**
All education issues are state issues. No matter how much success each of us has in our own communities, to affect real change in education we need to engage together at the state level. How might those foundations interested in public education learn from each other and our nonprofit partners? How might we bring assets beyond money to the debate? Can we find a place at the table? We’ll wrap the day with reflection and a facilitated discussion on this important topic.

2:45 – 3:30
**GGA 2012 Annual Survey Results**
Erik Johnson, General Counsel & Secretary, Robert W. Woodruff Foundation

3:30 – 3:45
**GGA Update**
David Weitnauer, President, R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation

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**Georgia Grantmakers Alliance Steering Committee**

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Jeff Barker, St. Marys United Methodist Church Foundation, St. Marys
Bobbi Cleveland, Tull Charitable Foundation, Atlanta
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**Meeting Co-Chairs**
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