

***SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING 2020
COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE ANNUAL REPORTS***

**SEAC Public Outreach Grant Committee Report
Submitted by Alice Wright
October 2020**

On behalf of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, the Public Outreach Grant Committee coordinates an annual grant competition for awards of up to \$2000 to promote public awareness of archaeology in the Southeast. The committee (Alice Wright, chair; Ben Steere; Sarah Miller; Carol Colaninno-Meeks; and Jodi Barnes) received two applications for the 2020 cycle, and we were pleased to award the 2020 SEAC Public Outreach Grant to Dr. Megan Kassabaum for her project, "From Classroom to Museum and Back Again: Education Outreach in Wilkinson County, MS."

Dr. Kassabaum's project builds on her long-standing collaboration with community members in Wilkinson County, Mississippi to promote public engagement with the history of Native American moundbuilding populations in the Lower Mississippi Valley. She proposes to extend the reach and impact of a museum exhibit she co-created at the Wilkinson County Museum in 2019 by developing and implementing targeted educational outreach with the local school systems. This will involve (1) bringing all fourth-grade students in the two local school systems to the exhibit and to local archaeological sites; and (2) providing their teachers with resources to teach a pre-visit lesson that offers background on archaeology and Native American history and a post-visit lesson that emphasizes the continued presence of Native people in the region.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic precluded the completion of this project over the summer and fall, but we are assured that the work will go forward when the public health situation improves. We congratulate Dr. Kassabaum on her laudable efforts. Alice would also like to thank the committee for their hard work and to thank Sarah Miller for agreeing to assume the chairship of this committee beginning in 2021 cycle. As a reminder, this year's proposal deadline is December 1, and guidelines are available on the SEAC website (<https://www.southeasternarchaeology.org/grants-awards/grants/requirements/>).