



the

HALLE Foundation

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JOURNAL

A Lasting Legacy

Cities Connected: Atlanta to Nuremberg

From Classroom to Career

Halle Haus Happenings

Wish Granted



OUR MISSION

THE HALLE FOUNDATION seeks to promote understanding, knowledge, and friendship between the people of Germany, as seen in its European context, and those of the United States. To this end, the Foundation supports initiatives in the fields of culture, science, technology, commerce, language, scholarship, and international relations that take place under the auspices of Emory University, the Robert W. Woodruff Arts Center, the American Council on Germany, and other not-for-profit institutions which the Trustees may select from time to time.

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Atlanta and Nuremberg share a long-standing sister-city partnership that turns shared history into ongoing exchange and collaboration.

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The Foundation co-hosted dozens of educational, cultural, and charitable functions with its nonprofit partners this year.

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The Halle Foundation is pleased to have awarded over \$813,000 in the second half of 2025 to 19 worthy organizations.

CITIES CONNECTED: ATLANTA AND NUREMBERG

THE HALLE FOUNDATION'S LONG-TERM SUPPORT HAS HELPED SHAPE THE ATLANTA–NUREMBERG PARTNERSHIP INTO ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST ACTIVE AND MEANINGFUL SISTER-CITY RELATIONSHIPS.

FOR MORE THAN twenty-five years, the cities of Atlanta and Nuremberg have been connected by a partnership linking the two together. Formally established in 1998, the relationship has grown into one of the world's most active and meaningful international "sister city" partnerships.

The Halle Foundation has played a crucial role in sustaining and expanding this partnership since its inception. Through targeted financial support for educational exchange, youth



dialogue, artistic collaboration, and human-rights cooperation, the Foundation has helped ensure that the Atlanta–Nuremberg relationship remains vibrant, inclusive, and forward-looking.

ATLANTA–NUREMBERG: A MODEL SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

Sister city relationships are formal, long-term partnerships between two cities in different countries. The goal is to promote cultural

understanding, economic cooperation, and people-to-people exchange across borders. At their heart, sister city relationships are about building lasting international friendships at the local level—not between national governments, but between communities. The Atlanta–Nuremberg partnership is often cited as a model of city-to-city diplomacy: using honest engagement with difficult history to build trust, educate future generations, and foster practical cooperation.

The Atlanta–Nuremberg sister-city relationship emerged from a moment of transition. In the mid-1990s, as the U.S. military withdrew from Nuremberg, civic leaders in the city sought to preserve long-standing transatlantic ties even as the physical presence of American forces came to an end. Atlanta, already internationally recognized as a civil-rights landmark and a rapidly growing global city, emerged as a natural partner.

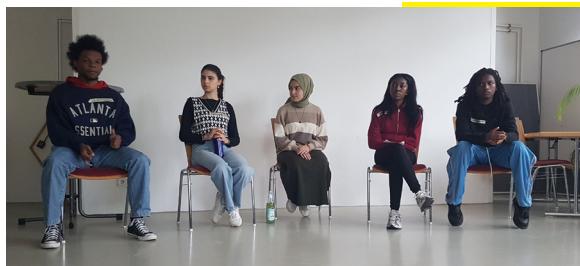
Since the signing of a formal memorandum of understanding in 1998, both city administrations and their sister-city committees have worked to build a partnership rooted in practical cooperation and people-to-people exchange. While economic and trade relationships have always been part of the framework, the emphasis has remained on the formation of cultural, educational, and civic connections. At its heart is the

development and sustenance of personal and professional relationships among students, artists, educators, local political officials, and human-rights leaders — relationships that have shaped participants on both sides of the Atlantic and extended outward into their communities.

INVOLVEMENT OF THE HALLE FOUNDATION

The Halle Foundation's support has been instrumental in helping both cities sustain existing programs and create new ones -- particularly those that broaden access to international experience for participants who might not otherwise have such opportunities.

The Atlanta–Nuremberg Sister Cities Committee, currently chaired by Atlanta attorney Dorothy Hoeckel, plays a vital coordinating role, working closely with partners in both cities. Stephan Schwieren of the Mayor's Office for International Relations in Nuremberg steers the relationship from the German side. The program is supported by a broad range of civic leaders, schools, nonprofits, and volunteers in both cities.





EDUCATION AND YOUTH EXCHANGE

One of the longest-running Atlanta–Nuremberg exchanges connects Maynard H. Jackson High School in Atlanta with Sigmund-Schuckert-Gymnasium in Nuremberg. Students participating in this program travel to the host country for an immersive cultural experience and complete academic projects that explore history, civic responsibility, and contemporary human-rights issues. For the last several years, the Foundation has provided direct support to both the Gymnasium and Maynard Jackson High School to help sustain and strengthen this exchange, reinforcing a relationship that has introduced generations of students to international perspectives at a formative stage in their education.

At the university level, Foundation funding has expanded a longstanding bilateral exchange between Georgia State University (GSU)

in Atlanta and Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU). Foundation-funded scholarships help GSU students cover living expenses during year-long study periods in Germany, while enabling FAU to send an equal number of students to Atlanta. The partnership strengthens academic collaboration, builds professional networks, and reinforces Atlanta's role as an international education hub.



HUMAN RIGHTS AS A SHARED COMMITMENT

A distinctive dimension of the Atlanta–Nuremberg relationship is its alignment around civil and human

rights. Since 2013, Atlanta's National Center for Civil and Human Rights (NCCHR) has hosted recipients of the International Nuremberg Human Rights Award in Atlanta. These visits culminate in public symposia that connect global human-rights struggles with Atlanta's own civil-rights legacy.

In 2025, the Halle Foundation supported NCCHR staff travel to Nuremberg to deepen institutional collaboration, coordinate the award cycle, and plan future joint initiatives. The exchange reinforces long-term cooperation between two cities that, despite having very different, and sometimes difficult, histories share a sense of responsibility to promote justice and human dignity.

DEEP DIVE: REIMAGINING YOUTH EXCHANGE

One of the most innovative recent developments in the partnership is Deep Dive, a newly created youth exchange program between Benjamin Mays High School in Atlanta and Martin-Behaim-Gymnasium in Nuremberg, which is administered by the Nuremberg International Office. Each year, ten young people from Atlanta and ten from Nuremberg participate in eight days of intensive

dialogue and joint research on pressing social and political issues.

In Atlanta in 2024, participants examined the U.S. presidential election campaign, exploring controversial topics and conducting original research. In Nuremberg in 2025, the group focused on the historical and contemporary significance of the Nuremberg Trials, engaging in role-playing simulations that connected principles of international law and justice to modern conflicts. Foundation support made it possible to include participants from disadvantaged backgrounds who would not otherwise have had access to international exchange. The two cities now plan to make Deep Dive a permanent annual program.

ARTS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Artistic collaboration has also long been a pillar of the Atlanta–Nuremberg partnership. A particularly resonant recent example is the two cities' efforts to honor the legacy of Steffen Thomas, a Bavarian-born artist trained in the Nuremberg region, who emigrated to Atlanta in the late 1920s. Thomas had a long and prolific career,



and his work (particularly his extensive catalogue of publicly commissioned sculptures) continues to shape Georgia's cultural landscape, notably through the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art.

In 2023, the Halle Foundation funded a documentary film on Thomas's life and work. After touring Georgia, the film premiered in Bavaria in 2025 and was accompanied by screenings in Nuremberg with family members and cultural partners from both countries—an artistic exchange that bridged personal history and shared cultural heritage.

RENEWED MOMENTUM

The partnership's momentum was underscored by a delegation visit from Nuremberg to Atlanta in October 2023, led by Lord Mayor Marcus König. Meetings with Mayor Andre Dickens and Atlanta civic partners focused on expanding youth exchange, strengthening university

» FEATURE STORY

"Using honest engagement with difficult history to build trust, educate future generations, and foster practical cooperation.



collaboration, and deepening human-rights cooperation. The event, which marked the 25th anniversary of the sister-city relationship, was a gathering of not just political figures but included diverse representation from both cities. Joining Lord Mayor König were city councilors, city officials, business and university representatives, as well as a youth delegation from the German-American Institute in Nuremberg. The Halle Foundation hosted a reception for the delegation at Mr. Halle's home, bringing together members of Atlanta's German-American community, visiting officials, and leaders of the sister-cities relationship.

LOOKING AHEAD

Atlanta and Nuremberg are united by their association with human rights, shaped in different historical contexts. Atlanta's global identity is rooted in the American civil-rights movement and the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Nuremberg's human-rights identity emerged

through transformation—from a site of Nazi propaganda to the birthplace of modern international criminal law.

Together, these complementary legacies give the partnership unmatched depth. Atlanta contributes lived experience in civic struggle and movement-building; Nuremberg contributes global human-rights frameworks and a commitment to historical accountability.

In an era when international cooperation can feel abstract, the Atlanta–Nuremberg partnership demonstrates what it looks like in practice: sustained exchange, shared responsibility, and long-term investment in people. With the support of The Halle Foundation, the partnership continues not only to endure, but to evolve—offering a model of how cities can transform history into action, and connection into community.

The Halle Foundation Would like to thank Stephan Schwieren at the Nuremberg International Office, for contributing his knowledge about the Sister Cities relationship and providing us photos.

THE GERMAN AMERICAN
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM'S
TRANSATLANTIC CAREER
CONNECTIONS:



FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AND APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING IN PARTICULAR, is a core strategic priority for The Halle Foundation. The Foundation is especially committed to supporting the expansion of German-style apprenticeship models in the United States as well as creating intercultural learning opportunities for students in technical pathways.

Over the years, the Foundation has invested in a number of initiatives in this area. These include the Foundation's longstanding support for: an exchange between Atlanta Technical College and Felix Fechenbach Berufskolleg in Detmold, Germany; additional exchanges connecting technical schools in Nuremberg with counterparts in Atlanta; and high school apprenticeship programs across the region. The Foundation is also proud to support the German American Chamber of Commerce's Georgia Consortium for Advanced Technical Training (GACATT), which helps establish German-style apprenticeships in Georgia high schools and technical colleges and links students with local industry partners.

One very recent standout apprenticeship initiative supported by the Foundation is the German American Partnership Program's (GAPP) Transatlantic

Career Connections Program. This pilot program has already reached more than 60 students in Georgia and Germany. In October 2025, the program brought together students from the Central Educational Center in Newnan, Georgia with apprenticeship students from Cologne, Germany for an immersive cross-cultural and career-focused exchange. The program will continue with a follow-up experience in Germany in 2026. Below, we are pleased to share a guest article from Ajkuna Hoppe, Executive Director of the German American Partnership Program, reflecting on the Career Connections Program and the impact it is having on participating students.

How can Germany's renowned dual education model be adapted to meet the specific needs of a Georgia community? And just as importantly, how can youth-driven innovations from Georgia be brought back to Germany? These questions are central to Transatlantic Career Connections (TCC), a new two-year pilot program designed by the German American Partnership Program (GAPP) that integrates STEM education, dual education training, and international exchange, and is supported primarily by funding from The Halle Foundation for 2025–2026.

Developing early career skills to prepare young people for their professional lives lies at the heart of both Germany's dual education system and GAPP's 50-year mission. Over the past five decades, GAPP has connected more than 400,000 students and teachers from the U.S. and Germany, supporting global competencies, language development, and lasting transatlantic friendships. Coordinated by the Goethe-Institut and the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst, with support from the German Foreign Office, the U.S. State Department, and foundations such as the Joachim Herz Stiftung, Bertelsmann Foundation, and Max Kade Foundation, GAPP brings extensive experience in fostering meaningful international exchange and partnership.

Adapting Germany's dual education model in the U.S.—long recognized as a global standard in workforce preparation—requires more than simple replication. It must be tailored to the needs of local schools, colleges, labor markets, and communities. As transatlantic stakeholders work to address workforce shortages and create new pathways for young people, programs such as the Industry Consortium for Advanced Technical Training (ICATT) and the Georgia Consortium for Advanced Technical Training (GACATT) demonstrate how this approach can succeed, with ICATT serving as a proven model for more than a decade.

Leveraging GAPP's decades of experience in bilateral high school exchanges, the TCC pilot turns to Career and Technical Education (CTE), which is aimed at helping students acquire the academic, technical, and employability skills to succeed in in-demand careers. CTE offers U.S. students hands-on, work-based learning and dual enrollment opportunities that prepare them for high-demand careers. Yet despite its growth, CTE is still largely unstandardized nationwide, and links to international exchange are rare. This is particularly striking considering that only an estimated 2% of U.S. high school students participate in international travel through their school each year. Fully immersive, class-based educational travel remains a privilege for the few, often out of reach for underserved communities due to high costs and limited access. TCC bridges this gap, providing students

from Title I schools with experiences that develop technical expertise, intercultural competence, and global awareness. TCC also provides a framework for integrating global experiences, demonstrating how classroom and lab-based instruction can be extended into authentic, real-world, international contexts.

In Georgia, TCC is based at the Central Educational Center (CEC) in Newnan, Georgia, a pioneering charter school founded 25 years ago. CEC operates through a unique partnership with local industry, the Coweta County School System (Newnan High School, Northgate High School, and East Coweta High School), and West Georgia Technical College. As a college and career academy, it prepares students for the 21st-century workforce by combining secondary and post-secondary education with industry-aligned technical training. Through accelerated career tracks, students can earn while they learn, gaining professional certifications, college credits, and practical experience in high-demand fields while still in high school. CEC's innovative model was the first of its kind in Georgia and has since been replicated in more than 50 college and career academies statewide.

In its first year, the TCC project brought together 30 CEC students from the Mechatronics, Cybersecurity, and Fintech career pathways with 30 German students, supported by eight teachers from both countries and a team of university researchers who provided scientific guidance throughout the project. After extensive intercultural preparation led by GAPP experts—and drawing on the University of Siegen's Authentic STEM Virtual Exchange Program as a foundational tool—American TCC fellows traveled to North Rhine-Westphalia in June and July 2025 for an immersive exchange with Marienschule Euskirchen and St. Joseph's Gymnasium Rheinbach.

During the in-person exchange in Germany, students fully engaged with the German educational system, collaborating in bilateral teams to address real-world STEM challenges provided by REMA Gruppe, a global leader in electric vehicle charging connectors and advanced electronic interfaces. Under the guidance of Dr. Gero Stoffels and his research team from the University of Cologne, students tackled authentic automation problems that combined theoretical knowledge with hands-



on practice, including the implementation of collaborative robots (“cobots”) in industrial production. Their work encompassed safety protocols, spatial planning, robot movement, labor law considerations, workforce qualifications, and strategies for integrating cobots alongside conventional machinery—demonstrating the integration of technical, professional, and soft skills that CTE programs emphasize.

Beyond developing technical skills, TCC immersed students in intercultural learning. Participants explored Cologne, joined trips to neighboring countries with their host families, attended lectures at the University of Cologne, attended workshops offered by Deutsche Telekom, celebrated the 4th of July at AmerikaHaus NRW, and engaged in team-building challenges. A standout moment of the exchange was a visit to the North Rhine-Westphalia parliament in Düsseldorf, hosted by its president, André Kuper, where students discussed transatlantic experiences and youth mobility. For many CEC students, nearly half of whom come from Title I high schools and face economic disadvantages—fully immersive international experiences are rare. By connecting them with German schools, companies, and education systems, TCC provides equitable access to high-impact, experiential learning that builds both technical and intercultural competencies.

This October, the German participants returned to Georgia, continuing the in-person exchange by shadowing their American peers at CEC. They attended classes, engaged in hands-on learning, and participated in team-building activities that fostered collaboration

across cultures. Together, the students continued their work on cobots, culminating in a full-day presentation of their project solutions at the Joachim Herz Stiftung in Covington, Georgia. There, Mark Whitlock, CEO of CEC, highlighted how the German dual education model has been adapted to meet Georgia’s workforce needs. Apprentices from New America’s PAYA (Partnership to Advance Youth Partnerships) program, joining virtually from New York, Colorado, and South Carolina, shared engaging insights into U.S. apprenticeship pathways, giving students a deeper understanding of domestic career training models.

In Newnan, students stepped inside Bickle USA, the North American branch of the German Bickle Group, to see firsthand how high-quality wheels and casters are made for a variety of industrial applications. They explored the rhythms of daily life in Georgia, from the buzz of the World of Coca-Cola to the iconic Varsity restaurant and took on team challenges like bowling and escape rooms. In Atlanta, TCC fellows explored career pathways further with a visit to the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Southern U.S., where they learned about German apprenticeship models. The experience culminated at the Georgia State Capitol, where the bilateral group met Senator Matt Brass and Representative Lynn Smith to discuss how international exchanges can create opportunities for youth and foster stronger transatlantic collaboration.

TCC’s inaugural year wrapped up with a lively closing event at the Halle House of The Halle Foundation. The gathering brought together Eike Jordan, Nathan Howrey, and Marshall Sanders of The Halle Foundation; German Consul General Melanie Moltmann; Dr. Joerg Schumacher of the Goethe-Institut New York; and, and other program supporters to celebrate the program’s first-year achievements.

As the project enters its second year, CEC fellows are learning German with the Goethe-Institut USA and preparing for a more intensive exchange with vocational schools (Berufsschulen) in Germany in 2026, building on the strong foundation of technical skills, intercultural competence, transatlantic collaboration, project-based learning, and equitable access established during the first year.

Halle Haus Happenings

THE FOUNDATION CO-HOSTED DOZENS OF EDUCATIONAL, CULTURAL, AND CHARITABLE FUNCTIONS WITH ITS NONPROFIT PARTNERS THIS YEAR.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA'S MUSIC DEPARTMENT sent four outstanding students, on a Halle Foundation scholarship, to the Saarburg Music Festival in the summer of 2025. Students received hands-on mentoring and performed concerts throughout the festival. In August, the student scholars traveled to the Halle Foundation to perform in front of members of the German/American community, University of North Georgia faculty and staff, and supporters of the University of North Georgia.





IN SEPTEMBER, STUDENTS FROM PIEDMONT UNIVERSITY IN DEMOREST AND FROM PADERBORN UNIVERSITY IN GERMANY, who were part of a bilateral leadership exchange, travelled to the Halle Estate for a luncheon and to discuss the impacts of The Halle Foundation's support for the program.



AS PART OF A HALLE FOUNDATION GRANT, students interested in learning German at Morehouse college traveled around Germany in summer of 2025, including participating in a language course in Berlin and traveling throughout eastern and southern Germany, focused on the Black German Experience. The participating students came to the Halle Estate for a luncheon to discuss their program.



THE HALLE FOUNDATION IS PROUD TO SUPPORT GEORGIA TECH'S GERMAN DEPARTMENT'S LANGUAGE, BUSINESS, AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM, which sends German Studies students to Vienna and Berlin over the course of six weeks for intensive language and cultural immersion, with scholarships. Students worked on individual projects while on the program and presented their work at a post-departure meeting at the Halle Estate in September.



STUDENTS IN THE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS MAJOR FROM GEORGIA COLLEGE AND STATE UNIVERSITY came to the Halle Haus to present their projects for various business solutions, which they worked on remotely with students from the University of Muenster, as well as during an in-person trip to the university earlier in the summer. The program is part of the Halle-funded Design Thinking Work Practicum, which has been in place three years.



THE GEORGIA CONSORTIUM FOR ADVANCED TECHNICAL TRAINING works within the German American Chamber of Commerce to bring the German-style apprenticeship model to the state of Georgia, and works with various high schools as well as German companies in Georgia. Apprentices and the businesses they are placed in came to the Halle Haus for a luncheon to meet one another and learn more about The Halle Foundation.

THE HALLE FOUNDATION WAS PROUD TO SUPPORT A STUDY TOUR ON CRITICAL MEMORY IN THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY, which was created by Dr. Andres Etges at the Amerika Institut in Ludwig Maximillian University in Munich. It brought together academics and professionals from the southeast of the United States and Germany to explore how each country has dealt with and preserves their histories. They travelled through Germany earlier in 2025 and came to the Southeast in October. The Halle Foundation hosted a welcome reception for the group.





PERHAPS ONE OF ITS LARGEST GRANT PARTNERS, THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA RECEIVES SUPPORT FOR A VARIETY OF PROJECTS. Participants of various Halle funded programs, including an arts and culture-focused study abroad in Berlin, various summer and longer exchanges at Ludwig Maximillian University in Munich, internships in Munich, and law externships throughout Germany, convened at the Halle Haus, along with professors in the German department and staff from UGA's Office of Global Engagement. They spoke about their experiences and its impacts and learned about Claus Halle and The Halle Foundation.



SIXTY GERMAN AND AMERICAN STUDENTS, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF THE GERMAN/AMERICAN COMMUNITY, came to the Halle Estate in October to present projects related to culture and apprenticeships as well as to receive awards for their work. The students had been working together for over a week in Newnan, Georgia as part of the German American Partnership Program's Career Connections Program, which aims to bring high school-age apprenticeship students from both sides of the Atlantic together.

» HALLE HAUS HAPPENINGS



THE CONGRESS BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONVENED AT THE HOUSE FOR ITS NATIONAL REUNION. Over eighty alumni of all ages, from as far as Seattle and Vermont, as well as the German Consul General of Atlanta, came to the Halle Haus to celebrate the program, support the alumni association, reminisce on their experiences, and indulge in German-themed food and fruitful discussions on the future of the transatlantic relationship. The Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange Program has been in place since 1983 and is jointly funded by the US and German governments, and provides scholarships to send students and young professionals to one another's countries for an intensive, host-family based exchange opportunity and act as youth ambassadors. It has provided scholarships to over 15,000 exchange students since its inception. The Halle Foundation has supported community building efforts by the Alumni Association.



THE HALLE FOUNDATION WAS PROUD TO HOST A CONFERENCE FOR GERMAN DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION TEACHERS IN GEORGIA, led by Claire Kyzer, the Dual Language Immersion Coordinator from Dalton Public Schools. For two days the teachers came to the Estate to participate in professional development workshops and learn best practices for German language education.

EXCHANGE STUDENTS AND HOST FAMILIES FROM CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL IN ROSWELL and their partners from Borbeck Gymnasium in Essen, came to the Halle Haus in late October to celebrate their exchange and learn more about the Foundation. Students had a Halloween-themed buffet and carved pumpkins with their exchange partners.



TEACHERS FROM DSH SCHOOLS IN GEORGIA AND MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL AGENCY FOR GERMAN SCHOOLS ABROAD came to the Halle Haus for a two-day workshop focused on learning about the upcoming “Jugend Debattiert” event, a high school debate competition held in German, and preparing their students for the event.



MEMBERS OF THE GEORGIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF GERMAN came to the Haus for the association's annual “Sprachbad” which brings together high school and university-level German language educators to learn from one another and discuss ways to encourage students to continue learning German after high school.



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF GERMAN (GEORGIA CHAPTER), who work to promote and encourage German language education in our state, met at the Halle Estate for their annual board meeting.

MEMBERS OF THE ADULT FANTASY BOOK CLUB “HIGH FAE COURT”, based in Atlanta, traveled to the house for a year-end event centered around Grimm's Fairy Tales. Events included a book swap, discussion, and celebration of German cultural heritage traditions, including Germanic folklore like Krampus.



Wish Granted

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THE FOUNDATION MAKES grants to organizations organized and operated in both the United States and Germany. Funding is largely limited to U.S.-based public charities exempt under section 501(c) (3) and to German organizations which are the tax equivalent of such charities.

In keeping with the founder's preference, most U.S. grants are made to institutions operating within, or with some discernible connection to, the state of Georgia.

Atlanta Baroque Orchestra

One year of support was awarded to the Atlanta Baroque Orchestra for three April 2026 performances in Atlanta, Marietta, and Savannah celebrating Germany's baroque musical tradition. Each concert will be paired

\$20,000

with pre-concert lectures on German baroque history and instrument demonstrations designed to deepen audience understanding and engagement.

Atlanta Chamber Players

Funding was approved for a one-year award to the Atlanta Chamber Players to present a fall 2026 concert highlighting German chamber music, including works by Brahms, as part of

\$7,500

the ensemble's 50th anniversary season. A pre-concert lecture at Halle Haus will bring together supporters and members of the German-American community.

Atlanta Global Studies Consortium**\$16,980**

A one-year grant will support four teacher candidates from the University of Siegen during a three-month residency in Georgia. Candidates will live with host families, observe classroom teaching,

build English proficiency, and assist with small-group instruction. In turn, Georgia host teachers will have the chance to travel to Siegen for two weeks to study the German education system.

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra**\$100,000**

To launch a three-concert series in 2026 exploring Beethoven's legacy, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra received one year of funding. The series will be complemented by free community lectures,

chamber performances, and cultural programming, including collaboration with German professors and the Goethe Zentrum.

Berlin Academy for American Music**\$17,500**

Support was provided for early-career composers, Georgia university faculty, and promising students taking part in the Berlin Transatlantic Composition Festival in summer of 2026. The one-year award

will help cover intensive workshops, professional mentoring, and public performances in Berlin.

Borbeck Gymnasium**\$4,326.39**

A one-year award will sustain exchange activities between Borbeck Gymnasium and Centennial High School in Atlanta. Grant funds will ensure that American students—especially those from

disadvantaged backgrounds—can participate fully in cultural activities and excursions during their February 2026 visit to Germany.

» GRANT RECIPIENTS

CASIE

One year of funding was granted to CASIE to launch a Transatlantic Leadership Academy connecting educators from Germany and the

\$40,000

Southeast in a year-long professional development program. The initiative will culminate in travel to Germany for an Educational Leaders Exchange.

Centennial Academy

Twelve 7th and 8th grade students from Centennial Academy will be supported through a one-year grant to participate in a ten-day study tour of Germany in summer 2025. Students will visit six cities, explore major historical and

\$57,600

cultural sites, and complete project-based learning aligned to their STEM curriculum.

Dalton Public Schools

A one-year grant will underwrite immersive cultural exchange activities between Helmut-Rau-Schule and Dalton students during the German students' visit to Georgia. Programming includes

\$9,000

field trips to sites across Atlanta, Chattanooga, and the North Georgia Mountains, as well as community-building activities such as sports matches in Dalton.

Decatur High School

Needs-based scholarships were approved for five Decatur High School students participating in a GAPP exchange with Wilhelm-Turmair Gymnasium. This one-

\$12,425

year support reduces financial barriers so students can take part fully in the exchange experience.

Emory College of Arts and Science

A one-year award will help Emory College of Arts and Science send twenty Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology students to Munich for a six-week summer study abroad program.

\$67,500

Participants will take global neuroscience courses in a German academic setting and join a robust cultural program alongside their studies.

Georgia Southern University (Theater) \$35,000

Georgia Southern University's theater program received one year of funding to support a study abroad experience for fifteen students in Berlin and Wittenberg. Students drawn from across the USG

system will immerse themselves in Berlin's performing-arts landscape, then spend four weeks in Wittenberg studying and staging German plays.

Georgia Southern University (Trumpet Ensemble) \$45,000

A one-year grant will support Georgia Southern University's trumpet ensemble on a two-week tour of Germany in summer 2026. The ensemble will

participate in trumpet-making workshops and masterclasses and perform in Halle, Paderborn, Detmold, and Munich.

Marietta City School District \$113,280

Two years of funding were approved to sustain a digital exchange between Marietta High School and two partner schools in Paderborn, along with

two, two-week in-person exchanges. Collaborative projects will focus on STEM and/or the arts.

Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg / PRO MUSICA e.V. \$23,050

A one-year grant will support a spring 2026 exchange bringing orchestra students, a string quartet from Latina "August Hermann Francke," a composer, and faculty from Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg to Georgia Southern University. During the visit, German and American participants will rehearse together, share lectures and workshops, and present joint concerts

as part of the festival "Strings at Georgia Southern".

» GRANT RECIPIENTS

Rudolf Steiner Schule

Support was awarded for a middle-school science teacher from Atlanta's Waldorf School to visit the Rudolf Steiner Schule in Germany. The teacher will lead workshops, share Waldorf approaches to technology instruction, explore

\$4,000

expanded collaboration opportunities, and visit nearby schools to learn more about the German education system.

Spivey Hall Children's Choir

A one-year grant will fund a ten-day performance tour in Germany planned for 2027. Roughly 50 students will travel to Berlin, Leipzig, Dresden, and Munich,

\$132,500

present concerts in each city, and take part in an extensive cultural program.

University of Georgia

One year of support was approved for the University of Georgia to create and distribute marketing materials promoting UGA study abroad programs in Germany,

\$1,500

many of which receive Foundation funding.

OUR FOUNDER



CLAUS HALLE

was an international business executive and philanthropist. Born in Germany, Mr. Halle was conscripted as a young teen into the German army during the latter part of World War II, and in March 1945, swam across the Elbe River to surrender himself to Allied forces. After completing high school, he began a remarkable career with The Coca-Cola Company as a truck driver in Essen, Germany. Over the next 45 years, he rose to the most senior ranks of the company, including service as President of Coca-Cola Germany, President of Coca-Cola Europe and President of Coca-Cola International. He opened hundreds of new global markets for the company during his career, thereby adding immense value to one of the world's most well-known brands.

Having experienced first-hand the horrors of war, and as a citizen of both the United States and Germany, Mr. Halle came to believe

that, in his words, “[t]here is nothing more important for peace and prosperity in our hemisphere than the friendship between the United States and Germany.” Following his retirement, he devoted himself tirelessly to numerous philanthropic organizations and causes that he believed strengthened the relationship between the two countries. He served as a trustee of numerous national and local organizations, including The Carter Center, the Woodruff Arts Center, the Southern Center for International Studies, the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, the German American Chamber of Commerce, and Friends of Goethe. In 1986, he founded The Halle Foundation, which carries out his legacy today of promoting peace, friendship and understanding between the peoples of the United States and Germany. Among other honors, Mr. Halle was

awarded the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit by the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, an honorary doctorate from Emory University, and was named Georgia Philanthropist of the Year in 2001.

Mr. Halle devoted enormous energy and resources to promoting international awareness and cooperation. His work in the field of international philanthropy sought to encourage Americans to learn more about the views and ways of thinking of others and to become global as well as national citizens. He was a man of broad vision, quick intellect, charm, wit, and deep international insight. ■

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