GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
GAESP

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
GAMSP

GASSP
Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals

2026 GEORGIA PRINCIPALS CONFERENCE

EMPOWER.
ENGAGE.
EXCEL.

OCTOBER 18-20, 2026 | ATHENS, GA

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WELCOME LETTER

Dear Conference Attendees, Sponsors & Exhibitors,

Thank you for joining us for the first-ever Georgia Principals Conference! This conference was created around a shared vision: One Georgia, One Goal. By bringing elementary, middle, and secondary school leaders together from across our state, we have an incredible opportunity to learn from one another, strengthen relationships, and build a more connected community of Georgia principals.

Over the next few days, we hope you feel empowered by new ideas, engaged through meaningful conversations and connections, and inspired to excel as you continue leading your schools and communities.

We look forward to continuing this spirit of collaboration for years to come. Thank you for being part of this inaugural conference—we're so glad you're here!

Sincerely,

Hal Beaver & Dr. Jolie Hardin *Cheryl Riddle* *Dr. Alan Long*

Hal Beaver & Dr. Jolie Hardin
GAESP Co-Executive Directors

Cheryl Riddle
GAMSP Executive Directors

Dr. Alan Long
GASSP Executive Directors

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Charle Peck, LCSW, LISW, M.Ed.

Keynote Speaker, Clinical Therapist, Trainer & Author

BIOGRAPHY: Charle Peck, LCSW, LISW, M.Ed., is a keynote speaker, licensed therapist, author, and former educator who helps people find their way forward when pressure leaves them feeling stuck. Whether they're overwhelmed, overthinking, navigating change, or facing difficult decisions, Charle equips audiences with practical strategies to regain clarity, move forward with confidence, and perform at their best. Drawing from nearly two decades in education and extensive experience as a trauma therapist, Charle has worked alongside individuals navigating some of life's most challenging moments. Her practical framework explains why capable people get stuck under pressure and provides simple, practical tools that create lasting change. Charle's signature keynote, Thriving Under Pressure, has inspired audiences across education, healthcare, and corporate organizations. Through keynotes, workshops, and leadership development programs, she helps organizations strengthen the capacities that allow people to think clearly, respond intentionally, and move forward, even under pressure. Connect with Charle on social media @CharlePeck.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Thriving Under Pressure: Practice Tools to Stabilize and Elevate Performance
Professionals today are under relentless pressure to do more, carry more, and respond to increasingly complex human needs. In this engaging keynote, Charle Peck, licensed therapist, former educator, and author, helps audiences understand what pressure actually does to the brain, behavior, and performance, and what it takes to remain steady in demanding environments. Through powerful storytelling and practical insight, Charle equips professionals with simple strategies to regulate stress, respond more effectively to others, and strengthen their ability to perform under pressure. Grounded in her work in trauma, crisis response, and human development, this keynote leaves audiences feeling hopeful, energized, and better prepared to support both their own well-being and the people they serve.

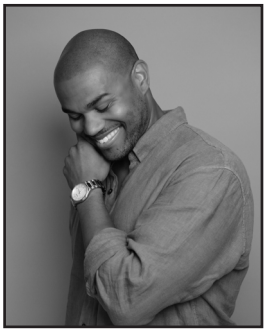


Dr. Letishia Seabrook Jones

Managing Partner, Milestone Education & Head of Team Development Experiences, GLISI

BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Letishia Seabrook Jones is a veteran education professional with 30 years of experience in educational program support, professional learning facilitation, and leadership development and has dedicated her career to transforming educational practices and outcomes for adults and students. Dr. Jones is Managing Partner of Milestone Education, a consulting firm she established to provide transformative learning experiences across various sectors. Her consultancy work has spanned school districts, colleges, government agencies, businesses, and non-profits, all benefiting from her expertise in curriculum design, professional learning, and leadership development. Dr. Jones' current work focuses on the importance of the physical environment in shaping school culture, student outcomes, and teacher retention. Her goal is helping leaders reimagine their spaces to create engaging and productive school communities. Dr. Jones also serves as the Head of Team Development Experiences at the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI). In this role, she has been instrumental in designing, implementing, and evaluating leadership programs that impact hundreds of school and district leaders annually. Her innovative approaches and deep understanding of adult learning theory have made her a sought-after consultant and facilitator. Dr. Jones began her career as a high school teacher in Charlotte, NC where she was honored with the TimeWarner Crystal Apple National Teacher Award. Her academic achievements include a B. A. in History from Wake Forest University, an Ed. M. in Teaching and Curriculum from Harvard University, a Ph. D in Education from Capella University.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Unreasonable Hospitality in Schools: Creating Moments that Matter
Great school cultures aren't built by accident. They're designed through thousands of intentional moments. In this inspiring and practical keynote, Dr. Letishia Seabrook Jones challenges school leaders to rethink hospitality as more than customer service. Drawing from the principles of Unreasonable Hospitality, participants will learn how intentional experiences, personalized leadership, and thoughtful moments of care can transform the culture of a school. Through compelling stories and actionable examples, attendees will leave with a fresh perspective on hospitality as a leadership practice and practical ideas they can implement immediately to create memorable experiences that strengthen trust, connection, and school culture.



Sterling Alexander Brown

Speaker, Strategist & Storyteller

BIOGRAPHY: Sterling Alexander Brown is a speaker, strategist, and storyteller whose work centers on significance, grounded presence, and Whole Leadership. As a Director of Strategic Partnerships in education, he works alongside school and district leaders across the country to navigate complex challenges and create meaningful outcomes for the communities they serve. His signature framework explores how understanding our intrinsic significance, pursuing intentional healing, and cultivating grounded presence can transform the way we lead ourselves and others. Beyond education, Sterling brings experience as an actor and creative, giving his work a unique intersection of leadership, communication, and storytelling. Whether speaking to educators, executives, or emerging leaders, Sterling challenges audiences to pursue success without sacrificing significance and to build lives and legacies that extend far beyond themselves.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Your Presence is the Strategy: Grounded Leadership That Sustains Culture
Through the lens of significance, healing, grounded presence and Whole Leadership, Sterling challenges principals to lead from a place of wholeness rather than exhaustion, to become a steady presence in the middle of constant pressure, and to create environments where both adults and students can thrive. Because, ultimately, the greatest impact of a principal isn't found only in the numbers they move—it's found in the people who are different because they were led by you.

SUNDAY AGENDA

SUNDAY		OCTOBER 18, 2026
12:00 - 3:00 PM	**Conference Registration**	Classic Center Lobby
1:00 PM	**GAESP Board Meeting**	Olympia 2
1:00 PM	**GAMSP Board Meeting**	Parthenon 1
1:00 PM	**GASSP Board Meeting**	Parthenon 2
CONFERENCE KICK-OFF		
3:00 PM	**GENERAL SESSION I: Welcome & Introductions** GAESP Co-Executive Directors: Hal Beaver & Jolie Hardin GAMSP Executive Director: Cheryl Riddle GASSP Executive Director: Dr. Alan Long	Athena F-J
3:10 PM	**Remarks from 2026-2027 GAEL President** Rhonda Gulley, Thomaston-Upson County Schools	Athens F-J
3:20 PM	**Keynote Speaker: Charle Peck, LCSW, LISW, M.Ed.** **Thriving Under Pressure:** **Practice Tools to Stabilize and Elevate Performance** *Introduction by: Dr. Amanda Miliner, 2026-2027 GAESP President* *(Keynote Biography & Description on Page #3)*	Athena F-J
4:20 PM	**Awards Presentation**	Athena F-J
4:30 PM	**One Georgia, One Goal Principal Panel** *Moderator: Kevin Gaines, 2026-2027 GAEL Past President* GAESP: Alan Chancey, Indian Creek Elementary School GAESP: Amanda Miliner, Quail Run Elementary School GAMSP: Christian Barnes, Rome Middle School GASSP: Jennifer Johnson, Tift County High School	Athena F-J
5:15 PM	**EXPO Reception & Door Prizes**	Athena A-E & Athena Pre-Function

MONDAY AGENDA

MONDAY		OCTOBER 19, 2026
7:30 AM	**Breakfast & Visit EXPO**	Athena A-E & Athens Pre-Function
8:30 AM	**GAESP Affiliate Business Meeting**	Olympia 2
8:30 AM	**GAMSP Affiliate Business Meeting**	Parthenon 1
8:30 AM	**GASSP Affiliate Business Meeting**	Parthenon 2
9:00 AM	**GENERAL SESSION II: Welcome** Ben Wiggins, GAEL Executive Director	Athena F-J
9:05 AM	**Keynote Speaker: Sterling Alexander Brown** **Your Presence is the Strategy:** **Grounded Leadership That Sustains Culture** *Introduction by: Ariel Wilson, 2026-2027 GAMSP President* *(Keynote Biography & Description on Page #3)*	Athens F-J
9:45 AM	**Vendor Parade, Door Prizes & Break**	Athena F-J
10:45 AM	**Breakout Session I** *(Topics, Times & Locations on Pages #8-9)*	Various Locations
11:45 AM	**Lunch Provided**	Grand Hall 6 & 7
1:15 PM	**Breakout Session II** *(Topics, Times & Locations on Pages #8-9)*	Various Locations
2:15 PM	**Break & Visit EXPO**	Athena A-E & Athena Pre-Function
2:30 PM	**GENERAL SESSION III:** **School Leadership Transition Panel** Presented by: Dr. Jim Finch, Monroe County Schools *Introduction by: Alan Long, GASSP Executive Director*	Athena F-J
3:30 PM	**Break & Visit EXPO**	Athena A-E
6:00 PM	**Networking Social** Sponsored by: BPI Photorgraphy, Herff Jones & GACA	The Blind Pig - Downtown

TUESDAY AGENDA

TUESDAY		OCTOBER 20, 2026
7:30 AM	**Breakfast & Visit EXPO**	Athena A-E & Athens Pre-Function
8:30 AM	**GENERAL SESSION IV: Welcome** Jeff Cher, 2026-2027 GASSP President	Athena F-J
8:30 AM	**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Letishia Seabrook Jones** **Unreasonable Hospitality in Schools: Creating Moments that Matter** *Introduction by: Jeff Cher, 2026-2027 GASSP President* *(Keynote Biography & Description on Page #3)*	Athens F-J
9:30 AM	**Breakout Session III** *(Topics, Times & Locations on Pages #10-11)*	Various Locations
10:30 AM	**Break & Visit EXPO**	Athena A-E & Athena Pre-Function
10:45 AM	**GENERAL SESSION V: GOEWS & GaDOE** April Aldridge, Office of Teaching and Learning & Fran Dundore, GOEWS Excutive Director	
10:45 AM	**GOEWS Update** Presentation by: Fran Dundore, GOEWS Executive Director Hear directly from GOEWS as they share key updates and show how coordinated policy, planning, and investment are strengthening Georgia's pipeline from early literacy to career success, and what it means for your work.	Athena F-J
11:45 PM	**Breakout Session IV - GaDOE Sessions** *(Topics, Times & Locations on Pages #10-11)*	Various Locations
12:30 PM	**Closing Remarks & Door Prize Drawings**	Athena A-E & Athena Pre-Function

The conference has concluded. Thank you for attending!

VIEW CONFERENCE RESOURCES

Scan the QR code to view conference resources..

Conference Resources

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION I | 10:45 AM **MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026**

Athena F-J	**Anxiety + Avoidance: Turning Pressure into Performance** Presenter(s): Charle Peck
Parthenon 1	**From Voice to Action: Building Teacher Leadership Through the PLC Process** Presenter(s): Eric McDonald
Parthenon 2	**Energized Under Pressure: Leading with Strength in the Heat of the Moment** Presenter(s): Dr. DaShaun McGee
Olympia 1	**Design for Success: Innovative Scheduling and Personalized Student Support** Presenter(s): Scott Ramsey Mandy Housley Nicole Lord, Jeremy Kin
Olympia 2	**Healthy Leaders. Thriving Schools. A Leadership Framework for Lasting Impact** Presenter(s): Meagan Waid
Grand Hall 1	**From Consequences to Community: Building a Culture of Accountability, Support, and Success** Presenter(s): Arstasia Evans
Grand Hall 2	**Stay Legal, Stay Off the Front Page: School Law Survival Skills for School Leaders** Presenter(s): Valerie Suessmith
Grand Hall 4	**Mentoring That Matters: Building Teachers, Confidence, and Collective Capacity** Presenter(s): Dara Seamans
Grand Hall 5	**Growing Our Own: Empowering Teacher Leaders to Strengthen School Culture and Improve Teacher Retention** Presenter(s): Dr. Ryan McKinnon, Dr. Courtney Walker

VIEW BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS & RESOURCES

Scan the QR code to view full breakout session descriptions.

Breakout Session I

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION II | 1:15 PM **MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026**

Athena F-J	**A United Front: SRO and Administrative Partnerships for Safer Schools** Presenter(s): Danielle Rosa, Director of School Safety for Coweta County School System and President of GASROE
Parthenon 1	**Empower, Engage, Excel: How Separating BLT and ILT Transformed Our School Culture and Achievement** Presenter(s): Carrie O'Bryant, Melissa Venezia, Tracy Sparks, Katie Paddock
Parthenon 2	**Keep Your Sanity: How to Navigate Being a School Administrator** Presenter(s): Dr. Ben Horner
Olympia 1	**The Power Couple of School Culture and Student Success: Principal-PTO Partnership** Presenter(s): Beth Morgan, Michelle Gunby
Olympia 2	**The Principal's Spreadsheet Playbook** Presenter(s): Samantha Bradley
Grand Hall 1	**Thought Partners: How Collaborative Leadership Makes Better Principals—and Better Schools** Presenter(s): Lindsey Binion, Hanna Beall, Katie Willis
Grand Hall 2	**Cultivating Culture: Leader Development & Team Alignment** Presenter(s): Dr. Josh Lowe
Grand Hall 4	**10 in 60: High-Impact Practices from an AMLE School of Distinction** Presenter(s): Colleen Jones
Grand Hall 5	**"What Are You Serving?"** Presenter(s): Valarie Lawson, Dr. Anthony Johnson

VIEW BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS & RESOURCES

Scan the QR code to view full breakout session descriptions.

Breakout Session II

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION III | 9:30 AM **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026**

Athena F-J	**Beyond the ELA Classroom: Building a Culture of Literacy in Middle School Classrooms** Presenter(s): Rhonda Gulley, Colleen Jones
Parthenon 1	**When Leadership Gets Real: Leading Through the Moments No One Prepares You For** Presenter(s): Dustin Strickland, Daphne Winkler
Parthenon 2	**Empowering Others to Pursue Excellence** Presenter(s): Matt Stratemeyer, Katy Stone, Jessie Wood
Olympia 1	**Understanding & Leading Today's Multigenerational Workforce** Presenter(s): Dr. Stefan Lawrence
Olympia 2	**Just OK is Not OK** Presenter(s): Justin Cofer
Grand Hall 1	**Culture Is Built on Tuesday: The Small Leadership Moves That Shape a School** Presenter(s): Mike Stanton
Grand Hall 2	**Georgia Leadership Summit: "The Champion's Standard"** Presenter(s): Dr. Craig Davis, Executive Director-Georgia Coaches Association; Dr. Tim Scott, Executive Director- Georgia High School Association
Grand Hall 4	**Leading and Sustaining An Academic Culture of Excellence** Presenter(s): Dr. Shamarlas Allens
Grand Hall 5	**It's Just a (very important, super demanding and physically draining) Job** Presenter(s): Dr. Matt Body

VIEW BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS & RESOURCES

Scan the QR code to view full breakout session descriptions.

Breakout Session III

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SESSION IV | 11:45 AM **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026**

Athena F-J	**Making Sense of Instructional Coherence: Aligning Systems for Impact** Presenter(s): Dr. April Aldridge, Office of Teaching and Learning
Parthenon 1	**Instructional Feedback That Moves Learning Forward** Presenter(s): Michele Sherman, Educator Support and Development
Parthenon 2	**Every Day Matters: Leading a Schoolwide Approach to Attendance - Office of Whole Child** Presenter(s): Tony Feldman and Lindsay Oliver, Office of Whole Child Supports
Olympia 1	**CCRPI Deep Dive: Key Indicators Every Leader Must Understand** Presenter(s): Lacey Andrews, Office of Assessment and Accountability
Olympia 2	**Adolescent Literacy: Three Levels, One Playbook** Presenter(s):: Amy Denty, GaDOE State Literacy Director
Grand Hall 1	**Coach-Principal Partnerships: Crafting a Seamless System of Literacy Leadership** Presenter(s): Dr. Nik Philmon, GaDOE State Literacy Coaching Coordinator
Grand Hall 2	**Connecting the Dots: Using GaConnects to Strengthen Teaching and Learning** Presenter(s): Dr. Meghan Welch, Office of Teaching and Learning
Grand Hall 4	**Leading Well: Prioritizing Principal Wellness** Presenter(s): DeOnna Dalton, Educator Suuport and Development
Grand Hall 5	**From Access to Achievement: Delivering Specially Designed Literacy Instruction for Students with Disabilities, K–12** Presenter(s): Dr. Charity Roberts, Director of Exceptional Children and Hap Hines, Principal of Central Education Center of Coweta County

VIEW BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS & RESOURCES

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Break out Session IV

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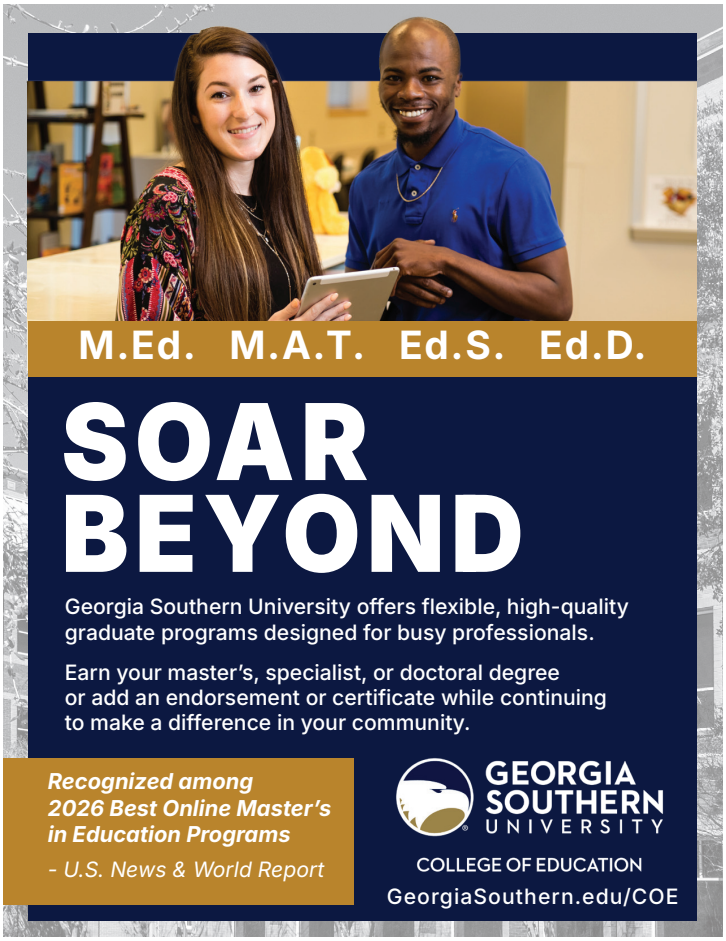




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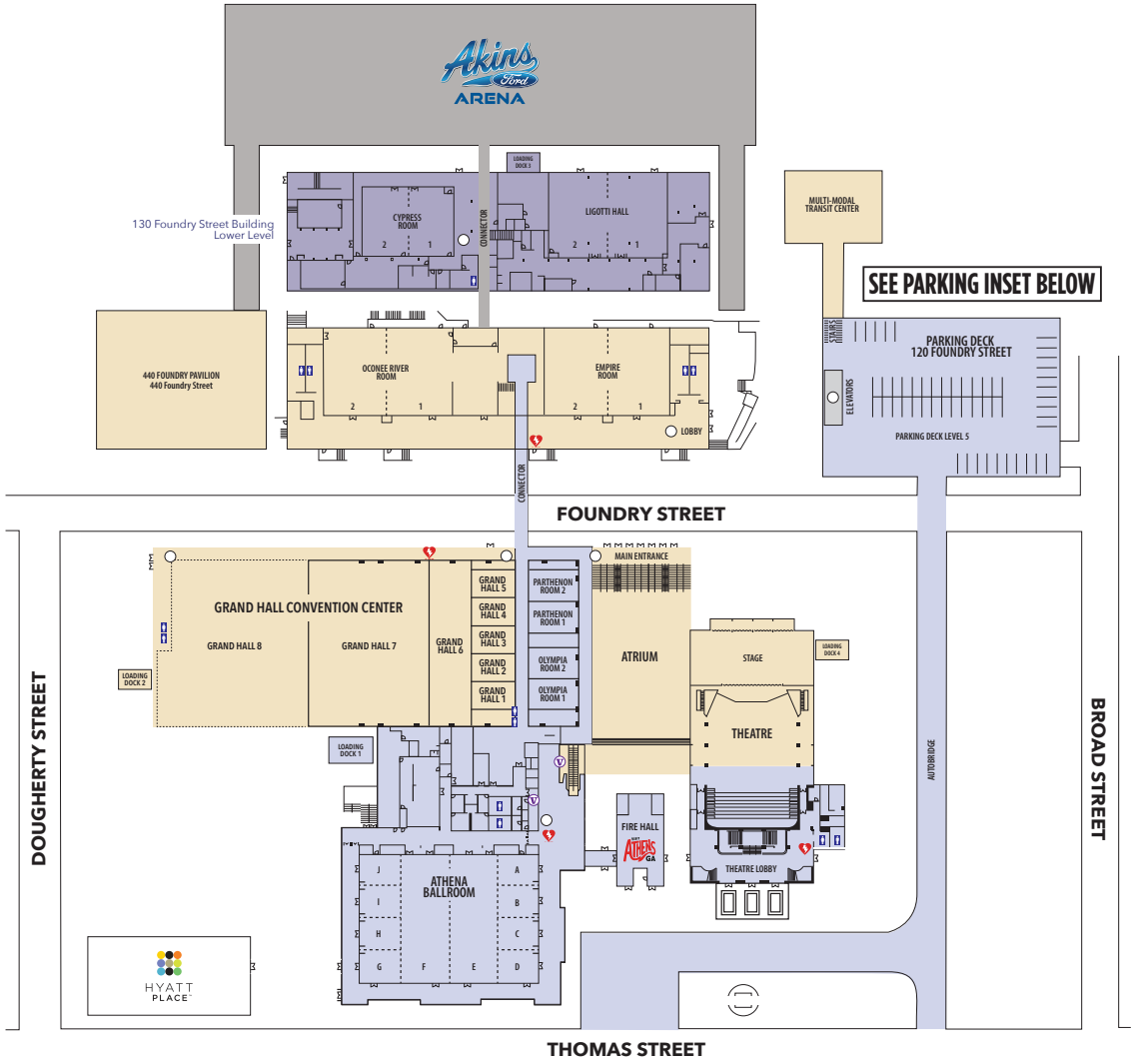
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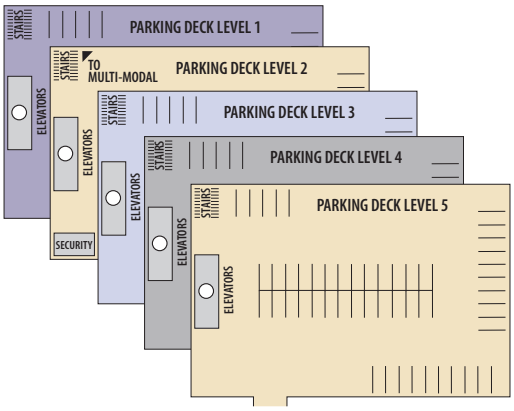
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Site Map Legend

- Information Center
- Restrooms
- Vending
- Automated External Defibrillators (AED)

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Theatre Lobby
Ticket Office & Administration
Parking Deck Level 5
Loading Dock 1

300 North Thomas Street Building - Lower Level
Theatre-Orchestra Level
Parking Deck Level 2
Loading Dock 2 & 4
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130 Foundry Building Lower Level
Parking Deck Level 1
Loading Dock 3

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