

Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History has year-round mission

By Martin Rand III
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“We do what we always do,” said Christine Miller-Betts, the museum’s executive director. “We do black history all year round.”

The museum at 1116 Phillips St. honors the efforts of Laney, a lifelong Augusta educator who died in 1933, by continuing to teach and educate as she did. While the museum invites people of all ages, its primary focus is children, Miller-Betts said. More schools try to get students to the museum around February because of Black History Month, Miller-Betts said.

“They are more receptive because that’s the way it’s structured,” she said. Laney founded Augusta’s first kindergarten for black children, the Lamar Nursing School, and Haines Normal and Industrial Institute, which evolved into Lucy Laney High School.

Laney is buried on the school grounds, not far from the museum.