



## **MEDIA OUTLETS ACROSS STATE TOUT SUCCESS OF FILM TAX CREDIT**

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After more than a decade since its implementation, the economic effects of the Georgia film tax credit are felt in every corner of the state. That's why a geographically diverse collection of Georgia media outlets have spoken out to tout the program's success – and what it means for their region. Here's what they're saying:

### **Augusta Chronicle**

*Jan. 11, 2020*

"The film-entertainment business has been so brisk around here that Augusta now has its own Film Office to handle the demand."

"On the state level, agencies definitely need to settle on the same set of numbers to gauge the film tax credit's success. But we don't think the disparity will be so great that the credit will be scrapped altogether. It's already seen too much success and it has too much potential. Lack of demand certainly isn't killing the program. If anything, for its own health it appears the program needs to grow and to acquire the improvements its administrators say are missing."

"Jennifer Bowen is film liaison for Film Augusta, a division of the Augusta Convention and Visitors Bureau. She has said that film crews using the jail have already made an estimated economic impact on the Augusta area of more than \$1 million through food, lodging and hiring local staff. And there are, so far, about 20 location managers for movies and television slated to tour the old jail this year. If they like it, that promises an even bigger economic impact."

### **Gainesville Times**

*Jan. 25, 2020*

"A pet project of former Gov. Nathan Deal, the tax incentives have sparked growth in a segment of the state's economy that has grown tremendously in recent years. It is hard not to find a section of Georgia that has not recently benefited in some fashion from movie or television production efforts, and the Gainesville and north Georgia area have certainly seen their share and more of screen time."

"The reality is, the influx of movie and television production work and the billions generated by its presence in the state have spurred new career paths and business opportunities that did not exist a decade ago."

"We need to build on that reality, not endanger it by overreacting to what should be remediable tax collection problems."

"Georgia is moving to the top of the movie and television world."

#### **The Atlanta Journal-Constitution**

*Feb. 1, 2020*

"Thanks in significant part to Georgia's generous film tax credits, our state's peach logo appears repeatedly on millions of screens large and small around the world. ... Georgia has substantially grown our share of the industry producing the TV shows and movies that entertain us, and even the interactive games we play."

"What's common across this landscape of spreadsheets and bar charts is that, by any measure, Georgia now has become a world-class player in film, TV and interactive entertainment production since the tax credits were passed into law."

"And Georgia is positioning itself to take even further advantage of this boom by doing such things as creating educational programs to train a homegrown workforce to step into more entertainment industry jobs that often pay pretty well."

#### **WTOC – Savannah**

*Jan. 20, 2020*

"The Savannah region saw massive economic benefits from the film industry, to the tune of more than \$260 million in economic impact."

#### **CBS 46**

*Feb. 3, 2020*

"Thanks in part to a well-written tax credit put in place in 2008, the infrastructure keeps up with the high demand for content."

"The amazing part about that is that Georgia as a single state is competing head to head with two major countries, the United Kingdom and Canada. As a result, it became very easy to attract talent from all over the world. That same talent pays it forward by coming to the state and training up Georgians."

"Those experts help local film schools which then train writers, editors, costume designers, makeup artists, producers, carpenters and many, many other movie related fields. Making the film industry here a phenomenal life partner for local business and entrepreneurs. "

## GEORGIA SCREEN ENTERTAINMENT COALITION

### MEMBERS IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

#### **Op: Tax policy's helped film business grow in Ga.**

Greg Lewis, Lightnin' Production Rentals  
The Atlanta Journal Constitution- Feb. 1, 2020

"Before the tax credit, Lightnin' had a payroll of up to 45 people. We now employ 100, and 85 of those are Georgians. Twelve years later, we're servicing three times as many productions per year, and after working out of state for many years, a majority of our work is now here."

#### **Georgia edges out competition in battle for industry domination**

Ryan Millsap, Blackhall Studios  
CBS 46- Feb. 4, 2020

"We sit as one of the six important cities in the English-speaking world when it comes to content and those six cities are pretty simple, LA, NY then Georgia, London, Vancouver and Toronto. Anything other than those cities is a footnote."

#### **Georgia lawmakers hear more testimony as film tax credit remains under microscope**

Mike Akins, IATSE 479  
Richard Baxter, Columbus State University  
The Center Square- Feb. 5, 2020

"That money is staying here. Those wages are staying here," he said. "It's being generated here in the state" - Mike Akins

"I can tell you that the tax credit is the seed that germinates, that moves the film industry out of Atlanta." - Richard Baxter

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#### **About the Georgia Screen Entertainment Coalition**

The Georgia Screen Entertainment Coalition (GSEC) is a statewide advocacy group representing the film, television and digital entertainment industry in Georgia. An affiliate of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, we work with business leaders, elected officials and other strategic partners to protect and promote the film, television and digital entertainment industry and the tax policy that ensure the screen entertainment industry's continued investment in Georgia.

