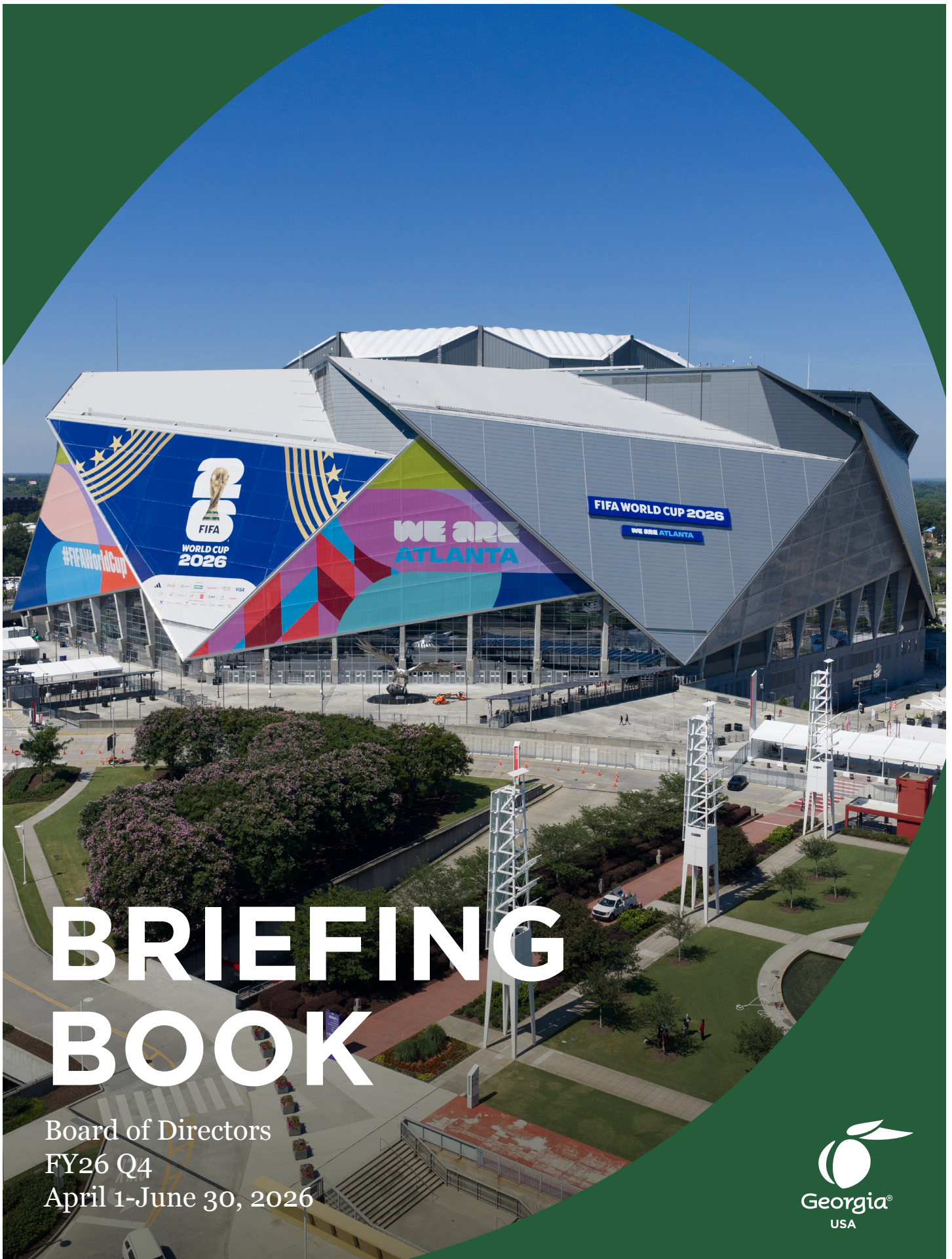




BRIEFING BOOK

Board of Directors
FY26 Q4
April 1-June 30, 2026



BRIEFING BOOK

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FOURTH QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS, FISCAL YEAR 2026

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On the cover: Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta served as a host venue for the FIFA World Cup 2026™, showcasing the world-class facilities and infrastructure that demonstrate Georgia’s ability to host major international events. Located on the Georgia World Congress Center’s Championship Campus – the largest combined convention, sports, and entertainment destination in North America – the stadium builds on Georgia’s decades-long legacy of welcoming the world, from the 1996 Olympic Games to today, strengthening the state’s position as a destination for tourism, business, and global engagement.



At the Georgia Logistics Summit, representatives from Hyundai Motor America, the Georgia Tech Strategic Energy Institute, and Capital Development Partners discussed how their collaboration is advancing hydrogen-powered transportation.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Fostering entrepreneurship with Georgia's talent pipeline

The University System of Georgia (USG) supports student entrepreneurship through across its 25 institutions, leveraging partnerships including the Center of Innovation to drive workforce and business solutions. For example, the team participated in the USG Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition at Kennesaw State University on April 7, where student teams pitched business ideas for mentorship and cash prizes. The Center also collaborated with Georgia Tech graduate students exploring entrepreneurship as a tool for economic development in rural communities.

2. Supporting the startup and innovation ecosystem

The Center of Innovation continued to strengthen relationships within Georgia's entrepreneurial ecosystem through collaborations with local incubators, investors, and startup organizations. In partnership with StartUP Columbus, the team helped facilitate engagement opportunities in Columbus on May 6 by connecting local startup companies with potential investors. At Startup Savannah's GRIT Pitch! Competition on May 7, the Logistics team judged innovative business ideas presented by entrepreneurs looking for mentorship opportunities.

3. Annual summit highlights Georgia's logistics strengths

The 17th annual Georgia Logistics Summit in Savannah on April 17 brought together hundreds of industry leaders, stakeholders, and professionals to highlight the [forward momentum of Georgia's logistics industry](#). Topics discussed included transportation investments, advancements in hydrogen fuel technologies, and the role of real-time data in improving supply chain efficiency. The event provided valuable networking opportunities to promote continued collaboration and innovation.

COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS



Georgia Council for the Arts brought various cities together to learn creative strategies for community engagement in public art during the Red Clay Creative Cohort trainings.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Five communities receive \$20,000 grants for arts projects

As part of its new Red Clay Creative Cohort initiative, Georgia Council for the Arts (GCA) awarded \$20,000 grants to five organizations to develop public art projects that drive local economic growth. GCA also hosted workshops June 1-2 in partnership with Springboard for the Arts, a national leader in artist-centered community development, to help communities plan their projects. The City of Cornelia, City of Warrenton, City of West Point, Colquitt Miller Arts Council, and Fitzgerald – Ben Hill Arts Council are all part of this cohort.

2. Professional development highlights the arts in community development

Georgia Council for the Arts attended the South & Appalachian Creative Placemaking Summit April 21-24, a conference that explored how communities throughout the South use arts, culture, and design in community and economic development. GCA provided 25 scholarships to rural Georgia communities to attend the conference and hosted a meeting with the Georgia attendees to discuss ways to implement what they learned.

3. Exploring the role of arts in disaster recovery

GCA attended a National Council on the Arts meeting in Asheville May 5-6, visited sites impacted by Hurricane Helene, and learned about the role the arts community is playing in long-term recovery. Meeting attendees examined the impact of natural disasters on the arts sector, recognizing that artists and arts organizations are often some of the most vulnerable populations affected, as well as how the arts can help with revitalization after a disaster.



The Film team met with studio leaders, production executives, and decision-makers in Los Angeles to reinforce the state's status as a leading film and entertainment hub.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Strengthening industry connections in L.A.

Representatives from the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD), the Georgia Department of Revenue, and the Georgia Screen Entertainment Coalition hosted a tax town hall in Los Angeles June 3 to discuss film tax credit with industry stakeholders. Governor Brian P. Kemp and First Lady Marty Kemp joined an evening reception June 4 to thank studios and producers for their investment in Georgia and encourage future filming in the state.

2. Peabody Awards reinforce Georgia's film legacy

Established by the University of Georgia (UGA) Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication in 1940, the 86th Peabody Awards celebration was held in Los Angeles. The Film team joined UGA and industry peers at event on May 31, underscoring the state's long history of supporting and shaping the film industry in Georgia and beyond. Two filmmakers with Georgia ties were honored with an award for the documentary film "Come See Me in the Good Light."

3. Streaming shows deliver steady employment

Four long-running, Georgia-lensed series launched their latest seasons: "Sweet Magnolias" (season five), "The Oval" (season seven), "All the Queen's Men" (season five), and Tyler Perry's "Ruthless" (season six), with their repeat business creating steady jobs for Georgians from metro Atlanta to Covington. The highly anticipated Apple TV miniseries "Cape Fear" also premiered on June 5 after filming at Assembly Studios, the High Museum of Art, and Lake Allatoona, among other locations.



Pirelli demonstrated its new smart tire technology, which will be integrated into production at its Rome facility, at the 2026 SelectUSA Investment Summit.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Georgia's business advantages on international display

At the 2026 SelectUSA Investment Summit, May 3-6, GDECD met with more than 100 companies and organizations exploring future U.S. investments, while partners from across the state highlighted Georgia's global competitiveness. International companies accounted for one in four new locations or expansions or expansions in FY25, with 64% of foreign direct investment projects originating from companies already operating in Georgia and choosing to expand.

2. Governor Kemp recognizes five ROCK STAR small businesses

To kick off Small Business Month, Gov. Kemp honored five Georgia companies with [2026 Small Business ROCK STARS](#) awards on April 29. Big Bon Bodega, Fabritex, Inc., Georgia Beer Company, Greenfield, LLC, and InnoTek, LLC represent industries from tourism to workforce development, helping strengthen local economies across the state.

3. Keeping businesses growing and moving

At a time when strengthening domestic manufacturing is critical, Georgia offers a competitive edge that has attracted and supported industry leaders Lockheed Martin, Hyundai Motor Group, HK USA, Unified Defense, Blue more in Q4 FY25. The state's role as a logistics hub is advanced by companies such as Prime, Inc., and the continuous growth of its ports, including the new Gainesville Inland Port. Stay up to speed on news and events at georgia.org/news.



Georgia's Tourism team and partner delegates at U.S. Travel Association's IPW 2026.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Travel South FAM tour highlights Georgia Gems

Through its relationship with Travel South, Explore Georgia hosted a global familiarization (FAM) tour April 22-27 in partnership with Visit Savannah, Visit Macon, and Destination Atlanta. Five travel journalists from key international markets experienced "Georgia's Gems," generating coverage designed to inspire future visitation. Explore Georgia also built connections with international media and tourism stakeholders during Travel South Global Week, meeting and networking with journalists from 12 countries and with German-speaking media.

2. Expanding Georgia's international tourism presence

At U.S. Travel Association's IPW 2026, May 17-21, Explore Georgia a more than 20 tourism partners showcased the state's diverse destinations and experiences to the global travel industry. Through more than 500 meetings with international travel buyers and media from 30 countries, the delegation expanded Georgia's visibility as a premier destination and cultivated relationships that help drive future visitation, supporting communities and businesses statewide, including hotels, attractions, and tourism partners.

3. Georgia positioned as ultimate FWC26 home base

Georgia was positioned as the ultimate home base for the FIFA World Cup 2026™ (FWC26). Through location-targeted out-of-home advertising, visitors were encouraged to explore the state and return to visit after the tournament. Examples included out-of-home boards, swarms of Explore Georgia-wrapped cars near the stadium, spectaculars on Atlanta buildings, postcards, display ads, and a full-page ad in the official commemorative magazine. A comprehensive toolkit of assets was provided to support tourism industry partners. Over Atlanta's eight match days in June and July, the statewide activation "Georgia, the Whole Day Through" located at the Georgia World Congress Center, welcomed more than 70,000 visitors, introducing travelers from around the world to communities across the state. Tourism industry partners reported that visitors extended their trips and booked hotel stays as a result of their experience.



Governor Brian Kemp joined the 2026 SEUS-CP Forum in Greenville, South Carolina, where Georgia companies and GDEcD Trade representatives connected with industry leaders and partners across the Southeastern U.S. and Canadian provinces.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Governor Brian Kemp leads Georgia delegation at SEUS-CP

The Trade team coordinated Georgia's participation in the 2026 SEUS-CP Conference, held June 21-23 in Greenville, South Carolina. Gov. Kemp served as a speaker at the event. The annual conference brings together leaders from across the Southeast U.S. and Canada to discuss advancements in key sectors. Georgia companies engaged in targeted B2B meetings with potential Canada-based partners.

2. 'Gateway to Exports: Canada and Mexico' engages multiple Georgia communities

More than 70 one-on-one meetings were organized by GDEcD's Trade team during the Gateway to Exports program in Atlanta and Macon, supporting Georgia companies in exploring international growth opportunities. The inbound trade mission brought GDEcD's International Representatives directly to Georgia companies interested in opportunities in two of Georgia's top export markets. Held June 15-19, the meetings provided tailored market insights and guidance to current and prospective exporters across all sectors.

3. Georgia companies participate in state-led mission to Mexico

Georgia companies connected with international partners in Georgia's second-largest export market on a GDEcD trade mission to Mexico City and Monterrey. From May 11-15, Ecobab, Morgan Chen Productions, and Sensolus explored international sales and business development opportunities in Mexico. Targeted, in-market missions are one way GDEcD's Trade team advances global engagement opportunities for Georgia companies, combined with market research, data, and insights that help them refine export strategies.



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