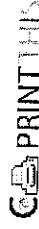
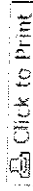


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Visitors bureau awards grants for tourism

The Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau has announced two organizations will receive funding for tourism-related projects.

Reporter: From Staff Reports

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LAWRENCEVILLE — The Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau has announced two organizations will receive funding for tourism-related projects.

The GCVB's grant program, now in its 10th year, allots dollars for tourism-related projects and tourism product development, with a focus on drawing overnight visitors to Gwinnett County, as well as marketing Gwinnett as a destination.

The Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center will receive \$3,500 to assist in creating a promotional video project. This video will be used to promote the facility as an eco-tourism destination and as an environmentally friendly location for conferences and special events.

"Eco-tourism is an untapped resource for the county," said Jason West, director of development for the center. "Promotion (of) the Environmental and Heritage Center, which is truly an environmental treasure, will reap a number of economic and social benefits."

The Gwinnett Place CID will receive \$1,500 to assist with publication of a CID-area merchants and visitors map.

The GCVB's grant program has distributed more than \$150,000 in tourism grants over the last ten years.

"We are really pleased by our applicants this year," said Lisa Anders, GCVB's marketing director. "Green meetings are a hot trend right now, and we are fortunate to have the Environmental and Heritage Center as a meeting venue. We also feel very strongly about supporting our CIDs, as many of our hotels are located in the heart of the Gwinnett Place and Gwinnett Village CIDs."

For more information about the GCVB grant program or to receive a 2011 Grant application, e-mail Anders at landers@gcvb.org or call 770-814-6044.

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