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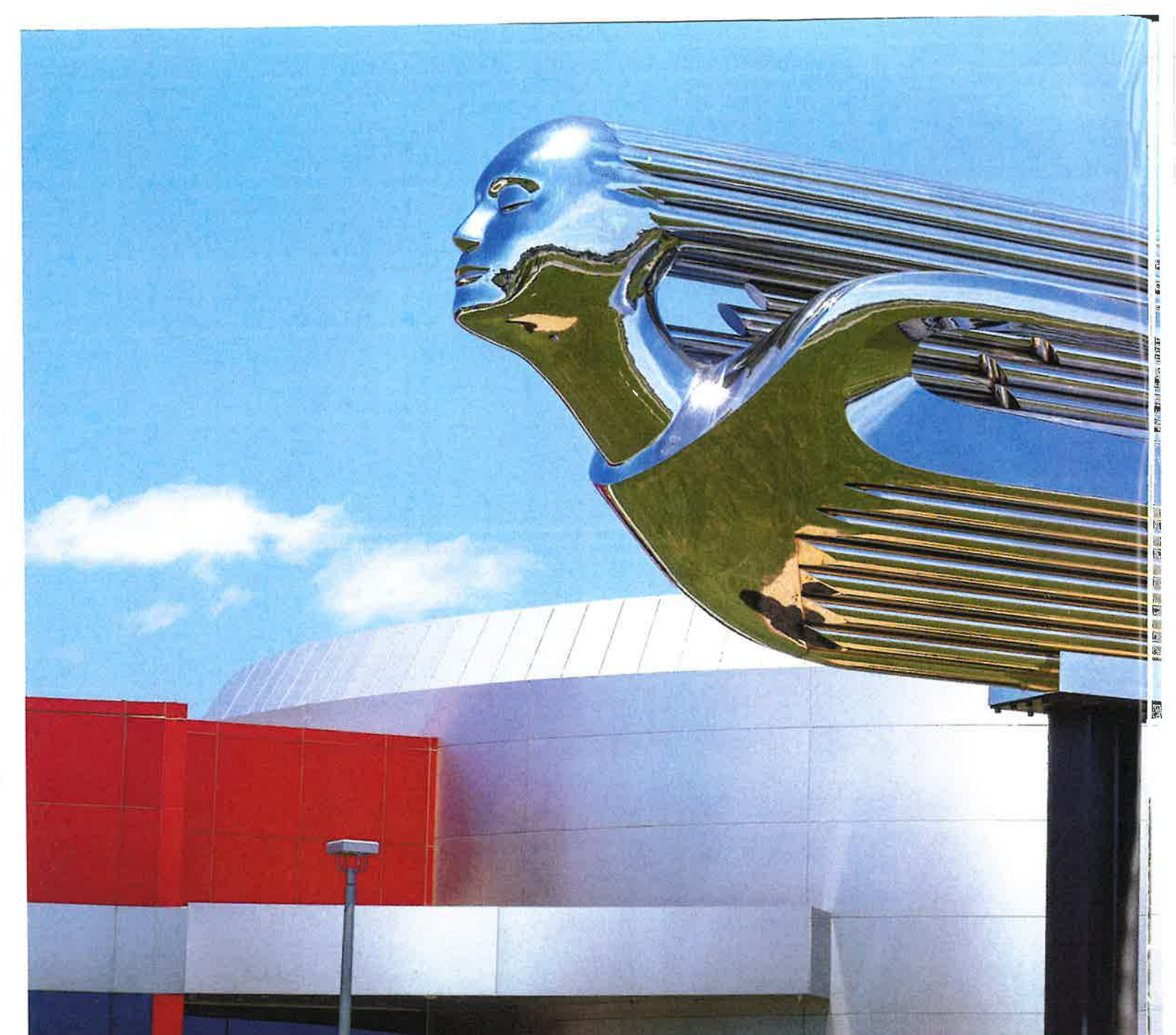
CARTERSVILLE / BARTOW COUNTY, GEORGIA
A Publication of *The Daily Tribune News*

SUMMER 2024

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SAVOY VOTED BEST ATTRA

Article by Marie Nesmit



THE FAVORITE

REACTION FOR CAR LOVERS

Smith, Photos by Savoy



Savoy Automobile Museum captured the title of Best Attraction for Car Lovers, thanks to its steadfast supporters. This is the Cartersville venue's first victory in the USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice Awards competition.

"In 2023, we were voted second best 'attraction for car lovers' in the same readers' choice poll; that experience was eye-opening," said Tom Shinall, Savoy's director of development. "I have to keep reminding myself that we are still a new museum within the car culture community, only being open for two and a half years. To be nominated again this year, made me very proud of what we are doing as an organization and that people are taking notice.

"When we received word that our supporters voted us as the Best Attraction for Car Lovers, I was overjoyed. This is a big deal; the museums we were listed among are the best of the best, and to know our supporters view Savoy as one of the best automotive museums in America is an incredible feeling."

The 10Best category's 20 nominees were selected by 10Best's editors, with the Top 10 establishments being determined by popular vote.

Following the Savoy in the Best Attraction for Car Lovers category were National Corvette Museum in Kentucky, second place; Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum in Pennsylvania, third; America's Transportation Experience/AACA Museum in Pennsylvania, fourth; Petersen Automotive Museum in California, fifth; Museum of American Speed in Nebraska, sixth; Porsche Experience Center with locations in California and Georgia, seventh; Lane Motor Museum in Tennessee, eighth; Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Michigan, ninth; and America's Car Museum in Washington, 10th.

"It was an honor just to be nominated and included among the best automotive attractions across the

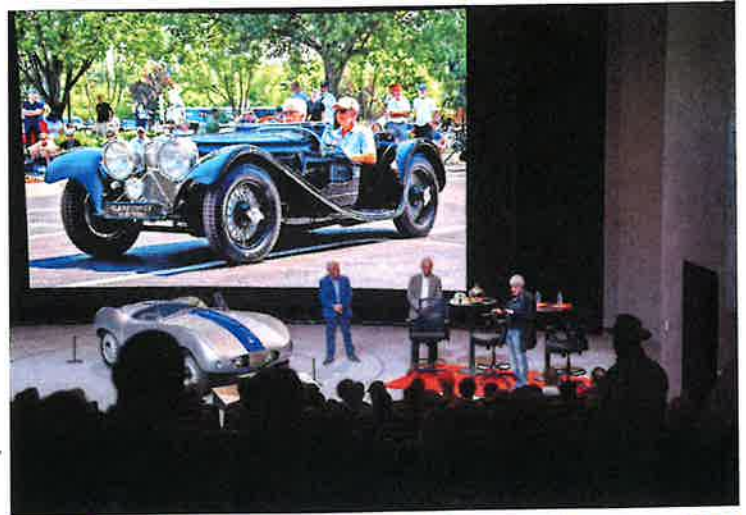
country," said Macra Adair, Savoy's executive director. "For me personally, I was blown away and I am very grateful.

"Receiving this honor is an accomplishment and exposes us to people across the United States that may not have heard about us yet, and the world. Also with this award, Savoy will become a household name and will entice people to visit this spectacular museum and all we have to offer."

Even though Savoy is based in Cartersville, Georgia, we are a cultural resource for the car community worldwide. From international travelers to patrons visiting from within the region, this accolade elevates the perception of Savoy as more than just a collection of cars.

A program of Georgia Museums Inc., the Savoy opened its doors in December 2021 at 3 Savoy Lane. The venue's main building encompasses approximately 65,000 square feet and contains a 297-seat presentation theater; store; research library; café; and five exhibition spaces, including the Great Hall, four of which are dedicated to temporary displays.

"When we set out to start Savoy, we did not want it to be just another car collection museum," Shinnall said. "We are blessed to have the foundation and history of our Georgia Museums Inc. family of museums to provide insight and guidance for the process.



"This enabled us to create an automotive museum based around the concept of an art museum with exclusively curated rotating exhibition themes. The rotation of exhibitions, our world-class facility, special events, programming and educational opportunities keep our supporters active and involved, helping set a new standard within the automotive attraction industry."

For Shinall, the 10Best award is a "full-circle moment" for the Savoy.

The venue now joins the ranks of another GMI museum, which previously topped the leaderboard of the USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice Awards competition. Also situated in Cartersville, the Booth Western Art Museum won the contest's Best Art Museum category for three straight years.

"I think back to 2018 when we broke ground and

began grading, and to realize how far we've come, not only physically but in the eyes of our advocates, is truly inspiring," Shinall said. "I have been fortunate to witness the impact this accolade can have on an organization, celebrating the Booth's wins in 2020 to 2022.

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Reflecting on Savoy's 10Best win, both Adair and Shinall extended thanks to those who cast their votes in the online competition.

"Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Contests like this are not a vote once and forget about it campaign,"



Shinall said. "This is an ongoing, daily vote lasting for multiple weeks. The fact that our supporters were resilient and dedicated to doing so shows their passion for Savoy. And for that, I am forever grateful."

Further details about the Savoy can be obtained on the museum's website, <https://savoymuseum.org>, and Facebook page, or by calling 770-416-1500.

"Since opening on Dec. 8, 2021, we have shared Savoy with over 210,000 visitors," Shinall said. "Beyond our local and regional members, we see a lot of tourists traveling the I-75 corridor, both state-side and internationally. For many, it is all about the cars themselves. However for me, it is all about the people."

"The car culture community is a group whom share a passion for all-things automotive. It doesn't matter if

you are 5 or 95 years old, we all have a connection to cars, and it is an honor to offer a place where people want to gather and share memories, while creating new ones."



Marie Nesmith

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