

**Event Professional of
the Year**

**Katie Sears,
City of Chamblee, GA**

How many years has the nominee been in the industry?

3 years as event coordinator and 6 years as recreation coordinator

What impact did they have on a community, organization or event?

The impact of an event professional often times is significant and multifaceted. Katie has worked with for the City of Chamblee for almost 7 years and has been the city's Special Event Coordinator for 3 years. In Katie's time as special event coordinator, she has designed countless gathering opportunities that build on Chamblee's community ties, has introduced communities to local businesses, crafted enhanced experiences for attendees, amplified the message of the Nonprofit Partnership Program (the city's collaboration program with local nonprofits), and has developed strong partnerships with vendors, local businesses, and the residential community. Summing up her impact is difficult, but in a brief summary Katie's impact to the community, the City of Chamblee as an organization, and the events hosted include: – Coordinating the city's annual Summer Concert Series, A Taste of Chamblee, Holiday Hoopla Festival, and pop-up community activations such as the 3rd Spot Watch Party event series and Live! On Your Block (community block parties), Katie has designed opportunities for the community to come together and create lasting memories. – One of the most significant impacts she has made was to the increase of vendors to the 2024 A Taste of Chamblee. Not only did the event welcome over 6,000 people to downtown Chamblee, but it also introduced them to over 80 businesses located in and around Chamblee. – Within the same event, A Taste of Chamblee, Katie created an enhanced experience by transitioning the event from an RFID point of sales system, that often experienced technology complications, to a system that offered sales via QR codes generated through a mobile application and tap to pay options. An additional enhancement to the 2024 A Taste of Chamblee included the introduction of a youth culinary competition. Working alongside a local nonprofit, The Navigate Foundation, the event showcased three multi-talented young culinary chefs. They competed in a "Georgia on my Mind" cooking competition in which they were required to utilize locally grown produce in their submissions. – In 2021, the City of Chamblee launched the Nonprofit Partnership Program. This program has become a networking, professional development, organizational development, volunteer recruitment, and funding tool for over 70 nonprofits organizations that are local to the Atlanta region. As the special events coordinator, Katie has managed the involvement of the nonprofits at all of the city's events. Each event has become an opportunity for a Nonprofit Partnership Program member to obtain a free vendor booth to market their organization or recruit volunteers. The inclusion of nonprofits in city events has amplified the message of the organizations and the program's goal of collaboration between nonprofits and local government. – Overall, Katie has become an integral part of the City of Chamblee. In her role of managing events, she has created close-knit ties with community members, vendors such as RCS Productions, Pyrotecnico, and Magnolia Golf Group, and city partners such as Discover DeKalb (Chamblee's Convention and Visitor's Bureau).

Statement of impact for nominee

Katie Sears has made a profound and lasting impact on the events industry through unparalleled creativity, meticulous planning, and an unwavering dedication to excellence. With a keen ability to transform visions into extraordinary experiences, Katie has successfully orchestrated events that bring communities together, support local businesses, and elevate industry standards. Beyond logistics and execution, Katie fosters meaningful connections, drives innovation, and ensures that every event leaves lasting impressions. Her leadership, adaptability, and passion for events makes her a true trailblazer, inspiring co-workers and vendors alike. Through her work, Katie continues to make a mark on the industry and the Chamblee community.

Mike Vescio
Director of Sales | Discover DeKalb
mike@discoverdekalb.com | 770-492-5012

Re: Southeast Festivals and Events Association
Kaleidoscope Event Professional of the Year Nomination

Dear selection committee:

I am honored to submit this recommendation for Katie Sears for the **Event Professional of the Year** award. As the City of Chamblee's Special Event Coordinator with over ___ years of experience, Katie has consistently demonstrated her innovativeness, unparalleled leadership, unique attention to detail, and dedication that has left a lasting impact on her coworkers, her organization, event attendees and the overall Chamblee community.

Katie is instrumental in the planning, permitting, and execution of the City of Chamblee's numerous small- and large-scale events, which attract anywhere from 250 to over 15,000 attendees. Through her exceptional ability to manage logistics, coordinate vendors and volunteer teams, and cultivate partnerships, she has transformed these events into benchmarks of success. Her meticulous approach to event planning—such as leading Special Event Committee meetings with vendors and city personnel—combined with her strong time management skills and ability to delegate tasks effectively, has been pivotal in garnering statewide attention for Chamblee's events.

From concept to execution, Katie's leadership has been instrumental in the success of events like *Chamblee's Summer Concert Series* and *A Taste of Chamblee*, demonstrated by increased attendance, vendor participation, event layout expansion, and enhanced community engagement. Her dedication to fostering strong community connections has helped maintain excellent relationships with long-standing Chamblee businesses and local nonprofits. This trust has also positioned Chamblee as a new host for major events, such as *Chamblee Art Fest*, hosted by Splash Festivals.

Her collaborative spirit and willingness to share her knowledge and expertise demonstrate a genuine dedication to fostering growth and success among her peers, the community, and the City of Chamblee as a whole. Katie's efforts not only enhance the quality of events but also strengthen the city's reputation as an inclusive and forward-thinking community.

I strongly support Katie Sears for this recognition, as she embodies the qualities that define an exceptional event professional. Should you need any additional details, please feel free to contact me at mike@discoverdekalb.com.

Sincerely,

Michael Vescio

Michael Vescio
Director of Sales, Discover DeKalb
mike@discoverdekalb.com | 770-492-5012

Southeast Festivals and Events Association
Re: Kaleidoscope Event Professional of the Year

Brittney Lindsay
Community Engagement Director
City of Chamblee
blindsay@chambleega.gov
470-559-1008

January 27, 2025

Dear Kaleidoscope selection committee:

It is with great enthusiasm that I nominate Katie Sears, Special Events Coordinator for the City of Chamblee, for the prestigious Event Professional of the Year Award. With her outstanding contributions, unwavering dedication, and remarkable ability to create unforgettable experiences, Katie embodies the excellence this award presents.

As the director of the Community Engagement Department and formally the special events coordinator for the City of Chamblee, I have had the privilege of working with Katie Sears for 7 years. Initially interacting with her in her previous role as recreation coordinator in the Parks and Recreation Department and now as a team member in the Community Engagement Department. Over the last three years, while in her role as special events coordinator, I have consistently been impressed by her exceptional talent, dedication and professionalism in the events industry and her interactions with the Chamblee community. She has consistently demonstrated an exceptional ability to conceptualize, plan, and execute events that not only meet but exceed expectations. Whether coordinating large-scale community events, like *A Taste of Chamblee* or the *Chamblee Summer Concert Series*, or pop-up event series, such as the *3rd Spot Watch Party* and *Live! On your Block*, she has brought a unique blend of creativity and a meticulous attention to detail to each event.

Beyond her professional achievements, Katie has had a profound impact on the community. Through her work, she has supported local businesses by prioritizing community-based vendors to participate in city events and to work as contractors with the city. She has championed other city programs such as the Nonprofit Partnership Program and amplified the program's mission and vision by including the program's members in various city events. Katie's support of these nonprofit organizations has not only made her an exceptional professional but also a champion for positive change.

Vendors and co-workers alike speak highly of Katie's professionalism and adaptability. She thrives in fast-paced environments and navigates challenges while ensuring that each detail is perfectly executed. In her former position, she has held leadership roles within the Georgia Recreation and Parks Association and is currently leading the city's special events committee, where she guides a team of over six city departments to planning successful community events. Her commitment to excellence and passion for events and community inspires those around her, making her a leader in the field.

In light of her remarkable contributions and dedication to the art of event planning, I wholeheartedly recommend Katie Sears for the Event Professional of the Year award. She is truly deserving of this recognition, and I have no doubt that she will continue to make significant contributions to the industry for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information regarding Katie Sear's qualifications.

Sincerely,

Brittney Lindsay

Brittney Lindsay

Community Engagement Director | City of Chamblee | blindsay@chambleega.gov | 470.559.1008

WE'RE BACK

CHAMBLEE ROCKS
2023

MON, BOOGALICIOUS
JUL 4 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION
5:00 PM Keswick Park

FRI Plain White T's and Fastball
AUG 26 6:30 PM Downtown Chamblee

RETURN the FLAVOR

SUN - FRI CHAMBLEE RESTAURANT WEEK
OCT 9 - 14 RETURN THE FLAVOR

SAT TASTE OF CHAMBLEE
OCT 15 4:00 PM RETURN THE FLAVOR
Downtown Chamblee

SUN HOLIDAY HOOPLA
DEC 4 2:00 PM Downtown Chamblee

For more information, scan the QR code or visit chambleecelebrates.net.



Chamblee Holiday Hoopla

November 24 - December 31

Holiday Hoopla of Lights
Downtown Chamblee - 3518 Broad Street
Grab some eggnog from your favorite restaurant and stroll through the entertainment district to enjoy the Holiday Hoopla of Lights!

DEC 02	Santa's (A)R) Workshop 5441 Peachtree Road Tis' the season for crafting! Join us at AR Workshop to make your own gifts or holiday decor. Craft options will include projects for adults and kids.		DEC 09	Holiday Cupcake Decorating @ Lenox 5392 Peachtree Road Pull out the holiday apron, because Lenox Cupcakes is doing the baking, but you're doing the decorating!	
DEC 03	Jingle Belle Rock @ Balance Dance 3550 Broad Street Dance, jump, and rock at Balance Dance's open gym. There will be crafts, light refreshments, and other festive activities.		DEC 21	DIY Snowball Soap @ Buff City Soap 5444 Peachtree Boulevard These snowballs aren't made for throwing, they're made for cleaning! Join us at the soap making to craft your own plant based, winter soap.	

Registration for the above events and additional events will be listed at chambleeholidayhoopla.net.





LIVE! ON YOUR BLOCK



DETAILS HERE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
WWW.CHAMBLEEGA.COM

LIVE MUSIC

**FROM TURNBULL,
WOOD & FORD**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11
5:00 - 7:00PM

CLAIRMONT TERRACE NE
ROUNDBOUT





ADMISSION NO. 0003518-504681908-2023

CHAMBLEE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES



FRI
6.2.23

THROUGH THE DECADES
**THE BREAKFAST CLUB
SAVED BY THE BAND**

6:30 PM
DOWNTOWN CHAMBLEE | 3518 BROAD ST.

* NEW LOCATION *



TUES
7.4.23

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION
**GEEK SQUAD BAND
LEAH BELLE FASER**

6:30 PM CONCERT | 9:00 PM FIREWORKS
DOWNTOWN CHAMBLEE | 3518 BROAD ST.



FRI
8.4.23

TOPPIN' THE CHARTS
**DRIVIN N' CRYIN
CHUCK MEAD**


6:30 PM
DOWNTOWN CHAMBLEE | 3518 BROAD ST.

TICKET ADMIT ALL



MORE INFO AT
CHAMBLEEROCKS.NET

10:00
Done




FREE
ADMISSION


EVENT
CHAMBLEE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

LOCATION
DOWNTOWN CHAMBLEE


TIME
6:30 PM



FRI, **JUNE 7**
WHO'S BAD:
THE ULTIMATE MICHAEL
JACKSON EXPERIENCE



THURS, **JULY 4**
THE PLATINUM BAND
ANSLEY STEWART BAND
FIREWORKS BEGIN AROUND 9:30 PM



FRI, **AUGUST 9**
10,000 MANIACS
ALL THE LOCALS

MORE INFO AT CHAMBLEEROCKS.NET

COPA AMERICA: USA V. PANAMA	JUNE 27 5:00 PM
OLYMPICS OPENING	JULY 26 TBD
BRAVES V. ANGELS	AUGUST 18 4:00 PM

CHAMBLEE
Restaurant
WEEK

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 - SATURDAY, APRIL 13

CHAMBLEE RESTAURANT WEEK



TO REGISTER: WWW.BIT.LY/CHAMBLEE-EVENT-APPS
OR SCAN THE QR CODE - DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, MARCH 17
FOR MORE INFORMATION, EMAIL KSEARS@CHAMBLEEGA.GOV
OR CALL 470-622-9271

www.ChambleeRestaurantWeek.net

GA CITIES WEEK APRIL 23 - 29

SUNDAY FUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
ENJOY YOUR LOCAL PARK AND
TAG US IN ANY PHOTOS!
#CHAMBLEESUNDAYFUNDAY

MONDAY, APRIL 24
2:00PM - 4:00PM
CHAMBLEE CHICK-FIL-A

POLICE SERVING THE COMMUNITY

#SHOPCHAMBLEE TUESDAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 25
SHOP AT YOUR LOCAL CHAMBLEE
BUSINESSES AND TAG US ON SOCIAL!

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26
11:00AM - 1:00PM - CHAMBLEE PLAZA
(NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK

SUSTAINABILITY THURSDAY

THURSDAY, APRIL 27
LEARN ABOUT WHAT CHAMBLEE IS DOING
TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE AND HOW YOU
CAN HELP VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

FRIDAY, APRIL 28
MEET CITY STAFF TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE CITY'S DEPARTMENTS AND SERVICES.
5:00PM - 6:30PM - CHAMBLEE CITY HALL
JOIN US FOR LIVE ON YOUR BLOCK AFTER!

MEET THE CITY

HUNTLEY HILLS 5K & FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 29
8:00AM - 12:00PM
HUNTLEY HILLS ELEMENTARY



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.CHAMBLEEGA.COM



Chamblee HOLIDAY HOOPLA Festival

SNACKS * CRAFTS * MUSIC * GAMES * STORIES * PERFORMANCES

DECEMBER 6

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM * TREE LIGHTING: 6:45 PM

VISIT CHAMBLEEHOLIDAYHOOPLA.NET FOR TIME SLOTS FOR
PICTURES WITH SANTA AND PET PICTURES WITH THE GRINCH

CHAMBLEE CITY HALL
3518 BROAD STREET
CHAMBLEE, GA 30341

FOOD | FOOTBALL | MUSIC | VENDORS | COOKING COMPETITION | GAMES | MORE

A GET A TASTE OF THE EXCITEMENT *

TASTE OF CHAMBLEE

October 19

3-8 PM
DOWNTOWN
CHAMBLEE



TASTEofCHAMBLEE.NET

A TASTE OF CHAMBLEE

FOOD | FOOTBALL | MUSIC | VENDORS
- EST. 2009 -



OCTOBER 14

3:00 - 9:00 PM
DOWNTOWN CHAMBLEE

MORE INFORMATION AT
TASTEofCHAMBLEE.NET

GA CITIES WEEK

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 - SATURDAY, APRIL 27

<p style="text-align: center;">ALL WEEK</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">ART DROP CHAMBLEE</h2> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">A treasure hunt for art! This event is occurring all week. For more information, visit: https://bit.ly/artdropchamblee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">APR 24</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECK</h2> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">10:00AM - 12:00PM</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">4445 Buford Highway, Chamblee 30341 Come get your car seat checked! FREE for the Community.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">APR 21</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">SPLASH FESTIVAL</h2> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">10:00AM - 5:00PM</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Downtown Chamblee - Peachtree Road (American Way to Miller Dr.) Over 100 Art vendors with a kid's zone, food, drinks, and more!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">APR 25</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">CHAMBLEE TRIVIA NIGHT</h2> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">7:00PM</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Vintage Pizzeria: 5434 Peachtree Rd #101 Join Vintage Pizzeria for some Chamblee-themed trivia, dinner and drinks!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">APR 22</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">EARTH DAY</h2> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">5:00 - 7:00PM</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">5468 Peachtree Road Tour a Pollinator Garden & Visit a Butterfly Art Project</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">APR 26</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">COFFEE WITH A COUNCIL MEMBER</h2> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">8:30 - 10:00AM</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Join Councilmembers Furst, Stovall, and Veith at Moonbird Coffee for relaxed conversation. First 20 people will receive a \$5 giftcard to Moonbird!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">APR 23</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">MEET THE CITY</h2> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">6:00 - 8:00PM</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Chamblee City Hall: 3518 Broad Street Come meet City staff, learn about what's going on in each department, and enjoy some music, food, and beverages!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">APR 27</p> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">ART DROP FINAL DAY</h2> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Last day for the Art Drop!</p>