



**Sweet Beginnings:
Unwrapping St. Augustine's Chocolate Legacy**



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St. Augustine, Florida

The grant for *Sweet Beginnings: Unwrapping St. Augustine’s Chocolate Legacy* supported interdisciplinary research on a 1641 shipwreck carrying cacao beans, uncovering its connections to St. Augustine’s colonial trade networks. The project involved designing an engaging exhibit that explored the city’s chocolate history, curating artifacts that illustrated the evolution of cacao consumption, and developing an ArcGIS StoryMap to provide an interactive digital experience. By combining historical research, material culture, and digital storytelling, the exhibit highlighted the global influences that shaped St. Augustine’s early chocolate industry.

Sponsors	AMERICAN HERITAGE® Chocolate, Mars Wrigley, \$14,000
Partners	UF Historic St. Augustine, Inc.; George A. Smathers Libraries
Period	March 2024 - February 2025
Focus Area	Interpretation

