

By: Miles Lawrence

Scene #1:



**Above:** HISTORY IN HANDBAGS: American Glory Handbags owner Gina Konn holds up one of her custom burlap bags at the Soda City Market in Columbia, SC, on Mar. 8. Konn’s previous work in the fashion industry helped her create her brand, which draws inspiration from American history. “I come from a fashion industry background, 25 years as a pattern maker and sample sewer,” Konn said. “(When I was) a pattern maker, designers would give me a sketch and I would make the pattern on a piece of paper. We’d cut out the fabric, sew it, and then fit it on a

model, so that's why sewing (bags) comes naturally." Photo by Grady Dunston, story by Miles Lawrence

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Scene #2:



**Above:** MEDITATIVE MARKET: African drummer Baba Olatunji performs a piece at the Soda City Market in Columbia, SC, on Mar. 8. Olatunji has come to each Soda City Market in the last seven years, and outside of the vibrant community at each market, what keeps him coming back is the warm weather. “Most of the time I just be down here enjoying the weather and sitting

down underneath the sun. The sun gives you energy,” Olatunji said. “This is my type of weather, I don’t like the cold. Sitting underneath the sun is like meditation, it’s relaxing.” Photo by Grady Dunston, story by Miles Lawrence

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Scene #3:



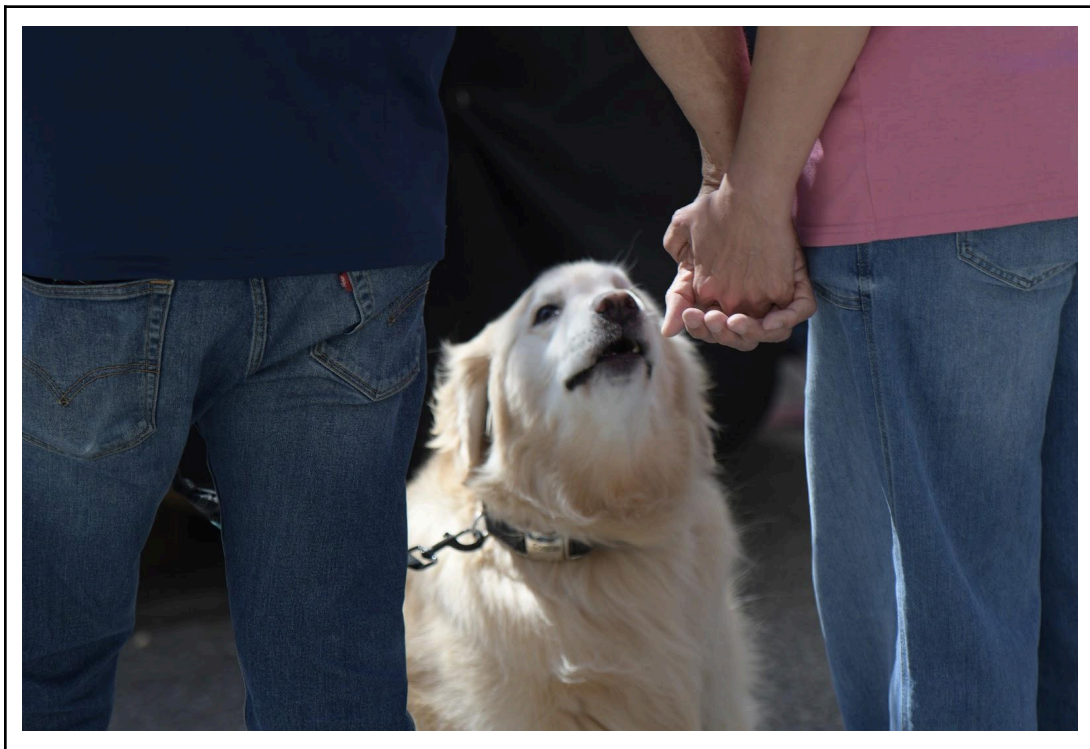
**Above:** LABOR OF LOAVES: Love You Loaves business owner Sophie Freeman (right) and her neighbor Caroline Doss (left) pose at their booth at the Soda City Market in Columbia, SC, on Mar. 8. Freeman moved to the United States from England in 2005 and has enjoyed the fellowship she’s gained living in Columbia. “Columbia is super special. I didn’t expect to like it



so much and I've just fallen in love with the place. Really, it's about the community,” Freeman said. “I think we have a really lovely community feel just as neighbors too. We all know each other on our street, and everyone's really helpful and fairly friendly.” Photo by Grady Dunston, story by Miles Lawrence

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Scene #4:



**Above:** RUFF: A dog sits contently while their owner waits in line at a booth at the Soda City Market in Columbia, SC, on Mar. 8. Columbia native Rachael Davis takes her dog Reese to advanced dog training on Main St. every Saturday and looks forward to the annual market,

especially now that it's more developed. "Nine years ago the market was tiny, there were maybe 10 little vendors and it wasn't a huge deal. Since then we've grown so much, and the camaraderie of the event brings the community together," Davis said. Photo by Grady Dunston, story by Miles Lawrence

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Scene #5:



**Above:** OUT THE OVEN: Jenden Shop owner Jennifer Santiago holds a tiny polymer clay pizza at the Soda City Market in Columbia, SC, on Mar. 8. Santiago has attended the market for the last seven years, ever since she began her business after being inspired online. "I started doing

this in 2015 (when) I was looking for something to do because I was jobless. One day I was on YouTube and it just caught my eye,” Santiago said. “I love it because they are all so tiny and they look really realistic.” Photo by Grady Dunston, story by Miles Lawrence