



Atlanta Celebrates Photography(ACP) History

In 1997, a seed was planted during a conversation between two people in a car. Corinne Adams and Susanne Katz were brainstorming about how to build a stronger photographic community in Atlanta. Why not have an event that would - bring everyone together to form a real photography community in Atlanta?

They decided to take their ideas to the Executive Director of the Atlanta Photography Group, a local photography club, and the three of them began to hold meetings. Many of the movers and shakers in the Atlanta photographic community came to these meetings. Everyone had fresh ideas, and often, very different ideas about what ACP should become, but all agreed that something was needed. After much discussion, they decided on the name Atlanta Celebrates Photography.

The ACP program was announced in March 1998, with enthusiastic response. In May 1999, Atlanta Celebrates Photography, Inc. was incorporated with Susan Todd-Raque as President, Susanne Katz as Vice President, Pam Holland as Treasurer, and Corinne Adams as Secretary. The group began holding meetings at Strictly Black and White labs, which was owned by Board member Polly Barr.

In the meantime, Susan Todd-Raque, a photo-historian and college educator, heard about the group's activities and enthusiastically started coming to the regularly held meetings. Todd-Raque had noted the dearth created by the lack of support for the arts in Atlanta, resulting in the exit of many talented graduates to New York.

Suzanne Lee joined the inner circle, bringing the idea to honor Harry Callahan as one of the entity's activities. Unfortunately, Harry Callahan passed away and much of the interest in this idea diminished. Many people drifted away and soon there were only four people: Corinne Adams, Susanne Katz, Gerald Straw and Susan Todd-Raque. It was decided that ACP was too good an idea to let die.

In October 1999, some fifty galleries, educational institutions, and other public spaces showcased the first official exhibitions. In 2000, Duane Michals, Jerry Uelsmann, and Linda Connor participated in the first Lecture Series and headlined the second annual program, which included 65 photography exhibitions.

In 2002, ACP hired its first part-time Executive Director to offer administrative support to the Board. The festival had grown to include over one hundred photography exhibitions and events, and it had begun to feature special ACP programs such as My Atlanta. More than 90 volunteers continued to offer invaluable support.

By 2004, however, the organization's growth required the management of a full-time staff member, and Anne Dennington was hired as ACP's first full-time Executive Director. ACP also renewed its Board of Directors and entered its 6th festival stronger than ever. The 2004 festival featured over one hundred fifty exhibitions and events, spanning the month of October. ACP established a Public Art Program, and film screenings were also featured as part of the festival.

In 2004, ACP also began to offer programs outside the month of October, and The Collector's Series became the first program to occur throughout the year. Denise Bethel, Director of the Photographs Department, Sotheby's New York, initiated the program. In 2006, ACP initiated a program called Spotlight to feature photography talents from the local Atlanta community.

At the end of 2007, ACP underwent a staffing transition, bringing on Michael David Murphy as a full time Program Manager, and hiring Amy Miller as ACP's new Executive Director.

ACP entered its 12th festival season (ACP 12) in 2010, with a diverse array of programs that were designed to nurture artists, support venues, educate collectors, and enrich Atlanta's cultural scene. As ACP's own programs have expanded, the exhibitions and events organized by participating venues and artists remain essential to the annual festival.

In 2010, after having completed its 12th annual festival that consisted of over 165 photo-related events and exhibitions throughout metro Atlanta and beyond, ACP joined Festival of Light, and international consortium of photography festivals. ACP's diverse events continue to bring together professional and amateur photographers of all ages, gallery owners, curator, collectors, and general photography enthusiasts. The festival generates national press and is an established tradition in the Atlanta arts community.

Sample of ACP's past featured Guests:

Paul Aresu	Bradley McCallum
Christopher Bucklow	Suellen Parker
Maria Magdalena Campos- Pons	Kira Pollack
Danny Clinch	Sheila Pree Bright
Gregory Crewdson	Grant Romer
Bruce Davidson	Jeff Rosenheim
Emma Dexter	Stephen Shore
Vincent Dixon	Alec Soth
Shannon Ebner	Mark Steinmetz
Elliott Erwitt	Art Streiber
Shelley Eshkar	Larry Sultan
Tierney Gearon	Mary Virginia Swanson
Matt Haffner	Jacqueline Tarry
Ron Haviv	Maggie Taylor
Yeondoo Jung	Sam Taylor Wood
Paul Kaiser	Jerry Uelsmann
Vincent Laforet	Carrie Mae Weems
Amy Landesberg	Robert Weingarten
Beth Lilly	Tim Wride
Danny Lyon	

Sample of ACP's annual programs:

Collaborations - programs created through partnerships with other arts or educational institutions

Film Series - Experimental films that explore the connection between photography and filmmaking

Fundraiser Auction - internationally renowned photographers donate work to raise money for ACP

Knowledge Series - Informative lectures to increase knowledge on a particular subject such as collecting photographs, marketing your photo business, framing, preparing for portfolio reviews, etc.

Lecture Series - lectures by industry experts who are innovators in their field, whether it be fine art photography, commercial photography, photojournalism/documentary or curatorial

My Atlanta Exhibition - open to everyone exhibition

ACP Book Fair – a platform for photographers to showcase their self-published books, and for the public to have the opportunity to see or perhaps purchase these rare gems.

Portfolio Review and Walk - a day of private portfolio reviews followed by a reception that is open to the public

Public Art Project - bringing lens-based installations out into the public, to be encountered in the course of one's daily life and to reach people who may not go into a traditional arts venue.