serenbe institute

for art, culture & the environment



works accomplished | artists-in-residence | arts programs

serenbe institute for art, culture & the environment

The nonprofit, tax-exempt Serenbe Institute for Art, Culture & the Environment was established in 2004 as an important primary tool to develop, facilitate, and implement programs that contribute to making Serenbe a community that passionately explores, embraces and expands the connections between nature, culture and the art of living.

The Institute's mission is to cultivate the community's creative, intellectual and ecological qualities through programs promoting social, spiritual and aesthetic curiosity. It supports intellectual, social and artistic activities and the works produced by it, including Serenbe's heritage and traditions, and is committed to enhancing the community's ability to develop and enjoy a harmonious, fulfilling and active life with civility and curiosity.

The Serenbe Institute is governed by a volunteer board of directors representing the community and its neighbors, responsible for the Institute's programs, fiscal stability, and success in meeting the needs of the community. The Institute receives property transfer fees paid on the sale (and resale) of real estate and homes in Serenbe, providing a permanent source of funding. One-half of the money received is placed in a reserve fund; one-half is available for programs, special projects, and the Institute's day-to-day activities. These funds are supplemented by contributions, sponsorships, grants and other revenues.

The Serenbe Institute's success in engaging residents in meaningful issues in meaningful ways has resulted in a stronger citizenry, more capable of dealing with the challenges of community building and growth. Its programs involve residents from neighboring communities, and contribute to strengthening Serenbe's role as the urban center for the greater Chattahoochee Hill country, and as a national model for enlightened development, environmental stewardship, and creative living.

The Serenbe Institute seeks financial support for these important programs through benefactions, sponsorships, and grants. There are significant opportunities for capital construction and equipment, endowment, and annually expendable program funding.

For further information, please contact John Graham, executive director of the Serenbe Institute, at institute@ serenbe.com.

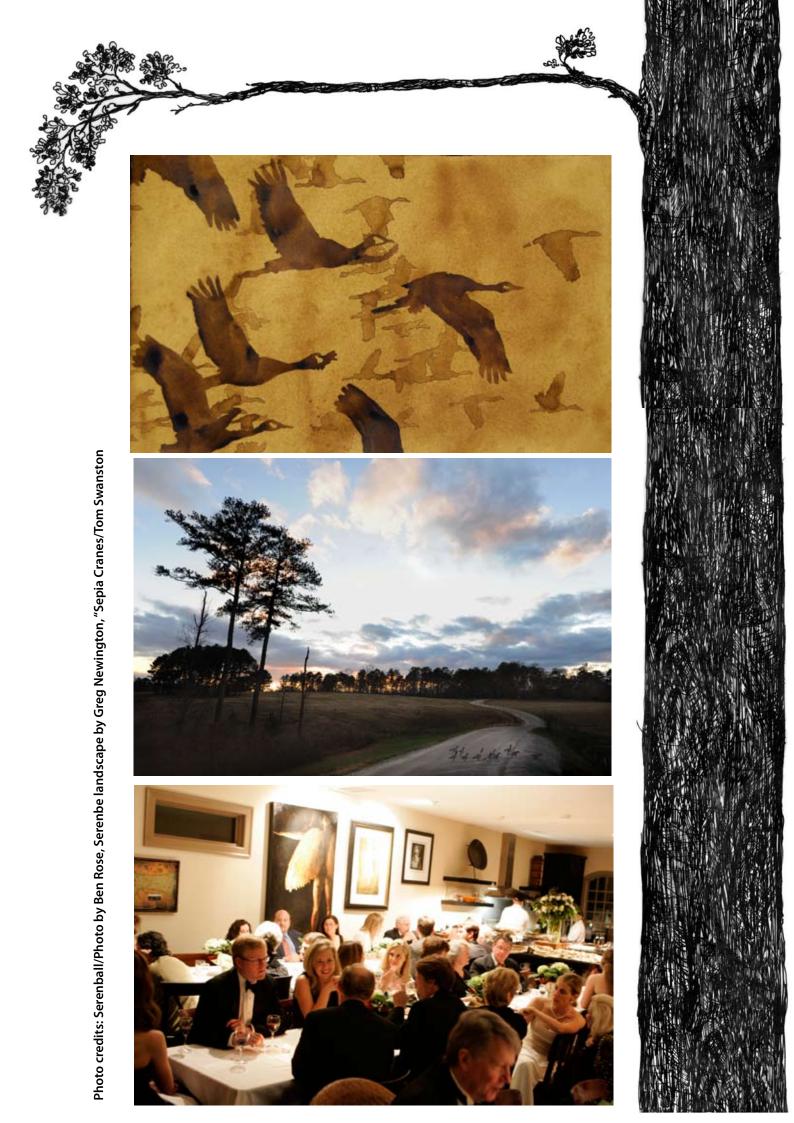
At Serenbe we value:

Nature... because people can live more fully when connected to nature's wonders

Passion... because living passionately is the most rewarding of lives

Creativity... because creative people live lives of great passion, and can help the rest of us do the same

Community... where people are accepted for who they are, not what they are



programs & highlights





2007

Community Center design charrette with Georgia Tech architecture class

Visiting Fellows: Dr. David Brain, professor of sociology, at the New College in Sarasota, Florida

Serenball: gala fundraising and celebratory dinner for Serenbe residents

Summer Art Days with La Grange Art Museum

New River Dramatists week-long residency with playwrights, actors and directors

Evan Levy "Cellular Cosmology" art installation

Community recycling program establishment

Oral history program training and development

Summer Movie Series in Selborne Courtyard

900

Master site plan charrette for "art farm" with Dr. Phill Tabb, Serenbe's master planner

New River Dramatists residency

MayDay information booth and funding of local artist Tim Mosby to conduct children's art project

Artists in Residence Program: photographer Frank Hunter, playwright Valetta Anderson, muralist Shannon Lake, landscape designer Jason McCord

Hill Country Montessori School master plan charrette with Dr. Phill Tabb

Four informal performances in Blue Eyed Daisy by local musicians

Underwriting of arts materials for Camp Serenbe

Shannon Lake mural project

Grant to purchase volunteer road crew safety gear for City of Chattahoochee Hills

Grant to Hill Country Montessori School Sense of Place program

Serenball



Residents trip to Swamp Gravy folk life festival, Pasaquan folk art installation, and Westville historic village

May Day information booth displaying local art work and selling commemorative T-shirts

Serenbe Institute joined the Alliance of Artist's Communities, the national service organization for artist residency programs, and hosted a visit by Caitlin Strokosch, the Alliance's

executive director

Community building workshops facilitated by Dr. David Brain, assisted by Dr. Phill Tabb, Serenbe's master planner, and Dr. Ellen Dunham Jones, GA Tech professor of architecture

Community building task forces established to develop plans for civic priorities in agriculture, arts and culture, community life, health and wellness, learning, the environment, and methods for fostering and incubating intellectual and business initiative.

Serenbe Institute funding to Camp Serenbe provided art instructors to teach campers.

Workshop on learning and education in Serenbe and Chattahoochee Hills, led by Dr. Dan Pekarsky, professor of education at the University of Wisconsin

Support of the gifted student program at Palmetto Elementary School

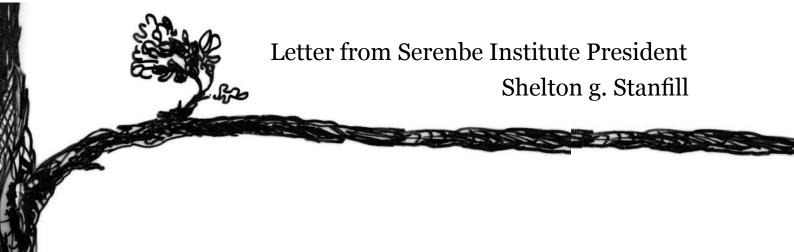
Artist in Residence Program: photographer Marilyn Suriani, video artist Scott Browning, novelist Haven Kimmell, multi-media artist Paul Villenski, sculpture Melissa Stern, painter Elizabeth Stockton

Serenbe Playhouse Project begun for the 2010 inaugural season

Distinguished artist in residence, Michael David, begins the Greenhouse Project

Serenbe Photography Center established

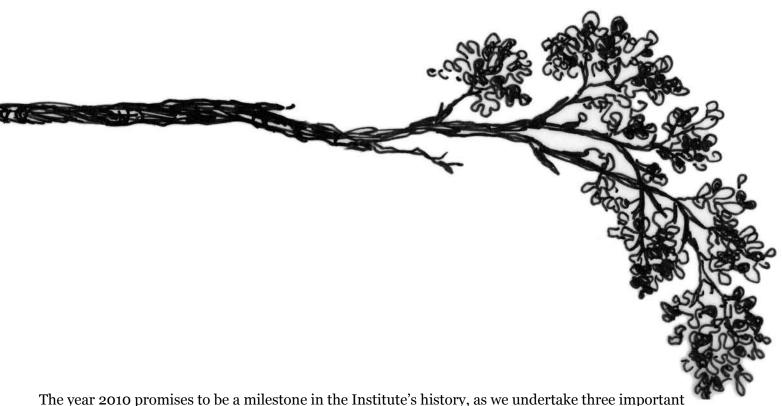
Serenball



The nonprofit SERENBE INSTITUTE plays a key role in the unique community that is Serenbe, a community that passionately explores, embraces and expands the connections between nature, culture and the art of living. Serenbe is a model for those who seek to live in or visit a place where the arts and artists are integral parts of daily life; where just walking down the street confirms that the arts are at the heart of this extraordinary place. The Institute helps give meaning to our lives here in Serenbe. Through its programs and projects, it helps to build a stronger, more vibrant community by involving residents and neighbors in meaningful issues in meaningful ways. It is a forum for fruitful discussion, transparency, and civility. The Institute seeks to identify matters of import to Serenbe and its residents; then plans and initiates programs or projects to deal with them. The Institute has a primary function as catalyst and incubator.

The programs of the Serenbe Institute are a reflection of our vision for the community -- a vision that over time will see this place and the surrounding Chattahoochee Hill Country blossom into a center for the arts recognized nationally and internationally. It will be a place where artists of promise and renown come to create – in the tradition of MacDowell Colony and Anderson Ranch, legendary artists' retreats. It will be a center for teaching the full of range of arts and crafts, like Penland or the John Campbell Folk School. While the arts flourish, the body and soul of residents and visitors alike will be nourished by the natural beauty and serenity that is Serenbe's namesake. This future beckons to those who love and appreciate Serenbe for its unique promise.

Since its founding in 2004, the Serenbe Institute has continued its important Artist in Residence Program, which brings artists of promise and talent to our community to work and engage us in ways enhancing our love and understanding of the arts. The Institute also facilitates community dialogue in such areas as education, social interaction, the arts, and strategic thinking (see pages 8 - 17 to meet some of our previous artists-in-residence).



The year 2010 promises to be a milestone in the Institute's history, as we undertake three important initiatives: The Serenbe Photography Center; The Serenbe Playhouse; and The Serenbe Art Farm, an artist live/work village alongside our organic farm (read more starting on page 18). These extraordinary initiatives will build on the Serenbe Institute's past successes in helping our community explore, embrace and expand our connections to nature, culture and the art of living. As Serenbe grows, the Serenbe Institute will continue to help us hold and strengthen our values.

The Serenbe Institute seeks gifts, grants and other benefactions to help it build and sustain these important artistic initiatives. While certainly important to the Serenbe community itself, they also hold significant promise for the arts, artists, and audiences throughout the Chattahoochee Hill Country and the Atlanta metropolitan region. There are significant opportunities for capital construction and equipment, endowment, and annually expendable program funding.

To inquire about ways you can be involved with the arts at Serenbe, please email institute@serenbe.com.

Sincerely,

Shelton g. Stanfill

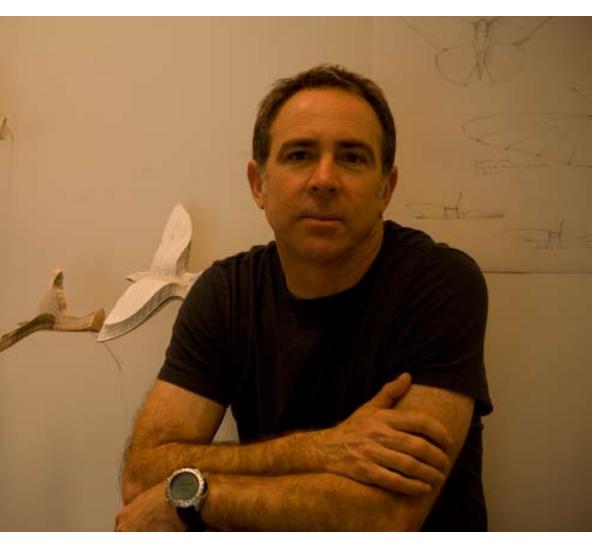
artist-in-residence: paul villinski

Paul Villinski has lived and worked in Long Island City, New York since graduating from the Cooper Union in 1984. His work has been widely exhibited and recent exhibitions include: "Second Lives: Re-purposing the Ordinary" at the Museum of Arts and Design, New York and "Prospect .1", an international Biennial in New Orleans. "Emergency Response Studio," a FEMA trailer redesigned and rebuilt into a solar-and wind-powered mobile artist's studio was recently the subject of a solo exhibition at Rice University Art Gallery, Houston; the exhibition also travelled to Ballroom Marfa, in Marfa, Texas, and Wesleyan University's Zilkha Gallery. A pilot of sailplanes and paragliders, metaphors of flight and soaring form a central theme in his work. He is represented in New York by Morgan Lehman Gallery and in New Orleans by Jonathan Ferrara Gallery.



"The warmth and supportiveness of the community was a kind of balm that I happily floated in during the month of my stay."





Paul Villinski on his Residency at Serenbe:

"I focused on collecting my ideas for future works, rather than trying to realize any major work itself. Part of this involved reviewing my existing journals and sketchbooks to sift through ideas from the preceding decade. I described and documented possible sculptural works in notes and drawings, and made comprehensive lists of artworks that I expect to realize during the next five years or so. Ultimately, I left Serenbe with a clear sense of the work that will occupy me in the studio and form the basis for my future exhibitions (the next of which will occur in April 2010, at the Jonathan Ferrara Gallery, in New Orleans). In the ensuing year, I have realized a number of the pieces imagined and sketched-out in the studio at Serenbe.

"The stay was indeed special! Several things combined to make it so; chief among them was the extremely warm reception I received from the Serenbe community. The community welcomed me and expressed genuine interest in my work and experience as an artist, and was eager to share the pleasures of Serenbe with me. At the same time, everyone seemed to understand my need for a modicum of privacy and solitude, and I sensed that people "tread gently." Overall, the warmth and supportiveness of the community was a kind of balm that I happily floated in during the month of my stay.

"The beautiful landscape and environs of Serenbe also played a central role in my enjoyment of the residency. Most days included a walk or run on the paths into the woods. Coming from the mixed-use, light industrial neighborhood of Long Island City (read: "no trees"), a month in the bucolic setting of Serenbe was extremely refreshing. I was so happy in that environment that it never even occurred to me to go into Atlanta."

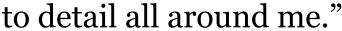
artist-in-residence: marilyn suriani

Marilyn Suriani's non-stop career of over thirty years has produced world class images, stunning documentaries and highly coveted fine art. Her work can be found in the permanent collections of museums, corporations, private collectors, and in high profile spaces including two permanent exhibitions at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. Marilyn has been awarded numerous grants for several of her documentaries produced in Atlanta. Her book, *Dancing Naked in the Material World*, a photo documentary of Atlanta area exotic dancers, received unanimous praise by critics, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* calling it "fine urban anthropology."

Current and on-going studies include her popular Waterscapes series, Natural Selections, Self Portrait (coming to terms with aging and mortality using a conceptual approach), and a thirty year documentary of South Philadelphia, the city of Marilyn's roots.

Suriani was honored as an artist-in-residence at the French National School of Photography in Arles and for her "significant contribution to the visual arts" by the Governor of Georgia. She was the Senior Photographer for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and is a current workshop instructor for the Serenbe Photography Center.

"I can't think of a better environment for creating with so much energy and attention









While an artist-in-residence at Serenbe, Marilyn produced work for her Natural Selections and Waterscapes series, Self Portrait series, and experimented with mixed media approach to photography.

Marilyn Suriani on her Residency at Serenbe:

"What made my residency at Serenbe special? That's easy...the community most of all. I met so many interesting and diverse people who were very kind and supportive. And I can't think of a better setting/environment for creating with so much energy and attention to detail all around me. Of

course, the Blue-Eyed Daisy Bakeshop was my second home and the meals at the restaurants were superb. My living accomodations were top notch and so convenient to the studio. Finally, I made many friends. I really can't think of a better place for any artist to be in residence."



artist-in-residence: shannon lake

Mural artist and figurative painter Shannon Lake was born in 1970 in Waycross, Georgia and currently lives in Griffin, Georgia.

His Historical Mural work can be seen in many main street cities across the United States.

His style is reminiscent of the 1930's "Works Progress Administration" (WPA) and the illustrators of that time period.

His paintings in oil are an altogether different style, heavily influenced by the late nineteenth century painterly realists such as John Singer Sargent and Joaquin Sorolla.



While an artist-in-residence at Serenbe, Shannon created several landscape paintings of Serenbe – including a striking portrait of an adult male bovine.

Shannon Lake on his Residency:

"I cannot say enough about the beautiful accommodations or the incredible studio where I was able to create art - the peaceful sound of the fountain and birds outside my work space and the lovely surroundings that is only Serenbe. But if I were to say what made it particularly special, it would be the hospitality that was shown to me and my family; no one was a stranger and everyone was so generous with their homes, sharing meals (incredible meals) and family time, making us feel very welcome – we felt like part of an extended family. "



"... the peaceful sound of the fountain and birds outside my work space and the lovely surroundings that is only Serenbe..."







distinguished visiting artist:







Michael David's residency in Serenbe has been a time for him to develop The Greenhouse Project, recycling imagery of our collective histories into opportunities for reflection, learning and growth - not unlike the original glass negative structures that were built to sustain life. The vision for the project is to celebrate the history of the land and peoples of the Chattahoochee Hill Country through interactive photographic images housed in a unique structure.

Michael David is the Serenbe Institute's first Distinguished Visiting Artist. An American-born painter raised in Brooklyn, he attended SUNY Fredonia for one year and in 1976 received a B.F.A. from Parsons School of Design. David is classified as an abstract painter, best known for his use of the encaustic technique. He is also known for his works in mixed-media figure painting, photography and environmental sculpture. His work is included in the permanent public collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Guggenheim Museum and the Jewish Museum in New York, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among others. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Edward Albee Foundations, and The American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Michael David





artist-in-residence: scott browning

For the past two years, Scott Browning has been working on a project called Public Domain—a series of short films made entirely from archival source footage that exists in the public domain (everything from turn of the century



Edison-era films to amateur and ephemeral films of the 1950s). During his two weeks at Serenbe, he furthered this project and also met fellow artist-in-residence, Michael David, and StudioSwan artist Tom Swanston. The three began a business partnership and founded the Fine Arts Workshops at Serenbe.

Scott Browning on his Residency:

The base elements of an artist residency program are simple: time and space. The creative potential that lies within this simple formula is quite profound. The realities of my day-to-day life (not unlike that of most artists who work "real jobs" to pay the rent) tend to preclude extended periods of quiet contemplation, thus when I sit down to work, time dictates that I need to know what I am doing. By removing many of these constraints, a residency provides a safe environment that encourages experimentation and discovery (think of it as the research and development department of the arts). It is an environment that provides every opportunity for success, but just as importantly, allows for the opportunity to fail (failure being the most common ingredient of success).

visiting fellow: dan pekarsky

Daniel Pekarsky is a professor in the Department of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the director of the university's Joint Program in Education and Jewish Studies.

Prof. Pekarsky's academic interests focus on the ethics of education, moral education, and Jewish education. His involvement in Jewish education has included teaching at the Melton Centre for Jewish Education at the Hebrew University, developing and directing the Cleveland Fellows Program, and continuing work on a number of Mandel Foundation projects.

In 2009, the Serenbe Institute Education Committee called upon Prof. Pekarsky to facilitate open conversations



about education so the community could express in open dialogue with an expert what was important with respect to education and how those concerns could best be expressed in a school. The Serenbe community gathered to participate in large and small group discussions centered on the educational philosophy of John Dewey and how that philosophy meshed with the community desires for a school. Ideas from these sessions were shared with the whole group and integrated back into a model for a school, with emphasis in three major areas: arts, agriculture and environment.

Ideas generated from these work sessions were used to craft a mission statement for a school that represented all of the community interests. That mission statement was written by the education committee chair and Pekarsky, then circulated to the community, which embraced the statement as reflective of their wishes for a school. To follow up, a meeting was facilitated by the education committee with a presentation by Kelly Cadman of the Georgia Charter School Association about what would be entailed in trying to petition the Fulton County School Board to consider a charter school in Chattahoochee Hills. After that meeting, there was total focus on creating that petition, using the mission statement from the Pekarsky workshops as the model for a charter school in Chattahoochee Hills.

visiting fellows & artists

Evan Levy

Atlanta artist Evan Levy unveiled a temporary outdoor art installation, "Cellular Cosmogony," in 2007 at Serenbe. The science and art project combined sound and visual illusion, giving the viewer a sensory experience with enhanced sounds of nature and amplification of their own voice. The work addressed the fragility and mystery of cosmos and the search to understand ones own existence.



Evan Levy has exhibited at the Tate Modern, served as president of Art Papers Magazine, was the director of art in Freedom Park, and served as public art coordinator for the City of Atlanta.

Dr. David Brain

Sociologist Dr. David Brain, professor at the New College in Sarasota, Florida, returned to Serenbe for a series of visioning workshops. Dr. Brain was joined by Dr. Phill Tabb (Serenbe master planner) and Dr. Ellen Dunham-Jones (director of the architecture program at Georgia Tech) for facilitated discussions on Serenbe's design intentions and the development process, plus advantages of the omega design. An outcome of the sessions was formation of task forces led by residents.



New River Dramatists

The New River Dramatists is an ambitious project dedicated to inspiring and developing excellence in what is written for theater, film and television. Serenbe has twice served as a development hub, providing an atmosphere of support for writers, directors and actors to work together and inspire each other from concept to completion.



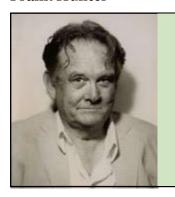


Elizabeth Stockton



Elizabeth Stockton is nationally recognized for her peaceful oil-on-canvas paintings, displayed at the Emily Amy Gallery in Atlanta as well as galleries in New Orleans and Maine. At Serenbe, she worked on a continuing series of portaits.

Frank Hunter



Master black & white photographer and printer Frank Hunter, whose work has been featured in Atlanta's prestigious High Museum of Art, is widely renowned for his Platinum Palladium prints. At Serenbe, he recorded the community's natural beauty and presented an exhibition of his work at StudioSwan Gallery.

Valetta Anderson



Valetta Anderson is an award-winning playwright and a teaching artist with the Alliance, Fox and Horizon Theatres. She spent her time at Serenbe working on her play Hallelujah Street Blues, which was produced by Horizon Theatre.

Haven Kimmel



New York Times #1 bestselling author of A Girl Named Zippy spent her time researching the works of Carl Jung for her next novel.

Jason McCord

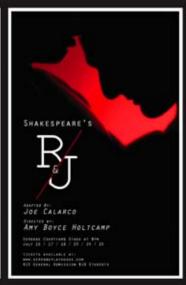


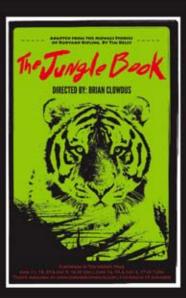
Local landscape architect Jason McCord worked on a conceptual design for a commemorative landscape for the Serenbe wildflower meadow, which will be a part of the Greenhouse Project.

new programs/2010



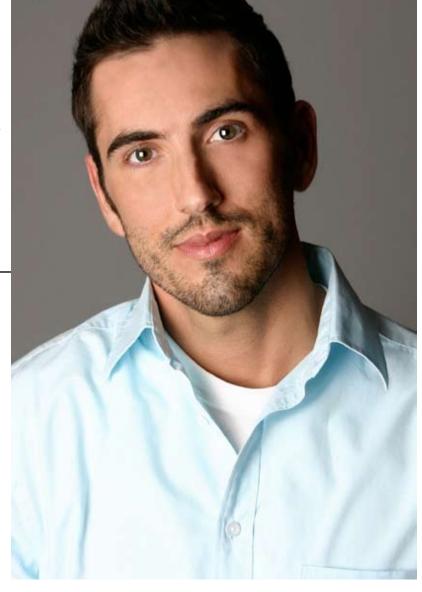






Serenbe Playhouse is rooted in its community, striving to enhance Serenbe's overall mission of creative, intellectual and ecological cultivation. Echoing our unique environment, we endeavor to produce a diverse and eclectic body of work, expanding the connections between nature, culture and art that lie at the core of the Serenbe experience. Serenbe Playhouse, in partnership with the non-profit Serenbe Institute, launches its inaugural season in summer 2010 with three productions.

Demonstrating its commitment to theatre for all ages, the season opens with The Jungle Book on "The Treehouse in the Woods Stage" where audiences will be seated under the stars and surrounded by preserved forestland. The musical John and Jen will kick off the mainstage productions on the Serenbe Courtyard Stage, followed by a modern adaptation of Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare's R & J. Also under the stars, the Serenbe Courtyard Stage will be located in the heart of the community in the Ryan Gainey-designed courtyard and garden.



Executive Director Brian Clowdus





serenbe photography center

Serenbe Photography Center was created when the consortium of Atlanta-area photographers from The Photographer's Print Studio, including director Kathryn Kolb, joined with the not-for-profit Serenbe Institute in launching a new regional center for photography in Serenbe Community.

The new Serenbe Photography Center offers a full menu of photography workshops for both professional and amateur photographers including digital and traditional printing techniques, professional lighting, documentary, travel, business of photography, landscape and nature, fine photography collecting and much more with many of the nation's leading photographers and photography experts.

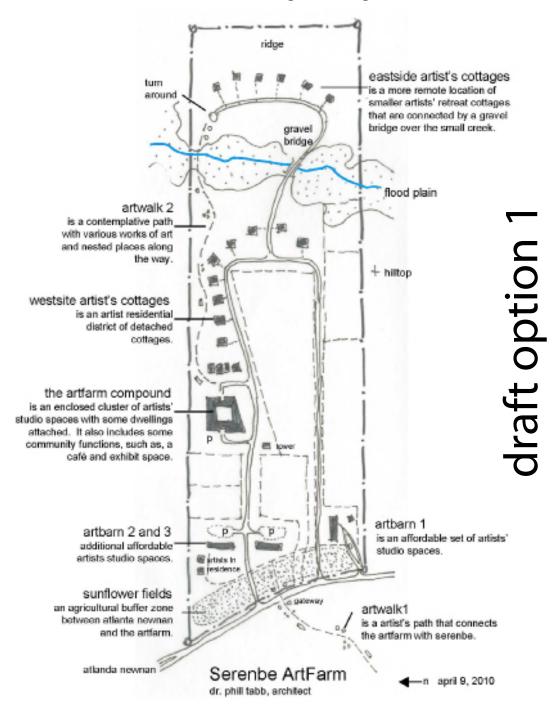
A one-of-a-kind photography resource in the Southeast, the center brings together photographers and artists from all fields in a community of shared resources and mutual support to promote the appreciation of fine photography of all kinds. In addition to its standard workshops, the Center offers classes in partnership with other non-profit groups so that students can contribute their photographs for real world projects improving our communities and protecting the environment.



Executive Director Kathryn Kolb

THE SERENBE ART FARM

The Institute is undertaking the design and development of the Serenbe Art Farm -- a live/work artists' community adjacent to the Serenbe Farm. The vision is an eclectic community with residences and studios for a range of artists, including photographers, writers, potters, painters, and sculptors. The initial plans, created by Serenbe land planner Dr. Phill Tabb, envision in Phase One a +7.000 sq. ft. structure that will include working studios for resident and visiting artists, educational spaces, and an in-door performance venue for the Serenbe Playhouse. Subsequent phases will include a community space, additional studios, long-term leased artists' homes and short-term rentals for visiting artists. The Serenbe Art Farm is potentially the heart and hub of a vibrant and creative community that will serve the needs artists of all callings, marking Serenbe as a true center for the arts.



serenbe institute board

Executive Director: John E. Graham, Tomlinson-Graham Group

Serenbe Institute Board holds an annual meeting to elect new officers and directors. The following list is accurate for July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010.

OFFICERS

Shelton Stanfill, president*, consultant; former president of Woodruff Arts Center

Lynn Merrill, vice president*, development consultant for Youth Villages

Rawson Haverty, treasurer*, board of directors for Haverty's

Garnie Nygren, secretary*, chief operating officer for Serenbe

DIRECTORS

Lisa Bianco, entrepreneur in fields of technology and performing arts

Phyllis Bleiweis, principal of Phyllis Bleiweis & Associates, former executive director of Seaside Institute

Christina Blum, sculptor, paper maker and watercolor artist

Dianne Harnell Cohen, past commissioner of the City of Atlanta department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

Roy Godwin, life coach and counselor; retired from pastoral ministry

Sam Harrison, author of Zing!, IdeaSpotting and IdeaSelling; creativity-related lecturer

Tim Mosby, artist

 ${\tt Donna\ Nichols}, founder\ of\ Project\ Head\ Cheffor\ Kids$

Steve Nygren*, managing partner and co-founder of Serenbe

Clay Stafford, principal of Health, Education & Research Associates

Sandra Storrar, associate broker of Atlanta Fine Homes

Tom Swanston, artist, owner of StudioSwan Gallery

Darla Vetter, education consultant

Mary Warren, photographer

Ross Williams, founder of Manyfold Farm

*member of executive committee

CONSULTANTS

Tucker Berta

Tomlinson-Graham Group



community | culture | arts | nature















serenbe institute partners:

The Bilt-house

Original ladies' apparel & gifts.

Owner: Jan Bilthouse.

Blue Eyed Daisy Bakeshop

Neighborhood eatery & treat shop.

Managers: Kara Nygren & Raina Newell

Blue MedSpa

Day Spa & Wellness.
Owner: John Stupka

Bloom

Unique gifts, decor & accessories.

Owners: Lauren Crouch & Lindsey

Camp Serenbe

Summer children's camp in the country Chief counselors: Kara Nygren & Dallas Nevins

The Farmhouse

Farm-fresh Southern cuisine. Proprietress: Marie Nygren

Fine Arts Workshops

Visual arts education.

Owners/Artists: Michael David, Tom Swanston, Scott Browning

Gloriosa

Special event & wedding designer for the Inn at Serenbe.

Owner: Keith Robinson

Hill Country Carts

Golf cart sales & rentals.

Owners: Chip Newell & Pat Newell

The Hil

Seasonal, farm-fresh restaurant. Chef/owner: Hilary White

The Inn at Serenbe

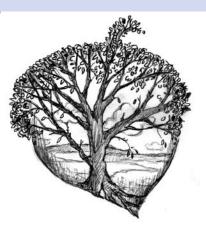
Country Bed & Breakfast. Owners: Steve & Marie Nygren Manager: Garnie Nygren













shops, galleries, restaurants & businesses at serenbe

Dr. John Kim

Holistic Medicine.

Me... Jane

Art, chocolate & wine
Owner/Artist: Jane Whitehurst

Newington Gallery

Photography Gallery.
Owner/Artist: Greg Newington

Paisley Salon

Full service salon.

Owner/stylist: Amber Avanossian

Peachtree Bikes

Bike sales, service & rentals Owners: Mike & Elexa Wagaman

Repurpose

Repurposed decor, accessories & gifts Owner: Keith Robinson

Sara Anthony Photography

Editorial and portraiture photography.

Owner/Artist: Sara Anthony

Serenbe Farms

Organic & biodynamic farm.

Manager: Paige Witherington

Serenbe Stables

Boarding, leasing & lessons.
Owners: Mindy & David LaMarca

StudioSwan

Art studio.

Owners/Artists: Tom Swanston & Gail Foster

Together Portraits

Portrait studio & printing lab.

Owners/Artists: Loran & Melanie Hygema

Serenbe Southern Chefs Series

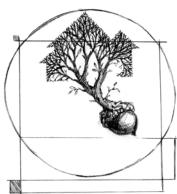
Cooking workshops featuring the South's best chefs

Coordinator: Marie Nygren















The best reason to live here is the life here.