

The Art Farm at Serenbe

www.artfarmatserenbe.com

Thirty minutes southwest of the Atlanta airport, creativity is growing wild in Chatahoochee Hills.

THE INSPIRATION

Founded in 2004, The Serenbe Institute began to fulfill the New Urbanism neighborhood's vision of community as a place where art, culture and environment are strong and steady pillars. The institute calls Serenbe's Art Farm home, which also houses a wide range of arts initiatives, including AIR Serenbe, a high-caliber artists' residency program, a professional theatre company known as Serenbe Playhouse, the new Terminus Modern Ballet Theatre and much more.

WHAT'S NEW

ART FARM STUDIO

The Art Farm complex provides a place to bring people together in support of the arts, with the belief that "art in everyday life can create a greater understanding of the world." The Art Farm also recently opened the Art Farm Studio, offering year-round programming for all skill levels, from first-timers to pros sharpening their skills artists. The Art Farm Studio offers one-day art workshops and creative retreats in a range of media (think textiles, photography, painting and drawing). The studio is also



available for private corporate workshops, with curated team-building courses to meet needs of the visiting group.

SERENBE PLAYHOUSE

Dedicated to producing artistically rich performances, the outdoor site and stage of each Serenbe Playhouse production is chosen and designed to amplify the beauty of nature. Add professional actors and you have an experience that even those who say "theatre isn't really my thing" can get

behind. This month, "Titanic: The Musical" runs through Aug. 12 and "Peter Pan" runs through Aug. 26.

ART OVER DINNER

Since 2015, the Art Farm signature program is Art Over Dinner, a monthly series of intimate gatherings with creatives and the organizations that support their work. The Aug. 19 edition brings three local artists, Shanequa Gay, Meredith Kooi and William Massey III, to the table to talk about how art and activism are shaping Atlanta.

The Atlanta Jewish Film Festival

www.ajff.org

The 2019 AJFF might not be until February, but with the deadline to submit on Aug. 17, it's worth nothing the tireless team working behind the scenes throughout the year to ensure the annual month-long festival maintains a certain caliber that has developed since the first fest in 2000. Today, the AJFF is also working to bring together more film fans, in and out of theaters—particularly since becoming an independent nonprofit in 2014.

THE INSPIRATION

"My first connection with AJFF was as a volunteer, chairing a selection committee responsible for picking films for the annual festival," said AJFF's Executive Director Kenny Blank. "I was struck by the potential to grow the festival into a community-wide celebration of the film arts and culture, with resonance for Jewish and non-Jewish audiences alike."

WHAT'S NEW

Earlier this summer, the AJFF hosted its first Cinebash, an evening celebrating the world of film and its unsung artists. Coming up this fall, is the second edition of AJFF On Campus, a mini version of the festival aimed at students. Also, Blank said to watch out for the Selects series—screenings of new international and

independent films—as well as AJFF Connects, exploring the intersection of Jewish and non-Jewish lives. "AJFF has always stayed true to its mission to engage, educate and entertain diverse communities through a uniquely cinematic and Jewish lens, fostering new levels of social and cultural understanding," Blank said.



(CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) COURTESY J. ASHLEY PHOTOGRAPHY; DONALD FELICE/NAUGHN GITTENS (3); BREEANNE CLOWDUS