2019 Annual Report
Letter from the Executive Director

My warm and sincere thanks to you all for a truly special year.

As 2019 comes to a close, I’ve been reflecting quite a bit on SAC’s commitment to and central role in Southampton and our extended East End community. We take our mission of creating a lively hub for arts and culture, activating the historic grounds of 25 Jobs Lane as well as serving as a key economic driver in the region, seriously. It is a true privilege to be at the center of this community.

This has been another year of tremendous growth for SAC. From 2018 to 2019, SAC’s operating budget has grown 35%, from $1.26M to $1.69M. We’ve grown our budget a remarkable 130% since 2017. In doing so, thanks to the hard work of SAC’s staff and Board, and the support of many friends, we’ve also managed to deliver balanced budgets each year.

It’s especially gratifying to know that corresponding with these investments is increased impact in this community. This is evidenced in a number of important ways. First, we’re offering more free and low-cost programs that serve our diverse year-round patrons. Second, we’re attracting, presenting and partnering with more world-class artists and cultural organizations than ever before. And lastly, we’ve seen strong audience growth in the last year – as we are projecting 50,000 visitors in 2019, an increase of 25% from 2018.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to everyone who contributed to making 2019 an unforgettable year. From our Artistic Director Amy Kirwin, and the dedicated and tireless SAC staff, to the best non-profit Board on the East End, to our unparalleled programmatic partners, to our Friends and Business Circle Members and program sponsors and donors of every level, and finally, to our patrons who experienced our almost 250 diverse programs – thank you, we simply could not have done it without you.

I do hope you consider a year-end gift to help support and advance SAC’s vital and impactful mission.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2020!

Most appreciatively,

Tom Dunn
Executive Director

2019 By The Numbers

50k Annual Attendance
244 Programs a Year
43 World-Class Partners
$1.69m Operating Budget
2019 PROGRAMS

ART
SAC’S diverse year-round programming is anchored in the visual arts. 2019 kicked off with an interactive new exhibition, TAKEOVER! Artists in Residence conceived and curated by Artistic Director, Amy Kirwin. This groundbreaking show featured eight East End-based artists creating pop-up studios to work in SAC’s galleries. The community was invited to visit, talk to the artists, and come back for repeat visits to see the work evolve. Up next was the 5th anniversary of East End Collected, curated by Paton Miller, now having highlighted over 150 East End based artists. Summer saw National Geographic’s Photo Ark by Joel Sartore presented in partnership with International Center of Photography. This timely, beautiful and important exhibition set a high bar for SAC as we work to initiate critical dialogues for all of us. We kicked off fall with Paint Your World a family-friendly retrospective of 40 years of Michael Paraskevas’ career. 2019 came to a close with Solar Impressions & International Masters/Collaborations in Printmaking celebrating this unique process. The juried portion of this exhibition featured over one hundred impressions selected from more than 700 entries globally judged by acclaimed artist Eric Fischl.

STUDIO@SAC
Studio @ SAC was bustling all year with educational programming for adults and kids. It began with the dynamic artists-in-residence from TAKEOVER! hosting workshops in memory-mapping, weaving, “The Art of Letting Go” chalk drawing and a community quilt project, just to name a few. In the summer, with Photo Ark as the inspiration we left the four walls of the SAC to offer Bird Watching Tours with South Fork Natural History Museum, Photographing Beachscapes and Wildlife Portraits with Quogue Wildlife Refuge Animal Ambassadors both instructed by ICP faculty members.

FILM
Film at SAC in 2019 featured over 40 screenings from across all genres. This included popular blockbusters presented with Hamptons International Film Festival every summer Friday, drawing thousands of guests to our West Lawn. We also screened a broad spectrum of socially conscious films and limited release features with emerging filmmakers to spur meaningful dialogue, thought and engagement by partnering with organizations including Sag Harbor Cinema Arts Center, Empowers Africa, International Ocean Film Tour, Hamptons Doc Fest, MountainFilm on Tour, and the Shinnecock Nation.
LIVE
Live programs expanded significantly in 2019, with SAC venturing into social dance, theatre, opera, piano bar nights, and a diverse array of live music. Our free outdoor summer concerts featured Burnt Sugar the Arkestra Chamber, West End Blend, Mitch Frohman and the Bronx Horns and SAC favorite Winston Irie. Summer 2019 saw the introduction of Theater & Opera Mondays, a new series featuring works-in-progress from Broadway veterans and up-and-comers. Longtime SAC collaborator, Valerie DiLorenzo was back this fall with a moving production of Love, Loss and What I Wore with a cast of 13 talented women. We also launched a fun East End recreation of NYC’s famous piano bar experience, Jobs Pub: Don’t Tell Marie Her Duplex is in Crisis. And finally, with our hugely popular outdoor Silent Disco and Saturday Night Stomp dance parties, SAC dove deep and joyfully into the social dance scene.

TALKS
Thought-provoking conversations, tours, and illustrated talks with an impressive lineup of speakers occurred throughout 2019. In conjunction with Nat Geo’s Photo Ark, and in partnership with ICP, we presented talks from four world-renowned photographers: Joel Sartore, Amy Vitale, Josh Haner and Stephen Wilkes. Other prominent panelists and speakers included Peter Pennoyer, Bob Colacello, Lisa Dennison, Jane Holzer, Peter Rosen, Kelly Behun, Fern Mallis, Steven Stollman and John Kurdewan, to name just few. 2019 also saw the launch of Raconteurs, SAC’s new storytelling series, featuring a wide variety of local and national personalities sharing intimate and compelling stories.

WELLNESS / SUSTAINABILITY
Dynamic programs for mind and body were presented throughout 2019. Highlights included the return of Ashtanga with Eddie Stern, Yoga/Sitar with Rowan & GianCarlo, Kundalini Yoga and SAC’s popular Immersive Sound Meditations in the galleries with Dan Lauter. Our third annual Earth Day Celebration was back with an all-day family ENVIRO-FAIR with new and returning sustainable vendors, live music, plant-based foods, and more. Focused workshops were offered with our valued partners, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Peconic Land Trust, Surfrider Foundation and Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Refuge that focused on protecting our East End environment. Great enthusiasm over Photo Ark also inspired the formation of an East End Eco Community Group created to continue to spread the positive message about wildlife and environmental conservation.
KIDS

There’s always something interesting for kids and families at SAC. Every Thursday this summer families were invited to enjoy free outdoor concerts, puppet-shows and dance parties on our West Lawn. The 2019 line-up featured Boogaloo Familia, Brown Rice Family, and the ever popular, puppet shows with Goat on a Boat @ Bay Street. As an extension of Paint Your World we offered free family “hangouts” after school on Thursdays. In addition, a wide variety of studio classes, family workshops and story hours were scheduled regularly throughout the year.

2019 PROGRAM SPONSORS.

National Geographic’s Photo Ark by Joel Sartore
SAC’s Outdoor Summer Stage
SummerFest
Wellness at SAC
Paint Your World
Sustainability at SAC
SAC’s Summer Film Series
Silent Disco Series
East End Collected5
Who Gets to Call it Art?
Working for Bill
MountainFilm on Tour
Film at SAC
Raconteurs
Winston Irie
Saturday Stomp Dance Parties
International Ocean Film Tour, Vol. 6
Holiday Concert Extravaganza

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Thank you to all of our generous donors in 2019. We are tremendously grateful!

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