

Cary Photographic Artists, a History

The **Cary Photographic Artists** was founded in January 2007 by Cary resident, Bobbi Hopp. As an artist/photographer, she was aware that photography wasn't being accepted on equal footing with paintings and other visual art forms. She felt there had to be a place within the fine arts for photographic art and that it had to rank equally.

This organization is Cary's only group dedicated to the development and enhancement of photographic art. With a goal of educating and sharing photographic technology, this club now has over 100 members dedicated to promoting all levels of photographic knowledge and art. As an integral part of Cary's cultural arts scene, the Cary Photographic Artists strive to bring to Cary and the surrounding areas another facet of the visual arts through open meetings available free to the public, educational programs on all skill levels and exhibitions of some of the best photography within the triangle.

The Cary Photographic Artists meet the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at *The Cary Theatre*, 122 E. Chatham St., Cary.

The Cary Photographic Artists club, also known as the CPA, has exhibited work in several of the Wake County libraries, held an impressive exhibit at Cary's Town Hall and the Raleigh Convention Center, held its fourth acclaimed juried exhibition and paired with Cary's Sister Cities Cultural Exchange Program for a joint international exhibit with County Meath, Ireland.

CPA has adopted two philanthropic endeavors:

Working with Fellowship Health Resources, Inc. of Cary, an organization of assistance to mentally challenged adults, by offering volunteer photographic instruction and outings to their clients. CPA has also donated several items of equipment for their photographic needs.

CPA is committed to supporting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation through the photographic reproductions of locally diagnosed poster children for research funding purposes. In addition, CPA proudly worked with the Town of Cary photographically documenting the development and completion of the Old Cary Elementary School into its grand cultural art center, The Cary Arts Center.

Currently, CPA is developing an educational outreach program for high school students. Plans under consideration involve a regional competition, exhibition of student work and workshops.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the Lazy Daze Arts & Crafts Festival – a Cary based festival supporting local arts and non-profit organizations and activities.