



2023 End of Year Recap

In 2023, IHP:

- is collecting and researching in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle
- has secured over 140 collections
- has identified 19 repository partners across those four states
- has preserved a dozen at-risk oral histories
- has won multiple local & national awards



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**unapologetically queer.
unapologetically southern.**

2023 RECAP

In 2023 IHP:

- **hosted over 20 in-person and virtual events**
- **hosted two virtual LGBTQ history teach-ins**
- **gave over 25 talks and trainings across the US**
- **worked with 30 graduate level internships for course or program credit**

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Patrick Kelly

Kelly was born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1954. His mother, a home economics teacher, taught him to draw, and an aunt introduced him to sewing. But it was Kelly's grandmother, Ethel B. Rainey, who first inspired him to reach for the heights of couture. When she brought the six-year-old some fashion magazines from her white employer's house, Kelly noticed that no Black models appeared on the pages. "My granny told me nobody had time for Black women," Kelly later remembered. "I said, 'I will.'"

Kelly's grandmother remained his greatest muse and the "backbone of my tastes," he said. His Black Baptist church in Vicksburg — where worshippers dressed, in Kelly's words, "as fierce as the ladies at the Yves Saint Laurent Haute-couture shows"— was another key inspiration. After completing coursework at Jackson State University, Kelly moved to Atlanta, where he participated in the Ebony Fashion Fair and opened a clothing shop with vintage and custom designs.

In 1974 Atlanta, Kelly supported himself by working at an AMVETS thrift shop, where he had access to donated designer dresses and coats that he modified and sold alongside his own designs. He ultimately had his own store in the city's Buckhead district. He also worked fashion shows at the Atlanta Hilton with upcoming supermodel Iman and established a modeling agency and clothing line under the name Longboy. In 1979, he connected with the pioneering Black supermodel Pat Cleveland, who admired the clothing he was making and encouraged him to move to New York City. After a lackluster year in New York, he moved to Paris in 1980. In Paris, he found more immediate success and soon developed his signature slinky, brightly colored jersey dresses adorned with colored buttons and bows in a nod to the sophisticated cut-rate style of the Southern women of his childhood. Kelly met Bjorn Amelan, a photographers' representative, in 1983. The two quickly became lovers, with Amelan taking a management role in Kelly's burgeoning enterprise.



Patrick Kelly and Grace Jones



Grace Jones wearing Patrick Kelly's designs.



1973
Mississippi Gay Alliance Founded
 Mississippi Gay Alliance Founded in Jackson and Starkville by Ann DeBary and Eddie Sandifer. (See MGLA panel.)

1975
Telephone Counseling Service Launches
 In April, 1975 the Mississippi Gay Alliance (MGA) implemented a telephone counseling service. Volunteers were trained on community counseling techniques and given printed resources to help them during their shifts.



1975
Gay Pride Week
 In June, 1975, Mississippi Gay Alliance hosts Gay Pride Week full of various activities around Jackson.



1975
Stop Racist Sexist Anti-Gay Layoffs
 Jackson Daily News and Clarion Ledger report 2500 people held an International Women's Day rally in Jackson, carrying signs including "stop racist sexist anti-gay layoffs" and demanding civil rights for lesbians.



1976
Mississippi Women's Gathering
 On September 18, 1976, the Mississippi Women's Gathering was held in Jackson. The event was the result of NOW (National Organization for Women) Women's Day planning group dissolving over disagreements on if they should admit the Mississippi Gay Alliance (MGA) to the planning group. Joey Vaughn, a clinical psychologist, and Donna Myhre of the New Orleans Gay Community Center led a workshop relating to sex role stereotyping and lesbian women.



1970s

1973
Mississippi State University LGBTQ Discrimination
 The Reflector, student paper at Mississippi State University, refuses to publish information about the Mississippi Gay Alliance (MGA). The ACLU of MS files a suit, Mississippi Gay Alliance and Anne Dabary, Plaintiffs, v. Bill Goudelock et al. During the trial, the Mississippi Attorney General and Judge Keady tried to force MGA to release their mailing list, but they refused. As a result of the trial, The Reflector does not have to publish MGA information.

1975
Metropolitan Community Church Opens
 MCC opens in Jackson with the help of the Mississippi Gay Alliance. (See Faith Panel.)

1975
Jackson Gay Community Speaks Its Mind
 Jackson Daily News runs a survey asking readers "Should laws which restrict the activities of consenting adults in the privacy of their own homes be struck down." The responses were 32.79% yes, 42.62% no, 24.59% undecided.



1976
MGA & NAACP Fight Police Harassment
 Members of the Mississippi Gay Alliance (MGA) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) conducted a successful campaign to stop harassment of gay people in Smith Park in Jackson, MS. Police in plain clothing patrolled Smith Park under the guise of preventing public urination. However, Mississippi Gay Alliance claims that it is a tactic to entrap gay men. MGA begins patrolling the park and police begin arresting them for "interfering with officers in the line of duty." During this time, an unnamed and prominent NAACP leader was arrested.



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Dr. Elliott explains why she donated to IHP in this touching clip.