
2017 Alan Stark Award Regina Longo

The Alan Stark Award honors individuals who have made a significant contribution through their efforts on a special project or in project management that contributes to, and supports, the work of moving image archives and/or the operations of AMIA. Named for Alan Stark, the award honors Alan's commitment to AMIA, his contributions to the preservation of moving image archives, and his belief that the work done to preserve our audiovisual heritage is strengthened by the diversity of experts working in the field.

REGINA LONGO

Regina founded the Albanian Cinema Project (ACP) in 2012 to bring awareness and assistance to the National Film Archives of Albania (AQSHF), and to preserve, restore and promote Albanian film heritage. In just five years, she has assembled a coalition of archivists, filmmakers and cinephiles, as well as significant partners including AMIA, FIAF, the Film Foundation, the US Embassy in Tirana and the Albanian Ministry of Culture, to record a stunning number of achievements:



- The preservation of five Albanian films in four years. Since 2012, ACP has enabled the restoration of three Albanian feature films, one short film and one ethnographic film. These films have screened all over the world, in locations including Tirana, London, Paris, New York and Thailand. Each screening brings these films to new audiences of cinephiles, film scholars and the Albanian diaspora.
- ACP has provided training, consulting and support to the archivists at AQSHF for the care and preservation of their collections. Many AMIA members have given their time and expertise to ACP projects.

- ACP has brought material support to the Albanian Film Archives in the form of data loggers to track temperature and humidity, 35mm and 16mm projection lenses, computer equipment, file storage devices and film scanning equipment, along with training and support for this technology.
- ACP has lobbied the Albanian government against the proposed ban on screening Albanian communist-era films, with Board members giving interviews and writing journal articles against the ban. Over the past five years, Regina and other Board members have given interviews on Albanian television, have spoken at screenings and have held meetings with government officials about the importance of protecting the country's cultural heritage.
- ACP has furnished opportunities for interns and students in the moving image archiving field to volunteer with ACP and learn about archiving outside of the American context.

In 2016, ACP expanded beyond Albania to include the western Balkans in its Archives in Motion workshop, held in Tirana. Workshop attendees included students and professionals representing archival collections in Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, FYRO Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia.

An international team of expert trainers, made up mostly of AMIA members, were brought onsite by ACP to provide training in film handling and projection, cataloging, digital preservation and quality control workflows. The AIM workshop received funding from FIAF and the Albanian Ministry of Culture, and was an unqualified success, as archivists brought film and video material from their own collection for digitization, and shared the challenges they face daily in seeking to preserve collections in underresourced environments.
