



ATL JEWISH FILM

Atlanta Jewish Film Festival's Response to Community Concerns

We are sorry. Recent conversations within the Jewish community have made clear that the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival fell short in our internal processes regarding the recent jury matter. We regret and share in the depth of concern expressed by members of our community and the distress it has caused. This situation has surfaced clear deficiencies, gaps, and adherence issues in our existing organizational processes and policies, including those related to antisemitism, BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions), and cultural boycotts. These shortcomings did not provide the clarity our community expects or that our organization needed to navigate this matter appropriately at a moment when clarity and trust matter deeply. We fully acknowledge and accept responsibility for that.

At ATL Jewish Film, our mission is to build bridges of understanding through the power of film. We believe in engaging across differences and creating spaces for dialogue, even when perspectives diverge. At the same time, ATL Jewish Film is, first and foremost, a Jewish institution, as well as a cultural one, and that identity shapes our responsibilities, especially in this moment. As a Jewish film festival, we have a responsibility, particularly at this fraught time, to stand firmly against antisemitism and to affirm the Jewish people's right to self-determination.

Consistent with our mission and in response to feedback from valued community partners, we are undertaking the following steps and will share updates publicly:

- Clarifying and formalizing policies related to cultural boycotts, antisemitism, anti-Zionist activity, and organizational participation
- Reviewing processes for individuals serving in festival roles
- Establishing clearer safeguards and protocols to guide decision-making in these matters

We remain committed to listening carefully and engaging openly with our community as this work moves forward. While the jury process has concluded and cannot be revisited, we have initiated an internal review of our processes and will implement updates that reflect both our mission and the values of the community we serve.

Our work has always centered on bridge-building through Jewish storytelling and film, and that commitment remains unchanged. At the same time, we recognize that growth requires reflection, and we are committed to thoughtful evaluation and continued dialogue in the weeks ahead.