



[Craft in America](#) is pleased to announce the launch of **Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026**, a national Semiquincentennial initiative to showcase the importance of the handmade, both throughout our history and in contemporary life.

Handwork 2026 will be a year-long collaboration among organizations, educators, and makers to celebrate the diversity of the crafts that define America, bringing compelling stories and underrepresented art and artists into the spotlight.

Craft is universal and democratic; it unites us by bringing people of all backgrounds and beliefs together. A deeply important carrier of tradition and cultural practice, the handmade connects us through history and time.

The [Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum](#), the national museum dedicated to American craft, is the lead partner for the initiative and will host the core exhibition for the project.

[Americans for the Arts](#), a leading non-profit organization for advancing the arts and arts education, is the Awareness partner for this project.

Handwork 2026 will focus on the following programs:

EXHIBITIONS

Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026 culminates with a **CORE EXHIBITION** opening in late 2026 at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Museums and art centers joining as participants in the *Handwork 2026* initiative will complete the rich diversity of interpretations on the work of the hand with **EXHIBITIONS** and related programs throughout the year. We invite all museums and regional arts centers to join this effort with the craft-centric, culture-based exhibitions you are planning for the year 2026.

DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES & DIGITAL CONTENT

A four-part **DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES** will be produced by the team behind the Peabody Award-winning, PBS national series *Craft in America*. The series will present a rich, democratic exploration of the handmade in traditional, studio, ethnic, and contemporary practices. *Handwork 2026* plans to partner with PBS and their 350+ independent member stations to broadcast and stream both current and archival craft programs, including new **DIGITAL PROGRAMS** for YouTube and social media audiences.

BOOK

Presenting the extraordinary range of the handmade in the United States, the *Handwork 2026* **BOOK** will feature craft history, artists, materials and processes, focusing on untold stories. The book will be object-based. It will include essays by leading experts, images of exquisite handmade objects and a craft timeline. It will illuminate the contributions of craftspeople throughout our history. It will be one of the first and only books to bridge history by exploring the craft continuum over the span of American culture.

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HANDWORK

Celebrating American Craft 2026

EDUCATION

The **EDUCATION** component of *Handwork 2026* will include interdisciplinary learning initiatives at all levels of the education system, with a special focus on grades K–12. It will take a wide look at the history, cultural traditions, and impact of craft in the United States, from Indigenous origins until today. Marilyn Stewart PhD, a nationally recognized art educator and author of art textbooks, will oversee the creation of the education guides. The guides will include hands-on craft activities and will be available on craftinamerica.org and handwork2026.org.

ENGAGEMENT

In partnership with local, state and national organizations, *Handwork 2026* will be amplified by a robust **SOCIAL MEDIA** campaign, and all activities joining the national celebration will be documented on a comprehensive, aggregate **WEBSITE**: handwork2026.org.

Handwork: Celebrating American Craft 2026, an idea envisioned by a group of dedicated craft professionals and artists, takes its inspiration from a similar project, [Year of American Craft 1993](#), that benefitted millions of artists, makers and appreciators. Much has changed in America since 1993, but the practice of making things by hand endures. The crafts built our nation and they sustain it through challenging times. Nationwide programs will honor American makers, then and now, pointing the way to a robust future for the crafts and the country.

Please join us in honoring the handmade during our Semiquincentennial year. For more information about how to become an official partner of or participant in *Handwork 2026*, please contact Jen Ruppmann (handwork@craftinamerica.org).

Handwork 2026 Lead Partners

- *Craft in America*
- *Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum*

Handwork 2026 Partners (as of April 16th, 2024)

- *American Craft Council*
- *Americans for the Arts*
- *Craft Emergency Relief Fund*
- *James Renwick Alliance for Craft*
- *Ornament Magazine*
- *Smithsonian Women's Committee (Smithsonian Craft Show)*
- *Studio Art Quilt Associates*
- *Veterans History Project pending*

Handwork 2026 Participating Organizations (as of April 18th, 2024)

- *108 Contemporary* (Tulsa, OK)
- *Alfred Ceramic Art Museum* (Alfred, NY)
- *American Museum of Ceramic Art* (Pomona, CA)
- *Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts* (Gatlinburg, TN)
- *Asheville Art Museum* (Asheville, NC)
- *Bainbridge Island Museum of Art* (Bainbridge Island, WA)
- *Berea College* (Berea, KY)
- *Center for Craft* (Asheville, NC)
- *Columbia Museum of Art* (Columbia, SC)
- *Corning Museum of Glass* (Corning, NY)
- *Craft Contemporary* (Los Angeles, LA)
- *Craft in America Center* (Los Angeles, CA)
- *CraftNOW Philadelphia* (Philadelphia, PA)
- *Decorative Arts Trust*, (Philadelphia, PA)
- *Dieu Donn * (Brooklyn, NY)
- *Ernest G. Welch Gallery at Georgia State University* (Atlanta, GA)
- *Florida CraftArt* (St. Petersburg, FL)
- *Fuller Craft Museum* (Brockton, MA)
- *Haystack Mountain School of Crafts* (Deer Isle, ME)
- *High Museum of Art* (Atlanta, GA)
- *Houston Center for Contemporary Craft* (Houston, TX)
- *International Quilt Museum* (Lincoln, NE)



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- **John Michael Kohler Arts Center** (Sheboygan, WI)
- **Mesa Contemporary Arts Museum** (Mesa, AZ)
- **Mingei Museum** (San Diego, CA)
- **Minnesota Museum of American Art** (St. Paul, MN)
- **Mint Museum** (Charlotte, NC)
- **Museum for Art of Wood** (Philadelphia, PA)
- **Museum of Arts & Design** (New York, NY)
- **Museum of Craft and Design** (San Francisco, CA)
- **The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston** (Houston, TX)
- **Museum of International Folk Art** (Santa Fe, NM)
- **North Bennet Street School** (Boston, MA)
- **North House Folk School** (Grand Marais, MN)
- **Paul Revere House/Paul Revere Memorial Association** (Boston, MA)
- **Penland School of Craft** (Bakersville, NC)
- **Peters Valley School of Craft** (Sandyston, NJ)
- **Racine Art Museum** (Racine, WI)
- **Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum** (Washington, DC)
- **Riverside Art Museum & The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture** (Riverside, CA)
- **Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts** (Rancho Cucamonga, CA)
- **Signature Contemporary Craft Gallery** (Atlanta, GA)
- **Southern Highland Craft Guild** (Asheville, NC)
- **Textile Center of Minnesota** (Minneapolis, MN)
- **Wayne Art Center** (Wayne, PA)
- **Wharton Esherick Museum**, (Malvern, PA)

Handwork 2026 Advisors

- **Polly Allen**, Arts advocate and fiber artist, non-profit board volunteer: Penland School of Craft, Craft Emergency Fund, National Basketry Organization, League of NH Craftsmen, Society of Arts and Crafts, North Country Studio Workshops
- **Kennedy Anderson**, Press Secretary for James E. Clyburn, Assistant Democratic Leader in the US House of Representatives
- **Stuart Ashman**, Gallerist, former Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, former Director of the International Folk Art Market and the Museum of Latin American Art
- **Barry Bergey**, Retired NEA Director of Folk and Traditional Arts
- **Cornelia Carey**, Artist Advocate and former Executive Director of the Craft Emergency Relief Fund
- **Teri Greeves**, Kiowa bead artist, Co-curator of the Hearts of Our People exhibition
- **Dr. Leslie King Hammond**, Artist, curator and art historian, Founding Director of the Center for Race and Culture at the Maryland Institute College of Art
- **Robyn Hollingshead**, former Managing Program Director for the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, Member of the Craft in America Board
- **Robert Lynch**, American arts administrator and former President and Chief Executive Officer of Americans for the Arts, American Craft Council Board Member
- **Dr. Carolyn Mazloomi**, Curator, quilter, author, art historian and advocate for presenting African American quilts
- **Preston Singletary**, Glass Artist, Tlingit
- **Dr. Marilyn Stewart**, Emerita Professor of Art Education at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania and Author of the elementary and middle school textbook series, Explorations in Art and Experience Art, Author of the education guides for the Craft in America PBS series

Handwork 2026 Planning Committee

- **Harriett Green**, Art Consultant and American Craft Council Board Member
- **Lois Jecklin**, former Executive President of the Visiting Artist Series, a nonprofit organization presenting artists in residence, then owner/director, Jecklin Associates, representing artists and composers worldwide
- **Jean W. McLaughlin**, Arts advocate and artist, nonprofit volunteer, former Executive Director of Penland School of Craft
- **Ann Pifer**, Executive Director, AdoptAClassroom.org, and Board Chair, Minnesota Museum of American Art
- **Lynn Pollard**, Fiber artist, American Craft Council Trustee, Hambidge Board Member
- **Carol Sauvion**, Founder and Executive Director, Craft in America, a Peabody Award winning documentary series in its 15th Season on PBS
- **Consuelo Jimenez Underwood**, Artist, fiber artist and weaver, retired Professor of Spatial Arts, San Jose State University