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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tennessee Craft Week October 7 – 16, 2016

Experience Craft Artist Demonstrations In All Tennessee Welcome Centers

Nashville, TN. (June 1, 2016) Tennessee Craft will partner with the **Tennessee Department of Tourist Development** during the 2016 Tennessee Craft Week. All fourteen **Tennessee Welcome Centers** will be hosting craft demonstrations with talented craft artists sharing their creative process and skills with visitors across the great state of Tennessee. More than 13 million people visit the Tennessee Welcome Centers annually. *The public is invited to stop at a Tennessee Welcome Center during the week of October 7-16, to experience a piece of Americana that is “[Made in Tennessee!](#)”*

[Tennessee Craft Week](#) is a **collection of craft events and happenings designed to connect and celebrate Craft Artists**, the work they create and the businesses that support them. This year’s **2016 Tennessee Craft Week** is slated for **October 7-16, 2016**. Sponsored by the nonprofit organization Tennessee Craft, TCW shines a spotlight on the collective impact that craft has on our culture, community and economy.

“Showcasing these craft artists at our Welcome Centers provides an opportunity to highlight the authenticity and creative spirit of Tennessee to our guests as they are traveling through our state,” said Tennessee Department of Tourist Development Commissioner Kevin Triplett. “It not only offers an experience that only can be ‘Made in Tennessee,’ but a product as well.”

In 2015, Tennessee Craft gained national attention earning top honors with the **American Craft Week 2015 Star Award**. Hundreds of artists

showcased handmade craft in this concentrated 1-week event. The successful debut of TCW included craft demonstrations in the fourteen Tennessee Welcome Centers, the [Nashville International Airport](#), well-attended regional Signature Events, and over forty community events. Tennessee Craft Week aligns with [American Craft Week](#), which promotes the recognition of craft across the United States each October.

Tennessee Craft Week Creates:

- Awareness – providing authentic cultural experiences for residents and visitors each October, creating a stimulating environment for buyers of craft to connect on a deeper level with artists.
- Engagement - connecting Tennessee artists across the state to each other and their communities, forging effective partnerships and expanding the reputation of Tennessee craft artists.
- Economic Impact – forming a broader appreciation for the economic and creative impact that craft artists have on our communities and culture, in both urban and rural areas.

Supporting Partners

- Tennessee Craft Chapters
- Tennessee Department of Tourist Development
- Arts at the Airport, Nashville International Airport
- Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation
- Memphis Convention & Visitor's Center

For more information, visit: [Tennessee Craft Week](#)

Celebrating fifty years, Tennessee Craft, formerly The Tennessee Association of Craft Artists, works to continue and create Tennessee's fine craft tradition. With more than 500 members throughout the state, Tennessee Craft serves as the premier connecting point for local, independent makers and their audiences through Craft Fairs, exhibitions, professional development, networking, mentorship and other educational programs. Visit www.tennesseecraft.org or email info@tennesseecraft.org to learn more.