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## Tennessee Craft Week Wins National Award

**NASHVILLE, TN** (November 11, 2015) [Tennessee Craft Week](#) takes top honors with the [American Craft Week's 2015 Star Award](#), in the category of **Top Event**, for its statewide craft demonstrations. All 14 Tennessee Welcome Centers and the Nashville International Airport hosted craft demonstration events, providing opportunities for local artists to show how they create their craft and encouraging visitors to experience and appreciate the rich traditions of Tennessee craft.

As honorary chairperson for this year's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tennessee Craft, **First Lady of Tennessee Crissy Haslam promoted Tennessee Craft Week**, making visits to The Pink Palace Crafts Fair in Memphis and Tennessee Fall Homecoming at the Museum of Appalachia in Clinton, Tennessee. The weeklong celebration coincided with American Craft Week in October and highlighted the legacy of handmade craft art in Tennessee through 41 events across the state.

Two additional Tennessee Craft Week events garnered top honors as well:

[Influx](#) in Nashville, Tennessee, a group of ceramic artists, won **Most Innovative Event Concept** for their "Moving In" exhibit. The artist group parked a U-Haul truck outfitted as a gallery on Fifth Avenue of the Arts for the First Saturday Art Crawl and First Friday Art Crawl in nearby Franklin, Tennessee.

[Shimai Contemporary Craft Gallery](#) won **Best Event by a Library** for producing workshops and demonstrations from their stable of artists at their local Bellevue Branch Library.

"We're delighted by the caliber of artists and events participating in Tennessee Craft Week," said Teri Alea, executive director of Tennessee Craft. "The power of their work helped us reach these national benchmarks. We have so much more to share in 2016! People will be amazed by the local, handmade work and overwhelming evidence of our strong craft heritage across Tennessee."

Tennessee Craft would like to thank the inaugural sponsors who provided funding for this new annual tradition: Arts In the Airport, Metro Nashville Arts Commission, Tennessee Arts Commission, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, Memphis Visitors & Convention Center, and the Nashville CVC.

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Celebrating fifty years, Tennessee Craft, formerly The Tennessee Association of Craft Artists (TACA) is a nonprofit organization working 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 [tennesseecraft.org](http://tennesseecraft.org) to learn more.

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