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2019 TENNESSEE CRAFT WEEK HAPPENS OCTOBER 4-13

Tennessee Craft Celebrates Handmade Craft with a Focus on Local Artisans

Nashville, TN. (March 21, 2019) **Tennessee Craft Week** shines a spotlight on the art of handmade crafts. The Tennessee craft legacy that continues to grow each year was born from the hills of the Smoky Mountains and evolved as artists create new works across the state. This fifth annual celebration of craft is designed to connect and celebrate craft artists, the work they produce and the businesses that support them. Tennessee Craft Week (TCW) will be held October 4-13, in conjunction with the 10th annual [American Craft Week](#), honoring and promoting unique artisan craft across the nation. In a world of mass-produced products, handmade crafts are bringing local communities together and creating a desire for tourists to get a glimpse of Tennessee. It's a time to celebrate the arts and take home an authentic treasure.

Partnering with the [Tennessee Department of Tourist Development](#), Tennessee Craft artists have garnered national attention, earning numerous **American Craft Week Star Awards** each of the last four years. Events include interesting artist demonstrations with personal interaction at 15 Tennessee Welcome Centers and the Nashville International Airport, public library events promoting education between the artists and the public, and "hands-on" workshops where attendees can learn traditional crafts from professional craft artists. Hundreds of accomplished craft artists participate in TCW, sharing their vision and demonstrating their art at more than 75 events across the state, TCW demonstrates the financial and creative impact that "*Made in Tennessee*" craft culture brings to Tennessee's community, economy and vibrant quality of life.

Tennessee Craft Executive Director Teri Alea states, "We've expanded the number of Tennessee Craft Week events and we proactively target various cities and regions to grow this event each year. Plan your road trip for this fall and meet craft artists across the state! Our goal is to call attention to individual artist stories and to increase the visibility of craft-making."

All craft artists and galleries statewide are encouraged to enroll their event with Tennessee Craft to benefit from promotional campaigns designed to spotlight their efforts. Artists may create and submit an original event, lecture, or demonstration, submit an established community craft event or host an individual Open Studio Day as part of the 2019 **Tennessee Craft Week**.

As the premier statewide advocate for the art of handmade craft, Tennessee Craft encourages artists to be a part of this successful campaign. This focus on craft brands and promotes artists' skills and builds the reputation of handmade products made in Tennessee. Now in its fifth year, more than 100 events are projected to take place during Tennessee Craft Week 2019.

Submit events by July 15 to be published in the brochure, which is distributed statewide and in all 16 Welcome Centers.

Need Event Ideas? Visit: <https://tennesseecraft.org/tennessee-craft-week/2018-craft-week-events-list/>

Submit TCW Event Here: <https://tennesseecraft.org/tennessee-craft-week/submit-your-event/>

All featured events will be included on the website, in the TCW event calendar, promoted via Tennessee Craft social media platforms and included in the TCW event listing on TNvacation.com.

Please note: Events entered after the deadline will not be guaranteed the same level of promotion, due to the increased number of events projected this year.

Tennessee Craft Week Creates:

- Awareness of authentic cultural experiences for residents and visitors each October, where the general public can connect on a deeper level with local artists and their process.
- Engagement by connecting Tennessee artists across the state to each other and their communities, forging effective regional partnerships and expanding the reputation of Tennessee craft artists.
- Recognition for the economic, creative and cultural impact of craft artists and their work (within local communities), in both urban and rural areas.

Find Your Chapter! Artists interested in joining a local Tennessee Craft Chapter:

<https://tennesseecraft.org/members/chapters/>

Supported by:

Metro Arts

Tennessee Arts

TN Vacation

American Craft Week

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About: **Tennessee Craft** is a member-driven nonprofit arts organization dedicated to creating opportunities for Tennessee's independent craft artists to thrive. Since 1965, Tennessee Craft has been the only networked community of craft artists across the state, with local chapters and regional opportunities for talent growth, professional development, and one-of-a-kind exhibitions.

Supported by: TCW is a program of Tennessee Craft. Funding for TCW generously provided by **Metro Nashville Arts Commission, Tennessee Arts Commission, and Tennessee Department of Tourist Development.**

