



**Kentucky Craft History
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MORE INFORMATION -- please contact Philis Alvic, Kentucky Craft Encyclopedia Committee Chair – philis@philisalvic.info

VIRTUAL KENTUCKY CRAFT ENCYCLOPEDIA

During a meeting in Louisville last fall, the Kentucky Craft History and Education Association (KCHEA) initiated the development of a virtual Kentucky craft encyclopedia with free access on the Internet. The craft encyclopedia project is part of KCHEA's mission to gather, conserve, and present the history and on-going impact of crafts in Kentucky.

The Kentucky Craft Encyclopedia will be an Internet portal to information about crafts, craft history, craft institutions, craftsmakers, and places that exhibit crafts. Besides providing basic overview of the topic, the site will direct visitors to other websites or places that will supply more extensive information.

The Kentucky Art and Craft Museum in Louisville was host to representatives of public agencies, educational institutions, craftspeople and others interested in Kentucky crafts and craft history. The head of the Georgia Humanities Council, Dr. Jamil Zainaldin gave a stimulating talk on the development of the on-line New Georgia Encyclopedia. He set the tone and offered suggestions that were incorporated into the rest of the afternoon's activities which presented and then solicited participant ideas for the Kentucky Craft Encyclopedia.

KCHEA envisions the virtual encyclopedia reaching a very wide audience and as being

- a resource for schools
- an information destination for makers and appreciators of crafts
- a link to organizations and institutions concerned with crafts
- a starting place for further scholarship documenting Kentucky's crafts

The virtual Kentucky craft encyclopedia will strive to be inclusive—embracing

- different types of crafts
- craft makers and supporters
- schools for craft education
- organizations that exhibit, market, or provide services to crafts
- historical periods
- geographic areas of Kentucky

Because of the scope of this project, it will proceed in phases and involve resources and writers from all parts of Kentucky. This work will be based on current scholarship and writings about Kentucky crafts and will also encourage investigation into areas where research has been scarce. An Advisory Board will be established to guide the development and implementation of the project.

KCHEA will partner with many craft-related groups that will assist in presenting a broad view of Kentucky's craft history and help in promoting the craft encyclopedia. Since development of this project will take many years, funding will be sought for specific parts of the project and be drawn from a variety of public and private sources. Grants will fund a professional editorial staff, web developers, and administrators.

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The Kentucky Craft History and Education Association gathers, conserves and presents the history and on-going impact of crafts in Kentucky.

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