



**Kentucky Craft History
& Education Association**

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Oral History Grant Expands Access to Kentucky Craft Stories

The Kentucky Craft History & Education Association (KCHEA) recently completed a project as the result of a 2021 grant received from the Oral History Commission (OHC), Kentucky Historical Society (KHS). The grant provided for the transcription, indexing, and syncing of approximately 10.5 hours of recorded video interviews with 7 craft artists, a crafts organization director, and an arts educator and consultant to the state of Kentucky, all of whom have had an impact on craft development in the state. KCHEA has conducted nearly 100 interviews as part of its ongoing Craft Luminary Project since 2008. The services provided through the OHC grant make the interviews more accessible to researchers, scholars, and the public.

Fellow craft artists, folklorists and educators, knowledgeable of the subject matter, conducted the interviews and a professional cinematographer recorded the videos. The interviewees included:

- Craig Dial, Former Director, Red Bird Mission Crafts, Beverly (now deceased)
- Elmer Lucille Allen, Ceramicist and Fiber Artist, Louisville
- Neil and Mary Colmer, Fiber Artists, Berea
- Warren Brunner, Photographer, Berea
- John Taylor, Louisville Stoneware, Louisville
- Judy Sizemore, Writer and Arts Consultant, Richmond
- Dobree Adams, Fiber Artist, Frankfort.

KCHEA also processed a second interview with Fran Redmon, former Kentucky Crafted Director, Frankfort. This represents the final processing of all the oral history interviews KCHEA has completed to date. The transcripts and videos are in the archives at the Kentucky Historical Society and can be viewed at the Pass the Word site, [HERE](#). A complete list of the Kentucky Craft Luminary Project interviewees and their bios are on the KCHEA web site, [HERE](#).

KCHEA President, Philis Alvic, states, "KCHEA is not a brick and mortar institution and ongoing support from the Kentucky Oral History Commission has been vital to KCHEA's ability to meet its mission and help keep the stories of Kentucky's craft history alive for future generations."

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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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