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Kentucky Craft History and Education Association Forum Final Report

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Last November, the Kentucky Craft History and Education Association (KCHEA) hosted a Forum to bring together arts and history groups and interested individuals to discuss ways to collect, conserve, and present Kentucky craft history. The purpose of the Forum was to explore ways that KCHEA might share knowledge and cooperate on projects. Through the Forum, KCHEA is fulfilling one of its goals—to work with other organizations in the state. KCHEA does not intend to be a bricks and mortar institution, but rather act as a resource to others that are gathering and presenting crafts and craft history.

The Forum began with KCHEA introducing itself as a new organization and the participants telling about their personal and organizational involvement in crafts, history, and collecting information. Over fifty people broke into three groups to discuss what has been collected and what needs to be collected. “Paper” is the collection of documents, photographs, and published materials. “People” includes oral histories either in audio or video format. “Objects” are the craft items and tools used to construct them.

The whole group convened to hear what had been discussed in the three break-out sessions. The afternoon proceeded with making lists of products, events, and activities that would bring Kentucky craft history to the citizens of our state. Through information gathered from the Forum, KCHEA will be working to identify projects that it would most like to see take place and those in which it may take a leadership role.

A final report has been sent to all the participants and to others who have expressed an interest in preserving Kentucky’s craft heritage. Others may request a copy from Philis Alvic, philis@philisalvic.info.

The Forum was held at Arts Place in Lexington and received generous support from LexArts and the Kentucky Arts Council.

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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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