

CULTURAL ARTS and HERITAGE

Program Overview

The Cultural Arts and Heritage program area covers a wide range of content that includes fine arts and crafts, heritage and history of both Kentucky and world cultures, literacy and reading and other areas that cover an appreciation of both the Kentucky and world culture. The following are ongoing activities of this program:

- Promote programs that broaden the understanding of our nation, state, and communities, citizenship, history, etc.
- Promote and develop culturally representative programs.
- Revive traditional art forms and continue teaching heritage skills such as: basketry, knitting, crocheting, embroidery, quilting, doll making, carving, painting, pottery, etc.
- Promote Extension Master Volunteer Programs to teach and preserve arts and heritage skills.
- Encourage self-expression through all forms of creative, visual, and performing arts.
- Conduct an awards program in arts and promote participation in the State Cultural Arts Exhibit.
- Promote the study of cultural heritage through literature and museums. Utilize libraries and encourage written and oral histories of families and communities. Promote genealogy programs.
- Promote reading, especially of Kentucky authors.
- Explore home-based business opportunities utilizing handmade arts and crafts.

CONTESTS and RESOURCES:

- Passport Booklet (participation numbers due to COUNTY by **July 15**)
- Creative Writing (entries due to STATE CHAIRPERSON by **March 1**)
- Book List Suggestion Form (suggestions due to STATE CHAIRPERSON by **March 15**)
- Book List (updated yearly on **July 1**, found on [Chairperson webpage](#))
- Cultural Arts Exhibit (State contest is **May**)

KEHA Cultural Arts and Heritage Chairperson 2024 to 2027

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CULTURAL ARTS and HERITAGE

Three Year Program of Work • Effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028

Situation:

Kentucky is enriched with hundreds of talented Extension Homemakers who create handmade works of art for all to enjoy. Whether their items are crafted at home, or during classes hosted by Cooperative Extension and beyond, Extension Homemakers may choose to enter their creations in contests to be judged.

The Extension Homemaker Cultural Arts Contest provides the opportunity for these artists to be recognized among their peers. For consistent and fair judging, emphasis is on proper category and sub-category placement of the entry. However, not all sub-categories are clearly defined. If a creation is entered in the incorrect category or does not meet the contest guidelines this can result in disqualification and disappointment.

To encourage participation in and satisfaction with the Extension Cultural Arts Exhibits, focus will be placed on the Contest category and sub-category definitions and requirements. This awareness should encourage Extension Homemakers to try new crafts and learn new skills and feel confident when entering their items in an Extension Cultural Arts Exhibit.

Over the course of three years, the emphasis will be on:

- Baskets
- Fibers
- Felting

Year ONE Focus (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026): BASKETS

Goal: Increase knowledge related to the BASKETRY category of our Cultural Arts Exhibit and provide guidance so that entries in the Exhibit are placed in the correct sub-category

Objectives:

- Clearly define the Cultural Arts and Heritage Exhibit BASKET sub-categories
- Identify different basket materials appropriate for weaving (for example, cane and reed)
- Interpret judging criteria and expectations for the BASKET Category

Activities:

- Attend basket workshops, weave a basket – or two – or three!
- Enter your basket(s) in the Cultural Arts contest
- Support local basket artists and basket guilds
- Visit the [KEHA Cultural Art website](#) for information

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Three Year Program of Work (continued)

Year TWO Focus (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027): FIBERS

Goal: Basic understanding of the processes for turning animal and plant fibers into yarns, textiles, and, ultimately, into consumer products; appreciate the history and cultural heritage of fibers

Objectives:

- Identify basic characteristics and properties of animal and plant fibers
- Describe methods to process fibers into yarns and textile products
- Encourage artistic creativity and original design with natural fibers

Activities:

- Participate in weaving, knitting, crochet, and other fiber arts classes
- Create works of art with fibers and textiles as the focus
- Attend workshops and fiber fairs on the Kentucky Fiber Trail
<https://www.kentuckysheepandfiber.com/kentuckyfibertrail>
- Support local fiber artists and fiber guilds

Year THREE Focus (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028): FELTING

Goal: Raise awareness of the FELTING category of our Cultural Arts Exhibit and provide inspiration so that entries in this category increase

Objectives:

- Define the materials and tools used in felting
- Explain the difference between needle felting and wet felting
- Encourage artistic creativity and original design of felted projects

Activities:

- Attend felting classes and workshops and experiment with felting processes
- Enter your Felted creation in the Cultural Arts contest
(13. FELTING a. Needle Method, b. Wet Method)
- Support local fiber artists and fiber guilds