

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Kentucky Craft History & Education Association PO Box 22363 Lexington, KY 40522 info@kchea.org kchea.org

Kentucky Craft History & Education Association

Annual Report 2016-2017

CONTENTS

President's Letter	Page 1
In Memoriam	Page 2
Mission & Value Statements	Page 3
Strategic Plan Executive Summary	Page 4
Overview of Accomplishments	Page 6
Project Reports	Page 8
Financial Report	Page 11
Board & Advisors	Page 13



Kentucky Craft History & Education Association

P O Box 22363 Lexington, KY 40522 info@kchea.org • kchea.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fran Redmon, President Frankfort, KY

Jacqueline Diachun, Secretary Lexington, KY

Larry Isenhour, Treasurer Lexington, KY

Philis Alvic Lexington, KY

Bob Gates Frankfort, KY

Mary Reed Irvine, KY

Abby Vaughn Lexington, KY

EMERITUS

Susan Goldstein Founding President Lexington, KY

HONORARY FOUNDERS

Marlene Helm Nicholasville, KY

Sherry Jelsma Shelbyville, KY

Crit Luallen Frankfort, KY

Kay Lowe Masuhr Louisville, KY

Juanita Peterson Lexington, KY

ADVISORY BOARD

Logan Wilson Lexington, KY

Marie Hochstrasser Lexington, KY

Judy Sizemore McKee, KY January 2018

Dear Friends and Supporters:

The Kentucky Craft History and Education Association (KCHEA) is pleased to present its 2017 Annual Report. KCHEA continues to make strides toward our mission of documenting and presenting the ongoing impact of craft in Kentucky.

Highlights of KCHEA's 2016 programming:

- Presented "Craft History: Preserving Your Personal Legacy" workshop, March 4, 2017 at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, a program for artists wanting to learn what to collect in order to preserve their career stories.
- Initiated indexing of all of KCHEA's completed oral history interviews in order to make them more accessible to researchers and the public online.
- Processed 12 of 18 transcriptions, as part of goal to transcribe all of KCHEA's oral history interviews making them more valuable to researchers.
- Completed two oral histories as part of the Craft Luminary Project.

Future plans include ongoing oral history interviews, presentation of the *Craft Luminaries: Sharing the Stories* exhibit at the Frazier Museum in Louisville in 2019, and ongoing training to educate artists in the documentation of their own histories. Additionally, two KHS grant projects including indexing and transcription of KCHEA's Craft Luminary interviews will be completed.

Please take the time to review the following report and more of the details of our efforts this past year.

In the meantime, look for us on Facebook and the web.

Sincerely,

Fran Redmon Outgoing President

Tran Dedun

Philis Alvic Incoming President

IN MEMORIAM

Marie Emlen Hochstrasser 1926 – 2017

The KCHEA board is very appreciative of the role Marie played in its creation and the contributions she provided as an adviser, advocate, and supporter, since 2008. She was a fixture in the arts community, statewide and nationally, for many years.

Marie attended Smith College and California College of Arts and Crafts prior to receiving a B.A. from UCLA, and acquired a Masters in Art Education/Textile Research from University of Oregon. She taught Art Education at Transylvania, Asbury, and University of Kentucky, and was co-owner of Yarn & Fiber Studio and owner of Kentucky Looms & Wheels. Marie made significant contributions to Kentucky and Southeast region as a fiber artist, educator, businesswoman, arts benefactor, and community leader, including UK Libraries National Advisory Board. She was the recipient of the Medallion of the Arts award from the Lexington Council for the Arts, and the Rude Osolnik Award from the Kentucky Arts Council.

MISSION

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

VALUE STATEMENTS

There is an inherent value in the making of craft which embodies both skill and design; many skills are intrinsic in rural culture and have historically been part of essential living.

8003

Kentucky has a long and rich craft heritage involving both the makers and organizations of craft that have created both an economic and cultural impact resulting in national and international recognition for the state as a model for craft development.

8008

History provides valuable lessons that impact our future and documenting and sharing Kentucky's craft history honors the makers and creates pride in our heritage.

8003

The arts offer many educational and economic benefits and support the development of intellectual skills. Crafts can play a role in education through a variety of academic disciplines connecting students to craft artists as role models and educating them to craft as a vocational and lifestyle choice.

8003

The documentation and preservation of Kentucky's craft history is needed and urgent and is best done through the artifacts, documents, and stories told by craft makers and organizational leaders that have most significantly impacted the state's craft movement.

8003

Partnerships are important and have been vital to Kentucky's craft success and are critical to the ongoing preservation and documentation of its history.

KCHEA STRATEGIC PLAN 2016 - 2018

KCHEA: Saving the Story of Kentucky Craft

MISSION:

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

GOAL I:

Strong Organizational Capacity to achieve KCHEA mission

Objective 1: Increase Board Membership to a total of 12 by 2018.

<u>Objective 2</u>: Cultivate partnership with organizations in order to implement KCHEA programming.

Objective 3: Hire administrative staff and part-time manager.

Objective 4: Establish a Financing and Fundraising Plan for 2016-2018.

Objective 5: Expand membership as a category for participation with benefits.

GOAL II:

Kentuckians to take pride in our long, diverse and continuing craft history (Public Programs and Projects)

Objective 1: Develop one annual public program

Objective 2: Define process for implementation of a traveling exhibit (Craft Luminaries)

Objective 3: Continue to make the Craft Luminary video interviews accessible

<u>Objective 4</u>: Provide workshops for the Legacy Project – guidance and training for others to document their story/legacy.

<u>Objective 5:</u> Encourage museums and galleries throughout the state to collect and/or exhibit crafts.

GOAL III:

A strong support system for the identification, research and documentation (i.e. scholarship) of Kentucky Craft History

Objective 1: Continue the Craft Luminary Project (oral history videos)

<u>Objective 2</u>: Continue to encourage the Legacy Project "everyone has stories to tell" where people document their own traditions and history.

Objective 3: Formulate methods for brokering between donors and historical repositories.

<u>Objective 4</u>: Formalize the PLAN for phase 1 of curating a Kentucky Craft Encyclopedia including "content" and "structure".

GOAL IV:

A Strong Brand Identity for KCHEA

Objective 1: Consider an explanatory subtitle for KCHEA

Objective 2: Publish a quarterly newsletter/blog/social media.

<u>Objective 3:</u> Send Speakers out to promote Kentucky Craft History, Legacy Projects, Luminaries and KCHEA.

Objective 4: Continue to Strive toward making KCHEA's work a national model.

Objective 5: Place emphasis on personal engagement and connections to craft.

OVERVIEW

Accomplishments and Progress Toward Goals

GOAL I: Strong Organizational Capacity to achieve KCHEA mission

Administration:

- Continued to document KCHEA activities and projects via formal reports (e.g. 2016 Annual Report, yearly calendar of activities, event and grant reports, and via the web).
- Conducted biennial review of administrative and operational policies, updating several.

Board Development:

- Identified numerous potential new board members for consideration, inviting them to board meetings.
- Abby Vaughn joined the board and agreed to serve as Fundraising Committee chair.
- Applied to the LexArts Business Volunteer Assistance program. Tamara Peterson volunteered to assist KCHEA with board development.
- Granted emeritus status to outgoing board member and founding president, Susan Goldstein, to honor her contributions to the organization.

Funding:

- Applied to Kentucky Oral History Commission (KOHC) for a 2017 transcription grant for Craft Luminary oral histories. The grant was approved and funding of \$2760 was received to transcribe 18 interviews.
- Board member, Susan Goldstein hosted a donor appreciation luncheon at the Boone Center in December.
- Conducted fundraising mailing in October to past and new donors, seeking sponsorships and new funds. The campaign resulted in \$1,875 in contributions.
- Met with donor Ben Kaufmann in June and received additional \$1,000 donation.
- Participated in fundraising programs including, Kroger Community Rewards, GoodShop, and Amazon Smile.

GOAL III: A strong support system for the identification, research and documentation (i.e. scholarship) of Kentucky Craft History

- Conducted two oral history interviews as part on ongoing Craft Luminary Project, including Craig Dial, former director of RedBird Mission Crafts and Louisville ceramicist and fiber artist, Elmer Lucille Allen.
- Prioritized Luminary Committee's current list of candidates for interviews, and new ones that might be of some urgency. Set standardized fee for payment of interviewers.
- Began indexing of interviews transcribed to date as part of the KOHC indexing grant. The grant, extended through 2017, is awaiting completion of the remaining 18 interview transcripts. The required interim report was completed and submitted.
- Transcriptions began on the remaining Luminary interviews, with 12 of 18 completed as of June 30, with the remaining to be completed by the grant deadline.
- Board member, Philis Alvic, presented on Craft Legacy Workshop project at the Appalachian Studies Conference, March 10-12, 2017, Blacksburg, Virginia.
- Board participation in professional conferences included the American Craft Council, October 13-15, 2016, Omaha, Nebraska; and the Kentucky Museums and Heritage Alliance Conference, April 12-13, 2017, Frankfort, Kentucky

- Board approved funding for each completed Craft Luminary interview to be automatically digitized, indexed, and transcribed, with up to \$1000 each in total funding to conduct interview and follow up processing.
- The Craft Encyclopedia Committee submitted a format for gathering information on Kentucky Craft History modelled on the Kentucky Women's Suffrage Project on H-Net.

GOAL II: Kentuckians to take pride in our long, diverse and continuing craft history (Public Programs and Projects)

- Solicited partners among several Kentucky art and history venues for presenting "Kentucky Craft Luminaries: Sharing the Stories" exhibit. Received a commitment from the Frazier History Museum for 2019. Yeiser Art Center in Paducah, the Owensboro Museum of Fine Arts, and the Kentucky Museum in Bowling Green expressed interest. Communications continued with the Folk Arts Center in Morehead.
- Presented "Craft History: Preserving Your Personal Legacy" workshop, March 4, 2017 at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea. There were 10 registrations, of which, 7 attended along with 5 board members.
- Board approved the completion of excerpts from two interviews with Founding President, Susan Goldstein, to honor her contributions as part of her emeritus status. Once completed, excerpts will be posted on KCHEA web site and YouTube Channel.
- Submitted "Kentucky Craft Luminaries: Sharing the Stories" educators' guide and virtual gallery to LexArts for inclusion in catalog of arts activities for schools.

GOAL IV: A Strong Brand Identity for KCHEA

- Maintained KCHEA web site and Facebook page, posting annual report and activity announcements.
- Distributed Press release on new board member, Abby Vaughn.
- Produced sponsorship card sent to past donors.
- Visibility at national and regional conferences.

Kentucky Craft Luminaries: Sharing the Stories Exhibit Committee

Building on the success of *Kentucky Craft Luminaries: Sharing the Stories*, ArtsPlace, 2015, the board directed that other venues be found for the exhibit. While not offering the actual pieces in the show, the substantial supporting materials will be made available for future exhibitions. These materials included artist photographic portraits, artist bio and insights, general show background information, the Luminary video, and the educators' guide for schools.

The Kentucky Museum at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, the Yeiser Art Center in Paducah, the Owensboro Museum of Fine Arts, and Folk Arts Museum in Morehead all expressed interest in cooperating with KCHEA on an exhibition. However, the response from the Frazier Museum in Louisville was the most positive.

On April 14th, Fran Redmon and Philis Alvic met with Education and Outreach Director Jodi Lewis, Curator, Brigid Witzke, and President and CEO Penelope Peavler at the Frazier Museum. The materials that KCHEA had available were outlined. The Frazier staff suggested possible spaces for the show and considered allied activities that could possibly accompany the show.

The second meeting took place on July 7th, with Philis and Fran making the trip to Louisville. The meeting was led by Mary Kate Lindsey the project director, with several others from the Frazier staff in attendance.

Galleries on the main floor have been designated for the exhibit that will run from February through April in 2019. Contact will be made with the artists in the Spring of 2018, with actual pieces solicited. In the Spring and Summer, the show layout will be planned. Work will be received in the Fall of 2018, with everything final by Thanksgiving.

CRAFT LUMINARY PROJECT

This project, supported by the KCHEA Craft Luminary Committee, works to document and preserve, through audio and video oral history interviews, the personal histories of individuals who have made significant contributions to Kentucky's craft movement and impacted Kentucky craft history.

Based on previous recommendations by the committee, and approved by the board, two oral histories were completed this past year.

- Craig Dial, former director of Red Bird Mission Crafts, Beverly, Kentucky. The
 mission's Craft Marketing Program works to support the marketing of crafts of
 local artisans in the region.
- Elmer Lucille Allen, Louisville, Kentucky. A noted ceramic and fiber artist, and career chemist, who is broadly recognized for her community and arts involvement.

The Kentucky Oral History Commission (KOHC) and the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) are essential partners in making sure that KCHEA's oral history collection is properly archived and stored in a stable preservation environment. KCHEA has deeded over 60 interviews to KHS.

In order to make these videos accessible via the KOHC online digital collection, KCHEA submitted and was approved for a \$2,340 indexing grant from the KOHC in 2016. The grant provides for indexing the 75 interviews completed to date into the Oral History Metadata System developed at the University of Kentucky. Twenty-seven of the 95 hours of indexing were completed in 2017.

KCHEA received an additional KHS Oral History Transcription \$2640 grant in 2017, for the completion of the remainder of its oral history interviews. These interviews will be deeded to KOHC as part of its permanent collection. The 2016 Indexing grant was extended to allow for the completion of the transcripts, which included 18 interviews.

KCHEA will continue to conduct, transcribe, and index up to six interviews per year with plans for their placement at KOHC.

Committee:

Bob Gates, Chair Dave Caudill Bob Gates Mary Reed Mary Stuart Reichard Allan Weiss

Craft History: Preserving Your Personal Legacy

KCHEA presented the "Legacy" workshop on March 4, 2017 at the Kentucky Artisan Center in Berea. This was the second "Legacy" workshop presented, the first being March 8, 2015 at Kentucky Crafted: The Market in Lexington. The purpose of the workshop was to promote and provide instruction on how to document and plan for the preservation of artisan records.

The event was promoted on Facebook via posts and ads with links to the workshop information on the KCHEA web page. A request to share the announcement went to the directors of the Appalachian Artisan Center, Kentucky Guild, Berea Arts Council, Kentucky Arts Council, the Kentucky Foundation for Women and the Kentucky Artisan Center newsletter. An event listing appeared on the Berea Tourism site. The Foundation for women listed it. An announcement email via Mailchimp went to Kentucky craft artists, arts organizations, and the local media. Artists received a second notice a week prior, and registrants received a reminder email.

Registration was required in advance at a fee of \$15, which included a box lunch. This was online through PayPal, on the web page, or the registration form downloaded and mailed with a check.

Agenda

10:00 a.m. Registration/Sign-in

10:15 a.m. Presentations:

- Kentucky Craft History & Education Association, Fran Redmon
- Community Scholars & Conduction Oral Histories, Bob Gates
- Don't Throw it Away, Mary Reed
- Placing Materials and Objects in Collections, Philis Alvic

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Networking Session

1:45 p.m. Wrap Up

Ten registrations were received; seven attendees included artists, organization representatives and a collector, in addition to five KCHEA board members. Completed evaluations were favorable indicating satisfaction with the materials presented and an ongoing interest in the topic, with a willingness to pursue strategies outlined in the presentations.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	Budget	Actual	Budget
~ · · ·	FY2016-17	FY2016-17	FY 2017-18
Bank Accounts		45.005.00	
Community Trust		17,305.23	
Total		17,305.23	
Income			
Contributions	2,500.00	3,165.32	2,500.00
Grants	2,000.00	2,760.00	2,000.00
Other	100.00	263.92	250.00
Total Income	4,600.00	6,180.24	4,750.00
Expense			
Operating			
Board training /Conferences	300.00	90.67	100.00
Fees	45.00	70.00	70.00
Insurance	405.00	415.00	415.00
Memberships	100.00	27.37	50.00
Office supplies	180.00	162.49	180.00
Postage	125.00	274.80	300.00
Promotion	470.00	123.90	620.00
Travel /Misc.	0.00	150.97	150.00
Personnel / Consultants	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Operating	1,625.00	1,315.20	1,885.00
Projects			
Luminaries Interviews/Exhibit	2,000.00	749.86	5,850.00
Transcriptions	1,000.00	00.00	2,000.00
Legacy Workshop	1,500.00	154.63	1,000.00
Indexing	2,340.00	3,585.00	0.00
Total Projects	7,340.00	4,489.49	8,850.00
Total Expense	8,965.00	5,804.69	10,735.00
Net Ordinary Income	-4,365.00	375.55	-5985.00

Grants:

Kentucky Oral History Commission, \$2,760.00

Contributors:

Philis Alvic
Judith & Robert Baumann
Richard & Lila Bellando
Susan Caller
Erin Gold
Marlene Grissom
Marie Hochstrasser
Ben Kaufmann
Pam & Ralph Miller
Linda & Leon Ravvin
Reed, Mary
Arturo Alonzo Sandoval
Judith & Stanley Saxe
Arthur Shechet
Patricia Shraberg

Additional In-kind Support:

Susan Zepeda

859PRINT.com.
Joanna Hay Productions
Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea
Kentucky Historical Society
LexArts
Lexington Public Library
Paul Sawyer Public Library
Redmon 2 Marketing + Design

Volunteer Hours:

 $Board\ Members - 806$ Other - 100 $Total\ - 906$

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fran Redmon, President, has a B.F.A. in Commercial Art from Western Kentucky University. She served as director of the Kentucky Craft Marketing (CMP) 1986-2007, a program of the Kentucky Arts Council, an award-winning and nationally modeled program. She received the 2007 Craft Organization Development Association's (CODA) national award for "Outstanding Service, Creative Thinking, and Leadership" having a significant impact on the crafts field. State and national leadership positions include serving on numerous boards, advisory councils and state government committees. She has consulted with programs in Georgia and Pennsylvania and CODA. She is currently a Kentucky Peer Advisor for the Kentucky Arts Council and program chair for the Appalachian Artisan Center. She is a part-time business co-owner of Redmon2 Marketing + Design, artist, and consultant for organizations and artisans on craft development.

<u>Jackie Diachun, Secretary</u> has a B.A. degree in education from Chapman University in California. She has a lifetime interest and appreciation of crafts and art of all mediums and has collected many works over the years. She has served on various community boards and helped organize some groups. Currently, she is president of the Lexington Chamber Chorale and has served board terms on the Lexington Art League, Lexington Talent Education Association, and others. She helped plan and present traveling art exhibits for the Interfaith Alliance of the Bluegrass. She is actively involved with various community based groups.

<u>Larry Isenhour, Treasurer</u> is a Kentucky registered Architect with Green Scheme Design. He is a collector of Kentucky art and folk art and has been a supporter of the arts in Kentucky as past president of the Lexington Art League and board member of the Kentucky Folk Art Center, Mid-south Sculpture Alliance, and Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft.

Philis Alvic, is an artist, weaver, and writer. Since graduating from the School of the Art Institute in Chicago, she has shown her work in exhibitions throughout the country. In 1977 she was awarded the Certificate of Excellence from the Handweavers Guild of America and received an Al Smith Fellowship from the Kentucky Arts Council in 1996. She has published over 100 articles and papers on crafts and crafts history and two books, one on early 20th century Appalachian weaving centers and the other on crafts of Armenia. She served as an international craft development consultant through agencies funded by USAID.

Bob Gates is the founder and former director of the Kentucky Folklife Program. He has a masters in Folk Studies and Historic Preservation from Western Kentucky University and over 30 years of experience as a public folklorist. He has worked throughout the United States as an ethnographer, oral historian, exhibit designer, festival director, cultural consultant, cultural diversity trainer and teacher. Bob is the recipient of the American Folklore Society Benjamin Botkin Prize for significant achievement in public folklore. He is the 2014 Folk Heritage recipient, Governor's Award in the Arts. He is currently working as an independent Folklorist consulting with individuals and organizations to document and present their own corporate, family, and community histories and cultures. Bob is consultant through the Kentucky Arts Council's Kentucky Peer Advisory Network (KPAN).

Mary Reed is a craft artist and co-owner of Appalachian Crafts. She attended the University of Kentucky where she studied fine arts. She is a juried member of the Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen, the Kentucky Craft Marketing Program, the Kentucky Peer Advisory Network, and a Community Scholar. She serves on the advisory council of the Kentucky Appalachian Artisan Center and as a mentor for the Kentucky Craft Marketing Program. She has conducted numerous crafts workshops and artist residencies in elementary schools and her work has been presented in numerous exhibitions. Mary is the current chair of Artist Advisory Council, Appalachian Artisan Center. She is the founder and current president of the Estill Arts Council.

Abby Vaughn, works as development director for Unified Trust Company's Wealth & Trust Management team with over 30 years of expertise in investment sales and banking. Prior to coming to Unified Trust Abby worked for a Global Financial Services Company and a Fortune 500 Bank focusing on high-net worth families. She is skilled in providing personalized service in collaboration with financial partners. She believes strongly in giving back to the community and has served on various boards including Lexington Humane Society, OperaLex, Lexington Art League, and Woodland Executive Board. Abby assists with fundraising for Blue Grass Community Foundation, Commerce Lexington, KET, and The March of Dimes. Abby spends her free time dabbling with home design and is passionate about animal rescue.

EMERITUS

Susan Goldstein, Founding President, an artist, curator, and art collector, graduated from the University of Vermont with a B.A. in Elementary Education and earned a M.A. degree in Counseling Psychology from Tuft's University. An innovative clay artist, her work has been included in many national and regional exhibitions, including the Governor's Mansion in Frankfort and the Congressional Office Building in Washington DC. She has numerous past and present board affiliations including the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, the Lexington Art League, Lexington Fayette County Government, and the Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen, where she served as president. In 2009, nominated by the Lexington Arts Council, she received the National Philanthropy Day Award.

KCHEA ADVISORY COUNCIL

<u>W. Logan Wilson</u> is a member of Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP's Real Estate and Corporate and Transactional Practice Groups in which he advises clients regarding corporate business matters and commercial real estate transactions. Logan earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics, *summa cum laude*, in 2010. In 2013, he earned his law degree from the University of Kentucky College Of Law. He currently serves on the Lexington Philharmonic Board of Directors and has volunteered for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass.

Marie Hochstrasser, a fiber artist and art educator has a M.A. degree in Art Education /Textile Research from the University of Oregon and a B.A. from UCLA. She taught Art Education at Transylvania University and the University of Kentucky. She has exhibited her fiber work on both coasts, as well as regionally. She helped found the Fiber Guild of Lexington, Inc. and served several terms as President. She has served as President of the Lexington Art League, and of the Kentucky Guild of Artists & Craftsmen, as KY Representative to the Handweavers Guild of America and the American Craft Council/Southeast Region and on the Board of the KY Museum of Art and Craft, Louisville. She has written articles on Kentucky women artists for *Arts Across Kentucky* Magazine. Honors include Second Prize in the 1954 Young Americans Exhibition at America House in New York City, the Kentucky Crafted Emeritus Award, and the Rude Osolnik Award for her lifetime contribution to the advancement of Kentucky craft.

<u>Judy Sizemore</u>, an arts and educational consultant, has served as an arts education consultant for the Kentucky Arts Council, the Kentucky Department of Education, Kentucky Educational Television, and the Kentucky Historical Society. Her latest projects include developing an artist-in-residence program for Berea College's Promise Neighborhood Initiative, designing and coordinating lifelong learning in the arts programming for the City of Berea (the Festival of Learnshops and the Twelve Days of Christmas), and partnering with Joanna Hay on the development of a website and cell phone tour for Frankfort's Public Art Tour.

HONORARY FOUNDERS

Marlene Helm, of Nicholasville has a M.A. and Ph.D from the University of Kentucky and a B.A in Education from Kentucky State University. She most recently served as the Commissioner of Public Services for Lexington-Fayette County Urban Government. Marlene has held numerous positions in education, and state and city government throughout her career. Notable among them she was an Adron Doran Fellow at Morehead State University, Interim Dean for the College of Education at Eastern Kentucky University, and a visiting professor at Georgetown College. She served as the Secretary of Arts, Education and Humanities with the Commonwealth of Kentucky, having oversight of the Arts Council, Heritage Council, and Historical Society in that role. She served for many years in several positions with Fayette County Public Schools. Dr. Helm has received numerous awards and acknowledgements for leadership, education, and achievement in her fields of endeavor. She has an extensive history in board leadership with many central Kentucky charities and non-profits with a focus toward social issues, education, arts, and heritage.

Sherry K. Jelsma, graduated from Eastern High School in Middletown, KY, earned her B.A. at Harvard College, and M.A. from New York University. She was elected to three terms on the Jefferson County School Board from 1982–1991, when she left the board to serve under Governor Brereton Jones as Secretary of the Education, Arts, and Humanities Cabinet. Introduced to the Craft Marketing Program, she committed to strengthening it and its Craft Market. In 1997, she served as interim CEO of the Kentucky Center for the Arts. In 2002 and 2003, she served as Cultural Arts Liaison to Mayor Jerry Abramson of Louisville. Now retired, she lives in Shelby County in the 1830s home she and her husband restored.

Crit Luallen, a Frankfort Kentucky native, has been in public service for over 30 years and most recently served as Kentucky State Auditor from 2003 through 2011. Prior to public office, Ms. Luallen served seven years as Secretary of the Governor's Executive Cabinet. During her public service career, Ms. Luallen worked for six governors in the positions of State Budget Director, Secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, Secretary of the State Tourism Cabinet, Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of the Arts, and Special Assistant to the Governor. During her state government tenure, Ms. Luallen helped secure funding for the Governor's School for the Arts and the Kentucky History Center. She was also instrumental in the development of the Kentucky Craft Marketing Program. The significance of Ms. Luallen's work has been recognized with many honors including the 2011 recipient of the Livingston Taylor Ethics Award and Governing Magazine's Public Official of the Year 2009 Award. Ms. Luallen is a graduate of Centre College, where she serves on the Board of Trustees.

Kay Lowe-Masuhr, a lifelong native of Louisville, has a B.A. in Fine Arts and Education from the University of Kentucky. Her career started as a graphic artist with the local Public TV/ KET station, while an active leader in various national & southern communication associations. After completion of her M.A. in Fine Arts at Eastern Kentucky University, she left WKPC/Louisville to become the Creative Services Director for the Kentucky Department of Information, and later Director of Information and Creative Services, Kentucky Department of Tourism. She served as Deputy and then Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of the Arts, which oversaw the promotion of the state's artists and craftsmen. Kay served as Community Relations Director for the Louisville Free Public Library. She and her husband, Burkhard, are partners with Masuhr International Marketing, Inc., which markets and produces events for artists, tourism, equestrian and international trade clients and actively produces the Library's Authors Events.

Juanita Betz Peterson, received a B.S. in Health and Physical Education from Xavier University of Louisiana, and a M.A. in Physical Education for Women, with dance emphasis, from the University of Iowa. She taught at both secondary and middle schools in three states, and at universities in Louisiana and Illinois. In 1984, she became Arts Consultant for the Kentucky Department of Education and subsequently served as Arts and Cultural Outreach Consultant and Director of Textbook Services. From 1990 -2000, Juanita served as the Coordinator of Extramural Minority Programs, and Staff and Community Development Director, respectively for the University of Kentucky Medical Center Chancellor's Office. She has championed causes in the arts, education, preventive health care, and grief resolution. She and her late husband, Dr. Roy P. Peterson, jointly received numerous awards for their efforts. Juanita received the YWCA Women of Achievement Award and the Human Diversity Award-UK Chandler Medical Center. She is the founder and board member of the Dr. Roy P. Peterson Arts and Education Fund, Inc., a nonprofit that raises funds for arts and educational outreach for youth.