

# **KENTUCKY EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS ASSOCIATION**

## **CULTURAL ARTS and HERITAGE**

### **Program Overview**

The Cultural Arts and Heritage program area covers a wide and diverse subject 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 cultural diversity programs.
- Revive traditional art forms and continue teaching the 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.

#### **KEHA Cultural Arts Chairman 2018 to 2021**

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# **Cultural Arts and Heritage**

## **Program of Work**

### **2016 to 2019**

#### **General - applies each year**

**Situation:** In Kentucky, the arts have played a pivotal role in the development of our culture. Early household items that were essential elements in family survival have evolved into precious antiques and works of art. Skills that enabled our ancestors to survive in an isolated society have, in many instances, become almost forgotten techniques in our modern world. “Fine traditional and contemporary crafts define our cultural landscape as vividly as horses, basketball and our pathway to excellence in education. However, the arts in Kentucky today are as dynamic as the world itself, new disciplines and art forms are emerging, along with technologies and the new economy.” (The Kentucky Arts Council)

#### **Focus: Cultural and Heritage Arts and Crafts, Creative Writing and Reading**

**Goal:** KEHA members will have opportunities for expression and appreciation of the arts with a special emphasis on preserving our cultural heritage, writing and reading.

#### **Objectives:**

1. To promote the preservation of heritage art and craft skills
2. To develop creativity in art and craft skills
3. To encourage creativity in writing.
4. To encourage reading books representing a variety of interests.

#### **Activity Suggestions:**

Preservation of heritage art and craft skills:

1. Promote the study of Kentucky heritage skills.
2. Document and encourage the work of local craftsmen and crafts women.
3. Support and visit local museums that emphasize cultural and heritage skills.
4. Tour the Kentucky Artisan’s Center at Berea.

Creativity in art and craft skills:

1. Select one heritage craft each year and study the history related to the development of the skills needed and its ultimate use.
2. Encourage participation in the KEHA Cultural Arts Exhibit.
3. Encourage members to attend heritage skills camps where they can learn new and different skills.

Creativity in composition writing:

1. Encourage participation in the annual KEHA creative writing contest and give local county recognition to members who submit entries.
2. Publish, at the state level and with permission from the authors, the entries submitted each year.
3. Recognize winning authors and present awards for the KEHA Creative Writing Contest at the KEHA annual meeting.

Participate in the KEHA Reading Program.

1. Compile an annotated bibliography to document local authors from each county.
2. Continue the KEHA Reading Awards program which offers individual awards for reading books with topics in nine different categories. A KEHA Book List is published each year with new selections in each of the categories.
3. Present an exhibit of local Kentucky authors at your local county library or other prominent place.

**Contests:** The KEHA Cultural Arts and Heritage program includes several contests that are offered on an annual basis and form much of the structure of the statewide plan of work. **The KEHA Cultural Arts Exhibit**, which takes place at the KEHA annual meeting, features items submitted by members through an elimination process held in the counties and areas. There is a list of eligible categories representing different skills. A list of exhibit rules is also available. The state exhibit is judged and ribbons are awarded at the KEHA annual meeting each year.

**The KEHA Creative Writing Contests** in short stories, memoirs and poetry are also annual events for members and are submitted directly to the State Cultural Arts chairman. Awards are announced at the state meeting, and winners are recognized at the general sessions. With the author's permission, creative writing entries are published by KEHA in a booklet each year.

**A KEHA Reading Award** is given at the local or area level. A bookmark is available to members who participate in the KEHA Reading Award program. Counties or areas should recognize members who read at least one book from six of the nine categories in the KEHA book list. (Additional information is available in the booklist.)



## **2016 – 2019 KEHA Club Program**

### **Focus: Kentucky Covered Bridges**

**Situation:** Covered bridges in Kentucky once numbered in the hundreds. The 1800s marked the height of covered bridges in Kentucky and the United States. Over the years the bridges have fallen into disrepair, destroyed by vandals and from burning, especially during the Civil War and have been replaced by more modern structures. Today only 13 bridges remain in Kentucky counties.

### **Objectives:**

1. Encourage Homemakers to read books and other information related to Kentucky covered bridges.
2. Encourage Homemakers to become familiar with covered bridges in Kentucky and their location.
3. Promote and support programs for the conservation and preservation of Kentucky covered bridges.

### **Activities:**

1. Attend a trip to a Kentucky covered bridge or a tour of several bridges.
2. Support local museums and historic sites in Kentucky related to covered bridges.
3. Study Kentucky covered bridges as a major Homemaker program sometime during 2016-19.

## 2016 – 2017

### Focus: Basic Embroidery

#### Situation:

The process used to tailor, patch, mend and reinforce cloth fostered the development of sewing techniques, and the decorative possibilities of sewing led to the art of embroidery. **Embroidery** is the skill of decorating fabric or other materials with needle and thread or yarn. Embroidery may also incorporate other materials such as metal strips, pearls, beads, quills and sequins. Embroidery is most often used on crazy quilts, caps, hats, coats, blankets, dress shirts, denim, stockings and golf shirts.

The basic techniques or stitches on surviving examples of the earliest embroidery — chain stitch, buttonhole or blanket stitch, running stitch, satin stitch, cross stitch — remain the fundamental techniques of hand embroidery today. Embroidery is found worldwide and with items dated to the 5th century BC. Items were elaborately decorated as a sign of wealth and status. Embroidery is also a folk art, using materials accessible to non-professionals.

#### Objectives:

1. Learn basic embroidery techniques as a foundation for more advanced embroidery work.
2. Encourage enjoyment of embroidery techniques to decorate both handmade and purchased clothing and household items.
3. Encourage use of embroidery designs that use other materials such as beads, ribbons and special threads.
4. Encourage Homemakers to read accurate history of embroidery.
5. Promote programs for the conservation and preservation of antique embroidery items, including family items.

#### Activities:

1. Attend and participate in Homemaker club program focusing on Basic Embroidery.
2. Support local museums and historic sites with examples of antique embroidery items.
3. Attend programs or learn on own the conservation and preservation of embroidery items and other textiles.
4. Support local classes and programs where Basic Embroidery arts and Heritage skills are taught.

## 2017 – 2018

### Focus: Applique

**Situation:** Appliqué means applying a shape of fabric onto a background fabric to make a pleasing design. Appliqué may be done by hand or by machine. There are many ways to accomplish this. Appliqué is used in quilt designs and for embellishing apparel or other items for home decor.

**Objectives:**

1. Learn basic applique techniques as a foundation for more advanced applique work.
2. Encourage enjoyment of applique techniques to decorate both handmade and purchased clothing and household items.
3. Encourage use of creative applique designs developed by the crafter.
4. Encourage Homemakers to read accurate history and techniques for applique.
5. Promote programs for the conservation and preservation of antique applique items, including family items.

**Activities:**

1. Attend and participate in Homemaker club program focusing on Applique.
2. Support local museums and historic sites with examples of antique applique items.
3. Attend programs or learn on own the conservation and preservation of antique applique items and other textiles.
4. Support local classes and programs where basic applique arts and heritage skills are taught.

**2018 – 2019****Focus: Wool Rug Hooking**

**Situation: Wool Rug Hooking** is both an art and a craft born out of necessity for creating warm floor coverings. Hooked rugs can be traced back to the mid-1800s in North America. Rugs are made by pulling loops of wool fabric through a stiff woven base such as burlap, linen or rug warp. The loops are pulled through the backing material by using a crochet-type hook mounted in a handle (usually wood) for leverage, creating a sturdy, durable rug with a design. Wool strips ranging in size from 3/32 to 10/32 of an inch (2 to 8 mm) in width are often used to create hooked rugs or wall hangings. These precision strips are usually cut using a mechanical cloth cutter. The strips can also be hand-cut or torn. When using the hand-torn technique the rugs are usually done in a primitive motif. Modern equipment such as rotary cutters, mat and rulers are now an option for the wool rug hooker.

Designs for the rugs are often commercially produced and can be as complex as flowers or animals to as simple as geometrics.

**Objectives:**

1. Encourage Homemakers to learn more about traditional wool rug hooking as it relates to Kentucky heritage skills and become familiar with any family history as it relates to hooked rugs.
2. Promote programs for the conservation and preservation of antique wool hooked rugs.
3. Encourage Homemakers to read accurate history and techniques for wool rug hooking.
4. Encourage Homemakers to visit museums or historic sites around Kentucky and seek out exhibits of and other textiles.
5. Encourage Homemakers to have a conservationist approach to 100 percent wool items of their own or when “vintage” shopping by passing on such items to a wool crafter or teacher.

**Activities:**

1. Attend and participate in Homemaker club program focusing on wool rug hooking.
2. Support local museums, historic sites and other shows or exhibits with examples of wool hooked rugs.
3. Attend programs or learn on own the conservation and preservation of wool rugs, embroidery items and other textiles.
4. Support local classes and programs where wool rug hooking is taught along with other heritage skills.

**KEHA Cultural Arts Chairman 2018 to 2021**

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