



Center for Craft

Year in Review

2019-20



Letter from the Executive Director

Thank you for your confidence in the mission and programs of the Center for Craft. With your help, the Center remains committed to a vision of a thriving national craft field built upon a deep understanding of the history of craft, lively critical discourse, thoughtful making, and a strong next generation.

As you read through these pages, I am sure you will agree that this year was a very transformative year for the Center. We renovated our home in downtown Asheville, North Carolina, and reopened in November 2019 with an ambitious slate of work ahead. Three months later, we closed our doors in response to a pandemic that instilled fear and questioning in every aspect of our lives.

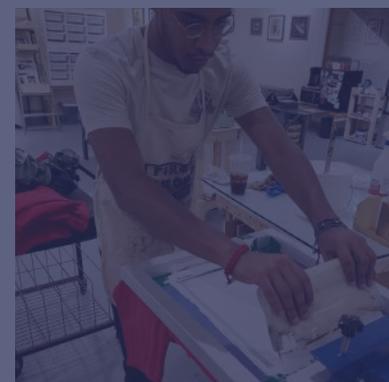
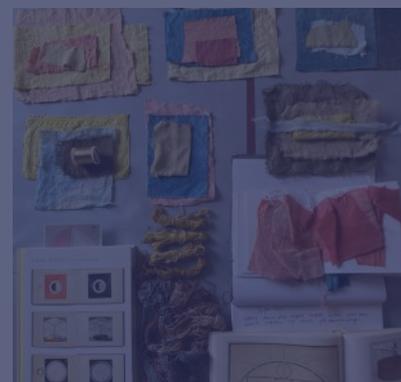
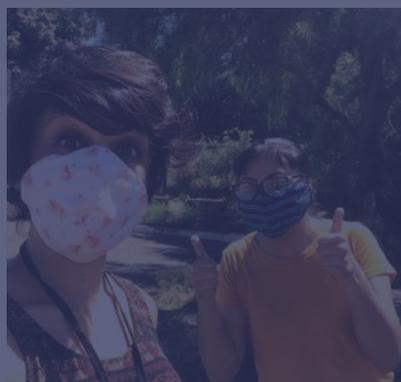
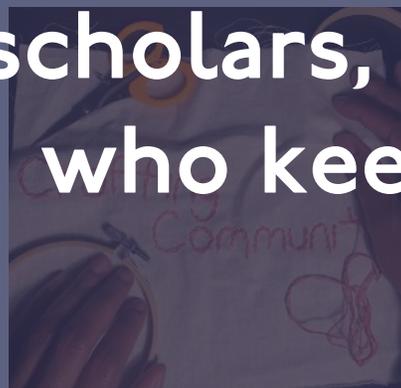
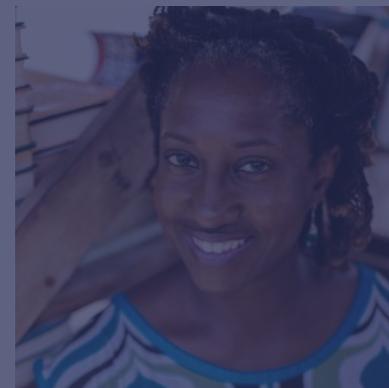
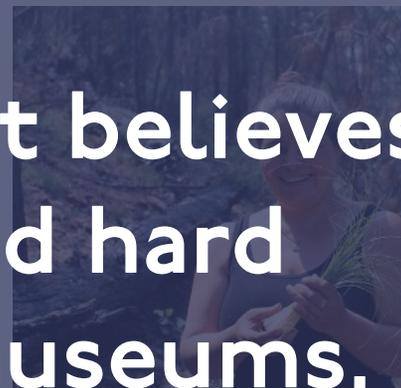
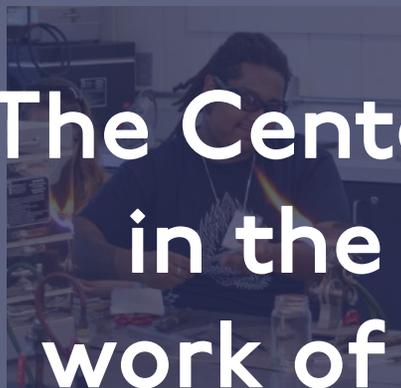
With much endurance and support from people like you, we swiftly pivoted where we could and shifted activities to be responsive to the demands. The Center launched the Craft Futures Fund to respond to immediate needs by funding craft education projects across the country. We redirected our resources to online programs and new ways of connecting to audiences.

At the heart of all we do are the artists and scholars who make the field so vibrant. As we approach our 25th Anniversary, we look forward to continuing our work together in 2021 with much optimism. Thank you for supporting us as we embrace new understandings, learn from our program participants, and reach for the possibilities.

Stephanie Moore
Executive Director



The Center for Craft believes
in the dreams and hard
work of makers, museums,
scholars, and the community,
who keep the field of craft
alive.





People

Investing in the next generation

Our robust national grants programs are providing support to emerging and established craft artists, scholars, educators, and organizations across the country. This year, we were able to increase the number of grants awarded to those economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

34

Individuals

8

Organizations

\$373,310

Awarded



Cannupa Hanska Luger, 2020 Curatorial Research Fund Artist Fellow. Photo by LeRoy Grafe Red Shawl Society Solidarity Action Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, New Mexico



Fay Elementary School Visit. Courtesy of Mingei International Museum.

That we can continue our long-term work with these young people during this challenging time is doubly important to them and their families.

- Rob Sidner, Executive Director and CEO
Mingei International Museum, 2020 Craft
Futures Fund Recipient. *Art of the People:
Student Craft Outreach Program*

Craft Futures Fund

The Craft Futures Fund was established in May 2020 to support craft communities throughout the United States and their creative responses to COVID-19.

35

Grants Awarded

\$5,000

Per Grant

One-time, unrestricted grants of \$5,000 were awarded between May and October 2020 to craft-based education projects that seed resilience, foster community, and amplify impact. The projects benefited some of our country's most underserved communities.

\$60,000

Total amount awarded
in May and June 2020

Windgate-Lamar Fellows

Now in its fifteenth year and permanently endowed, the Center for Craft's Windgate-Lamar Fellowship marks \$2.25 million awarded to 150 emerging craft artists nationwide. Ten graduating college seniors with exemplary skill in craft were each awarded \$15,000 — one of the largest awards offered nationally to art students to take their work to the next level.



Courtesy of Mac McComb

I am extremely grateful for this wonderful opportunity to continue my practice and look deeper into the ways in which craft practices can work in harmony with the natural world, including ourselves.

- Mac McComb, 2020 Windgate-Lamar Fellow



Courtesy of Sydnie Jimenez

This is the perfect opportunity for me to continue having a ceramics practice after undergrad and will let me travel to the country of my roots (Dominican Republic) to learn more about my family, history, culture, and self.

- Sydnie Jimenez, 2020 Windgate-Lamar Fellow



BA Harrington, 2020 Curatorial Research Fund Artist Fellow. March 2019 World Wood Day in Graz, Austria. Courtesy of World Wood Day Foundation

Craft Research Fund

A visionary program dedicated to supporting scholarly craft research in the United States, the Craft Research Fund is the Center's longest-running grant program. This past year, we awarded the first "Craft Research Fund Artist Fellowships" to two mid-career artists to expand artist based research.

13

Recipients

\$134,310

Awarded

Materials Based Research Grant

Three project teams received \$10,000 each to pursue mutually beneficial innovation in craft and STEM research, including the adaptation of knitting as a user-friendly fabrication approach for crafting on-skin interfaces, invent environmentally responsive embellishment methods for textile, and invent a "soft" screen made entirely from soft, natural, and ancient materials.

\$30,000

Awarded to 3
project teams



As a Native contemporary artist and craftsman of North America, I am motivated to reclaim a more accurate and globally relevant version of 21st century Indigenous culture.

- Cannupa Hanska Luger,
2020 Craft Research Fund Artist
Fellow



Place

Building a home for craft

In 2017, the *Building a Future for Craft* campaign launched to fortify the Center's core public programming, revitalize our historic 1912 building, and endow the Windgate-Lamar Fellowship program in perpetuity. Following an 8-month renovation of our historic building in downtown Asheville, we reopened our doors in November 2019 with two expanded galleries, additional classroom and conference spaces, a coworking space for the creative sector, optimal lecture and event spaces, and extraordinary new maker installations.

750

Grand Reopening
Attendees



Photo by David Huff

cowork

at **Center for Craft**

In November 2019, Cowork at Center for Craft launched, filling a niche of support for Asheville's creative sector by providing flexible workspace options, amenities, and a community gathering space.

Cowork supports the local creative economy by creating a physical workspace in downtown Asheville that puts makers and craftspeople side-by-side with other creative disciplines and resources needed to advance their practice.



Renting a desk at the cowork space has completely changed the way I operate my art career. Now I can easily separate my research and business time from my studio practice.

- Ursula Gullow, 2019 Coworker

43
Coworkers

15
Programs

294
Program Attendees



Courtesy of Ursula Gullow



Jennifer Crescullo, *Tourmaline Charger*. From *Craft Futures 2019*. Photo by David Huff.

Exhibitions

Free to the public, our galleries bring the latest cutting-edge exhibitions to the region and serve as a catalyst for discovery and learning about craft for all ages, backgrounds and interest levels.

6,372

Gallery Visitors

27

Artists Exhibited

3,499

Program Attendees

Bresler Family Gallery

Named in honor of the generous contributions of the Bresler Family and their commitment to the field of craft.

Craft Futures 2019

November 16 - February 29, 2020

To celebrate the *Building a Future for Craft* campaign and successful renovation of our building, ten local and national artists were invited to predict what craft might represent in eighty years time. Set in 2019, this exhibition presented multiple visions of craft's future.



Foyalemi (Fo) Wilson in collaboration with Jefreen M. Hayes, *The Allegory of the Fontainebleu (Dedicated to Ms. Augusta Savage)*. From *Craft Futures 2019*. Photo by David Huff.

John Cram Partner Gallery

In honor of arts advocate and luminary John Cram, we named the John Cram Parter Gallery in 2019 with the support of many generous donors whose lives were touched by his commitment to the arts.



Making Meaning Exhibition. Photo by David Huff.

Making Meaning November 16 - January 7, 2020

The inaugural exhibition *Making Meaning* in the John Cram Partner Gallery was curated by UNC Asheville and brought together fourteen UNC Asheville alumni whose work shifts perceptions of material, method and meaning, creating new vocabularies in clay, digital media, photography, printmaking, assemblage and textiles.



Jiha Moon, *Yellow*, 2019 (left) and Joshua Adams, *Cultural Suicide*, 2013 (right).
Photo by Black Box Photography.

Shapeshifters January 17 - March 29, 2020

Shapeshifters featured over forty works by Joshua Adams (Cherokee, NC) and Jiha Moon (Atlanta, GA). Included in folklore the world over, shapeshifters are beings or spirits that can physically transform into the shape of another. Similarly, masks can be used to transform the wearer, allowing the performer to become someone or something other than themselves. The mask becomes integral for Adams' and Moon's exploration of personal identity.

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Center for Craft



The Center for Craft advances the understanding of craft by encouraging and supporting research, critical dialogue, and professional development in the United States. The Center is the leading organization in the U.S. identifying and convening craft makers, curators, and researchers and matching them with resources and tools, and networks to advance their careers

Supported in part by the Windgate Foundation, John and Robyn Horn Foundation, Buncombe County Tourism Development Authority, UNC Asheville, Warren Wilson College, a grant from the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, and many generous donors from across the country.

For more information on our grant programs, grant recipients and exhibitions, as well as past and upcoming virtual events, please visit: www.centerforcraft.org



The
John & Robyn Horn
Foundation

Explore **ASHEVILLE**
Convention & Visitors Bureau



As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, the Center for Craft files an annual IRS Form 990 which includes information on our mission, programs, and finances and is made available to the general public.