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League of NH Craftsmen Announces Launch of Major Campaign to Raise Funds for New Education Center Headquarters and Programs

CONCORD — The League of NH Craftsmen Board of Trustees has announced plans to launch a capital campaign to raise a minimum of \$2,850,000 in funds for the League’s new craft education center and headquarters, which will be located on 49 South Main Street in Concord, opposite the Capitol Center for the Arts. The campaign, called *Craft Our Future: A Commitment to Handcrafted Excellence*, will provide funds for the League’s new facility, educational programming, technology, and endowment funding.

Beverly Wolf, President of the League’s Board of Trustees and *Craft Our Future* Campaign Chair, announced that the Campaign has already received \$1,674,191 in pledges and gifts to date, both from the sale of CDFA tax credits and from individual donors, including the League’s Board members, Campaign leaders and volunteers, and many juried members. More than 30 volunteers have helped to lead the effort, including Steve Duprey of Concord and Steve Ensign of New London as Leadership Gifts Co-Chairs, and Deborah Coffin of Springfield as Chair of the Juried Members Campaign.



L to R: Beverly Wolf, President of the League’s Board of Trustees and Craft Our Future Campaign Chair; Deborah Coffin, Chair of the Juried Members Campaign; Steve Ensign, Co-Chair of the Leadership Gifts; and Susie Lowe-Stockwell, Executive Director of the League of NH Craftsmen

“A focus of the League’s mission is to support and encourage the creation and preservation of fine craft,” said Ms. Wolf. “A vital aspect of this mission is to provide educational resources to our juried member craftsmen to help them refine and expand their skills, as well as educating the public about the value and importance of fine craft in our everyday lives. Our new education center and headquarters will help us carry out our mission with new energy and purpose.”

The new headquarters facility for the League will include approximately 8,000 square feet on the ground floor of a building being developed by Steve Duprey of The Duprey Companies. This facility will include an exhibition gallery, a Permanent Collection Museum, a library and archives room with technology and resources about craft, two demonstration and classroom areas, a multi-purpose room with a business resource center, and staff offices. The League plans to move into its new facility in July 2011.

According to the League’s Executive Director, Susie Lowe-Stockwell, “Our new education center and headquarters will enable the League to add something new to the local and statewide creative community. We will begin an ambitious roster of classes for the public, juried members, and students starting September 2011. The League has a permanent collection of fine craft spanning from the early 1920s to present day acquisitions that we can now display to the public. This Permanent Collection Museum will be a wonderful new attraction and help us raise public awareness and interest in fine craft.”

About the League of NH Craftsmen

Founded in 1932, the League of NH Craftsmen is one of the oldest and most prestigious craft organizations in the country. The League was formed during the years of the Depression to help New Hampshire craftspeople make a living during difficult financial times, through education and by building an audience and market for fine handmade craft. The League continues this mission today.

The League of NH Craftsmen’s mission is to encourage, nurture and promote the creation, use and preservation of fine contemporary and traditional craft through the inspiration and education of artists and the broader community. The League represents the *signature of excellence* in fine craft, through the work of its juried members, and its rigorous standards for self expression, vision, and quality craftsmanship.

Craft approved by the League's rigorous Standards Program is presented and sold through a network of eight retail galleries around the state, at the Annual Craftsmen's Fair, at its headquarters gallery, and at other League-sponsored events. Due to its high standards for quality craft, the League, through these very same programs, invites the public to interact with and learn about the fine craft produced in New Hampshire. In addition, the League supports community-based craft education programs throughout the state.

For additional information about the League's Capital Campaign, contact Susie Lowe-Stockwell at 603-224-3375 or email slowstoc@nhcrafts.org.

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