

## Triangle Weavers, Inc. Final Report for MAFA Grant

### Project Goals and Objectives

It was a year ago this past November that I received the phone call from one of our members about this wonderful old school house that had a room for rent. He thought it would be the perfect opportunity for Triangle Weavers to have our own space. It could be a place to store our equipment, to hold classes, to host study groups, to just gather and enjoy each other's company and share our knowledge and love of the fiber arts with each other and the community. What a fantasy. But thanks to many people's vision, enthusiasm, confidence, stubbornness, creativity and hard work that fantasy became a reality. In February, 2015 we opened the Triangle Fiber Arts Center (TFAC) and in November 2015, expanded to take over a 2<sup>nd</sup> room in the building.

Our primary goal for this project was to establish the Triangle Fiber Arts Center as a welcoming, working space for our members and the community to meet, study and share their fiber arts knowledge and skills. This would include furnishing the space, expanding our equipment/yarn inventory and increasing the educational opportunities that Triangle Weavers could offer.

The grant from MAFA was a tremendous help, not just financially, but also as a validation of our vision for moving Triangle Weavers forward. And we have had an unbelievable year.

### MEMBERSHIP

We have 46 **new** members this year. We currently have 142 members, which is a 33% increase over our membership last year at this time.

### Education – Classes

Prior to the establishment of our Triangle Fiber Arts Center, our guild was very limited in our ability to offer classes. We had only one beginning weaving class a year and one annual workshop with a nationally recognized teacher. We also tried to have one dyeing workshop each year.

Since the establishment of TFAC we have been able to successfully offer the following classes:

- Workshop in March 2015 – Garment Construction & Finishing Techniques with Daryl Lancaster
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> 6 week Beginning Weaving Class from April 2015 to May 2015
- Tapestry Class – 3 sessions, April, May and June, 2015
- Beginning Weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom, 2 sessions, July 18 & August 1, 2015
- Ply Split Braiding, Sept 23, 2015
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> Beginning Weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom, 2 sessions, September 12 & 26, 2015

- Introduction to Inkle Weaving, October 7, 2015
- Beyond Basics Floor Loom Weaving Class, 6 sessions, October – December, 2015
- A 3<sup>rd</sup> Beginning Weaving Class – Over & Under, October 23, 24 & 25, 2015
- Introduction to Wet Felting, October 29, 2015
- Embellished Felted Balls, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- Color Studies for Weavers – 2 Beginner Classes, meet monthly from September 2015 to May 2016
- Color Studies for Weavers – 1 Intermediate Class, meets monthly from September 2015 to May 2016

## Education – Study Groups

Prior to the establishment of TFAC, Triangle Weavers had 2 active study groups, both of them closed to new members. We had a Handwoven Study Group and a Weave Structure Study Group. This year we have added 4 additional study groups that meet at TFAC.

- Contemporary Textile Discussion Group
- Garment Talk
- An additional Handwoven Study Group
- Tapestry Study Group

## Education – Structured Learning

We have offered 2 opportunities for our members to come to TFAC and weave on our looms that were warped for a specific learning project. Members could take samples of what they had woven to have for documentation

- Sett Study
- Structure Study – There were 7 looms (both floor and table looms) warped with 7 different weave structures. They included, Bronson Lace, Monks Belt, Overshot, M's & O's, Summer & Winter, and 4 shaft and 8 shaft Twills. These looms were available during the months of August and September for members to come to TFAC and weave samples that they could keep for their documentation. They were also provided copies of the threading and treadling drafts for each structure.

## Education – TFAC Drop-Ins

Starting in March of 2015 our Triangle Fiber Arts Center was open and staffed on Tuesday and Saturday, from 1:00pm until 4:00pm. Members and non-members were invited to drop in to visit, browse the library, bring projects and/or questions, share show and tell items or just hang out. Sometimes the person staffing would lead an activity. Some of the activities included:

- A Knit-In to make premie hats for UNC Hospital. We provided the yarn, knitting needles, a pattern and knitting assistance.
- How to use PC Fiberworks.
- An Overshot discussion
- Making woven paper greeting cards
- Finishing Techniques

- Discussion of Transparencies
- Color Study with towels show and tell

## Outreach

All of our classes have been open to our members and to non-members. A local yarn shop recently started carrying rigid heddle looms and some weaving yarns and we partnered with them to offer 2 beginning rigid heddle classes. They promoted our classes in their shop and on their website. This resulted in 5 non-members taking our rigid heddle classes. All of our classes with the exception of the Split Ply Braiding, the Tapestry Class and the Color Study Classes have included non-members.

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, we hosted a Triangle Weavers Sale and Community Weave-In from 10:00am to 4:00pm. We had books, yarn, weaving tools and handwoven, handspun items for sale. In addition we had floor looms and a rigid heddle loom warped and available for people to try.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, we participated in the Elf Fair sponsored by the Carrboro Arts Center. They featured us in their publicity for the event and had us on the main stage of the center. We had handwoven items for sale and 2 floor looms for people to use. The looms were busy from open to close and we had many people sign up expressing interest in learning more about Triangle Weavers and in possible Children's Weaving Classes.

We have publicized our events on our public Facebook page and also on our website – triangleweavers.org. We have added an easy to read calendar of all of our events on our website. We also recently added the option to allow registration for classes, including payment, on our website. We are currently averaging between 300 and 350 unique visitors to our website each week.

And of course, in addition to all of the activities mentioned above, we have had our regular monthly meetings/programs that continue to draw 45 to 60 people each month.

Without a doubt, the establishment of the Triangle Fiber Arts Center has resulted in unprecedented growth and increased activity for Triangle Weavers. Thank you again for helping us with this ambitious and successful project.

## Advice for Others

1. Talk to other members to determine support for project idea.
2. Create a committee of responsible, committed people who can provide ideas, wisdom, and the willingness to work. You can't do it alone.
3. Depending on the scope and duration of the project, recognize that you probably won't get much weaving done during this time and be ok with that – otherwise you will get frustrated and resentful.
4. Keep your goals realistic but be willing to take risks. Signing a lease is scary, and that is why number 1 and 2 above are so important.
5. Keep good documentation, especially if you have to write a Final Report.

## Expenditures

Listed below is the Project Budget that was included in our grant proposal. The actual Start-Up expenditures have been filled in. These are in red. The Start-Up expenses were lower than we budgeted due to savvy shopping resulting in finding some bargains and postponing some yarn purchases as a result of yarn donations by many of our members.

The expenditures that were covered by the MAFA grant include a laptop, color printer, extra toner, pearl cotton yarn, a used Dorsett loom, a used Harrisville loom, shuttles and bobbins, and PC Fiberworks.

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<b>Triangle Fiber Arts Center (TFAC) Project Budget</b>			
<b>Projected Income</b>			
	<b>Income</b>		
Membership Dues Allocated for Project	\$ 1,500		
Donations	\$ 2,000		
Workshops and Classes	\$ 3,000		
Matching Funds from TW Checking Account	\$ 4,455		
<b>Grant Money from MAFA</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>		
<b>Total Projected Income</b>	<b>\$12,455</b>		
<b>Projected Expenses</b>			
		<b>Expenses (On Going)</b>	<b>Expenses (Start Up)</b>
Rent (12 months rent)		\$ 5,400	
Insurance		\$ 600	
<b>Projected Capital Expenditures</b>			
Furnishings	\$ 937.88		\$ 850
Bookcases	\$ 432.11		\$ 325
Carts	\$ 278.79		\$ 200
Tables and chairs	\$ 427.70		\$ 850
Storage Units	\$ 426.86		\$ 1,200
Electronics & Audio Visual Equipment	\$ 798.45		\$ 1,500
Weaving Software	\$ 130.00		\$ 130
Instructional Materials	\$ 257.18		\$ 200
Yarn, reeds, shuttles, etc	\$ 970.00		\$ 1,200
Subtotal	\$ 4658.97	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,455
<b>Total Projected Expenses</b>		<b>\$12,455</b>	



