

Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild Final Report to the MidAtlantic Fiber Association

“Fiber Arts Learning Opportunities for Youth and Adults”

March 2016-February 2017

Photos or video, with permission form: No photos or videos were taken during the class session. Posters depicting the fiber art craft being taught were displayed at the David A. Howe Public Library at which the classes were held. These are attached.

Description of project goals and/or objectives:

1. 4 classes will be conducted between March 1, 2016 and February 28, 2017.
2. A representative committee of the three project partners, appointed by the Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild (STFG) President will select from among those who propose a class.
3. The best use of Library Makerspace will be a consideration of selection, as will schedules and topic of the Allegany Arts Association (AAA) and the Library.
4. Timing of the classes will be in accordance with the Library space availability.
5. The target subpopulations will be adults or adults with a child and will not conflict with the Library's Children's Service or the AAA youth-targeted classes.
6. Promotion will be done for each class by the STFG and the Library and the AAA to the extent possible.
7. The STFG will be responsible for the measurement of outcomes.
8. There is a goal of enrolling up to 15 youth and/or adults in each of 4 classes for a total of 50-60 served in the project year.
9. Participant, teacher and partner impacts will be evaluated and shared.

Description of actual outcomes:

1. 5 classes were held, in that there was a waiting list for the penny rug class on January 28, 2017 and sufficient time and resources were available to schedule a second class in February.

2. Members of the STFG were asked to submit interest in conducting a class and a description of the topic. The proposals were evaluated by the Planning Committee of partners, which met on March 23, 2016. Classes were selected, as follows, from among 14 topics considered:
 - a. Natural Dyes and Ancient Art of Shibori
 - b. Button-making
 - c. Needle Felting
 - d. Traditional Penny Rugs
3. Although use of the Library's Makerspace equipment (notably a 3-D printer and sewing machines) was a consideration in planning, they were not used.
4. Contacts among partners as to scheduling and space availability went well.
5. Adult/youth participation was encouraged. Each teacher set both an age minimum and the maximum number of students for their class.
6. Promotion was done with posters and news releases (copies attached), as well as partner newsletters, the Library calendar and the Southern Tier System website.
7. A Participant Feedback Form was developed, but not universally used by teachers at the end of the class, in that there was some breakdown in communication related to obtaining feedback in this manner. The teachers who did not use the feedback forms at the time of their classes did distribute the forms after the fact and a number of responses were received later. A compilation of participant feedback is attached.
8. There were 9 participants for the Natural Dyes and Shibori Workshop; 5 for Button-making; 7 for Needlefelting and 20 (in 2 class sessions) for Traditional Penny Rugs for a total of 41, somewhat less than projected.
 - a. There were different perspectives on whether a nominal fee should be charged, in order to guard against those who sign up not showing up. This was not addressed in the proposal and was left up to the individual teacher, except that the planning group agreed that no more than \$5 per person was to be charged. For one class there was a \$3 supply charge and for another a \$5 charge. There was no charge for the remaining 3 classes.

9. The planners and teachers group met at project's end and concluded the following:

- The Library did an exceptional job of providing the best space possible to meet the needs of the classes. One particular room, the Monday Club Room was popular for its size, lighting and furnishing.
- The only facility draw back was for the water supply/location for dying.
- The Library staff were very good about signing up participants and even took it upon themselves to contact those who had signed up to remind them of the upcoming class.
- Publicity was fine, as far as it went, but more would be better and if the partnership stays intact we should discuss this further.
- Midway, it was decided that one of the supplies for each class should be one or two books to be donated to the library, with credit to MAFA and STFG on a bookplate, so that the public will have access to this reference material.
- It was noted that some classes, such as sewing, need to involve a number of sessions and this should be considered in the future.
- The partnership still needs to work out where supplies purchased under this grant should be stored (Library or STFG) and the "rules" for accessing them in the future.
- Teachers received very positive feedback from participants.
- All in all, the teachers and planning partners felt that this was a very worthwhile project and one that the partners would like to continue.

Original vs actual budget, with an explanation of any differences:

Item	Original	Actual	Difference: Explanation
Teacher Stipends (\$50 per class)	\$500	\$350	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 5 instead of 4 classes. 2. 3 of 5 classes had only 1 teacher. 3. 3 classes @ \$50 per class and 2 classes @\$100 per class = \$350
Equipment and Supplies	\$500	\$259.43	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natural Dyes and Shibori Supplies: \$140.07 2. Traditional Penny Rug Supplies: \$57.21 3. Penny Rug Book: \$12.27 4. Needlefelting Books (2): \$ 37.37 5. The Button Maker Book: \$12.51
TOTALS	\$1,000	\$609.43	<p>Received from MAFA: \$500 Due from MAFA: \$109.43</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overestimated costs of equipment and supplies 2. Spent somewhat less due to fees charged in 2 classes to cover some or all of the supply costs.
IN KIND	\$530	\$400	<p>Library staff time was supplied, as projected. Supplies were not donated by partners, as projected: determined not to be needed.</p>

Advice for other project directors:

1. Collaboration is wonderful and we certainly had great input from all concerned. People pitched in for teaching, publicity and the like but we did not identify a project director who could attend to details such as being sure evaluation forms were distributed and photos were taken, as examples.
2. Initial concern over submitting a grant application when we hadn't yet specified who would teach and what the topics would be swiftly went away because we (as suspected) did have a number of excellent teachers who volunteered, so we ended up with a wealth of topics and teachers to choose from. A lesson learned, however, is that this level of response may not always be the case and it would be best to get instruction particulars pinned down before the adventure begins.
3. Participants, planners and teachers, alike expressed a need for more time in a session or more sessions or more in-depth study of certain of the crafts taught. Our project offered 2-3 hour single classes for each topic. Other projects may want to offer more expansive study of at least some of the crafts taught.
4. This is an observation that is quite specific but hopefully worth mentioning. 3-D printing technology and its applicability to some of the fiber arts is quite exciting for some. However, it is also a technology that many are unfamiliar with, so identifying a willing expert, perhaps at a local college or university, might be worth considering as part of a plan to incorporate this or other technology, such as computer design.

Participant Feedback

Fiber Arts Class Held on _____ Craft Type: _____

Please rate 1 through 5, with 1 being the least positive and 5 being the most positive.

- I learned what I hoped to learn at this class: _____
- I had an enjoyable experience: _____
- The teachers were knowledgeable about their craft: _____
- The teachers were successful in teaching students about this craft: _____
- There was enough time for both learning and applying what was learned: _____
- The space, equipment and supplies provided met the needs of the class: _____
- I have interest in continuing to learn the skills of this craft: _____
(If interested in learning more, please provide your name and contact information below).
- Handouts, if any will be helpful to me in the future: _____

Please comment on or make suggestions about the this learning experience:

Please list any types of fiber art classes that you recommend be offered in the future:

Please check if you would like more information about one or more of the partners in this project:

_____ Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild

_____ Allegany Arts Association

_____ Howe Public Library

If one or more is checked, please give us your contact information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

THANK YOU

Participant feedback

Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild MAFA Grant Project

<u>Penny Rugs:</u>	<u>Learning</u>	<u>Enjoyable</u>	<u>Teacher knowledge</u>	<u>Teacher success</u>	<u>Enough time</u>	<u>Enough supplied</u>	<u>Future Int'est</u>
Peggy Ann	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Cynthia	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Elaine	5	5	5	5	5	5	4

Comments:

Suggestions:

Another class with patterns and maybe additional stitches to learn

I enjoyed the class. It inspired me to pursue not only making penny wool projects but wool needle felting and other fabric arts. Betsy is a very agreeable teacher and encourages greatly.

I didn't know anything about penny rugs and found the history interesting. I also enjoyed all the samples shown and the reference books. I want to make more but there is only so much time.

List any other fiber arts you recommend for future classes:

Weaving, rug braiding, doll making

I personally would be interested in a knitting or crochet class. An embroidery class might be of interest. I don't think some of the women knew hand embroidery

I don't know much about fiber arts but would like to learn to use a thimble. The wool is so thick a thimble is needed but seems very awkward

More information about the partners?

Allegany Arts Association and the Howe Public Library

I am familiar with all of them

Introduction to Needlefelting



NEEDLEFELTING

MAKERSPACE WORKSHOP

Chris Haag

July 26 6:30-8:00 pm

David A. Howe Library

Learn “hands on” wool felting techniques, including the amazing electric needle felting machine. \$3 materials fee, includes one completed project (dryer ball, pin cushion or flower), a felting needle and foam pad.

Space is limited. 12 - adult. Call 585-593-3410 to register.

NATURAL DYES ON SILK SCARVES



MAKERSPACE WORKSHOP DEBBIE MACCREA & CAROL WOOD MAY 21, 2016 • DAVID A HOWE LIBRARY

NATURAL DYES & THE ANCIENT ART OF SHIBORI

Fold, bind, tie and clamp a silk scarf for patterns based on historic techniques, using indigo, cochineal & other materials for rich color. Supported by the Mid Atlantic Fiber Association and the Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild.

PREREGISTER
\$5 INCLUDES
DYES & SCARF

CALL 585-593-3410 for more information or
to register. Class size is limited.

NEWS RELEASE

March 29, 2016

The Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild, which has a home base in Wellsville at the Trinity Lutheran Church is partnering with the David A. Howe Public Library and the Allegany Arts Association to provide fiber arts learning opportunities for area youth and adults.

Four classes will be held at the Howe Public Library, as part of its Makerspace Project, on a Saturday morning during the months of May, July, September and December 2016, beginning with “Natural Dyes on Silk Scarves” to be held for two and one half hours beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 21st. The class is open to the public. A minimum age for participants is 16. Preregistration is required and should be done by calling . A nominal fee will be charged for this workshop in the amount of \$5 per participant. Dyes and a scarf are included.

Class instructors for the “Natural Dyes on Silk Scarves” class are Debbie MacCrea and Carol Wood, Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild members who have considerable knowledge about natural dyes and dying techniques, as well as significant teaching experience. This is an excellent opportunity to learn from instructors with a high degree of expertise.

Each class will be publicized via the event calendars and newsletters of each partner, in the local media, through the Southern Tier Library System and by distributing posters. Sign-up for those interested in attending will be at and through the David A. Howe Library. Future planned workshops are Needle Felting in July with Chris Haag, Penny Rugs in September with Betsey Orlando and Button Making in November with Cathy Powers.

This project is made possible due to a grant award of \$1,000 from the MidAtlantic Fiber Association (MAFA). The award will cover 2/3 of project expenses, with the balance being provided by the partners through in-kind donations.

The local Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild is a member of MAFA, an association which is comprised of approximately 50 guilds located in 9 states and the District of Columbia. One way in which MAFA benefits its members is through a grant program which supports projects that address MAFA objectives among which is the promotion of education in the fiber arts.

News Release

July, 2016

The Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild, in conjunction with its partners the David A. Howe Public Library and the Allegany Arts Association has announced the scheduling of the second in its series of public classes in various fiber arts. The class, entitled “An Introduction to Needle Felting” is being taught by an expert in this craft, Christine Haag of Houghton, NY.

The Introduction to Needle Felting class will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26th at the David A. Howe Public Library in Wellsville. Students will learn hands-on techniques using a single felting needle to shape wool fiber into a pin or magnet. Students will also see a demonstration of hand-held and stationary electric felting machines and will take home one completed project, a felting needle and the working surface foam piece.

The class is limited to a maximum of 25 students, ages 12 to adult. Parent and child or other adult and youth joint participation is encouraged. Pre-registration is required. Those interested in attending this class should contact the library by phone at _____, in person or via email at _____ to register.

This class is provided at no cost other than a \$3 per person charge for materials, made possible by the Mid Atlantic Fiber Arts Guild grant program which promotes fiber arts education by financially supporting quality programs such as this.

News Release

October, 2016

The Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild, in conjunction with its partners the David A. Howe Public Library and the Allegany Arts Association are sponsoring a class entitled “Woven and Knitted Buttons”, the third in its series of public classes in various fiber arts. The class will be held from 10:00 a.m. p.m. to Noon on Saturday, November 12th at the David A. Howe Public Library in Wellsville.

Students will learn techniques for creating woven and knitted buttons that can complement any sewing, knitting or weaving project or to embellish any article needing a facelift. Supplies will be provided.

This class is offered at no cost, made possible by the Mid Atlantic Fiber Arts Guild grant program which promotes fiber arts education by financially supporting quality programs such as this. The “Woven and Knitted Buttons” class is being taught by an expert in this craft, Catherine Powers of Alfred, NY; assisted by Carlyn Yanda, also of Alfred.

The class size will be limited to 12 students. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied and assisted by a responsible adult. Joint participation of parents/adults and youth is encouraged.

Pre-registration is required. Those interested in attending this class should contact the library by phone at _____, in person or via email at _____ to register. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and should only be made if attendance is assured.

News Release

January 2017

The Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild, in conjunction with its partners the David A. Howe Public Library and the Allegany Arts Association are sponsoring a class entitled "Traditional Penny Rugs", the third in its series of public classes in various fiber arts. The class will be held from 10:00 a.m. p.m. to Noon on Saturday, January 28, 2017 at the David A. Howe Public Library in Wellsville. A snow date has been set for February 11, 2017.

Students will learn from an expert instructor, Betsy Orlando, a member of the Southern Tier Fiberarts Guild, Allegany Arts Association and Allegany Artisan to design and create, primarily from felt and yarn, wool applique as art and craft. All materials are provided.

This class is offered at no cost, made possible by the Mid Atlantic Fiber Arts Guild grant program which promotes fiber arts education by financially supporting quality programs such as this.

Students for this class must be age 12 to adult. Joint participation of parents/adults and youth is encouraged.

Pre-registration is required. Those interested in attending this class should contact the library by phone at _____, in person or via email at _____ to register. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and should only be made if attendance is assured.