

Education Committee Report

Committee Members: Tom Irven (chair), Teresa Brittain, Chad Alice Hagen, Deneece Harrell, Cheryl Munyan, Ruth Rutkowsky, Susan Spies, Janet Wiseman (staff), Valerie Berlage (staff), Elizabeth Walton (staff), Amy Brandenburg (board rep)

Application Subcommittee (Teresa Brittain, chair)

47 prospective guild members attended application workshops in 2025. Of these, 26 had their applications reviewed in advance by the application subcommittee and 14 were paired with craft media advisors (Guild members in the same or similar media who help the applicants choose work to submit and suggest improvements that might be made to those pieces).

An additional ten applicants did not attend a workshop but were referred to the subcommittee by Laura Lanier. Of these, eight were paired with craft media advisors and five had their applications reviewed by the mentoring subcommittee.

Of the 39 new members accepted into the Guild in 2025, 25 attended an application workshop and 16 received additional support (either craft media advising or application review).

Demonstration Subcommittee (Thomas Irven, interim chair)

In 2025: 42 guild members applied to provide educational demonstrations. This number down significantly from 2024, when 64 members demonstrated. Thanks to the members who provide this valuable programming! Please encourage your fellow members to apply to be demonstrators.

Educational Outreach Subcommittee (no current chair)

The primary task of this group is organizing and recruiting volunteers for the educational outreach booth at the Guild Fairs. Heidi Bleacher chaired the subcommittee through the October 2025 fair.

Education Centers (Deneece Harrell, chair)

Berea College Student Crafts was the only education center due for a site visit in 2025. Teresa Brittain did the visit and submitted a report to the education committee.

Emerging Artists (Susan Spies and Elizabeth Walton, chairs)

The first fully juried emerging artist cohort was in Fall 2025. The jurying was conducted by Standards Committee member Erica Stankwytch Baily and an independent juror from outside the Guild. The jury intentionally includes an outside juror as part of the Guild's outreach efforts to improve networking across the craft community.

We received 55 applications for six spots, from seven of the nine state regions. The six early-career artists who were selected participated in the October 2025 Guild Fair, with booths on the arena level. Feedback was very positive from participants, other Guild members, and fair attendees. To learn more about the selected artists and the 2025 jurors, visit the SHCG website at <https://southernhighlandguild.org/news-stories/emerging-artist-program/>.

For 2026, there will be two cohorts, one for each Guild Fair, with 10 artists each.