

Kentucky Weaver

Mission

The Little Loomhouse will continue the legacy of Lou Tate in the education of the history of weaving and textile arts through diverse programs, residencies and community partnerships that ensure the preservation of the Little Loomhouse cabins

Vision

The Little Loomhouse is a national leader in supporting the history and practice of weaving, demonstrating how the art form builds community, while promoting and preserving the history of the Little Loomhouse.

Values

The Little Loomhouse values diversity, inclusion, and equity as an organization, as an employer, and as a host to artists and communities from the region. The Foundation serves students of all ages and cultures who want to learn about the history and practice of weaving, textile, fiber, and folk arts. The Foundation and its Board are deeply committed to providing diverse, high-quality programming and meaningful experiences that engage and enrich the community and expand our shared knowledge of other cultures, values, and perspectives.

THIS IS US...

Board of Directors

Jordan Witherspoon, President

Maria Tinnell, Vice President

Erin Cruz, Secretary

Manuela Escobar

Lisa Cain

Jenna Richards

Heidi Stoll

Rosa Roma

Susan Rhema, Member at Large

Staff

Michelle Amos, Executive Director

Norma Drish, Operations Manager

Megan Stewart, Studio Manager

Monroe Bays, Education Coordinator

Open:

Tues – Fri 10am -3pm
Saturday 11am – 4pm



Fall 2026

The Lou Tate Gallery Presents...



A Common Thread

September 12 – October 17

A Common Thread was curated by Little Loomhouse Summer Archives Intern and 2027 B. A. Candidate in History and Art History, Griffin Harding. This new exhibit highlights the ways in which textile arts have had importance and influence globally, accessories including bags, hats, scarves, and more from around the world and right here in Kentucky. The exhibit aims to explore the ways in which we can find connection through design and how textile designs have manifested in other parts of the world.

Opening Reception is September 12 from 2-4pm.
It is free and open to the public.

Holiday in the Woods

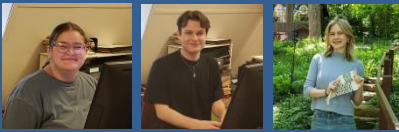


Saturday, November 7th, 6pm to 9pm

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Join us for an evening of art, shopping, and merriment at an Open House Event featuring works by local artists. Park at DeSales High School, 425 W. Kenwood Drive, and ride the free shuttle up Kenwood Hill to the Little Loomhouse. This event is free and open to the public!

Archives Interns



Allyson Dawahare, Summer '26
Griffin Harding, Summer '26
Eddie Hickerson, Spring '26

The Little Loomhouse welcomed three Archives Interns this year to help digitize our collection based on the plan created by Kilberg Archival Services. In the spring, Kentucky College of Art and Design (KyCAD) B.F.A. candidate, Eddie Hickerson digitized the Ada Dietz collection. Dietz's work was the inspiration for Hickerson's B.F.A. thesis.

Allyson Dawahare and Griffin Harding followed with summer internships. Dawahare is a 2027 B.A. candidate in Classical Archeology, Historic Preservation, with a minor in Museum Studies at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA. She has previously worked in archives and collections at Ashland, The Henry Clay Estate, Lexington, KY, Fredericksburg Area Museum, Fredericksburg, VA, and was also the summer archives intern for Shelbyville Historical Society, Shelbyville, KY. Dawahare scanned and uploaded the Kentucky Weaver Newsletter collection.

Griffin Harding is a 2027 B.A. candidate in History and Art History at the University of Louisville. In addition to digitizing the Rose Pero collection, Harding curated A Common Thread exhibition opening September 12th.

Looking to fall, the Loomhouse welcomed Laurel Hendricks. Hendricks holds a B. A. in Art History and Museum Studies Interdisciplinary from Lawrence University, Appleton, WI and a M. A. in History of Art, Medieval Art and Medievalism from University of York, York, England.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Little Loomhouse Community,

We are breaking with tradition a bit for me to write the letter in this edition of the Kentucky Weaver from the Little Loomhouse. I asked our esteemed President, Jordan Witherspoon, if I could do so to talk to you about our archives work. As the person who has worked closely with all aspects of the project, "It has been a long time coming", is a great expression to open with. There are several people who came before our current leadership that wanted to see the day when our archives were better organized, digitized, and made publicly searchable. Some of these people include Alice Davidson, Barbara Terranova, Stefanie Buzan, Rosemary McCandless, and Leslie Clements. The latter three worked to have a Conservation Assessment (CAP Report) of the Little Loomhouse done in 2014 by Period Architect Christopher Quirk. Twelve-years later we have followed through with recommendations in that report, along with the shared vision of so many who have left their mark here. **We have initially funded this project completely from the generosity of Little Loomhouse donors.** We cannot thank you enough for helping us get this far. We would also like to thank Kilberg Archival Services for an incredible plan that has helped to guide us in this work and provided excellent instruction for our archives interns. And Atwell Enterprise Inc for installing a secondary cooling system.

To know and understand your past helps inform your present and future. For many years, and like so many other small house museums, the Little Loomhouse lacked the resources to easily access our collection. Often the collection had to fall to lower priorities as immediate needs to the buildings, programs, and staff took precedence. Since going through this process over the last couple years, I've learned so much. For example, this newsletter has had several different names. It stayed in consistent production since our founder started it in 1948 and was originally called *Kentucky Weaver*. During the last few years of Lou Tate's life it was an untitled newsletter sent out as a multipage letter. Following Tate's death it was called, *What's Happening*, then *Newsletter & Update of the Lou Tate Foundation*, *Lou Tate Foundation Inc Newsletter*, and from 1986-89 the original *Kentucky Weaver* title was brought back before being called *The Kentucky Weaver*. In this issue we are bringing back the original *Kentucky Weaver* title as a nod to a better understanding of our past.

We still have a long way to go, and as of August 12th we have been awarded the funds needed to complete the bulk of this work through an **Institute of Museums and Library Services Inspire Grant for Small Museums**. This \$20,778 grant will help us organize, digitize, and improve the storage of our collection. As a part of this process Kilberg Archival Services will conduct a preservation assessment on our collection and design custom housing for our historic draft collection (1780s-1970s), one of the largest weaving draft collections in the U.S. We anticipate this project will have a significant contribution to the national discourse on textile arts, American hand weaving, and greater representation of Kentuckians and working-class creators.

In gratitude,
Michelle Amos

Summerworks Interns 2026



Ryan Dallum & Rose Paw

The Little Loomhouse welcomed back Ryan Dallum and first year Summerworks Intern, Ywa Hay Blunt Paw (Rose). You may recall from previous newsletters Ryan originally participated in a field trip to the Little Loomhouse, then later as student in the programs we offer annually at Pleasure Ridge Park High School. The Jefferson County Public School has a textile arts studio, which the Loomhouse helped to advise. Ryan is now going into her junior year at Murray State University.

Ywa Hay Blunt Paw (Rose) applied to our internship program in part because she has traditional weavers in her family. They come from the Karen People of Burma (Myanmar). Rose gave a brief talk at our June Board of Directors meeting to show us examples of current trends in Karen weaving, and interpret items in the Little Loomhouse collection. Rose will continue her internship this fall semester during her senior year at Central High School.

Introducing Brooke L. McGee



Hello, my name is Brooke McGee, and I am a first-year Master of Science in Social Work (MSSW) student at the University of Louisville. I am excited to begin my practicum experience here at Little Loomhouse and look forward to working with the community.

Upcoming Classes

Please consult our website littleloomhouse.org/classes-and-upcoming-events for the most up-to-date schedule and to register.



2-Hour Weaving Classes, 6 yrs to adults

Designed for the whole family or the individual. Sessions are listed on the website under upcoming classes. Great out-of-school class for fall and winter break.



Fall Needle Felt Classes with Norma Drish

Come spend a relaxing afternoon needle felting with a patient, friendly, and knowledgeable instructor. One Needle Felt Class is offered each month January – May. Some classes are 2D and some classes are 3D.



Spinning Classes with Jenna Richards

Learn the ancient art of spinning wool into yarn using a drop spindle or wheel. This beginner-friendly workshop introduces the basics of fiber preparation, drafting and spinning techniques.



Plaid Weaving Class, 12 yrs to adults

Learn to weave plaid, or spend time practicing your plaid weaving skills. Choose from Rob Roy, Black Watch, McLeod, Napier, Royal Stewart, and More patterns. Beginners and intermediate weavers welcome. All supplies included.



Fall Rag Runner Class

Come spend a relaxing afternoon at the Little Loomhouse weaving a rag runner on a prepared loom. Choose from a wide variety of colors to weave with. Absolute beginners are welcome in this class taught by a patient instructor. Class is designed for ages 12 and up. Cost is \$35 per person.

Join Us for these Off-site Programs



Come visit the Little Loomhouse fiber arts table at the **Republic Bank Performance Village at the St. James Court Art Show**, (right behind the food booths on Magnolia St.), on **Saturday, Oct 3rd from 11am to 12:30pm.** We will be offering free fiber arts make and take activities thanks to the generosity of Fund for the Arts and its donors and partners.



Please join us for the **31st Annual Weaving History Conference**, taking place virtually on Zoom, October 19–21, 2026. Little Loomhouse Executive Director will be presenting on our archives, what to expect and when. To learn more about the conference and register, go to

<https://tiartscenter.org/weaving-history-conference/>

Update from Megan Stewart Studio Manager



The Little Loomhouse intends to increase its capability to deliver a more diverse range of advanced classes. So this summer Studio Manager Megan Stewart has spent the latter part of August studying at The Weaver's Croft in Marshfield, VT funded in part by a South Arts Professional Development Grant. Her first project was a wool singles throw, then she wove *Gertrude's Fancy*, a pattern from Lou Tate and finished up with linen and wove a piece of fine linsey woolsey. Her final project was wool tweed. Megan will return in mid-September to work with Little Loomhouse staff to diversify our class offerings and re-evaluate our off-site menu offerings.

Congratulations to Layah Hodges!



As it says on our website, "The strength of the Little Loomhouse lies in its people. We are immensely proud of the work they do here, but also of the work they do outside of the Loomhouse." Congratulations to our former Board of Directors Vice-President (2024-2026), Layah Hodges for graduation with her Bachelor of Arts from Bellarmine University this year. She is pictured here with board member, Manuela Escobar, who was there to celebrate with her.

Building Preservation Updates



The Little Loomhouse would like to thank

The Honorable Order of the Kentucky Colonels, our members, donors, partners, and **Atwell Enterprises Inc** for the beautiful, new custom designed windows for Top House weaving studio. As many of you know, we have been fundraising to replace these windows because the previous were in very poor condition. Now that the windows have been installed we are focusing our attention to creating a dye studio in this area of the cabin.



Notice something bright? Thank you to our members, donors, and Atwell Enterprises for the new outdoor lighting. We feel much safer finding our cars at night.

Sheep & Fiber to Natural Dye



This past May, Little Loomhouse Studio Manager, Megan Stewart, Boardmember, Heidi Stoll, Docent, Lisa Cain, and Operations Manager, Norma Drish attended the Lexington, KY Sheep & Fiber Festival. Aside from cuddling with rabbits, the crew purchased plants for our new raised bed dye garden.

Support the Little Loomhouse



visit

<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards> and sign up today!

Patrons

\$500 - \$999

SOUTH ARTS

SouthArts

Stefanie & Tony Buzan

Dennis Carrithers

Dale & Joanna Chesnut

Manuela & Enrique Escobar

Leslie Clements & Chris Kincaid

Kristie & Sallie Goodwin

Scott Grant

Rachel Roarx

Amy Sloboda

Martha K Spruitenburg

Sponsors

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Carol Pye

Paula Staschak

Anita Streeter

Maria Tinnell

Business Level

\$100-\$249

Robin Amsbary

Tom & Susie Atwell

John Begley

Donna & Doug Connery

Heritage Print Shop

Victor & Patricia Hiltz

Barry Kellond

Carolyn Kupper

Tina Lavender

Lexi Locke

Louisville Artea Fiber & Textile

Artists (LAFTA)

Sally & Orville Moss

Marilyn Motsch

Barbara Nichols

Ronald Pait

Ann Ramser

Susan Rhema

Jodi Smiley

Heidi Stoll

Susan H. Wilburn

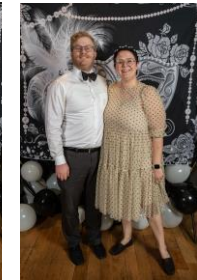
Susan & Mark Winter

Allison Vincent

Sue Vislisl

Stephen Zink

Hill Top Honky Tonk Masquerade 2026



The Loomhouse Would Like to Thank our Partners!

We couldn't do our work without them.

Founders Gold Level

\$10,000 - \$24,999



Founders Silver Level

\$5,000 - \$9,999



John Wakeley Purple

Founders Bronze Level

\$4,999 - \$1,000



Taylor Blvd

Little Loomhouse Members

Joel Schwartz



328 Kenwood Hill Rd.

Louisville, KY 40214

PO Box 9124

Louisville, KY 40209

(502) 367-4792

Littleloomhouse.org



Join Us!

Membership available!



Membership Punch Cards.

Good for mini-weaving lessons or five inches of yardage per punch.

Individual membership includes six punches or 30 inches of woven yardage. Family membership includes twelve punches or 60 inches of woven yardage.

The Little Loomhouse membership is available on our website at <https://www.littleloomhouse.org/membership>. Memberships help support our mission to continue the legacy of founder Lou Tate by ensuring the preservation of The Little Loomhouse landmark cabins and by educating students of all ages about the history of weaving and textile arts through diverse programs, residencies, and community partnerships. We couldn't do this work without our community. Membership comes with several perks, including: Printed Newsletter; Mini-Weavings Punch Card; Invitation to the Annual Members Meeting; Free Admission for tours; 10% Discount on Loomhouse Weaving Supplies & Equipment; 10% Discount on Loomhouse items in the Gift Shop; 10% Discount on Classes, Camps, & Birthday Parties.