

The Kentucky Weaver from

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...

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Megan Stewart, Studio Manager

Open:

Tues – Fri 10am -3pm

Saturday 11am – 4pm



Fall 2025

The Lou Tate Gallery Presents...



WOVEN NARRATIVES

Sept 6 - Oct 11 Gallery Hours Tues - Sat 11am-3pm

Exhibition is Free & Open to the Public

Woven Narratives explores weaving as both craft and a powerful symbol of identity, memory, and connection. Exhibiting Artists include: Victoria Christensen, Ella Clemons, Wendy Dunleavy, Suzanne Edds, Jordan Lienhoop, Irene Mudd, Berkley Saltsman, Amy Sloboda, and Angelica Smith from Kentucky; Annalee Hanson from Mississippi, Pamela Palma from North Carolina, Sam Seuryneck Griffith from Detroit, MI, and Paul Wilson from Salt Lake City, UT.

Receptions are FREE and open to the public.

Opening Reception: Saturday, Sept 6, 2-4pm

Closing Reception: Saturday, Oct 11, 2-4pm

Holiday in the Woods



Saturday, November 1st, 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!

In Memorial



Raymond Joseph Randles
April 20, 1936 – November 16, 2022

Raymond Randles retired from years of work at the Printing House for the Blind. His wife Jean, who passed in 2018, taught at the Kentucky School for the Blind and was instrumental in the education program at the Little Loomhouse. The two of them were beloved long-time members. We have received a legacy gift from the Randles estate this year and have been using it for reparation projects, including new ADA compliant walkpaths, digitizing archives, repairs to Top House and more. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the gift and the joy of knowing the Randles.



William "Bill" Bousman
March 2nd, 1941 – April 21, 2025

Bill Bousman was the great nephew of our founder, Lou Tate. He was faithful member, rejoining in her honor each year. Bousman graduated from Cornell University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering in 1964 and received his S.M. in Aeronautics from MIT in 1966. Bousman dedicated more than 40 years of his career to analyzing and understanding critically important rotary-wing aeromechanics phenomena for the US Army and NASA. He passed away near his home in Menlo Park, California. His sweet notes that came with his membership renewal will be missed.

Letter from the President

Dear Friends of the Little Loomhouse,

As the leaves begin to turn and the air grows crisp, we find ourselves in a season of both reflection and renewal. For us, It's a time to honor where we've been, celebrate the changes underway, and look ahead with gratitude for the community that keeps this historic space thriving. I'd like to offer our deepest thanks to outgoing Board of Directors members Vicki Welch and Belinda Beard for their service and dedication to our mission. Their contributions have helped guide the Little Loomhouse through seasons of growth and creativity. We also extend a warm welcome to our newest BOD member, Rosa Roma. We're thrilled to have her insight and passion on board! Behind the scenes, we've been hard at work on a number of exciting updates. Visitors will notice improvements to the walk paths, new rails, and a beautiful new wall in the kitchen, made possible by generous support from the Kentucky Colonels. These upgrades help us continue preserving this special place while ensuring it remains accessible and inviting to all.

Looking ahead, I'd love to personally invite you to **Holiday in the Woods**, taking place on the first Saturday in November from 6–9 PM. This magical evening is one of our most cherished events, filled with warmth, art, and community. We hope you'll join us, and be sure to explore our *Woven Narrative* exhibition between September 6 to October 11. Whether you come for one or both, we look forward to seeing you there! Thank you again for being part of our story. Your support is the thread that keeps the Loomhouse weaving.



Warmly,
Jordan Witherspoon
LLH Board President

Education Program Update



We served over 6,850 people in programs by fiscal year end 6/30/25. Off-site programs included sites across the region in 24 schools, 18 community centers, four libraries, four city festivals, four residential facilities, and four different community spaces across the state. Additionally, we hosted six researchers, seven interns, and two artists in residence from across the US. We have a lot of partners to thank for our accomplishments this year. For a full list please visit the "About" page on our website at littleloomhouse.org/about.

We had our largest group of college graduates this year. All graduated from the University of Louisville in 2025 including Studio Manager, Megan Stewart (B.A. in French & Studio Art), Intern and Teaching Artist, Annabela Cockrell (M.F.A. in Studio Art), Intern Autumn Fox (B.F.A. Studio Art), Intern Muny Mok (B.F.A. Studio Art). Additional graduates included Studio Assistant, Gaile Cummings, who graduated Homeschool and is now attending Eastern Kentucky University.

Letter From Studio Manager Megan Stewart



Hi friends,

When I first visited the Loomhouse for a plaid class led by Sally and Heidi in early 2023, I had no idea of the wonderful opportunities and connections that would soon follow. I was in the early stages of my degree at UofL at the time and began working in Tophouse, transitioning to full time during the summers. During my time here, I've felt extremely privileged to be involved in such a rich tradition of women interested in preserving history, art, craft and community, and to play a role in passing these values on to visitors of all ages. I'm sure many of us can agree that the Loomhouse is one of those rare, special places that will always be welcoming and familiar each time you return.

As I've finished my degrees in Studio Art and French, I'll be traveling to Istanbul this fall for a 2-week intensive glassblowing workshop (my major focus in school) at The Glass Furnace, then to Paris for an extended stay to continue learning French. I plan to organize some fiber-related excursions as well. I can't wait to share them with you and to carry all I've learned at the Loomhouse with me!

- Megan Stewart

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. Cost is \$30 per session.

Fall Needle Felt Classes



Come spend a relaxing afternoon needle felting a 3-D owl with a patient, friendly, and knowledgeable instructor. Cost is \$30 per class and includes all materials.



Specialty Weaving Classes this Fall will be listed by Sept 1st: weave a purse or bag, plaid weaving class, rag runners, and log cabin pattern.

Adult Community Fiber Circle



Third Saturday of Every Month from 2 pm to 4 pm

The day was chosen as a nod to our past when the only Saturday we were open was the third Saturday of the month. This event is free and open to the public. Parking is limited, so carpool and join us! Craft circles are a great way to combat loneliness and build community.

Update on Artist in Residence



During her summer residency at the Little Loomhouse, in addition to offering an amazing texture weaving workshop, Fiber Artist, Tori Christensen, used her studio time to work on weaving braille sayings into fabric. The image on black reads, "If love is blind, then maybe a blind person that loves has a greater understanding of it. Criss Jami" The image on handwoven paper reads, "What I am looking for is not out there, it is in me. Helen Keller". Look for more of her work in the upcoming group exhibition, *Woven Narratives*.

Fall Interns



Little Loomhouse Studio Intern, Aniyah Monae, is a fashion designer with a background in costume design from the University of Louisville (BASc '22), where she studied design, sewing, draping/drafting, and garment construction. Currently working for herself as a designer, tailor, and vintage reseller, she continues to grow her own brand. Her experience spans fashion hubs such as Los Angeles and New York, including work as a creative assistant at Walker Wear under April Walker, a tailor apprenticeship at Studio Unbiased, costume design for the Kentucky Opera and Belle of Louisville, and assisting at New York Fashion Week. Blending art, history, and culture, Monae uses fashion to tell powerful stories, challenge societal norms, and uplift marginalized voices.



Little Loomhouse Archives Intern, Arianna Moya Porras, graduated from U of L in May '25 with a degree in Political Science and minor in Spanish and Social Change. She has been a Filson Historical Society David Armstrong Fellow, and works as a Bi-lingual Associate Instructor for Jefferson County Public Schools. She has experience with AmeriCorps, I Would Rather Be Reading, Crowdwave Campaigns, Evolve502, Americana Community Center, Kentuckians for the Commonweal, Louisville Pride Foundation, and was a Vote Everywhere Ambassador for the Andrew Goodman Foundation. Porras is interested in learning local efforts to preserve history and will use this experience toward entering the cultural preservation field.

Preservation Update & Ask



Preservation efforts are ongoing at our 130+ year old historic site through initiatives like the Kentucky Colonels Good Works Program who provided direct support to repair the wall in Esta Cabin kitchen this year. Thank you to Atwell Enterprises Inc. for providing the labor and leadership. We would also like to thank Board member Andie Davis for staining and painting all of the new walkpaths, rails, and picnic tables, giving us a more uniform look. This month we will begin repairs to the Top House bottom floor using some of the funds from the estate of Raymond and Jean Randles. Look for an update on this project in the next newsletter.

Starting this month we will be undertaking a year long project to better organize, store, and digitize our archives. Allison Kilberg of Kilberg Archival Services will be working directly with staff, interns, and archive docents to create and implement a plan. This phase of the project is projected to cost \$8,850.00. We are using a portion of the Randles estate funds to begin and are currently raising funds for this and repairs to Top House. Individuals can contribute by donating to the Give for Good Campaign, attending the Little Loomhouse Fundraiser in early spring, or contributing directly. If you want more information or to make a donor designated gift you can reach out to Executive Director, Michelle Amos at MichelleAmos@littlesloomhouse.org or by calling 502-367-4792.

W A R P and K M H A Annual Meetings



Weave a Real Peace (WARP) had its annual meeting this year in Tuscaloosa, Alabama focused on *Threads of Legacy: Weaving Hope, Tradition, and Justice in the U.S. South*. The four-day conference explored the rich and complex textile traditions of the U.S. South. Highlights included learning more on the Freedom Quilting Bee, the iconic Gee's Bend quilts, and Mary Madison's research on oral histories of enslaved weavers. North Carolina Weaver, Pamela Palma, who was a Gloria Davis Memorial Assistantship Recipient, presented on her woven work at the conference. She will be exhibiting a few pieces from that presentation in our upcoming *Woven Narratives* Exhibition. To learn more about WARP or see the proceedings from the conference visit weavearealpeace.org.



up for their mentorship program. To learn more about KMHA and their resources visit kymuseums.org.

Kentucky Museums & Heritage Association (KMHA) serves the cultural, artistic, historical, and museum communities of Kentucky. First time collaborators Emily Dippie (Kentucky Derby Museum), Betsy Huggins (Speed Art Museum), and Michelle Amos (Little Loomhouse) presented on Goldilocks and the Tree Museums: best Practices for School Tours at Museum of All Sizes at the KMHA annual meeting held in Lexington this year. Amos has also signed

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Textile History Forum 2025



As a result of the article, "The Women Weavers of the Little Loomhouse" published in *Hyperallergic*, January 27th by Jenna Richards, and Michelle Amos, Textile History Forum Founder and Director, Rabbit Goody reached out to Amos for a presentation.

Goody is an internationally-known textile historian, researcher, lecturer, master weaver, and owner of the Thistle Hill Weavers, a custom weaving mill located in Cherry Valley, New York, which provides historic reproductions to the museum field,

the film industry, designers and home owners. Goody became interested in learning more about the story of Lou Tate and the Little Loomhouse and wanted to share this information with a broader audience at this year's biennial Forum held the first weekend in August at the Weaver's Croft in Marshfield, VT. To learn more about the Textile History Forum or order a copy of the proceedings which include Amos' presentation on "Lou Tate and the Evolution of the Little Loomhouse", visit thistlehillweavers.com/rabbit-goody/textile-history-forum

During the conference, Amos was able to meet new friends and strengthen relationships with old ones. One of those friends, Donna Connery, is a member of the Syracuse Weavers Guild, Cross Country Weavers, Complex Weavers, and part of an informal weaving history archive raiders group. Amos and Connery met last spring on a trip to Cornell University Library Annex for a behind-the-scenes look at the unprocessed library, manuscript, and sample book collection of the former American Textile History Museum. After the trip to Cornell, Connery's guild assembled a study group to take up the Ada Dietz challenge and ordered nine *Algebraic Expressions* booklets from the Little Loomhouse. Connery is shown here in the top right picture holding one of her pieces created in the study group. Amos has invited the group to share their work from the Ada Dietz challenge with our community. Stay tuned for a future update and glimpse at this fun challenge.

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Littleloomhouse.org



Renew or become a LLH Member and enjoy the benefits today!

Go to
www.littleloomhouse.org/membership
mini-weaving punch cards available to both new and renewing members. Individual Memberships (\$35) will receive a punch card with 6 mini-weaving lessons, Family Memberships (\$50) receive a punch card with 12 mini-weaving lessons.

Join Us on Sept 18th!



Join us in one of Louisville's Biggest Days of Giving! Donate anytime on Sept 18, 2025 at www.giveforgoodlouisville.org/organization/lou-tate-foundation-dba-the-little-loomhouse and help us win prize money. Every amount has an impact. Last year we won \$5,000 on a \$5.00 donation. You can help make a difference in our organization this year.

