

Fine Crafts Competition Handbook

Ceramics, Glass, Mosaics, Jewelry, Woodworking, Leatherwork & Gourd Craft

Adult

IMPORTANT DATES

Online or Paper Entry Form deadline	Friday, December 6, 2024
Late Entry Period	December 7 – 13, 2024
Deliver items to the Florida Center – located at the Florida State Fair. (see page 7)	Thursday, January 9 thru Saturday, January 11, 2025 THR - FRI hrs.: 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. SAT hrs.: 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Shipping Information – (see page 7)	
Items exhibited	February 6 – 17, 2025
Entry pickup	Wednesday, February 19 thru Saturday, February 22, 2025 WED - FRI hrs.: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. SAT hrs.: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

For more information, contact
The Creative Living Department @



Phone: 813-734-2810
Email: CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com



Benefits of Competing?

The Florida State Fair is proud to showcase the bounty of talented people from around the state. Not only do we provide you the opportunity to win ribbons and prize money... it's also a great way to share your talent with a larger community. **In appreciation... all exhibitors receive a FREE ticket to attend the fair.**

Competition Overview

Entry Fee: Adult Divisions \$5 per entry
Late fee \$10 per entry

Entry Fees are non-refundable

All information regarding Creative Living Competitive Exhibits can be found at www.floridastatefair.com >> **PARTICIPANTS** (top of page) >> **CREATIVE LIVING** (drop down)

How to enter online – page 7

General Rules – page 8

A paper entry form is available on the last page.

Exhibitors are encouraged to read this handbook in its entirety.

To enter as a group or organization contact Creative Living office at 813-627-4309.

Eligibility

- **The Fine Crafts Adult Divisions** are open to all Florida residents ages 18 and up.

Divisions in the Fine Crafts Competition

- **Ceramics** – page 3
- **Glass & Mosaics** – page 3
- **Jewelry** – page 4
- **Woodworking** – page 5
- **Leatherwork** – page 6
- **Gourd Craft** – page 6

For Youth Craft Competitions see the Youth Arts & Crafts Competition Handbook.

Entry Rules

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

1. **No more than four (4) items per person in each Division may be submitted for judging**, however, there is no limit to the number of pieces per class.

For example, An exhibitor can enter up to 4 items in Jewelry and up to 4 items in Ceramics.

SIZE & WEIGHT OF ENTRIES

2. **Items cannot exceed 48" in any direction, and must weigh less than 40 lbs.**, unless prior approval by the Competitive Exhibit Coordinator.

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

3. **All two-dimensional artwork must be received installation-ready.** Framed items should use strong screw eyes and wire.
4. **All three-dimensional artwork must be received installation-ready.** Provide a base if necessary for structural support.

Note: See ["Preparing Artwork Entry for Exhibition."](#)

GENERAL ENTRY RULES

5. Each adult exhibitor will receive one (1) daily admission ticket(s) to the Fair.
6. Entries previously exhibited in the Florida State Fair may not be submitted for competition.
7. Exhibited work must be completed within the last two (2) years.
8. Entries must have been prepared/made/processed by the exhibitor in whose name they are entered.
9. Entries completed by two or more individuals are permitted but will be counted as one exhibitor (the individual who entered online).
10. All entries will be displayed at the Fair-weather they receive an award or not. In keeping with the Florida State Fair's family orientation, items of an offensive, controversial, or objectionable nature or subject matter will not be accepted.

The Fine Crafts Exhibition will be held in the Florida Center during the Florida State Fair. The exhibit will be open for your viewing pleasure.

The 2024 Leatherwork Best of Show winner was Mary Spence.

Judging & Awards

The Fair ensures that the judges we employ are knowledgeable in the division in which they are judging and will be impartial. Judges reserve the right to reassign entries to a more appropriate division or class. Judging will be done using a scorecard to assist in keeping decisions as objective as possible. **The decision of the judge(s) is final.**

If, at the Judge's discretion, an entry does not merit a placing, the Judge shall give no award under any circumstance. This rule applies whether there is one or more exhibits in the Class.

Awards Information

Fine Crafts – Adult Division

First Place – State Fair Ribbon \$20

Second Place – State Fair Ribbon \$15

Third Place – State Fair Ribbon \$10

Best of Show – State Fair Ribbon \$30

Best of Show Awards will be chosen from the first-place winners in each of the Fine Craft Adult Divisions.

Honorable Mention Ribbons may be awarded, at the discretion of the judge(s).

Judging Criteria

Originality – 40%

Unique approach to subject matter
Is there a WOW factor?

Execution – 40%

Craftsmanship, excellence in skill and technique

General Appearance – 10%

Visually appealing, clean

Degree of Difficulty – 10%



Ceramics – Divisions & Classes

Celebrates ceramics made by Florida residents.

Definitions

Functional Ceramics: Refers to any ceramics piece that is not purely decorative and has some intended use. Typical examples include teapots, bowls, mugs, and vases, etc.

Non-Functional Ceramics: Created mainly for decorative use versus having a useful purpose.

Hand-Built: Any one of various techniques for creating ceramic objects that **do not** involve the use of a potter's wheel. These methods include coiling, slab building, and pinch pots.

Wheel Thrown: A process of producing pottery by use of a rapidly rotating disk referred to as a potter's wheel.

Slip Casting: The process of forming ceramic ware by pouring slip into usually plaster molds

Bisque ware: Refers to unglazed clay that has undergone an initial, low temperature firing in a kiln.

Surface Decoration: A ceramic that uses techniques to alter the surface of the form for purposes of decoration. For example, slips, engobes, wax resist, carving, textures, etc.

Divisions & Classes

Ceramics – Adult Division 100.101

Class Description

Functional Ceramics

- 1 Hand-built
- 2 Wheel-thrown
- 3 Sculpture

Non-functional Ceramics

- 4 Hand-built
- 5 Wheel-thrown
- 6 Sculpture

Commercially-Made Molds (glazed or painted bisque ware)

- 7 Functional
- 8 Non-functional
- 9 Home Decoration

Handmade Molds (glazed or painted bisque ware)

- 10 Functional
- 11 Non-functional
- 12 Home Decoration

Surface Decoration

- 13 Surface Decoration

Other Not Listed

- 14 Other Not Listed



**The 2024 Ceramics
Best of Show winner
was Barbara Davis.**

Glass & Mosaics – Divisions & Classes

Celebrates glass and mosaic crafts made by Florida residents.

Divisions & Classes

Glass & Mosaics – Adult Division 100.102

Class Description

- 1 Stained Glass
- 2 Blown Glass
- 3 Cast Glass
- 4 Fused Glass
- 5 Lampworking (non-jewelry)
- 6 Mosaics
- 7 Other Not Listed



**The 2024 Glass & Mosaics
Best of Show was Briann
Miller.**

Jewelry – Divisions & Classes

Celebrates handmade jewelry made by Florida residents.

Definitions

Bead Strung: An individual piece or a set of jewelry that is made from various glass beads, crystals, semi-precious stones, wood, metal beads, found objects, etc. Can include lampwork beads and commercially purchased.

Set: A group or ensemble of jewelry items that go together; for example, a ring, bracelet, necklace, and earrings of matching design.

Lampworking: A type of glasswork where a torch or lamp is primarily used to melt the glass to create beads, buttons, components, etc. At least 50% of the piece of jewelry needs to contain lampwork components.

Bead weaving: Weaving on a loom or using off-loom stitches with a needle and thread.

Bead Embroidery: Hand stitching beads onto a fabric or leather backing.

Kumihimo: Weaving cords or threads using a disc.

Beading Mixed Media: Using a variety of bead-working techniques to create one piece.

Wire Wrapping: Twisting and wrapping wires into components that are connected without soldering or heating the wires.

Wire Weaving: Looping thin wire around a heavy wire frame in a pattern.

Chain Maille: Linking jump rings together using interlocking patterns.

Viking Knitting: Knitting wire using loop-in-loop techniques around a dowel.

Fabrication: Created by manipulating wires, and sheet metal using traditional fabrication techniques such as bending, forging, sawing, soldering, etc.

Casting: Created using traditional casting techniques such as centrifugal, vacuum, and cuttlebone. No commercial waxes or casting allowed. This class will include jewelry-related objects that are 50% or more cast metal made into finished jewelry.

Polymer Clay: A type of hardening modeling clay based on the polymer polyvinyl chloride (PVC). It is typically used for making arts and crafts items.

Metal Clay: A crafting medium consisting of very small particles of metal such as silver, gold, bronze, or copper mixed with an organic binder and water for use in making jewelry, beads, and small sculptures.

Note: The Fair will supply display stands for jewelry, if you have a special display for your pieces contact The Creative Living Department at CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com or 813-734-2810.

Divisions & Classes

Jewelry – Adult

Division 100.103

Class Description

Beadwork

- 1 Bead stringing (individual or set)
- 2 Lampworking (focal bead or set)
- 3 Bead Weaving
- 4 Beading on Other Material
- 5 Beading Mixed Media
- 6 Bead Embroidery
- 7 Kumihimo

Metal Work

- 8 Fabrication (jewelry)
- 9 Fabrication (Jewelry with stones)
- 10 Fabrication (non-jewelry)
- 11 Casting
- 12 Metal Work mixed with other materials

Wire Working

- 13 Wire Wrapping
- 14 Wire Weaving
- 15 Chain Maille
- 16 Viking Knitting

Jewelry Made from Non-Traditional Materials

- 17 Polymer Clay
- 18 Metal Clay
- 19 Leather & Macramé
- 20 Recycled Materials
- 21 Fused Glass
- 22 Other Non-Traditional Materials

Other Not Listed

- 23 Other Not Listed

**The 2024 Jewelry
Best of Show winner
was Bruce
Tamashunas.**



Woodworking – Divisions & Classes

Celebrates crafts of woodworking made by Florida residents.

Definitions

Fine wood furniture starts with hardwood (like cherry, maple, walnut, and oak) as opposed to soft wood (like pine and other coniferous woods).

Home Décor & Accessories includes wall-hangings, signs, or any item that decorates your living or work area.

Fretwork: An interlaced decorative design that is either carved in low relief on a solid background or cut out with a fretsaw, coping saw, jigsaw, or scroll saw.

Marquetry: The art and craft of applying pieces of veneer to a structure to form decorative patterns, designs or pictures of natural wood color. Any size (no kits).

Laser Cutting and Engraving is fabrication technique that consists of cutting or engraving wood by means of a laser. **Engraving** is done on the surface of any medium such as slate, wood, cork or acrylic or metals.

Divisions & Classes

Woodworking – Adult Division 100.104

Class Description

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1 Trains | 9 Holiday & Seasonal Items |
| 2 Models | 10 Fretwork |
| 3 Boxes (any size) | 11 Marquetry |
| 4 Toys | 12 Intarsia |
| 5 Furniture (made from softwoods) | 13 Laser Cutting (can include wood and other materials) |
| 6 Home Décor | 14 Laser Engraving (can include wood and other materials) |
| 7 Doll House | 15 Bandsaw |
| 8 Doll Furniture & Miniatures | 16 Original Design |
| | 17 Other Not Listed |

Laser cutting is a method that uses the laser to cut through metals, paper, wood, and acrylics.

Bandsaw projects are created solely by using a bandsaw.

Intarsia: A decorative inlaid pattern on a surface, especially a mosaic worked in wood in any finish.

Wood Burning: See Woodcarving Competition Handbook.

In addition to this woodworking competition the Fair has other wood artisans' competitions:

- Fine Handcrafted Furniture (made from hardwoods)
- Woodcarving
- Woodturning

All information regarding **Creative Living Competitions** can be found at www.floridastatefair.com.



The 2024 Woodworking Best of Show winner was Robert Stevens.

Leatherwork – Divisions & Classes

Celebrates leatherwork made by FL residents.

Definitions

Saddles & Tack: Tack is a piece of equipment or accessory equipped on horses in the course of their use as domesticated animals. . Saddles, stirrups, bridles, halters, reins, harnesses, martingales, and breastplates are all forms of horse tack.

Practical Cases: Any leather item used to store, cover, or carry an object, worn by man or animal.

Table Art: Any leather item used for decoration and **NOT** worn by man or animal.

Traditional Wearables: Leather items worn by Florida Cowboys, Native Americans, soldiers, and hunters for daily work or special occasions.

Divisions & Classes

Leatherwork – Adult Division 100.105

Class Description

- 1 Saddles and Tack
- 2 Practical Cases
- 3 Table Art

- 4 Traditional Wearables
- 5 Novice – Less than 2 years' experience (any kind)
- 6 Other Not Listed

Gourd Craft – Divisions & Classes

Celebrates decorated gourds made by Florida residents.

Definitions

What is Gourd Craft? The artist uses a hard-shelled gourd as a canvas to create anything that they can imagine. Gourd surfaces may be carved, painted, sanded, burned, dyed and embellished with wire, beads, natural fibers and reed.

Basket Style Gourds: The Gourd division was introduced to focus on the craft of gourd decoration. If your Gourd contains basket weaving you need to decide which division you need to compete in. Is the Gourd the more distinguished element or is it the basket weaving?

Note: *To compete in basket weaving, at least 50% of the basket needs to be woven.*

The **Basket Weaving Division** can be found in the [Fiber Arts handbook](#).

Divisions & Classes

Gourd Craft – Adult Division 100.106

Class Description

- 1 Painted
- 2 Basket Style Gourds
- 3 Open Coiling
- 4 Closed Coiling

Painted Gourd: At least 25% of the surface needs to be decorated with painting techniques. This includes stains and inks.

Open Coiling: A coiling technique using paper rush and waxed linen

Closed Coiling: A coiling technique using paper rush covered with waxed linen.

Wood Burning: At least 25% of the surface needs to be decorated with wood burning techniques.

Carving and/or Filigree: At least 25% of the surface needs to be decorated with wood carving or filigree techniques.

Mixed Techniques or Media: A decorated gourd using multiple techniques to embellish the gourd.



The 2024 Gourd Craft Best of Show was Arlene Cook.

- 5 Wood Burning
- 6 Carving and/or Filigree
- 7 Mixed Techniques or Media



How to Enter Online

We encourage you to enter online, using ShoWorks. The Florida State Fair has implemented ShoWorks, an on-line entry program. ShoWorks is an industry standard used by over 50 fairs nationally. This user-friendly program can be trusted to accurately enter you into our competitions and allows for efficient communication via e-mail. We are excited to have ShoWorks to better facilitate entering Florida State Fair competitions.

- **Take a moment to look through this Competition Handbook to see which division and class your entry is eligible to compete in.** Then, follow the easy steps listed below to enter the competition you have chosen.
- **To Enter Online using ShoWorks.**
Go to www.floridastatefair.com and at the top of the home page select the **PARTICIPANTS** TAB and you will see in the dropdown list a link for **CREATIVE LIVING**. Select the [ENTER ONLINE](#) link on the left side of the page.
- **Everyone must register as a new exhibitor even if you have competed in the past.**
- **Note that sessions expire after 20 minutes of inactivity, so “save the cart” if you plan on leaving the computer for more than 20 minutes.**
- When registering, please verify that all information that you entered into ShoWorks is correct. Please pay special attention to capitalization, full names of cities/counties and use proper spelling (no abbreviations).
- If you [ENTER ONLINE](#) you will need to pay with a credit card at that time. You will not be able to delay payment as we were able to do in the past.

Mailing Paper Entry Forms

- **Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, December 6th, 2024.**
Failure to complete any portion of the entry form may result in disqualification.

Late entries must be postmarked between December 9th-15th 2024 will incur an increased entry fee.

Mail Entry Form to:

Creative Living Competitions – Fine Craft
Florida State Fair
P.O. Box 11766
Tampa, FL 33680

Make checks payable to: Florida State Fair Authority

Delivery of Entries

- **All entries must be delivered to the Florida State Fair Authority on either:**

Thursday, January 9, 2025	9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Friday, January 10, 2025	9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 11, 2025	9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **Deliver entries to:**
Florida State Fair Authority
Florida Center Bldg.
Enter off of Martin Luther King Blvd. thru the MLK entrance on the south side of the fairgrounds.
- **Map with directions to the Florida Center available on the [Creative Living webpage](#).**
- Entries arriving at the Fairgrounds after Delivery and Shipping Deadlines may be disqualified.

Shipping Information

- **Shipped entries must arrive no later than Tuesday, January 7, 2025.**
- Include a [Shipping Form](#), available at the bottom of the www.floridastatefair.com on the **Creative Living** webpage in [Maps, Forms & Schedule](#) link.
- **Shipped entries, with Shipping Form to:**
Florida State Fair Authority –
Fine Crafts Competition
4800 US Hwy 301 North
Tampa, FL 33610.
- Entries are shipped back to exhibitors after the Fair in the same container. Use reusable shipping containers.
- Return shipping costs are the responsibility of the entrant.
- **Return shipping options:** Prepaid shipping label, UPS or FedEx account.

Retrieving Entries

- **Early Pickup is available on Tuesday, February 18th, 2025. Exhibitors must contact the office prior.**
- See the calendar for Pickup dates, times, and locations (page 1).
- Entries not picked up on designated dates can be arranged for a special pick-up appointment by emailing creativeliving@floridastatefair.com.
- All entries not claimed by April 1st of the same year will be recycled, disposed or donated through our program department.

General Rules

Disclaimer

Please be advised that competitive exhibits are entered at the exhibitor's risk. The Florida State Fair does not insure and is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of entries, even if the loss, damage, or theft occurs as the result of the handling of the exhibit by staff, volunteers, contractors and/or visitors. If the exhibitor desires insurance coverage, this coverage should be secured from a personal insurance agent prior to entry and the policy written to cover the period of exhibition and transportation. Reasonable care will be taken to prevent loss or damage to exhibits. Unauthorized persons are not permitted in the building after closing hours.

Division/Class Cancellation

The Florida State Fair management reserves the right to return entries and cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition.

Entry Errors

Florida State Fair management is not responsible for finding errors in entries. Exhibitors are responsible for any and all errors which were submitted online or on entry and summary forms. No exhibitor shall be entitled to an award which has been disallowed as the result of his own error. The Florida State Fair management shall withhold the payment of awards for exhibits that are ineligible and may recover awards that have been paid for ineligible entries that are disclosed during post audits of Fair records. However, exhibitors with cause are entitled to question the validity of any disallowance. Such exhibitors should inform the Florida State Fair management immediately, in writing, giving their name, address, complete description of the entry and the reason for requesting reconsideration. Requests will not be considered later than ninety (90) days after receiving notice of disallowance.

Premium Payments

Premium Awards will be paid according to the Judging Criteria Record Sheets. **Premium checks will be void after 6 months from date on check. PLEASE CASH PREMIUM CHECKS IMMEDIATELY. After 6 months, all uncashed checks will be voided, and replacement checks will not be issued.**

Substitutions

Substitutions, if necessary, must be within the same department as the original entry. Substitutions must be completed by the last day of the entry delivery period. You cannot transfer your entry to another exhibitor.

Previously Entered Entry

Any entry that has been exhibited at a previous Florida State Fair is not eligible for entry in this year's Florida State Fair. This excludes Horticulture & Aquarium Beautiful entries.

Verification

Exhibitors wishing to verify that the Florida State Fair has received submitted entry forms and fees must include a self-addressed/stamped envelope when submitting entry forms. Online submissions will receive a confirmation code once entries are submitted.

Responsibility

The Florida State Fair shall not be responsible for exhibits remaining on the fairgrounds after designated release times. All still exhibits or display elements remaining on the Fairgrounds after the designated release time will be treated as abandoned property and will be disposed of on or before September 1st of the same year.

Removal of Entries

An exhibitor may not remove his or her entry from the Florida State Fair once it has been accepted. Entries must be on exhibit at the official opening of the Fair or at any other time specified in the Competition Handbook and shall not be removed from the Fairgrounds prior to the release date printed in the handbook, except (at the discretion of the Florida State Fair management) in cases of positive evidence of sickness, accident and/or death, or other circumstances that are in the best interests of the Fair.

Eligibility for Fair Employees

Florida State Fair Authority employees are eligible to compete in the Creative Living competitions except for those who directly work for the Creative Living Department.

Dishonored Checks

A penalty of \$25.00 per dishonored check must be paid if a check in payment of entry fees or other applicable fees is refused by the bank. Only cash, certified check or money orders are acceptable for penalty payment.

Design

The Florida State Fair assumes total design control over the presentation of all exhibits. Entries designed for hanging and not so equipped will be hung in a manner deemed appropriate by the Fair. No exhibit changes will be made once the entries have been displayed. Once an entry has been received by the Florida State Fair, no further handling of entry by exhibitor shall be permitted. Relocation and final placement shall be accomplished by Florida State Fair personnel. Entries requiring assembly/disassembly must include detailed instructions and sketches for assembly/disassembly. Instructions should indicate lifting points, unsecured parts and any other information required for such handling. Where necessary, bank pins will be utilized to attach exhibits for display.

Fine Craft Competition Entry Form

OFFICE USE ONLY

Exhibitor #	_____
Late Entry	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Total Fee	_____
Paid	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> MO <input type="checkbox"/> Check
Check No.	_____

Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, December 6, 2024.

Late Entry Period: December 7th – 13th, 2024 (Double Entry Fees)

Failure to complete any portion of the entry form may result in disqualification.

Please print legibly

Exhibitors Name (First, Last)			
Mailing Address		County	
City	State	Zip Code	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you are a new exhibitor
Phone ()		Email	

Entry Fee: Adult Division \$5 per entry | Late entry \$10 per entry

Exhibitors may enter up to four (4) entries per division for judging. For example: An exhibitor can enter up to 4 items in Jewelry and up to 4 items in Ceramics. Use additional entry forms if necessary.

Late Entry
 YES NO

#	DIVISION #	CLASS #	Entered Item Description (Woodworking-Type of wood used)	FEE
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
Total Amount Due				\$

I hereby certify that I have read the Florida State Fair General Rules for the Competitive Exhibits Program (Page 8) and the above item(s) is/are entered for exhibition strictly in accordance with these rules, by which I agree to be governed. I also agree that the Florida State Fair may use my name, likeness, or photograph (including, but not limited to photographs of my entry), in any manner relating to my participation in the Competitive Exhibits Program, free of charge and without further notice or consultation.

I understand that the 2025 Creative Living Competitions & Exhibits are held in conjunction with the 2025 Florida State Fair and agree that the Florida State Fair is not liable or responsible for any delay, change of dates, or cancellation of the 2025 Florida State Fair due to the following unforeseeable circumstances: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake; or (c) other potential disaster(s) or catastrophe(s), such as epidemics, pandemics, or explosion.

Signature of exhibitor

Date

Mail Entry Form to:

Creative Living Competition – Fine Crafts
Florida State Fair
P.O. Box 11766
Tampa, FL 33680

Make checks payable to: Florida State Fair Authority