

# Fine Craft Competition Handbook

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

## ADULT

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Entry Deadline:** Friday, December 5, 2025

**Late Entry Deadline:** Friday, December 12, 2025

**Item Delivery:** Wednesday, January 7, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm  
Thursday, January 8, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm  
Friday, January 9, 2026 - 11:00am-6:00pm  
Saturday, January 10, 2026 - 10:00am-4:00pm

**Item Pickup:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm  
Thursday, February 19, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm  
Friday, February 20, 2026 - 11:00am-3:00pm  
Saturday, February 21, 2026 - 10:00am-2:00pm

**QUESTIONS?  
CONTACT US!**



**BY PHONE AT**  
(813) 621-7821

**BY EMAIL AT**  
CREATIVELIVING@FLORIDASTATEFAIR.COM

## ENTRY DELIVERY & PICK-UP

Enter off of Orient Road through the Service  
Entrance on the west side of the fairgrounds.

A map with directions to the Florida Center  
is available on the Creative Living Website



## ENTRY FEES

**Adult Divisions (Ages 18+): \$5 Per Entry**

**Late Entry: \$10 Per Entry**

ENTRY FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

## GUIDELINES

- **Each exhibitor may submit up to four (4) items per Division for judging.** There is no limit on the number of entries within a Class. *Example: An exhibitor may enter up to 4 items in Jewelry and up to 4 items in Ceramics.*
- **Entries may not exceed 48" in any direction and must weigh less than 40 lbs.**
- Two-dimensional artwork must be installation-ready. Framed pieces should include secure screw eyes and hanging wire.
- Three-dimensional artwork must also be installation-ready. Provide a stable base if needed for proper display.
- Each adult exhibitor will receive one (1) daily admission ticket to the Fair.
- Items previously exhibited at the Florida State Fair are not eligible for competition.
- **All entries must have been completed within the past two (2) years.**
- Entries must be entirely prepared, created, or processed by the exhibitor listed on the entry form.
- Collaborative works created by two or more individuals are allowed but will be counted as one exhibitor entry (under the name of the individual who registered online).
- All entries will be displayed at the Fair, regardless of whether they receive an award. In keeping with the Florida State Fair's family-friendly environment, entries containing offensive, controversial, or otherwise inappropriate subject matter will not be accepted.

# JUDGING & AWARDS

- The Fair selects judges who are experienced and knowledgeable in the categories they are assigned. Judges are expected to be fair and unbiased. They may reassign an entry to a different division or class if they feel it's a better fit.
- All entries will be judged using a scorecard to help ensure fairness and consistency. Judges' decisions are final.
- If the judge feels that an entry does not meet the standards for an award, no ribbon or prize will be given, even if it is the only entry in the class.
- Winners and final displays will be announced during the Fair.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

### **Originality (40%)**

Unique approach to subject matter

### **Execution (40%)**

Exposure, white balance, focus, depth of field, lighting, resolution, etc

### **General Appearance (10%)**

Visually appealing, clean

### **Degree of Difficulty (10%)**

## CERAMICS 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, ect.

**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

## CERAMICS DIVISIONS & CLASSES

### **Ceramics - Adult Division 100.101**

Functional Ceramics

Class 1 Hand-Built

Class 2 Wheel-thrown

Class 3 Sculpture

### **Ceramics - Adult Division 100.101**

Non-Functional Ceramics

Class 4 Hand-Built

Class 5 Wheel-thrown

Class 6 Sculpture

### **Ceramics - Adult Division 100.101**

Commercially Made Molds (Glazed or Painted Bisque Ware)

Class 7 Functional

Class 8 Non-Functional

Class 9 Home Decoration

### **Ceramics - Adult Division 100.101**

Handmade Molds (Glazed or Painted Bisque Ware)

Class 10 Functional

Class 11 Non-Functional

Class 12 Home Decoration

### **Ceramics - Adult Division 100.101**

Surface Decoration

Class 13 Surface Decoration

### **Ceramics - Adult Division 100.101**

Other Not Listed

Class 14 Other Not Listed

## GLASS & MOSAICS DIVISIONS & CLASSES

### **Glass & Mosaics - Adult Division 100.102**

Class 1 Stained Glass

Class 2 Blown Glass

Class 3 Cast Glass

Class 4 Fused Glass

### **Glass & Mosaics - Adult Division 100.102**

Class 5 Lampworking (Non-Jewelry)

Class 6 Mosaics

Class 7 Other Not Listed

## JEWELRY 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.

## JEWELRY DIVISIONS & CLASSES

### **Jewelry - Adult Division 100.103**

#### Beadwork

- Class 1 Bead stringing (Individual or Set)
- Class 2 Lampworking (Focal Bead or Set)
- Class 3 Bead Weaving
- Class 4 Beading on Other Material
- Class 5 Beading Mixed Media
- Class 6 Bead Embroidery
- Class 7 Kumihimo

### **Jewelry - Adult Division 100.103**

#### Metalwork

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

### **Jewelry - Adult Division 100.103**

#### Wire Working

- Class 13 Functional
- Class 14 Non-Functional
- Class 15 Home Decoration
- Class 16 Viking Knitting

### **Jewelry - Adult Division 100.103**

#### Jewelry Made from Non-Traditional Materials

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

### **Jewelry - Adult Division 100.103**

#### Other Not Listed

- Class 23 Other Not Listed



## WOODWORKING 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.

**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:** using a heated metal tool to burn designs, words, or pictures onto a burnable surface, most commonly wood.

## WOODWORKING DIVISIONS & CLASSES

### **Woodworking - Adult Division 100.104**

Class 1 Trains  
Class 2 Models  
Class 3 Boxes (any side)  
Class 4 Toys  
Class 5 Furniture (made from softwoods)  
Class 6 Home Decor  
Class 7 Doll House  
Class 8 Doll House Furniture & Minutures  
Class 9 Holiday & Seasonal Items  
Class 10 Fretwork

### **Woodworking - Adult Division 100.104**

Class 11 Marquetry  
Class 12 Intarsia  
Class 13 Laser Cutting (can include wood and other materials)  
Class 14 Laser Engraving (can include wood and other materials)  
Class 15 Bandsaw  
Class 16 Original Design  
Class 17 Other Not Listed

## LEATHERWORK 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.

## LEATHERWORK DIVISIONS & CLASSES

### **Leatherwork - Adult Division 100.105**

Class 1 Saddles and Tack  
Class 2 Practical Cases  
Class 3 Table Arts  
Class 4 Traditional Wearables  
Class 5 Novice - Less than 2 years' experience  
Class 6 Other Not Listed



## GOURD CRAFT 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? **To compete in basket style, at least 50% of the entry needs to be the gourd element.** *Basket Weaving Divisions & Classes are located in the Fiber Arts Handbook.*

**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.

## GOURD CRAFT DIVISIONS & CLASSES

### **Gourd Craft - Adult Division 100.106**

Class 1 Painted

Class 2 Basket Style Gourds

Class 3 Open Coiling

Class 4 Closed Coiling

Class 5 Wood Burning

Class 6 Carving and/or Filigree

Class 7 Mixed Techniques or Media

## GENERAL RULES

### DISCLAIMER

All entries are submitted at the exhibitor's own risk. The Florida State Fair is not responsible for any loss, damage, or theft of exhibits even if caused by staff, volunteers, contractors, or visitors. If you want insurance for your entry, you must arrange it through your personal insurance provider before the Fair. Reasonable care will be taken to protect exhibits. No unauthorized people are allowed in the building after closing hours.

## DIVISION OR CLASS CANCELLATION

The Florida State Fair may cancel any division or class if there are not enough entries to ensure fair competition. Any affected entries will be returned.

### ENTRY ERRORS

Exhibitors are responsible for making sure their entries are correct. This includes online forms and summary sheets. The Fair is not responsible for correcting mistakes, and no awards will be given for entries disqualified due to exhibitor error. If an award is later found to be ineligible, it will be withheld or recovered. You may appeal a disqualification in writing within 90 days of being notified. Include your name, address, full entry details, and your reason for requesting a review.

## PREMIUM PAYMENTS

Prizes will be awarded based on the Judging Criteria Record Sheets. **Prize checks are void 6 months after the date on the check. No replacement checks will be issued after that, so please cash them promptly.**



## **SUBSTITUTIONS**

If needed, substitutions must be made within the same department as the original entry. They must be completed by the last day of the entry delivery period. You may not transfer your entry to another person.

## **PREVIOUSLY ENTERED ITEMS**

Entries that have been shown at past Florida State Fairs are not allowed, except for entries in Horticulture and Aquarium Beautiful.

## **VERIFICATION OF ENTRY**

To confirm that your mailed entry form and fees were received, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with your submission. Online entries will receive a confirmation code after submitting.

## **RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXHIBITS**

The Fair is not responsible for exhibits left behind after the scheduled pick-up time. **Anything left after that time will be treated as abandoned and discarded by April 1st of the same year.**

## **ENTRY REMOVAL**

Once accepted, entries cannot be removed until the official release date listed in the Competition Handbook. Early removal is only allowed in cases like serious illness, emergencies, or at the Fair's discretion.

## **RETURNED OR BOUNCED CHECKS**

A \$25 fee applies to any returned checks. This must be paid with cash, a certified check, or a money order.

## **MAILING PAPER ENTRY FORMS**

Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, December 5, 2025. Failure to complete any portion of the entry form may result in disqualification. Late entries must be postmarked before December 12, 2025. If you're submitting a late entry form, you must include the extra \$5 per entry fee. **Make checks payable to: Florida State Fair Authority**

### **Mail Entry Form to:**

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

## **SHIPPING ENTRIES**

Shipped entries must arrive no later than January 6, 2026. **Packages MUST include Shipping form and prepaid shipping label.** Entries will be shipped back to the exhibitors after the fair in the same container. Return shipping costs are the responsibility of the entrant.

### **Ship Entry Form to:**

Florida State Fair Authority  
Fine Craft Competition  
4800 US HWY 301 North  
Tampa, FL 33680

## **RETRIEVING ENTRIES**

All entries not claimed by April 1st of the same year will be recycled, disposed or donated through our program department. Entries not picked up on designated dates can be arranged for a special pick-up appointment by emailing [CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com](mailto:CreativeLiving@floridastatefair.com).

# **EXHIBIT DESIGN & SET UP**

The Florida State Fair controls how exhibits are displayed. If your entry is meant to be hung but isn't ready to hang, the Fair will display it as they see fit. No changes can be made once items are on display. Exhibitors cannot handle their entries after drop-off. Fair staff will handle final placement and assembly, using any instructions you provide. If your item needs assembly or disassembly, include clear instructions and diagrams. The Fair may use pins or other tools to secure your exhibit for display. Online entries will receive a confirmation code after submitting.

## **AWARD PREMIUMS**

**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**

**Director's Choice Award** - State Fair Ribbon **\$35**

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

2026 Florida State Fair

# Fine Craft Competition Entry Form

**Entry Forms must be postmarked by Friday, December 5, 2025.**

**Late Entry Period:** December 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (Double Entry Fees)

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

## OFFICE USE ONLY

Exhibitor # \_\_\_\_\_

Late Entry ☐ YES ☐ NO

Total Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Paid ☐ YES ☐ NO

Type ☐ Cash ☐ MO ☐ Check

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

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 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 2026 Creative Living Competitions & Exhibits are held in conjunction with the 2026 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 2026 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