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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**News from Touchstone Center for Crafts**

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**“BETWEEN 2 RIVERS ARTIST TRAIL & STUDIO TOUR SHOWCASES LOCAL ARTISTIC TALENT IN FAYETTE COUNTY, PA”**

Fayette County, PA - The Between 2 Rivers Artist Trail & Studio Tour is set to take place on Saturday, August 19, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This inaugural event invites art lovers and the broader community to embark on a self-guided artists' studio tour through Fayette County, Pennsylvania, to discover the hidden gems of the local artistic community.

The Between 2 Rivers Artist Trail offers a unique opportunity to explore private art studios and engage directly with renowned artists in their creative spaces. Visitors will have the chance to witness the artistic process firsthand, gain insight into what inspires the artists, and even purchase original pieces. From ceramics, mosaics, and metalwork to glass, fiber art, jewelry, and painting, the participating artists represent a diverse range of mediums.

Organizers are thrilled to provide an exceptional experience that celebrates the artistic richness of Fayette County, PA. The event is expected to expand annually, with additional sites and artists joining the trail in the coming years. The jury panel responsible for selecting the 2023 participating artists includes Clarence Johnson, Katie Johnson, Erica Knuckles, Erin Riggi, and Tiffany Wilhelm, whose bios can be found on the [event website](#).

Locations selected for the 2023 Between 2 Rivers Studio Tour:

- Rachel Sager's studio in Perryopolis
- Colleen Ramsay's studio in Connellsville
- Aileen Lampman's studio in Ohiopyle

Artists confirmed for the Between 2 Rivers Artist Trail:

- Beverly DeMotte Santella
- Beverly Niccolai
- Claire Hardy
- Joseph Choppyak
- Lenore Harris
- Lewis B. Barthels
- Lisa Turbeville Markowski
- Ron Jesiolowski
- Thomas E. Bush IV
- Blair Barthels

As the event draws closer, additional artists may be added to the roster, visitors are encouraged to stay updated through the official [event website](#).

The Between 2 Rivers Artist Trail & Studio Tour is made possible through a collaborative effort between Touchstone Center for Crafts, National Road Heritage Corridor, and Fayette County Community Action Agency. By joining forces, these organizations aim to foster artistic appreciation and support within the community. The event is funded in part by the Fayette County Tourism Grant Program and Progress Resources, Inc.

To make the most of the Between 2 Rivers Artist Trail, interested attendees can visit the official event website, [www.between2riversarts.com](http://www.between2riversarts.com), where they can download the map, find studio locations, and learn more about the participating artists. The website serves as a comprehensive resource for all event-related information, ensuring visitors have a seamless and enjoyable experience.

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**About Touchstone Center for Crafts...** Founded in 1972, Touchstone's mission is to advance excellence in the arts and crafts by educating and encouraging individuals to develop technical skills, good design, and innovative expression. We achieve this through an array of media including blacksmithing, ceramics, glass, fine metals, drawing/painting, and other special topic areas. Touchstone's 150-acre wooded campus is located in the Laurel Highlands, just 60 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, near Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, Ohiopyle State Park and Nemaquin Woodlands Resort. Touchstone is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization offering immersive learning experiences in 7 fully equipped studios, workshop scholarships for teens and adults, artist residencies, internships for artists, and gallery exhibitions.

*For more information about Touchstone Center for Crafts, please visit [www.touchstonecrafts.org](http://www.touchstonecrafts.org), email [info@touchstonecrafts.org](mailto:info@touchstonecrafts.org), or call (724) 329-1370.*

**About National Road Heritage Corridor...** Leave the highway behind. Take the scenic route. Cutting across the southwest corner of Pennsylvania, through Somerset, Fayette, and Washington counties, the National Road Heritage Corridor (NRHC) celebrates the Historic National Road, the nation's first federally-funded interstate highway, built with the vision of unifying a growing country. Since its construction in 1811, the National Road has created opportunities for producers, makers, and tourism-related businesses to develop and thrive. Today the NRHC continues this legacy of opportunity and celebrates the history and future of the Road That Built America. From panoramas of the Allegheny Mountains to the epitome of organic architecture, from 18th-century taverns to luxury resorts, the Historic National Road offers the curious traveler an abundance of ways to rediscover America and explore our nation's heritage from a new perspective.

*For more information about National Road Heritage Corridor, please visit [www.nationalroadpa.org](http://www.nationalroadpa.org) or call (724) 437-9877.*

**About Fayette County Community Action Agency...** FCCAA is a non-profit organization that has been serving Fayette County residents since 1966. FCCAA assists over 30,000 residents annually through a full range of programs and services that meet the needs of the community. FCCAA services include housing and development, energy assistance, emergency assistance, employment and training, empowerment and leadership development, casework and service coordination, family supports, food and nutrition, personal care, recreation, health, and community development services.

FCCAA is a member of Community Action Partnership, Community Action Association of Pennsylvania, and United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

*For more information about Fayette County Community Action Agency, please visit [www.fccaa.org](http://www.fccaa.org) or call (724) 437-6050.*