



HISTORY AND MILESTONES

- 1993 A group of dedicated citizens In December, HandMade in America receives a three-year organizational development from the Pew Partnership for Civic Change to formulate ideas.
- 1994 Regional planning process ensues with more than 360 citizens on how to achieve the HandMade purpose: make Western North Carolina the geographic center of handmade objects in the U.S. Set of 20-year goals and guiding principles established.
- 1995 In partnership with Appalachian State University, HandMade in America conducts **landmark survey** to measure economic contribution of crafts in 22 counties in Western North Carolina: \$122 million annually, or four times the revenue generated from burley tobacco, the state's number one cash crop.

The **Center for Craft, Creativity and Design** (CCCD) is created as a region center to support and advance craft, creativity and design in education and research, and through community collaborations, to demonstrate how they provide solutions for community issues. Housed at the University of North Carolina Kellogg Center in Hendersonville, the CCCD evolved as a recommendation from a 1994-1995 study by HandMade's Educational Committee.

- 1996 In Spring, *Craft Heritage Trails of Western North Carolina* guidebook debuts as the nation's first trail system linking craft and heritage sites in a region. HandMade works with the N.C. Department of commerce and the Self-Help Credit Union to establish an investment bank to provide loans to artists and craftspeople. Nine loans completed in the first year.

With financial assistance from the Kathleen Price Bryan Family Fund, HandMade begins renewal and revitalization efforts in small towns across Western North Carolina. **The Small Towns Project** quickly expands to provide mentoring, technical assistance, self-help and cross-community learning practices to more than a dozen towns. Since inception, the program has helped renovate 141 building, restore 122 facades, invested \$28.7 million in private and public funds, and provided 139,762 volunteer hours to 12 towns.

- 1997 The documentary photography exhibit, *By Our Hands*, is organized by HandMade to celebrate the handcrafted object and the creative process of artists.

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HandMade in America partners with N.C. Arboretum and the Conservation Trust to plant the first **Heritage Garden** for Crafts in fall.

- 1998 Southern Highland Craft Guild enters into partnership with HandMade in America and the Kenan Institute for the Arts to create and launch a **Craft Education Initiative** where craft is used as an educational tool in lesson plans and curriculum for elementary schools.
- 1999 In Spring construction begins on the abandoned Yancey/Mitchell landfill site to create **Energy Xchange**, an initiative formed by HandMade with Blue Ridge Resource Conservation & Development Council and Mayland Community College. The pilot project created the first glass and ceramic craft business incubator studios powered by landfill methane gas. It expands to include a greenhouse project and quickly becomes model for the rest of the nation.
- 2000 HandMade hosts **Global Volunteers**, an international volunteer association, to assist in the revitalization of the Stecoah Center for the Arts and the Andrews Cultural Center. Both sites are part of HandMade's Smalltowns revitalization program.
- 2001 Craft Organization Director's Association (CODA) releases new **national craft economic impact study** conducted by HandMade in America and Appalachian State University School of Business.
- 2002 On behalf of ARC and National Endowment for the Arts, HandMade hosts **Building Creative Economies: The Arts, Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development in Appalachia** conference for more than 350 delegates.
- Farms, Gardens & Countryside Trails* guidebook debuts as companion to successful *Craft Heritage Trails* guidebook. The 240-page publication features six trails linking farms, garden art, agricultural activities and related sites.
- 2003 Third edition of the *Craft Heritage Trails* guidebook published with more than 500 listings.
- Craft Registry**, HandMade's on-line listing of artists, galleries and events debuts and quickly expands to include more than 500 entries.
- HandMade helps secure designation of the **Blue Ridge National Heritage Area** to preserve, enhance, market and manage the 25-county region of Western North Carolina. Four themes are identified for the regional effort: 1) Cherokee; 2) Blue Ridge Music; 3) Craft; and 4) Agriculture.
- 2004 HandMade surveys Asheville's commercial core to determine **impact of creative economy** downtown. Total annual real estate value determined as \$61.6 million.