



Sponsored by the:  
*Artisans Center of Virginia*  
*...the state's official center for craft.*

For Immediate Release  
August 23, 2007

Contact: Stephen Clerico, 434-978-4109, [network@ArtisansCenterOfVirginia.org](mailto:network@ArtisansCenterOfVirginia.org)

---

### **McDOWELL, VIRGINIA — Craft Gathering Planned**

The second in a series of informal gatherings for craftspeople, craft stores and festival owners is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26, 2007 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the *Highland County Museum & Heritage Center*. Participants will learn first hand about a new state funded project called the *Alleghany Craft Network*.

The *Alleghany Craft Network* is compiling a directory concerning craft made in Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Botetourt, Craig, Highland, Roanoke, Rockbridge and Rockingham counties.



Crysta Stanton, Executive Director of the Heritage Center in McDowell says, "*The Highland Historical Society is glad to host the gathering. The board members that I have discussed the project with are rather excited, and I'm busy getting the word spread around.*" R.S.V.P. is recommended. Please contact Ms. Stanton at 540-396-4478, or [highlandhist@mgwnet.com](mailto:highlandhist@mgwnet.com) if you plan to attend.

The *Artisans Center of Virginia* in Waynesboro is sponsor of the project thanks to a grant from the *Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development*. Project coordinator Stephen Clerico, says, "*A gathering in Clifton Forge is also planned earlier in the month and we are seeking to do the same elsewhere in our nine county region to ensure we identify everyone possible.*"

Clerico, a former furniture craftsman says, "*A free directory listing is a great opportunity for participants to benefit from the Artisans Center's established web site that already attracts thousands of visitors each month. Being listed in the directory is easy and fast. The Network is not an organization; there are no membership dues involved. The Network directory simply promotes awareness of craft made in the nine rural counties. We hope to increase travel within the project area. A free listing is just one more way for your work to become visible to new customers.*"

Michael Dowell, Executive Director of the *Artisans Center of Virginia*, will be available during the gathering. Mr. Dowell brings a unique perspective due to his years of ensuring that an awareness of Virginia craft reaches an ever-widening audience. Clerico and Dowell will also speak about the project's special exhibition and business conference planned for 2008.

Those unable to attend can obtain complete details about the grant project by visiting [www.artisanscenterofvirginia.org/network](http://www.artisanscenterofvirginia.org/network) or calling 877-508-6069.

###