

## Local Cloth Celebrates American Craft Week With Community Cloth Exhibit

Local Cloth kicks off American Craft Week, Oct. 5-14, 2018, with the opening of an exhibit entitled Community Cloth, 5-8 pm, Friday, Oct. 5, in the front gallery of The Refinery, 207 Coxe Ave., Asheville. It is being curated by Local Cloth's 2018 Resident Artists: Joan Berner, Danielle Burke and Karen Donde.

Extending through Nov. 18, the interactive, educational and community service exhibit will explore the creation of handmade cloth, offering visitors opportunities to sit down and experiment with spinning, weaving, knitting, felting and stitching.

Tools, materials and simple instructions will be placed throughout the exhibit to encourage visitors to experience the connection between creating craft and fulfilling basic human needs within our community. Every visitor will be invited to make a warm scarf, hat or mittens to bring back for display on a wall labeled Filling a Need, representing both their individual needs for artistic expression, and the basic human need for protection and warmth that cloth provides. When the exhibit closes, the finished pieces will be donated to a homeless shelter for distribution to those most at risk from the winter elements.



In conjunction with the exhibit, classes will be offered in Local Cloth's studio inside The Refinery to help participants learn or further develop the skills they need to create their contribution to Community Cloth in their favorite fiber art techniques.

### How Can Local Cloth Members Get Involved?

We Need:

1. Volunteers for our opening during the monthly Downtown Asheville First Friday Art Walks, 5-8 pm, Oct. 5, to demonstrate in the Local Cloth Studio AND to assist visitors in trying the spinning, weaving knitting, felting and stitching activities in the front gallery exhibit space.

2. Because our exhibit includes two First Fridays, we need more volunteers to assist during the Nov. 2 event with all of the above. We were also tentatively thinking about a simple, informal fashion show with models walking around the building. We would need someone to volunteer to take this on to make it happen.
3. People to knit, weave, felt or sew hats, scarves, mittens or other warm accessories to both decorate our display wall of finished products and provide donations to support our community outreach efforts.
4. You to tell us any classes you would like to teach or take that month to share your own skills or learn new ones.
5. Donated materials (that you don't necessarily need back): knitting yarns, weaving yarns, clean spinning or felting fiber, knitting needles, stick shuttles, drop spindles, etc.
6. A few extra hands for installation. We will be hanging and mounting shelves, signage and backstrap looms on the walls Oct. 3 & 4. If you are handy or have experience with this, please get in touch.

We are so proud of the talent, generosity and continuing support of the Local Cloth Community. We thank you in advance for your participation in our Community Cloth exhibit.

Joan, Dani and Karen