



Victorian Holiday Craft Exhibit Guidelines

Celebrating the Elegance and Craftsmanship of a Bygone Era



Purpose & Theme

The Victorian Holiday Craft Exhibit aims to:

- Showcase historically inspired or authentic Victorian holiday crafts
- Educate the public on 19th-century holiday traditions and materials
- Celebrate the art, detail, and heritage of Victorian craftsmanship

All participants must ensure their exhibits reflect the **style, spirit, and techniques** of the **Victorian era (1837–1901)** with a focus on **holiday and winter themes**.



Craft & Exhibit Criteria

1. Victorian Era Relevance

- All crafts must be *inspired by, recreated from, or authentic to* the Victorian period.
- Acceptable mediums: paper crafts, needlework, wood carving, lace-making, hand-blown ornaments, candle dipping, calligraphy, etc.

2. Holiday or Seasonal Theme Required

- Items should relate to winter festivities, Christmas, or New Year's celebrations during the Victorian era.
- Examples include: tree decorations, greeting cards, caroler accessories, stockings, winter wear, or decorative home goods.

3. Historical Notes

- Each exhibit must include a **brief written explanation** (50–150 words) that describes:
 - The craft's historical background or use
 - Materials and methods used
 - Any relevant cultural or regional significance

4. Authenticity

- Use of period-appropriate materials and techniques is strongly encouraged.
- While modern tools may be used, the final product should closely resemble historical examples.

5. Original Work Only

- All submissions must be handmade by the exhibitor or part of a historically significant collection (with prior approval).
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Exhibit Presentation Guidelines

1. Display Quality

- All pieces must be well-finished, clean, and ready for display.
- Framed works must be securely wired; textile works must be properly mounted or draped.
- Fragile items should be protected in glass cases or secured displays.

2. Period-Appropriate Display

- Table coverings, props, and signage should reflect a Victorian aesthetic (e.g., velvet, lace, greenery, brass frames).
- No plastic signs or modern branding permitted.

3. Labeling Requirements

- All items must be labeled with:
 - Title of piece
 - Artist name
 - Brief historical description
 - Medium/materials used
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Submission & Installation

- 1. Submission Deadline:** December 1, 2025
 - 2. Notification of Acceptance:** November 17, 2025
 - 3. Installation Dates:** December 2-5, 2025, by appointment
 - 4. Pick-Up/De-installation:** After December 21st, by appointment
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Exhibit Location & Dates

- **Venue:** Memphis Cotton Museum, 65 Union Avenue, Memphis, TN
 - **Public Viewing Dates:** December 6 – 21, 2025
 - **Closing Reception:** Sunday, December 21st, 2PM
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Contact & Questions

- For more information, special accommodations, or group tours, please contact:
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