

## Alabama Bicentennial Projects Dedicated to Folkways and Quilt Making

In 2019, the Alabama Folklife Association (AFA) will contribute to programs and events that recognize Alabama's 200th Birthday by implementing two projects that are offspring of the Common Threads series.

### I. Alabama Folkways Quilt Collection

AFA will produce a new collection of quilts that will document and present local folkways and accomplish the following goals:

- Encourage local persons, communities, organizations, businesses, and institutions to participate.
- Collect individual blocks inspired by the following: foodways, occupational folklore, traditional music, sporting (football, softball, race car, hunting, etc.), and annual festivals or cultural events.
- Document local folkways and culture by encouraging blocks be submitted along with information about the decision-making process, recorded through written, audio, photographic, or video formats.
- Final quilts and documents will demonstrate Alabama's diverse cultural heritage and living traditions.

The AFA invites people of all backgrounds and all skill levels, from beginner to master artist, to participate in the Alabama Bicentennial celebration by helping to create five quilts that honor Alabama's folkways.

The purpose of this quilting project is to document and recognize local culture. We encourage you to draw inspiration from your own Alabama experience and surroundings. We ask that whether you are an individual quilter or quilting with friends, share your thoughts and document your process as you work. We're not just collecting blocks, we're collecting the stories behind them.

### II. Quilt Across Alabama: A One-Day Event for Everyone

Saturday, May 25, 2019

9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. (Noon)

Event page on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1688149884623581/>

The AFA will encourage participation and serve as a statewide clearing house of events in Alabama in order to accomplish the following goals:



- Build a sense of community among all residents of Alabama.
- Encourage intergenerational activity.
- Garner support and publicity for the arts.
- Make the arts accessible to underserved populations.
- Demonstrate the contributions of the arts to quality of life in Alabama.

Information about local events can be submitted on the [Common Threads page on the AFA web site](#). They will be promoted through an interactive statewide map.

With these Alabama Bicentennial initiatives, AFA wants you to take ownership and ensure your community or region contributes by sending blocks, hosting a sewing session, or promoting yourselves during Quilt Across Alabama. After four years of providing workshops, programs, tours, lectures, and readings all over the state, the AFA would like for all of our participants, instructors, scholars, and colleagues to take the lead.

**All of you own everything now! AFA is not sponsoring the work at the local level. We are just promoting to everyone across the state, providing instructions and information, paying for the final production of the future quilt collection, and serving as a centralized information bank.**