

MEDIA RELEASE



The Center for Appalachian Philanthropy
AppaPhil: For the Love of Appalachia – People & Place

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MiAppa Gallery and Artisan Resource Center Opening in Huntington's Heritage Station

The Center for Appalachian Philanthropy (AppaPhil) recently announced that the nonprofit organization will open a resource center for Appalachian artisans at Heritage Station in Huntington, West Virginia on Friday, April 29.

Heritage Arts Station – A MiAppa Artisan Place will be located in shop #7 and will feature a small gallery of regional artisans' work as well as provide information and support to artisans through AppaPhil's MiAppa (Made in Appalachia) program.

Open House for Artisan This Thursday, April 21

AppaPhil has extended an open invitation to current and aspiring artisans to attend an Open House at Heritage Arts Station on Thursday, April 21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to find out more about MiAppa.

About MiAppa

"MiAppa stands for 'Made in Appalachia', and the goal of this nonprofit economic development division of AppaPhil is to provide support for artisans in areas such as marketing, events, branding, education, funding, and networking," says Hart. "We offer assistance to established artisans as well as open the doors for individuals who may be interested in starting their own business selling hand-made Appalachian products such as visual art, textiles, furniture, crafts, jewelry and food. MiAppa will also provide resources for Appalachian writers and individuals in music and performing arts."

Hart says MiAppa's work will not be limited to individual artisans only, but the organization also exists to support and connect arts associations, art galleries, art museums, art wholesale and retail outlets throughout Appalachia. The long range plan is to open multiple MiAppa Artisan Place resource centers and secure partnerships for space with retail outlets from one end of Appalachia to the other to promote the talent and products of the wide variety of artisans that exist in the region.

Additional MiAppa Artisan Places Opening Soon

Several other MiAppa Artisan Places (MAPs) are slated to open between spring and fall 2011 including in Portsmouth, Ohio; Grayson, Kentucky; West Union/Peebles, Ohio; Vanceburg, Kentucky; Jackson City, Ohio; and Ironton, Ohio.

"Our focus is not to duplicate or replace other artisan associations or resources that are out there, but rather we seek to connect the dots and fill in the gaps to make the path to success a shorter, smoother one for the myriad artisans in our region," says Hart.

Questions regarding MiAppa can be addressed to Tammi Holbrook at (606) 474-6922 (tammi.holbrook@yahoo.com), or contact Mandy Hart at (740) 352-7150 (mandilynhart@yahoo.com). Interested individuals may also visit the miappa.com website for more information.

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About The Center for Appalachian Philanthropy

The Center for Appalachian Philanthropy is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that exists for the purpose of connecting people's time, talent and treasure for the good of Appalachian communities. AppaPhil's primary goal is to attract philanthropic investment in Appalachia by offering networking platforms and educational support services to nonprofits and by providing and attracting resources that help organizations fulfill their missions to better their communities. AppaPhil provides services through five primary program areas: (1) Health and Human Services, (2) Nonprofit Resources, (3) Building Community, (4) Faith-Based Partnerships, and (5) Growing Philanthropy. More information can be found on the web at www.appaphil.com.

MiAppa (Made in Appalachia) is the nonprofit economic development division of AppaPhil.

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