



## Kentucky Quilt Trail Facilitator's Guide

### Plan Ahead:

1. Review Facilitator's Guide and Powerpoints to familiarize yourself with materials.
2. Choose and insert pictures from tour of quilts to insert in the overall PowerPoint to customize your lesson and/or review the Community Scholars' interviews to share.
3. Obtain a copy of the book, *Kentucky Quilt Trail: Views and Voices*, for background information and as a display/interest approach.
4. Decide whether to share Part 1, Part 2, or both.
5. Copy Leaflet for members.
6. Copy Facilitator's Guide for leaders.

### Items Needed on Day of Training:

1. LCD projector/laptop
2. Power point
3. Copies of leaflet for members and facilitator's guide for leaders
4. Any display materials to add interest and focal point (i.e. book, quilt block patterns, pictures, etc.)

### Outline:

#### ***Part 1. Past, Present, and Future of Kentucky Quilt Trail***



The Kentucky Arts Council has provided the information for the lesson on Kentucky Quilt Trails. Through the Arts Council's leadership the Quilt Trail in the Commonwealth has continued to expand.



The Quilt Trail project began in Adams County, Ohio when Donna Sue Groves, field representative for the Ohio Arts Council, decided to paint an 8' x 8' quilt square on her barn in honor of her mother, a lifetime quilter. The Adams County arts council picked up on the idea and they painted 20 squares in their county and developed a driving tour, which has increased tourism.

The project was such a success that word of it traveled quickly, and soon other communities were contacting Donna Sue asking if they could join in the project. Donna Sue offered her enthusiastic support.

The Quilt Trail project has taken deep root in Kentucky and spread quickly. The first square in Kentucky was painted and hung in Carter County by local volunteers with support from the Gateway Resource Conservation and Development Council.



Photo - University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Carter County Quilt Trail

It has provided an added economic impact in two ways:

- Tourists are attracted to small businesses near the quilt trail; and
- Many local artisans have developed quilt-related products to sell.

### David Appalachian Crafts Floyd County

The project has spread as a grassroots movement with each community introducing its own twist, painting quilt squares not only on barns, but also on floodwalls, craft shops and restaurants.



Photo - University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Floyd County Quilt Trail

In Kentucky, the project was spearheaded by Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) coordinators, working in collaboration with community groups and often with county Extension Agents. Some RC & D offices in eastern Kentucky initially provided \$500 per county for start up expenses.

### Quilt Square Volunteers Madison County



Volunteer leaders and painters include:

- Extension agents
- teachers
- school children
- senior citizens
- KEHA clubs
- tourism committees

Photo - University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Madison County

The Quilt Trail project relies on local volunteers to spearhead the design and development of the quilt square on a community landmark. Many people and organizations have supported the Trail development.

### Quilt "Hanging" Elliott County

The local utility company often provides a bucket truck and workers, who hang the quilts on barns, delighted to be part of this heartwarming community project.



Photo - Kentucky Quilt Trail, www.kentuckyquilttrail.org

Local businesses have provided support through donations of time, labor, supplies and services to design and hang the quilts.

### Every Quilt Tells a Story

Just as stitched quilts have stories, so do the painted squares. Sometimes the barn has a story too! Communities are documenting these stories to use in tourism materials and on Web sites.




Photos by Geneva Lynn Huff, Lawrence County Quilt Trail

Many of the quilt patterns, the barns, and the buildings that are a part of the Kentucky Quilt Trail have fascinating stories behind them, and many of these stories have been documented by Community Scholars. Community Scholars are graduates of a six-day training program sponsored by the Kentucky Folklife Program at different locations around the state. Participants learn to use the tools of the folklorist to identify and document traditions in their own communities through oral history interviews and documentary photography.

**NOTE:** At this point insert other PowerPoint pictures to share with the participants from the Tour of Kentucky Quilt Trail PowerPoint and/or share the Community Scholars stories, Appendix 1.

**Kentucky Quilt Trails:  
Views and Voices**  
A Publication of the Kentucky Arts Council

This book about a rural community arts movement spreading across Kentucky is also a piece of art in itself. *Kentucky Quilt Trails: Views and Voices* documents the early history of Kentucky's Quilt Trails and highlights what the quilt symbolizes to Kentucky's literary and visual artists.



There are currently over 100 painted quilt squares on barns, floodwalls, and other buildings in eastern Kentucky. Twenty counties in eastern Kentucky are participating and Paducah is developing a trail in the western part of the state.

**End of Part 1**

**Part 2. Designing and Implementing a Kentucky Quilt Trail Project**

**Getting Started**  
**Defining a Common Purpose**  
What is your purpose(s) in developing a quilt trail in your community?

- To honor the quilting tradition
- To honor farming traditions
- To beautify the community
- To promote cultural heritage tourism
- To promote quilt-related crafts
- Other

The first step in beginning a Kentucky Quilt Trail Project is defining a common purpose. (See Appendix 2)

**Purpose Statement**

Your purpose(s) in developing the trail will inform decisions about what patterns to include, where to place them, and what structures to include, so it is important to reach a consensus about your purpose(s) early in the process.

**Sample Statement Knox County:**  
*The primary objective of the Clothesline of Quilts Trail is to promote tourism in rural areas. Increasing tourism will give added value to the local economy through the increased sales of local arts and crafts and locally grown produce.*

Your purpose(s) in developing the trail will inform decisions about what patterns to include, where to place them, and what structures to include, so it is important to reach a consensus about your purpose(s) early in the process. (See Appendix 3)

**Defining Your Route to Match Your Purpose – Knox County**

- *Primary route target – along highways 25E and 229. Secondary route target – along highways that connect to other counties*
- *Preferably about 5 miles apart*
- *Sites that are highly visible from the road (not in a curve or blocked by trees or other structures) and have a pull-off when possible to allow for photos*
- *Small business that have historical significance, artist studios/shops, farm stands, agri-tourism destinations or sites close to above type shops*

The primary objective of the Clothesline of Quilts Trail in Appalachia is to promote tourism in rural areas. Increasing tourism will give added value to the local economy through the increase sales of local arts and crafts, and locally grown produce. (See Appendix 4)

### Examples to Consider

- To see agreements that other communities have developed, join the Kentucky Quilt Trail Project Yahoo site, where you can view files on a variety of useful topics.
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/KQTP> Click on "Join This Group."
- Most groups charge building owners between \$200 and \$400 per square.

The pattern choices are limitless so it is important to select patterns that relate to your project purpose. In Knox County the decision has been made to use geometric or pieced patterns in their community. (See Appendix 5)

### Nominate a Quilter or Quilt Pattern

- Nominee may be chosen to be honored with a quilt block on the area quilt trail
- Your contact information
- I would like to nominate
- Contact information for Nominee
- Why would you like to nominate this quilter/quilt block?

Application form developed for Knox County Clothesline of Quilts




Photo by Jaap van der Oort, Buffalo Gals Quilt Trail, Scott County

Several communities have developed a nomination form and process to encourage the community to get involved in the project. A selection committee reviews the nominations and makes decisions about quilt patterns to be painted. (See Appendix 7)



Photo by David Trezdo, Breckensridge County Quilt Trail

### Community Involvement


- Who should be involved and how will you promote the project to them?
- Find roles for as many people as possible.

Artists  
Quilters  
Resource, Conservation & Development Councils  
Extension Agencies  
Electric company or county road department (for installing squares)  
Community leaders  
Tourism and Agri-Tourism  
General public  
Media

The key to a successful project is to involve the community in the planning and hanging of the Quilt Trail project. Celebrating a community Quilt hanging helps to publicize the trail activity in the community and serves to spread the word throughout the community of the purpose of the project.

### School Involvement

- "Hanging Hawks" (left) was painted by a Larue County School math class. "Lincoln's Hat" (right) was painted by the art club of Abraham Lincoln Elementary School in Larue County. Students in Knox County worked with Dianne Simpson, artist-in-residence, to complete their squares. (See story: <http://www.knox.k12.ky.us/news/08-09/10/flatlickbarnquilts.htm>)
- Artist residencies can be supported in part by a Teacher Initiated Project grant from the Kentucky Arts Council ([http://artscouncil.ky.gov/guide/prog6/tip\\_guid.htm](http://artscouncil.ky.gov/guide/prog6/tip_guid.htm)).
- Students working with 4-H agents in many counties to map Quilt Trails in their communities with GPS coordinates.



Several communities have successfully involved local schools in the project to encourage heritage and arts education and youth participation in the project.

### Agreements and Responsibilities

Who will pay for the quilt squares and who will be responsible for maintaining them in the future? If building owners are paying for the quilt squares, how much should they pay?

Each community approaches this differently, but you need to have these questions answered *before* you begin your project.

Several issues arise in the community regarding the sustainability of the project. BEFORE a quilt is hung, the project committee should have developed a plan for maintaining the quilt squares due to potential weather damage.

## Examples to Consider

- To see agreements that other communities have developed, join the Kentucky Quilt Trail Project Yahoo site, where you can view files on a variety of useful topics.
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/KQTP> Click on "Join This Group."
- Most groups charge building owners between \$200 and \$400 per square.

Each community has handled this differently. To learn from those communities with experience in developing a Kentucky Quilt Trail project join the yahoo group to access resources and ask questions.

## Publicity

Publicity to your local community promotes awareness and participation:

- Newspaper stories
- Radio talk shows
- Presentations to clubs and groups

Publicity outside the community promotes tourism:

- Brochure (Check with your tourism organization about state matching funds program.)
  - Web site

Make every effort to publicize the project to develop community ownership in designing the quilt squares and to encourage tourists to visit to view the quilt blocks.

## Ready to Paint?

You will need a space that you can use not only to paint your squares, but where you can also let them dry, which can take several days (a fan can hasten the process).



Photo - University of Kentucky  
Cooperative Extension Service,  
Madison County

Careful planning is necessary to paint the blocks correctly and for optimum weathering of the quilt block. (See Appendix 6)

## Tips and Materials

- The two most popular materials for quilt squares are MDO board and Dibond.  
(To read about both types, see the files on the Kentucky Quilt Trail Project Yahoo site.)
- Outdoor quality acrylic paint seems to work well.
- Some groups use sealer, some do not.
- The best tape to avoid bleeding between colors is Frog Tape.

## Ready, Set, Paint ...

- Prepare your surface (priming for MDO, roughing for Dibond).
- Lay the boards out to create an 8' x 8' square.
- Label the back sides of the boards: top and bottom.
- Mark border with pencil.
- Mark your pattern by measuring it off with a ruler or project the pattern using an overhead projector and transfer the pattern.
- If projecting, be sure your boards are straight against the wall, not at an angle.
- Label each section with the color you will use.

## Painting, continued

- Line each section off with frog tape and push the tape tight against the surface.
- Paint along the direction of the frog tape to avoid bleeding.
- Allow the paint to dry completely before applying a second coat.
- Paint one color at a time, two coats per color, until pattern is completed.
- If using border pieces, paint them.
- Bright colors show up better than pastel colors.
- Too many colors make the pattern too "busy."
- Slight imperfections will not show up from a distance.

## Installation

- Again, check the Kentucky Quilt Trail Project Yahoo site for suggestions on different methods of mounting.
- Some quilt squares are "free-standing" rather than mounted.



Photo by Gwendolyn Lynn Huff,  
Greenup County Quilt Trail

Mounting the quilt square requires planning depending upon the building where it will be hung. Some communities have chosen to mount the quilts free-standing like a sign rather than on a building.

## GPS Coordinates

- Keeping track of the GPS coordinates as you install your quilt squares will save you time later on. Having the GPS coordinates will be a plus for visitors.



Photo - Kentucky Quilt Trail  
[www.kentuckyquilttrail.org](http://www.kentuckyquilttrail.org)

Plan early to pinpoint the location of your quilt square with GPS coordinates. Your local government may have people on staff that has the equipment to track the coordinates for you.

## Developing a Web Site

View other community Web sites at:

<http://artsCouncil.ky.gov/QTrails/QTrails.htm>

Web site template available at:

[http://artsCouncil.ky.gov/QTrails/template/QTrails\\_Template.htm](http://artsCouncil.ky.gov/QTrails/template/QTrails_Template.htm)

Several communities have developed a web presence to publicize their project.

## Linking Your Quilt Trail Project

- As soon as you have established a contact person for your committee, we can establish a link from the Kentucky Arts Council statewide quilt trail map to your contact person.
- As soon as you have a Web site, we can establish a link from the Kentucky Arts Council statewide quilt trail map to your Web site.
- Contact Sandie Lawrence at [sandie.lawrence@ky.gov](mailto:sandie.lawrence@ky.gov)

The Kentucky Arts Council has a coordinated page to publicize and link all websites for easy access for interested tourists.