

Portland Handweavers Guild

WeGO Report for the period April 2020 – September 2020

Memberships

PHG memberships for this six-month period ended September 2020 is 228 active members (including life members).

2020-21 Officers

Officers for the PHG fiscal year 7/1/20-6/30/21: Chris Rossi, President; Lynne Fitzsimmons, Secretary; Lynnette Peterson, Treasurer.

Sales

The 2020 Gathering of the Guilds was scheduled for May 1-3, 2020 at the Oregon Convention Center (OCC) but was canceled due to the pandemic. Plans to reschedule the event for fall, thereby replacing PHG's usual Fall Sale in November at Multnomah Art Center (MAC), also have been tabled due to the pandemic. Future plans remain unclear.

Outreach and Demonstrations

Activities have been put on hold due to the pandemic.

Website

A new website is near completion, www.portlandhandweaversguild.org

Retreat

PHG's annual spring retreat, was canceled due to the coronavirus outbreak and it is not clear whether there will be one scheduled for 2021.

2020-21 Programs and Workshops (April through September)

PHG holds day and evening programs on the second Thursday of the month at 10AM and 7PM. Workshops, when scheduled, are generally held on the following weekend. Since the pandemic, programs that were scheduled were either canceled or replaced by a Zoom meeting and workshops through the end of the year were canceled, including the WeGO-sponsored Rigid Heddle Workshop.

April: Marilyn Romatka, Film Screening: Threads & Lives - CANCELED

April: Diane McKinnon, Handspun to Handwoven: It's a Journey - CANCELED

May: Deborah Jarchow, Rigid Heddle Weaving – Zoom

June: Annual Strawberry Social and election of 2020-21 officers – Zoom

July: Summer break – no meeting

August: Jean Pierre Larochette and Yadin Larochette, Anatomy of a Tapestry
Book Release Party - Zoom

September: Jerry Swick, Weave Design Software – Zoom

Additional Impacts of Pandemic:

The Multnomah Art Center (MAC), which is PHG's home, is part of the Portland Parks & Recreation Department and has been closed due to the pandemic. The guild cannot host its

meetings there and has had limited access to the storage closet where its rental equipment and library are housed. It has also been facing potential closure as a cost-cutting measure due to serious financial difficulties facing the Department. A bond issue to provide funds will be on the November ballot. If it passes, MAC may have sufficient funds to reopen as before. However, it is not a given that this bond issue will pass given the pandemic's financial impacts on city residents, and that the bulk of the funds would go to support summer youth programs. At its August Board Meeting, a small working group was charged with exploring options for a future home.

Name Tags for the ANWG 2021 Conference

Name tags were being woven at Ruthie's Weaving Studio and at demonstrations, but weaving has been put on hold due to the pandemic. Over 300 have been woven to date. Judy Stewart is leading an effort to make and attach lanyards. The conference is now being delayed to 2023, so weaving will remain on hold and lanyards will be attached to those name tags that have been woven and sewn to date. On September 25, the PHG Board confirmed that PHG will continue to support this task for the 2023 Conference.