



PRESS RELEASE

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The Handweavers Guild of America, Inc. (HGA), is pleased to announce that it will hold its international biennial conference, Convergence 2008, in Tampa Bay, Florida, June 22 through June 28, 2008. We are excited that the Florida Tropical Weavers Guild (FTWG) will be hosting our conference and will have the opportunity to highlight Florida's rich fiber traditions and cultural opportunities.

Highlighting the arts—especially the fiber arts within the community—is one of the goals of Convergence. HGA's conference, which has been held biennially since 1972, aims to increase public awareness and foster a synergy among the existing arts organizations within the community to increase public awareness about the fiber arts.

Florida Tropical Weavers Guild has a long tradition in the weaving and fiber arts community as well. Founded in 1943, this state guild has provided an educational conference for its members annually, drawing instructors from all over the United States and the world. The membership is very excited to be an integral part of the 2008 Convergence.

HGA brings over 2,500 registered participants from over thirty countries to its Convergence conference with an additional 3,000 day visitors and traditionally showcases the work of hundreds of artists in over seventy local community exhibits.

Educational opportunities abound through a wide variety of seminars, lectures and exciting tours, distinguished keynote speakers, and inspiring and informative workshops. Design, digital design, Jacquard design and weaving, designing for industry, interiors, and wearables, color theory, surface design, knitting, crocheting, dyeing processes and techniques,

printing on fabric, beading, spinning, fiber preparation, felting, basketry, ethnic, historical and contemporary textiles, fibers and processes are some of the topics of great interest to those attending Convergence.

Our appreciation goes to Norwood Smith, Terry Sams, and the staff of the Tampa Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)—who are determined and enthusiastic advocates of the city—for recognizing the value of highlighting the arts in Tampa Bay, for their assistance in creating a Host Committee within the Tampa Bay area visual arts community and for their creative approach to the proposal package design and presentation. We look forward to a continued relationship with the Tampa Bay CVB, the arts community, and the opportunity to show the best that Tampa Bay has to offer.

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