



Cyndi Bohlin
Communications and Marketing Manager
(202) 667-0441, ext. 78
cbohlin@textilemuseum.org

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Contact: Annie Laurie Sánchez, Communications and Marketing Assistant
(202) 667-0441, ext. 77 or asanchez@textilemuseum.org

Explore the Textile Arts and World Cultures at Celebration of Textiles
30th Annual Festival to be Held Saturday, June 7, 10 am – 4 pm and Sunday, June 8, 1-5 pm

May 8, 2008, Washington, D.C. — Join The Textile Museum for the 30th annual Celebration of Textiles on Saturday, June 7, 10 am – 4 pm and on Sunday, June 8, 1–5 pm. Take part in this **free festival for all ages** and explore the textile arts and cultures of the world through **30 hands-on activities and artist demonstrations celebrating 30 years**. Activities take place throughout the Museum's beautiful gardens, historic buildings and current exhibitions.

Please note: Activities and demonstrations vary on Saturday and Sunday. For the full weekend schedule, please visit www.textilemuseum.org/celebration.htm. Refreshments provided by Gifford's Ice Cream & Candy Co. will be available for purchase on Saturday. **ALL ACTIVITIES ARE FREE.** Celebration of Textiles is part of Dupont-Kalorama Museums Consortium's 25th annual Museum Walk Weekend. For more information about Museum Walk Weekend, visit www.dkmuseums.com.



The Textile Museum's annual Celebration of Textiles festival includes numerous hands-on activities for visitors of all ages. Photo by Stone Photography.

Festival Activities

Celebration of Textiles invites children and adult visitors to experience weaving, knitting, quilting, dyeing, rug restoration and much more. A perennial favorite, this year's festival features **live sheep shearing demonstrations** (Saturday only, weather permitting) and the chance to

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try spinning wool into yarn. Visitors can **create a blue-dyed textile**, inspired by the Museum's exhibition *BLUE*, and watch artists from Springwater Fiber Workshop use **natural indigo dye**. Other hands-on activities include a **hat-making station** and the opportunity to make your own **textile bracelet**. Attendees can also see and try a variety of looms, and talk with members of the Annapolis Quilt Guild, the Baltimore Embroidery Guild and the Chesapeake Region Lace Guild, as well as area knitters and contemporary fiber artists.

Live musical performances include bluegrass performed by Blue Daze (Saturday only) and traditional Andean music and dance presented by RAYMI (Sunday only). The program on Saturday also includes the unveiling of **a special display of textile art** by students from three District of Columbia Public Schools – a 3rd grade art class at AK Savoy Elementary School, a 5th grade art class at Anthony Bowen Elementary School, and a 5th grade class from JC Nalle Elementary School – created through The Textile Museum's annual Museum-School Partnership program.

Visitors can explore the creation and significance of the color blue in textiles – particularly expressed through natural indigo dye – in the exhibition *BLUE*. A second show on view, ***The Finishing Touch: Accessories from the Bolivian Highlands***, features a charming and colorful group of belts, bags, hats and other handmade textiles made and used by the indigenous peoples of the Bolivian Andes.

History of the Festival

In 1978 The Textile Museum in Washington, D.C. held a celebration of textile arts in the Museum's gardens to commemorate International Museum Day. That event served as the catalyst for what has now blossomed into Celebration of Textiles, a lively weekend of fiber arts activities and fun for the entire family. More than 2,400 visitors take part in the art activities annually, learning about handmade textiles and the cultures around the world that produce them.

Celebration of Textiles started with the goal of inviting people to come in casually and learn about the techniques and cultures represented in the Museum's exhibitions, drawing in new audiences and offering an opportunity for people of all ages to explore the wonder and variety of textile art. While The Textile Museum now provides a variety of opportunities for children to learn about textiles year-round through school programs and the hands-on Activity Gallery of The Textile Learning Center, the spirit of Celebration of Textiles has remained

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constant. It aims to build a greater appreciation of the textile arts through intergenerational activities that can be enjoyed by children, parents, grandparents and friends alike.

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Founded in 1925 by George Hewitt Myers, The Textile Museum is an international center for the exhibition, study, collection and preservation of the textile arts. The Museum explores the role that textiles play in the daily and ceremonial life of individuals the world over. Special attention is given to textiles of the Near East, Asia, Africa and the indigenous cultures of the Americas. The Museum also presents exhibitions of historical and contemporary quilts, and fiber art. With a collection of more than 18,000 textiles and rugs and an unparalleled library, The Textile Museum is a unique and valuable resource for people locally, nationally and internationally.

The Textile Museum is located at 2320 'S' Street, NW in Washington, D.C. The Museum is open Monday through Saturday 10 am – 5pm and Sunday 1-5pm. Admission is free with a suggested donation of \$5 for non-members. For further information, call 202-667-0441 or visit www.textilemuseum.org.

In fall 2009 The Textile Museum will open an expansion site – located at 421 7th Street, NW, in Washington, D.C.'s Penn Quarter – dedicated to exhibitions and educational activities. For more information about this exciting initiative, visit www.textilemuseum.org/expansion.htm.

For more information or images, please contact Annie Laurie Sánchez, communications and marketing assistant, at (202) 667-0441, ext. 77 or asanchez@textilemuseum.org or visit www.textilemuseum.org/about/pressroom.htm.