

BOWERS MUSEUM

PROGRAM GUIDE

JULY/AUGUST 2026



Celebrating

AMERICA'S 250TH SUMMER



Celebrating America's 250th Birthday

“This quilt is what independence looks like on a fiber level.”

Tara Miller

Guest Curator and Quilt Historian

In the years before the Revolution, Britain barred the colonies from manufacturing wool cloth for export, a policy meant to keep them economically dependent. Lucretia Smith's 1776 wholecloth quilt pushed back against that restriction quietly: its wool was grown and woven in Massachusetts, and its indigo dye was cultivated and processed right here in America.



THE AMERICAN QUILT
CLOTH & COMMERCE

MAY 23 — AUG 30, 2026

Tickets at [bowers.org](https://www.bowers.org)

“Stitch By Stitch”

Join and become interwoven with Bowers’ growing community!



Bowers Members Enjoy Exclusive Benefits, including:

- One year of unlimited free General Admission
- One free ticket (per cardholder) to each Special-Ticketed exhibition
- 30-50% off all public programs (lectures, films, performances, workshops)
- Up to a 20% discount at the Gallery Store and Bowers’ restaurant, Ada’s Table
- A print subscription to our bi-annual magazine, *Passport*
- Invitations to exclusive member opening events and more!

Join now and help build the legacy of Bowers.

Join Now

Image credit: Mary Lu Booker’s President’s Quilt, 2022. Collection of Mary Lu Booker.

If you would like assistance in registering or want to learn more about our membership levels, please contact us at  714.567.3639 or  membership@bowers.org



**Take the adventure of a lifetime with Bowers Museum
and visit the world's finest arts and cultures!***

New Zealand | Feb 18 — Mar 1, 2027

[Click here to see the itinerary!](#)

Paris to Burgundy | May 2027

Vietnam | Aug 2027

These excursions fill quickly so please reserve your spot as soon as possible!*

For questions or to sign up for a trip, please contact Lesley Ann Hamilton
at lahamilton@bowers.org or **714.567.3602**.

Become a Fellow

**Must be an active member at the Fellow level or Above to register.
For assistance joining/upgrading, please contact our Membership Department*

at  **714.567.3639** or  membership@bowers.org.



Quilts, Cotton, and Indigo from Japan with Teresa Duryea-Wong

SAT | JUL 18 | 1:30 PM
NORMA KERSHAW AUDITORIUM

Go back in time, to a fascinating point in Japan's history when cotton & indigo – two epic plants – forever changed Japan's textile world. Meet the masters who are preserving the old traditions of natural indigo dyeing and meet the quilters who have dedicated their quilting to working with antique cotton. Learn the stories behind traditional cotton folk textiles such as kasuri, katazome, yukata, and kimono cloth and how a handful of Japanese weavers are continuing these traditions into the 21st century. Go inside today's esteemed textile printing mills and hear the secrets of how Japan produces the finest quilting cotton in the world.

This program is made possible through a generous bequest by Lynda Thomas (1950-2021).

TICKETED EVENT
MEMBERS \$15 | GENERAL \$20

[Get Tickets](#)

CLOSING LECTURE

cotton

Inherited Material Culture with Chawne Kimber

SUN | AUG 30 | 1:30 PM
NORMA KERSHAW AUDITORIUM

Through an autobiography in ancestral quilts and her own development as a textile artist, Chawne Kimber will lead us in exploring cultures of materiality and modes of expression using cloth. Her ancestors (unwillingly) farmed and dyed cotton in the southern United States and then engaged in quilting out of necessity. There are contrasts and parallels in her ruminative and ethical modern art practice.

This program is made possible through a generous bequest by Lynda Thomas (1950-2021).

TICKETED EVENT

MEMBERS \$15 | GENERAL \$20

[Get Tickets](#)



BOWERS MUSEUM
QUILT
FAIR

Bowers Museum Quilt Fair

SUN | AUGUST 16 | 10 AM - 4 PM
JOHN M. LEE COURT

The Bowers Museum Quilt Fair is a vibrant celebration of textile art bringing together stunning handmade quilts, talented artisans, and craft enthusiasts. Explore unique vendors, catch our Speaker Series featuring quilt professionals, and enjoy story time for kids in the galleries — making it a fun outing for the whole family. Held in celebration of the Museum’s featured exhibition, *The American Quilt: Cloth and Commerce*, the Festival is the perfect complement to a day of textile-inspired discovery.

Vendor Information

Interested vendors please contact our staff directly at **714.567.3638** or **ANalle@bowers.org** by July 16, 2026. Don’t miss your chance to be part of this colorful and creative event!

FREE EVENT

Image credit: Double Knit Flying Geese Quilt, 1960s–1970s.
Bowers Museum Purchase, 2025.7.1. © Bowers Museum.

Learn More



Timeless Melodies

Take a nostalgic walk down memory lane with music and more presented by Larry Maurer, historian of the Timeless Melodies Foundation for Education, Inc.

Movie Musicals 1940s (Part 2)

THU | JUL 23 | 1:30 - 3 PM

NORMA KERSHAW AUDITORIUM | LECTURE

The second half of the 1940s was a transformative period for movie musicals. The innovative works of Rodgers and Hammerstein, the artistry of Gene Kelly, the genius of Cole Porter, and the charisma of Frank Sinatra created a timeless legacy. As television emerged, these stars and their melodies continued to captivate audiences.

[Get Tickets](#)

Harold Arlen: “Over the Rainbow”

THU | AUG 27 | 1:30 - 3 PM

NORMA KERSHAW AUDITORIUM | LECTURE

While Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, and Cole Porter are household names, Harold Arlen’s songs have not received the same level of public recognition. He is remembered for *Stormy Weather*, *Get Happy*, *I’ve Got the World on a String* and *The Wizard of Oz*, set him apart from the rest.

[Get Tickets](#)

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

MEMBERS \$11 | GENERAL \$16

TALKS: *Explore Ancient Egypt with ARCE-OC during our ongoing lecture series*



Here Comes the Sun: A Diachronic Study on the Role of Music During the Amarna Period with Waleed el-Hawatky

SAT | JUL 11 | 1:30 - 3:30 PM
NORMA KERSHAW AUDITORIUM | LECTURE

Presented by Egyptologist and musicologist Waleed el-Hawatky, this talk explores the role of music in ancient Egypt's Amarna royal court. From its deep roots in daily life during the Old Kingdom, music became even more prominent during the Amarna Period, marked by notable innovations in instruments and ensembles. Drawing on evidence from tombs, temples, texts, and artifacts, el-Hawatky examines how musical practice evolved under Aten ideology and its social and gender implications.



[Get Tickets](#)

TICKETED EVENT

FREE FOR BOWERS & ARCE MEMBERS | GENERAL \$15

RECORDED ONLINE SCREENING

FREE FOR BOWERS & ARCE MEMBERS | GENERAL \$10

Online version will be emailed to ticketholders one week after the onsite event.



Traditional North Indian Jewelry: Origins and Influences Shaping the Designs We See Today with Chumki DeSarker

FRI | AUG 28 | 11 AM - 12:30 PM
NORMA KERSHAW AUDITORIUM | LECTURE

Chumki DeSarker is a Jewelry Designer and Small Business Owner who has lived in Orange County for 30 years. A world traveler and Bead Society Executive Board member, Chumki has spent years exploring the origins of jewelry designs across cultures and the stories they tell. In this lecture, she brings that passion close to home, tracing the origins and influences that have shaped the traditional jewelry of North India into the stunning designs we see today.

TICKETED EVENT

FREE FOR BOWERS MEMBERS | GENERAL \$15

RECORDED ONLINE SCREENING

FREE FOR BOWERS & ARCE MEMBERS | GENERAL \$10

Online version will be emailed to ticketholders one week after the onsite event.

[**Get Tickets**](#)

Celebrating America's 250th Birthday

FREE

family FESTIVAL

Sponsored by

The
Nicholas
Endowment

Celebrate with Bowers Museum during our free family festivals held every first Sunday of the month in the Museum's beautiful Key Courtyard. Enjoy live performances, art making, face painting and complimentary treats at every festival. Free Family Festivals are made possible with generous support from the Nicholas Endowment.

Red, White, and Blues American Festival

[Learn More](#)

SUN | JUL 12

Let's celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States of America, "The Beautiful," with music, dance and food. We'll have jazz, blues and a tribute to the Great American song book. Free activities for the entire family, with art projects, face painting, line dancing, and samples of apple pie.

Pacific Islands Festival

[Learn More](#)

SUN | AUG 2

Enjoy the exciting Polynesian dance performances by Tupua dancers, Hula dance by Halau Hula Lani Ola and beautiful Island songs by Kama'aina Glee Club of Orange County. The entire family can make flower leis and head pieces, have their faces painted and enjoy a cool Island treat.

Bowers' Books for Kids: Storytime in the Galleries

Held every last Saturday of the month, Storytime in the Galleries includes free copies of each author's featured book while supplies last and free General Admission to the galleries. Reading in the galleries will be followed by a simple, fun art project that kids will love.

Shoes Off, Please

SAT | JUL 25 | 10:30 AM - 12 PM
JOHN M. LEE COURT

When Mina invites her friends over, she feels embarrassed by her family's tradition of removing shoes before entering the house—until she begins to understand the meaning behind it. She realizes that family traditions are more than just rules; they are threads that connect us to the people we love. To her surprise, Mina also discovers that each of her friends has special customs in their own homes. Together, they come up with a kind and creative way to remind guests about the no-shoes rule at Mina's home, while learning to respect and celebrate one another's customs along the way.



RSVP

Bitty Baker's 100 First Kitchen Words

SAT | AUG 29 | 10:30 AM - 12 PM
JOHN M. LEE COURT

Bitty Baker's First 100 Kitchen Words is a colorful children's book that introduces young readers to kitchen vocabulary through fun baking adventures. The story follows Dash, a young baking enthusiast, as he shares favorite recipes like strawberry mochi ice cream cake and octopus cupcakes. Along the way, children learn about ingredients, kitchen tools, and cooking actions through bright, engaging illustrations and simple language. Designed for preschool and early elementary readers, it combines education with playful storytelling to inspire a love of cooking and baking.



RSVP

FREE EVENT

This program is made possible through generous donations from Capital Group and The Crean Foundation.

ANNE'S TREASURES ART WORKSHOPS

2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS

*Join this very special arts engagement program
for seniors and their community.*

10 AM - 12 PM | JOHN M. LEE COURT

TICKETED EVENTS: \$3 MATERIALS FEE

FREE TICKETS FOR BOWERS MEMBERS AGED 62+ | GENERAL \$7

Questions? Email mlopez@bowers.org or call 714.567.3678.



Paint Party with Artist Matt Southgate

THU | JUL 9

THU | JUL 23

In collaboration with Sheldrick Wildlife Trust USA, artist Matt Southgate will guide participants through an African safari-inspired painting. Working step-by-step, Matt Southgate will walk you through each stage of the process — all paints and canvases are provided, so no experience is necessary.



Get Tickets
for the 9th

Get Tickets
for the 23rd

Clay Alebrijes

THU | AUG 13

Alebrijes are vibrant, fantastical Mexican folk-art sculptures created in 1936 by Pedro Linares in Mexico City. Originally crafted from papier-mâché, they were later adapted by artists in Oaxaca using copal wood, becoming iconic symbols of Mexican culture and imagination.



Get Tickets

Coiled Baskets

THU | AUG 27

Create a colorful basket from cotton coil, glue, paints, feathers, and trinkets.



Get Tickets



KCRW Summer Nights

SAT | AUG 29 | 7 - 10 PM
ALL GALLERIES

Spend a summer night at the Bowers Museum for a free, all-ages KCRW Summer Nights party featuring live sets from KCRW DJs Chris Douridas & John Tejada. Dance the night away with the whole family, then step inside for after-hours access to *The American Quilt: Cloth & Commerce* — an exhibition exploring the artistry and innovation woven through centuries of American life, on view through August 30. Don't miss this unforgettable evening at the Bowers!

FREE EVENT

Museum admission is sold separately. Bowers and KCRW Members and Santa Ana residents get free General Admission.

RSVP



Underrated Movie Night hosted by Underrated Podcast

FRI | AUG 21 | 6-9 PM
ALL GALLERIES

Join us for a special screening of *How to Make an American Quilt*, presented by the Underrated Movie Podcast. Following the film, Underrated host Derick McDuff and a panel of speakers will discuss Jocelyn Moorhouse's 1995 classic. With a powerful ensemble cast led by Winona Ryder and Anne Bancroft, the film is a moving exploration of female friendship — a perfect complement to our featured exhibition, *The American Quilt: Cloth and Commerce*.



TICKETED EVENT
MEMBERS \$15 | GENERAL \$20

[Get Tickets](#)

Books at Bowers: Touring Through the Pages



THU | AUG 20

1 - 2 PM

NORMA KERSHAW AUDITORIUM

RSVP

SAT | AUG 22

10:30 - 11:30 AM

NORMA KERSHAW AUDITORIUM

RSVP

For Members Only: A Book Club Experience

Books at Bowers: Touring Through the Pages is a Bowers Docent Guild sponsored book club for Bowers Museum members.

The August book selection is *The Quilter's Apprentice* by Jennifer Chiaverini. This is the debut novel of Chiaverini's bestselling Elm Creek Quilts series. The story is a "timeless tale of family, friendship, and forgiveness as two women weave the disparate pieces of their lives into a bountiful and harmonious whole, and begin the legacy of the Elm Creek Quilters." (Simon & Schuster) Set in a small Pennsylvania college town, a young woman learns to quilt from a master quilter while helping the older woman with the restoration of her family estate and the resolution of past mistakes, leading to new beginnings for both women. The novel "glows with the love of quilts, the importance of family, and the value of friends with whom to share our joys and sorrows." (Kathryn Smith, Anderson Independent-Mail) (copyright 1999, 272 pages, paperback)

Following the book discussion will be a docent led tour of our latest featured exhibit, *The American Quilt: Cloth and Commerce*.

Free Event

Space is limited to 50 Bowers Museum members.

A confirmation email will be sent to participants prior to the event.



Docent Orientation Event

TUE | JUL 21 | 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM
NORMA KERSHAW AUDITORIUM

Curious about world cultures? Passionate about sharing stories?
Your next great adventure starts here!

What awaits you as a docent:

- **Journey through World Cultures**—past and present — with access to exhibits and collections that few get to experience up close.
- **Exclusive insider access** to special lectures, behind-the-scenes events, and world-class exhibits — with expert curatorial staff as your guides.
- **Tour on your terms.** Choose a schedule that fits your life — mornings, afternoons, or weekends — leading engaging tours for visitors of all ages.
- **Join a community of kindred spirits** — curious, community-minded people who share your love of culture in a welcoming, inclusive environment.

Reserve Your Spot!

Register Now

Or email Membership Chair **Charlene Weitz**
at charweitz@cox.net

Celebrate America's 250th Birthday
with American quilts!



Shop now at
shop.bowers.org