



Foothill Fiber Works Newsletter

v.1 issue 1

In the beginning.....



Message from the Director

- It all began with languishing looms..... and the enthusiasm of a handful of members of the Hangtown Fibers Guild. The desire to share our love of the fiber arts and creativity spurred us to envision a place of connection and learning. It blossomed into a vision of a place for all things fiber; a school and makers' place where creativity could flow. To date, the steering committee has diligently investigated options, engaged in multiple outreach events and conversations with the wider El Dorado community to assess interest in the concept. We have sought guidance from other non-profit organizations and landed in a temporary physical space. Our inaugural open house, proved to us that we were on the right track. The knowledge shared was amazing, and enthusiasm of expert and novice weavers alike was palpable. We have been blessed with multiple donations of a temporary space to develop our concept, beautiful looms, other weaving equipment and a wall of yarn. Next steps include finalizing our business plan for year 1, fund raising, and exploring grant opportunities, and hopefully landing in a permanent place where we can begin to offer classes to the wider public.

Inaugural Open House

- We gathered on December 6th from 10am -2pm to celebrate the beginnings of our fiber school and creative space. The steering committee invited all interested members and friends to stop by to visit and see looms in action. Warping, weaving and the sharing of fiber know-how filled the rooms.



Meet our Looms



Alice is an 8-shaft Schacht jack loom. Donated by Alice O'Connel, this loom will be a workhorse of our school



Jennifer is a rigid heddle loom donated by Jennifer Sands. Rigid heddle looms are quick to dress, amazingly versatile, and great for learning weaving basics.



Gloria is a 12-shaft manual AVL loom with shuttle race. Donated by Gloria Novak, this loom will enable weavers to take on almost any complex weave structure or produce yards of cloth.



Mary is a 4-shaft counter balance loom. This loom is quite versatile and a good transition to floor looms from a rigid heddle. ↑



Jean is a 4-shaft, jack loom. This is another great floor loom that will enable weavers to develop skills on a wide array of projects.

Gloria 2 are two vertical tapestry looms on one frame! →



Community Interest

- On October 20, 2025 Mary Jane visited the Living Liberty Studies home school group at Pioneer Bible Church in Pioneer. She introduced 2 classes (K-3rd grade and 4th-8th grade) to fiber preparation and spinning. Students got to investigate several types of fibers, drafting, spinning with a “twizzle stick” (dowel with a cup hook) and treading a saxony spinning wheel. Each class lasted 45 minutes and wowed the audience.
- We continue to receive interest in classes from home school groups and are working to develop a curriculum.

Fundraising

- Initial efforts have brought in around \$500 and more fundraising events are planned for 2026.
- In order to officially launch our school, we hope to secure enough funds to provide operating costs for one year.
- Grants – As we finalize plans for our name, logo and website, we will begin to apply for grant funds through El Dorado Community Foundation, the Latrobe Fund and other sources.
- Community Outreach – Continuing to connect with and inform the wider El Dorado County community about our efforts is critical to our mission and we look for all opportunities to engage.



Yarn donations to date