



Photo by @alexisjoy42

Glass Craft and Bead Expo

Glass Craft and Bead Expo will be celebrating our 29th year at the South Point Hotel in Las Vegas, NV from April 2nd-6th 2025! Heralded as one of the most professional, family orientated, educational art glass and bead trade events in the US. Our show is put on with tremendous love and support for the art community and we work hard to keep the show up to date with the latest art techniques for classes and vendors for our show floor.

We offer over 350 specialty classes from glassblowing,

jewelry making, fusing, stained glass, mosaics and more! We have over 80 instructors that come from all over the world, bringing their expertise into their respective fields. Taking classes at Glass Craft and Bead Expo offers the opportunity to learn from the world's best artists in an intimate setting.

Our show floor has everything you can imagine, from supplies, tools and equipment for hobbyist/artists to beautiful, finished art pieces by artists of all levels of expertise. With over 100+ Craft vendors, this is the perfect

event to bring your family of all ages. Children 18 and under get free entry into the expo!

Shopping isn't the only thing you can do on our show floor, you can also watch live demonstrations by some of the most talented artists, including flameworking! We offer some Free Make and Takes for families of all ages, as our goal is to introduce art to the future generations. There is a free photo experience to capture memories on the show floor that will last a lifetime. We also have a gallery filled with incredible art for all

attendees to admire. You can even vote in our Gallery of Excellence competition.

The annual Gallery of Excellence juried art competition entries in both professional and amateur categories astound the attendees each year with the beauty and skill of the work. Local high schools have participated in the gallery for many years. Scholarships for local high school students and teachers have been made available through the Kay Bain-Weiner Foundation, show management and other contributors.

This year we are excited to be offering a Community Mosaic Project on our show floor as well. Attendees get to help create a group mosaic that will be installed into this year's charity, the Las Vegas Ronald McDonald House. The (RMHC) provides a home-like environment for families of children who are sick or injured and need medical care. The goal of the Ronald McDonald House is to reduce stress and financial burden for families, and to help them participate in their child's care. This will be a fun time for you and the family to work on a beautiful mosaic together and get your artistic spirit flying!

Glass Craft and Bead Expo is very passionate about the art community and exposing the younger generations to the magic and necessity of

art. Glass Craft and Bead Expo team has also created the Glass Craft Art Foundation in which we provide scholarships and other financial support to those in the glass and metal smithing industry across the country which include scholarships for students interested in pursuing hobbies or careers in the industry, educators who need assistance purchasing or maintaining studios, artists who lack access to studios or materials, and industry-connected individuals who are in need of miscellaneous financial and disaster relief. Our goal is to inspire growth in the Glass and Metal art industry by providing educational support to students and emerging artists.

Last year we were able to procure 2 Paragon kilns, a Techniglass Grinder and Oceanside glass for the Green Valley High School Art Department for the students to start learning to create glass art.

We look forward to donating more in the future to several schools, to broaden the arts across the nation!

Glass Craft and Bead Expo offers

opportunities to everyone of all ages and abilities to participate in the showcasing of their arts and to learn more about how to create various kinds of arts. At our 2024 show we had the lovely Tateonna Hass, the founder of Sunshine Beads, exhibit with us for her first tradeshow! She sold her handcrafted beaded bracelets/jewelry and offered her amazing smile for free to everyone. To say that she was a hit at the show was an understatement. Everyone was walking around wearing one of a kind, Sunshine Bead bracelets. Find her on the 2025 show floor and stop by to get a bracelet and some sunshine!

Our team is looking into bringing sensor-friendly classes in the future for the special needs community. Art is a wonderful and therapeutic way for adults and children with special needs to explore their creativity, discover new passions, and boost their self-confidence. Art creation





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can open the door for choice-making, self-expression, and when created in an inclusive setting, can boost community engagement and social skills. We look forward to bringing everyone together to experience the beauty and magic of art.

You maybe wondering, how did Glass Craft and Bead Expo start? Well, here is the fascinating history of our show:

In 1994 Tommy Licata, founder and owner of Las Vegas Management and Creative Endeavors, was asked if he would be interested in organizing an educational conference and tradeshow for the Art Glass Industry. He and Nancy Montgomery consulted with industry leaders such as Kay Bain-Weiner, Norm Dobbins, Vicki Payne, Joe Porcelli and many others; the

result was the Glass Craft Expo. It was held at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas the spring of 1995.

1996 Glass Craft Expo moved to the Cashman Convention Center, where it was held for the next 10 years. The Expo was designed to help promote the art glass industry, by offering educational classes, a trade show and networking opportunities, all which were open to the public. The goal was to include all forms of art glass, including stained glass, fused glass, cold working, mosaics, and flameworking.

Lee Anne Short, who worked on the Creative Endeavors side of the company, took over production of the show after the conclusion of the 2003 Expo. On the 10th anniversary, the show was renamed "Glass Craft & Bead Expo" to include the growing flameworking

and bead industries.

As the show continued to grow, filling every square foot of the Cashman Center, it was determined that we had outgrown that facility. In 2006 the South Point Hotel and Conference Center was opened and the show moved to this great facility, with a great combination of meeting rooms, event space, trade show halls, and best of all, on site hotel rooms.

Tommy Licata passed away in 2008, and the International Hot Glass Invitational held during the 2009 show was dedicated to his memory. The Invitational was the largest flame-off that had been held, with teams of 4-5 well-known national and international lampworkers competing over two nights creating some of the most incredible sculptures.

Fast forward to today where Lee Anne and the team (Amy Short, Skye Jones, Kelly Corcoran and Jeff Keating) continue to work hard every year to bring the art community together and put on one awesome show for everyone. We look forward to growing the art and glass community for many years to come!