

Alliance for Artisan Enterprise Corporate Council Draft Agenda

June 10, 2013, 12:45 pm – 4:45 pm

Room 1105, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520

12:30	<p>Welcome and Registration</p>
1:00-1:30	<p>Opening Remarks and Overview of the Alliance for Artisan Enterprise</p> <p>Overview of the goals and the objectives of the Alliance, the Alliance for Artisan Enterprise Corporate Council, and the meeting.</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon Wiener, Acting Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues • Karen Gibbs, Co-Director of the Alliance for Artisan Enterprise and Co-Founder and President of ByHand Consulting
1:30-2:15	<p>Presentation and Roundtable Discussion of Gaps, Challenges, and Potential Needs to Expand the Ability of Retail Buyers to Source from Artisans Globally</p> <p>This will be an informal roundtable discussion to encourage the exchange of ideas on successes, challenges, limitations, and gaps regarding policies and programs to improve the value chain for artisan goods.</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greta Schettler, Senior Policy Advisor for Economics & Entrepreneurship, Office of Global Women’s Issues • Natika Washington, Director of Global Programs, Office of Global Women’s Issues • Jim Brett, President, west elm • Jean Johnson, Director of Product Development and Merchandising, SERRV
2:15-3:00	<p>Issue Area Breakout Sessions</p> <p>Participants will separate into four working groups to discuss critical issues listed below. Challenges, potential solutions, and practical next steps will be discussed and recorded.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Growing Supply Chains while Maintaining the Benefits of Artisan Work</u> Potential benefits of artisan work are producer autonomy, flexible scheduling, working at home, seasonal employment, job creation/income generation, and transfer of community-based skills. b) <u>Addressing Key Challenges Inhibiting Artisans and Retailers/Brands</u> For example, challenges include growing artisan businesses, global market access, product development, business training, and capital. c) <u>Developing a Verification Process</u> This will include discussions on social responsibility/ethical sourcing and knowledge of where to access specialized services, product quality, and production capacity. d) <u>Policy and Public Sector Engagement</u> Issues to be addressed include trade barriers, trade agreements, policy gaps, and working within the framework of existing international standards and principles.
3:00 - 3:15	<p>Break</p>
3:15 - 4:00	<p>Readout of Solutions from Breakout Sessions and Capturing Additional Ideas</p> <p>The three groups will reconvene to present and discuss their issue area. At the end of each group’s presentation, the other two groups will have the opportunity to add additional comments and ideas.</p>
4:00 - 4:45	<p>Moving Forward: Next Steps and Potential Synergies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of current tools, training programs, best practices, and potential partnerships to expand the impact of current policies and initiatives. What are ways in which collaboration can assist in closing major gaps? • Discussion of next steps and new potential ways that we can continue working together to create greater impact. <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greta Schettler and Natika Washington • Karen Gibbs