



Quilts4DC

DC Statehood Quilt Challenge

A project supported by
LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

This summer, be part of the great legacy of American quilt-making as a means of patriotic expression. The Quilts4DC Challenge asks quilters everywhere to share their creativity and lift the message of full representation and voting rights for fellow Americans residing in Washington, DC.

Did you know that Washington, DC, has more than 700,000 residents, home to more people than either Vermont or Wyoming? Unlike Americans in the 50 states, DC citizens do not have voting representation in Congress, control of their local budgets and laws, nor input into judicial appointments. Yet these fellow Americans have all the full obligations of citizenship. Most Americans think the slogan "*Taxation without Representation is Tyranny*" was put to rest in 1776, yet 245 years later, this aptly describes the status of citizens who live in Washington, DC.

DC is a vibrant region with beautiful parks, lively neighborhoods, cultural activities, historic sites, and diverse houses of worship. European settlement of the area began more than 400 years ago when John Smith sailed up the Potomac River and encountered the indigenous Nacotchtank people. Since its founding as a federal district in 1790, DC has been home to a vibrant African American population, as well as Americans and their descendants from every wave of immigration into the United States, who have created a dynamic, diverse and culturally inclusive community.

This is an exciting time for DC residents as this year the House of Representatives voted to make Washington, DC the 51st State, to be called **Washington, Douglass Commonwealth (DC)**. This is exciting for all Americans, as this will be the first time a new state joins the Union since Alaska and Hawaii joined in 1959. Granting statehood is awaiting approval by the U.S. Senate and signature by the U.S. President.

How Will This Work?

Quilters are invited to create one or more quilts inspired by the theme of DC Statehood. Completed works can be submitted to be part of an online quilt exhibition and selected works have the opportunity to become part of one or more in-person exhibitions.

Submissions must meet the definition of a quilt (3 layers—top, batting, and back secured together by quilting, tying, or embroidery) with a finished edge. (Quilted objects, items, or garments are not acceptable.) Use the style of your choice (traditional, modern, improv, etc.). Other requirements include:

- ❖ Maximum size = 96 in. in circumference, with no side (side-to-side, top-to-bottom, or circle diameter) longer than 36 in. Examples sizes include 24 in. x 24 in., 12 in. x 36 in., or 36 in. x 12 in.
- ❖ Minimum size = 8 in. x 12 in.
- ❖ Any shape (e.g., square, rectangular, round, wonky) is acceptable as long as it can be readily hung on a wall.
- ❖ Use any pattern or design whether original, free, or commercial with acknowledgement of the source.
- ❖ Inspiration based on imagery, photographs, murals, artwork, or any creation of others must have the maker's permission for use.

Quilts must be completed and submitted online (no fee) by September 30, 2021.

Enter as many quilts as you like, there is no limit!

Quilts4DC is organized by quilters in the DC region in association with the League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia, a non-partisan 501(c)3. For more information contact us at Quilts4DC@gmail.com

How to Participate

Join the [Quilts 4 DC Facebook Group](#) to find inspiration, collaborate and share your work.

Follow us on Instagram ([Quilts4DC](#)) or Twitter ([@Quilts4DC](#)); when posting, please reference [#Quilts4DC](#).

Detailed submission instructions and technical specifications for on-line show will be released in August.

Submit any questions to quilts4dc@gmail.com or via the [Quilts 4 DC Facebook Group](#).

Timeline

July 4	Challenge Announcement and Launch – start designing and sewing!
August 31	Instructions and specifications for on-line submission released
Sept. 1 – Sept. 30	Submissions open for on-line show (image and artist statement)
September 30	Challenge closes and last date for submissions
November 1	On-line quilt show opens
December 1	Notification of quiltmakers selected for in-person exhibition
Winter-Spring 2022	Exhibition(s) of selected quilts in Washington, DC and other sites

Inspiration

Inspiration may be found in many sources including books from your local library and many on-line sites featuring DC history in text and imagery. Here are some good places to start:

DC History and Current Events:

- ❖ <http://www.historydc.org/>
- ❖ <http://dchistory.org/>
- ❖ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Washington,_D.C.

Organizations Working on Statehood:

- ❖ <https://www.lwvdc.org/dc-statehood>
- ❖ <https://www.dcvote.org/>
- ❖ <https://www.nopeneighbors.org/dcstatehood>
- ❖ <http://www.dcstatehoodcoalition.org/>

DC Arts Projects:

- ❖ <https://www.lwvdc.org/picture51>
- ❖ <http://muralsdcproject.com/mural/muralsdc51/>

What Will a 51-Star Flag Look Like:

- ❖ <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/may/03/washington-dc-statehood-51-stars>

Official Symbols of DC (<https://os.dc.gov/page/dc-symbols>):

Motto: <i>Justitia Omnibus</i> (Justice for All)	Flower: American Beauty Rose
Bird: Wood Thrush	Fruit: Cherry
Tree: Scarlet Oak	Rock: Potomac Bluestone
Fish: American Shad	Dinosaur: <i>Capitalsaurus</i>

Other DC Favorites:

- ❖ Go-Go Music (1970s)
- ❖ Mambo Sauce (1960s)
- ❖ Half-Smokes (1950s)

Fun Facts About DC:

- ❖ Oldest continuously operating fish market in U.S. (1805)
- ❖ More annual rainfall (39 inches) than Seattle, WA
- ❖ Chinatown since the 1880s
- ❖ World's largest Shakespeare collection (Folger Shakespeare Library, est. 1932)

Ready, Set, SEW!!!

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