



FOLK & CULTURAL ARTS & CRAFTS

WHAT IS IT?

For thousands of years people around the world have used naturally occurring materials to create functional and beautiful objects. These objects can have a high aesthetic value and often represent local culture and values. The skills required to make and use many of these types of arts and crafts can be learned and taught for generations.



MOST COMMON USES?

- Reeds and grasses from wetlands are used to create baskets, clothing, jewelry and decorative designs
- Clippings of evergreen shrub species are collected for commercial flower arranging
- Wild edible mushrooms are collected for local, regional, and international cuisine
- Sculptural carvings from wood are displayed inside buildings and homes
- Horns, bones, and hides of harvested species can become elements for jewelry, rings, knives, and clothing
- Strips of cedar tree bark is fashioned into beautiful baskets, clothing, ceremonial masks and objects.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTEGRATION

- Businesses can create goodwill by supporting preservation of arts in indigenous and non-indigenous artistic communities.
- Art promotes communication leading to improved community integration

HOW IS IT MADE?

- Natural materials are collected seasonally. Local crafts-persons then manufacture finished products for sale or sharing.
- In some locations “makers” spaces provide an array of tools and techniques that allow a broad range of artisans a place to make their specific products without the high overhead costs being borne by each.

DESTINATION/FATE

- Many harvesters and/or manufacturers of these materials sell at wholesale to retailers who then offer them to the broader market in farmers markets, galleries, restaurants, and/or retail shops and stores.

CONCERNS

- Folk arts and crafts take time and creativity.
- The markets are often small and limited
- The potential for scaling up these products for large markets is limited.
- Limitations of natural availability of materials can also be a brake on “industrialization” of these practices.