

# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Koelnmesse Elevates the Crafting Experience with the Launch of Fiber+Fabric Craft Festival**

*An Unforgettable Celebration of Creativity and Community Awaits in May 2026*

Chicago, IL - January 8, 2025 - Koelnmesse, a global leader in organizing world-class events, is thrilled to announce the launch of the Fiber+Fabric Craft Festival, an exciting new consumer-focused extravaganza set to ignite the crafting industry. Scheduled for May 1-3, 2026, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention & Conference Center in Rosemont, Illinois, this festival is poised to become the ultimate destination for craft enthusiasts across North America.

### Igniting Passion and Inspiring Creativity

The Fiber+Fabric Craft Festival is more than an event—it's a movement to unite crafters, creators, and innovators in a vibrant celebration of artistry and imagination. Attendees will immerse themselves in a world where creativity knows no bounds, exploring the latest trends and techniques in knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, cross-stitch, felting, sewing, quilting, cosplay, and more. Featuring hands-on workshops led by top designers, interactive classes, and opportunities to meet favorite content creators, the festival promises an unforgettable experience to inspire and empower.

### Together We Are Stronger

Koelnmesse recognizes the importance of unity within the crafting community. "Our vision is to bring people together to celebrate the joy of crafting," said Mette Petersen, President and Managing Director of Koelnmesse Inc. "By uniting our talents and passions, we can elevate the entire industry and amplify the voice of crafters far and wide."

### Leveraging Koelnmesse's Global Expertise

"As a global leader in event management, Koelnmesse is committed to supporting businesses in reaching international markets and fostering meaningful connections across continents," said Gerald Böse, CEO and President of Koelnmesse GmbH. "With the continued growth of our handicraft industry events, we aim to broaden Koelnmesse's global footprint, providing exhibitors and participants with unparalleled access to new audiences and innovative opportunities. The strength and enthusiasm surrounding our crafting and fiber events reflect the dynamism of this industry, and we are proud to champion its evolution on a global scale."

With a legacy of organizing premier events worldwide, Koelnmesse brings unmatched expertise to the Fiber+Fabric Craft Festival. Leveraging state-of-the-art platforms and innovative marketing approaches, the festival will feature exciting new elements that set a higher standard in crafting events.

"Our team is dedicated to creating an event that exceeds the expectations of exhibitors and attendees," Petersen said. "By integrating cutting-edge technologies and fresh ideas, we aim to deliver a dynamic, engaging experience for all."

### An Extraordinary Week of Crafting Excellence

The festival seamlessly transitions into h+h americas, running May 5-8, 2026. This back-to-back scheduling offers a unique opportunity for industry professionals and enthusiasts to immerse themselves in a full week of inspiration, networking, and growth.



By h+h americas

**Craft Your Passion,  
Celebrate Creativity!**

May 1-3, 2026  
Conference opens April 30th  
[www.fiberfabriccraft.com](http://www.fiberfabriccraft.com)

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In recognition of its commitment to excellence, h+h americas recently received *The Trade Show Executive's GOLD 100 Award for Best Attendee Engagement*, affirming its dedication to creating meaningful, impactful experiences.

### Join a Growing Network of Passionate People

Koelnmesse is proud to partner with an enthusiastic and diverse network of exhibitors, media, and organizations, including:

ABM International ( <i>Innova and Necchi</i> )	Handmade Seller Magazine	Oliso
ASWS	Harbor Sales	Orange Dot Quilts
Bella Crafts	Hardicraft	Superior Threads
Bernina	Hawthorn Handmade	Synchrony
Bohin	Janome	The Grace Company
Brothers	Jonah Hands	The Knitting Guild Association
Circulo	Katia	Trailhead Co.
Famore Cutlery	Keenan Hand Dyed	Twice Sheared Sheep
Fern Textiles	Long Thread Media	Where Women Create
French European	Modern Hoopla	Yazzi
Handquilter	Neko	Indie Untangled

### Addressing Community Voices with Respect

“We understand that the festival’s timing coincides with the esteemed Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, an event with over a century of cherished history,” said Darrin Stern, Vice President of Koelnmesse Inc. and Show Director for h+h americas and the Fiber+Fabric Craft Festival. “We hold deep respect for their contributions to the fiber community. Our aim is not to compete but to complement, offering a broader platform that expands opportunities for crafters in different regions.”

### Be Part of the Crafting Revolution

Don’t miss this groundbreaking event that will shape the future of the crafting industry. Join us at the Fiber+Fabric Craft Festival to explore, learn, and connect like never before.

For more information, including exhibitor details and ticket sales, visit [fiberfabriccraft.com](https://fiberfabriccraft.com) or follow us on social media @FiberFabricFest.

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### Koelnmesse - trade fairs for the handicraft industry:

As an organizer of innovative and important trade fairs worldwide Koelnmesse is the global market leader in the handicraft & hobby sector. h+h cologne is the leading trade fair for textile handicrafts and the industry's largest international inspiration and order platform. Koelnmesse also supports companies in reaching international markets, which is why it has expanded its fiber arts portfolio in the USA: h+h americas, a platform for the North American knitting, sewing, textile and craft industries, uses pioneering formats and online solutions to put the industry's products and services center stage. The hybrid trade show in Rosemont, Illinois, offers both digital and on-site experiences to maximize reach and impact. The Fiber+Fabric Craft Festival in Rosemont, Illinois, is a new consumer trade show that brings together crafters, creatives, and innovators for education and to showcase the latest trends, products, and techniques in knitting, crochet, needlepoint, cross stitch, felting, sewing, quilting, and cosplay.

### Next events:

h+h cologne - March 7 - 9, 2025 - Cologne, Germany  
h+h americas - May 7 - 9, 2025 - Chicago, USA  
Fiber+Fabric Craft Festival - May 1 - 3, 2026 - Chicago, USA [