

SQATM

STUDIO ART QUILT
ASSOCIATES



Welcome to the Local Connection Training Program

More than half the SAQA regions now have groups that meet locally. These groups may be called pods or circles or some other name, but wherever members are able to get together, fiber art is thriving. For the sake of clarity, we refer to all of these groups as SAQA “**Local Connections**” or **LCs** for short.



What's a Local Connection?

Definition:

An in-person gathering of two or more SAQA members and guests in a local community within a SAQA region

Objective:

To stimulate and support in-person gatherings of SAQA members in local communities for the purpose of sharing a love of art quilting

Note:

Guests may attend up to three times to decide if they wish to join SAQA.

Local Connection Structure



SAQA members should be welcome to attend any SAQA meeting or event should they be traveling in or outside of their region.

LC purpose:

Provide SAQA members an opportunity to get together to share ideas and derive inspiration from each other's work.

LC locations:

The regional reps may assign LC locations, or they may develop organically.

Most LC's meet in member's homes, a library, educational facility, local store, or places of worship. They can also meet online.

LC program formats:

Each group is unique - Some focus on critiques and fiber art trends, while others have field trips and share calls-for-entry and local art exhibits. Most meet monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly.

See [program suggestions](#) document for additional ideas.

Local Connection Criteria



Preplan LC events with the Reps to avoid conflicts with venues, presenters, etc. within the region.



Announce to whole region; open to all members. If space is limited, ok to ask for RSVP. The goal is that everyone has an equal chance to participate - same as for regional events.



All SAQA members are welcome, just as in regional meetings.



Understand and follow [SAQA's Community Guidelines](#) .

Resources

Previous Local Connection leaders have asked for help in understanding the policies, guidelines, and resources available and how to access them.

The quickest way to ensure you have all the information you need is for you to access and read the resources for the topics listed in the [Regional Resources](#).



Log into the SAQA website. This will give you access to information that is only available to SAQA members.



From the main SAQA page click on the Members tab, then look for Inside SAQA .



From the Inside SAQA page, scroll down to the Regional Resources. Please bookmark this page you will use it often.

To Access the
Regional
Resources



[Regional Meeting - Ideas and Resources](#)

This includes **Local Connections**



[Regional Exhibition Guidelines & Resources](#)



[Member Recruitment and Outreach](#)



[Accounting Form](#)

From the **Regional Resource** page, you can access these resources and **MORE!**

Two Ways to Access the Member Directory

1. Login to the [SAQA website](#), and:

Click on the **Members Tab**
Our Community

You can find the **Member Directory link** either under the **Quick Links** column to the left or by scrolling down to the **Member Directory** icon.

Be patient, it takes a moment to load the filters.

2. You can also access your Regional Member Directory by logging in the to [SAQA website](#), then:

Members Tab

SAQA Regions icon.

Scroll down and click on a **region**.

Again, it will take a moment to load. When you see the filters, it is ready for your search.

Member Directory

continued

Please note: Click on the + for more information about that member, including address & phone number.

This list is **NOT** downloadable and can only be used for SAQA purposes.

Announcing Local Connection Meetings

Be sure to send your Rep(s) and Newsletter Editor the date, time, place, and contact information for your meeting for the Regional Newsletter. If they don't give you a monthly deadline, be sure to ask for one.

Second region members should have all the rights as first region members. Please note they are NOT listed in the Member Directory on your [Region Page](#).

Please contact your Regional Rep if you need additional information or have questions.

Money Matters



All funds and property received by or coming into the custody or possession of any SAQA region are the property of SAQA to be expended or applied only for approved SAQA purposes. Please do not open a separate checking account, collect dues, etc.

Local Connections can use existing regional funds if available and **only** with Rep approval. Local Connections are generally expected to cover their own expenses.

If you need additional information or have questions, contact your Regional Rep(s).



Money Matters

continued

There may be times such as renting meeting space, etc., a contract is needed. Please send the contract to the Regional Reps Coordinator, regions@saqa.art to be signed **AND** copy your Regional Reps, so they are kept informed.

Contact your Regional Rep if you need:

- An IRS 501 (c) 3 determination letter
- A certificate of insurance (included place and dates)
- If you need a payment or reimbursement from SAQA

Local Connection Exhibitions Guidelines

Local Connections can help promote SAQA's mission of promoting the art quilt by exhibiting their work in local venues. This is greatly appreciated! This needs to be approved by the Regional Reps.

1. **Clear** the venue with your Regional Reps.
2. Local connections may **not** charge an entry fee.
3. It must be a **Showcase** (a non-juried exhibition),) and must be identified as such.
4. **Send** your plans to your Regional Rep(s) for approval least six (6) months in advance of the show's opening. Be sure to include title, theme, run dates, managing curator(s) of exhibition (included their email address).
5. It is a **best practice** to be sure the venue has insurance.
6. **Only** SAQA members from your LC may enter.
7. Do not sign any contracts on behalf of SAQA. Please send all contracts to regions@saqa.art for signature.

Local Connection Exhibitions Guidelines continued

SAQA Insurance

SAQA has an insurance policy on behalf of the artists in SAQA exhibitions, including approved regional exhibitions. SAQA will arrange to provide insurance for the artwork during the exhibition and while it travels. The artist will be responsible for insuring the work to and from the exhibition.

SAQA generally requires exhibiting venues to carry their own insurance as well. Most venues provide insurance for the artwork while it is in their possession. If the venue does not have insurance, it is the responsibility of the artist to take out additional insurance if they deem necessary.

To be eligible for the insurance you **MUST** have the approval of your Regional Reps and send a list of the artists and artwork with the retail or insurance value if not for sale to the Regional Rep Coordinator, regions@saqa.art.

Zoom Meetings

You may use SAQA's Zoom account for Local Connection meetings.

Use the [Zoom Scheduler](#) to schedule your meeting.

For more information about Zoom, visit our help page: www.saqa.com/zoom

NOTE: All Zoom meetings are scheduled in Eastern Time

[Time Zone Converter](#)


SAQA Website

There is a lot of information available to members on the SAQA website. We won't cover them all here, but there are three pages that everyone should be familiar.

1. [Maximize Your SAQA Membership](#) – A roadmap that offers some guidance on making the most out of your SAQA Membership.
2. [Welcome Guide](#) for new members (and old) – A place to start for new members.
3. [Manage Your Membership](#) - The place to renew your membership or update your contact details?

SAQA Website continued

As you look at the website, be sure to scroll all the way down to see everything on the page and to click on the plus signs for more information on that topic.

- 
- + Make Connections
 - + Keep Learning
 - + Develop Professionally
 - + Market & Share your Art
 - + Become a Juried Artist Member

Local Connection Social Media

Please contact the [Regional Rep Coordinator](#) to set up your Local Connection Facebook group, Instagram, or other social media accounts.

This Local Connection training will help you to begin your journey as a SAQA Local Connection Leader. Please do not hesitate to contact your Regional Reps if you have questions.

Thank you again for stepping up to be a leader in your region. SAQA is the wonderful organization it is because volunteers like you are willing to share their time and energy to establish and maintain member connections, education, exhibitions, and more.

I am honored to work with you.



Desiree Vaughn
Regional Representative Coordinator
Studio Art Quilt Associates
www.saqqa.com
regions@saqqa.art
231-735-5402

