

October 27, 2019  
To BCASW and Friends

Diversity Quilted Wall Art Project

Greetings, everyone

“Crazy quilts” were very popular around the turn of the century when scraps of fabric and bits of lace, buttons, embroidery were used to create beautiful and utilitarian coverings for the home. To the Victorians, the word *crazy* not only meant *wild* but also *broken or crazed into splinters*; a description of the look that triangles and other odd shapes gave to these quilts. Although the quilts may appear haphazard, they were carefully planned. Hours were spent trying out various arrangements of pieces before sewing. More information on this tradition can be found at [http://www.womenfolk.com/quilting\\_history/crazy.htm](http://www.womenfolk.com/quilting_history/crazy.htm).

Next year’s theme for the profession of social work in BC will be **United by Diversity. Strengthened by Inclusion**. In honour of our theme for 2020 we are renaming the quilt a *diversity* quilt. As we work to bring diverse parts of ourselves and society together, we seek to build thoughtful intersections with inclusion being paramount. Each quilt square can be a visual reminder of this goal.

I am very excited to request your participation in our second\* quilt project. We are looking for those interested to join us and make one diversity quilt square each to co-create a larger quilt wall hanging. No previous quilting experience is needed or expected. This quilt will not be washable due to its many components, but items must be attached securely. In the spirit of crazy quilt tradition, I would encourage you to reuse, reduce, repurpose, and recycle fabric and other items you may already have access to, such as shopping your closet or the thrift store. For example, you may have an old key that has survived over the years, but now has no useful purpose. It may be added to your quilt square. Please create freely and enjoy in the sharing of our treasures. These quilts were often an expression of the sewist’s culture, values, and vision. I encourage you to experience this yourself as we collectively share our stories of diversity.

Directions:

10” quilt sandwich with ½” margins, leaving the ½” margin of your block fabric around the outside without embellishment to facilitate joining to other quilt squares

Add about 200 different items (count all fabrics, laces, stitches, beads, buttons, and other items attached to quilt square top—see Sharon Boggon’s site below for guidelines)

Use green and purple for quilt square top (the colours of suffrage)

Track items on attached sheet with pictures taken during construction.

Write a paragraph of the story of your quilt square; your creative process, what it means to you, items of interest, and how the square relates to diversity

Final items must be received by Barb Keith by November 1, 2020 to be included in the wall hanging.

This idea grew from a Pinterest Pin by Sharon Boggon <https://pintangle.com/2020-crazy-quilt-guidelines/>.

We will be following her guidelines and we can use her resources, as well as many others to create a demonstration project, not one for competition, as this was not our intent. We can also participate in this larger community of quilters. All quilts must be submitted by December 31, 2020.

Quilted fabric square packages can be mailed or picked up at the BCASW office, #402-1755 West Broadway, Vancouver and will contain a 10” block with ½” margins, a tracking sheet and this letter.

We want to come together as a community and share our skills (knit, dye fabric, embroider, etc.) and ideas about things that can be added to the quilt. We plan to have sporadic meetings to learn techniques and add to our creative process. We will schedule gatherings for different learning sessions. Please let me know what

skills you want to learn and what you may have to teach. We will be making an e-mail list of those participating so that information can be distributed to everyone.

Please let me know if you are interested in making a diversity quilt square as soon as possible by email at [socw2011@gmail.com](mailto:socw2011@gmail.com) and we will add you to the group.

Thank you, Barb Keith

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\*For information about our first quilt project, login as a member to view *Perspectives* January 2013 on the BCASW website.