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## WKU to celebrate blacksmiths with Hammer-In event

By AARON MUDD [amudd@bgdailynews.com](mailto:amudd@bgdailynews.com) 3 hrs ago

Participants in the 2016 Hammer-In at the Kentucky Museum work at an anvil.

photo courtesy of the kentucky museum

The Kentucky Museum at Western Kentucky University will ring with the sounds of hammers and blacksmith forges Oct. 7 during the second annual Hammer-In.

When organizers planned the inaugural event last year, they wanted to celebrate the craft of metalworking with a wide audience.

“We thought it would appeal to a large part of the population and we were correct,” said Lynne Ferguson, an event organizer and artist-in-residence with the Kentucky Museum. “We had over 300 people attend the first one.”

The event begins at 10 a.m. and is free and open to the public. Along with the chance to see demonstrations and aluminum castings, attendees can also sign up for one-on-one metal forging classes.

“People want to see skilled people doing their craft,” Ferguson said.

The Kentucky Folklife Program's narrative stage will share stories about the lives of metalworking artisans who carry their traditions into the present, according to a news release.



Along with educating the public, Ferguson said the inaugural event last year allowed metalworkers to share their craft. That led to the creation of a local forge guild, Ferguson said.

“Last year’s inaugural Hammer-In event showed us that our museum visitors are deeply interested in hand-made artwork produced in local communities,” Brent Bjorkman, director of the Kentucky Museum and the Kentucky Folklife Program, said in a news release. “At this event we were able to give the public an up-close look at the metal arts in many forms and also a chance, at our narrative stage event, to hear first-hand the life stories of these talented artists.”

– For more information, visit [www.wku.edu/kentucky\\_museum/hammer\\_in.php](http://www.wku.edu/kentucky_museum/hammer_in.php) or call 270-745-2594.

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