



# The March Quilts

## A Community Project

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### PROJECT HISTORY

In 2015, Bib & Tucker Sew-Op partnered with UAB's Department of Art & Art History and the Birmingham Museum of Art to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery marches through open sewing sessions that yielded 461 quilt blocks. Sew-Op members stitched the blocks together and made three quilts which were installed at the Selma Public Library and the Alabama Department of Archives in Montgomery during the anniversary. Due to an overwhelmingly positive response, collaborators decided to make TMQ an annual project. Each year, Bib & Tucker members choose a civil or human rights theme and facilitate open sewing sessions and discussion. During these sessions, participants create quilt blocks that express personal feelings about the theme. Bib & Tucker members then stitch the blocks into quilts that are exhibited in tandem with a relevant anniversary or day of recognition. For more information or to see photos from years past, like and follow The March Quilts on Facebook.

### YEAR 7: MASK SCRAP QUILTS + COVID REMEMBRANCE

For Year 7, we are asking participants to create blocks that will celebrate the efforts of local sewists who made hundreds of thousands of reusable cloth face masks in response to the Covid-19 crisis. Bib & Tucker Sew-Op joined the county-wide initiative here in Jefferson County, AL, to get sewn face masks to front-line workers and vulnerable populations with a contribution of 2,000+ sewn masks. Our members - being quilters - saw a goldmine in the scraps that were produced and started making blocks in between making masks. We will put together quilts of these mask scraps along with embroidered names of those lost during 2020 and 2021 in order to recognize lives lost as well as celebrate the collective industry of compassionate women and men who turned their love of sewing into a life-saving initiative.

### HOW TO MAKE A QUILT BLOCK

During the first 5 years of TMQ, Bib & Tucker Sew-Op partnered with local organizations to host open sewing sessions within the community. Due to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, this year's TMQ project will be facilitated virtually. There are still lots of ways to participate if you are new to sewing!

**Option 1:** (If you have scraps left over from making a cloth mask) watch the quick tutorial on our website that will teach you two ways to use your scraps to make a quilt block. Finished dimensions of your block should be 8" or 12". We encourage you to only use scraps from mask-making.

**Option 2:** (If you haven't made a cloth mask and want to try your hand at it) watch the quick tutorial on our website that will teach you how to hand-sew a cloth face mask and then use your scraps to make a quilt block. This is a great summer project for parents to do with their children.

**Option 3:** (If you want to participate but don't want to make a face mask) Take a 3-inch strip of fabric and draw a 1-inch line along the top and bottom of the strip. Then, embroider an acquaintance, friend, family member, or loved one's name whom you lost during the pandemic. We will incorporate these names into the finished quilts.

### GETTING YOUR BLOCK TO US:

All contributions are due by September 1, 2021. Please mail (or make plans to deliver) them to our mailing address below and include your name, phone, email, and mailing address. We ask that you also fill out the info form (which can be found on our website) so that we can gather some background information on makers to share with the public when exhibiting TMQ7. This information can be in the form of a story, poem, or any other way you wish to tell us a little bit about you and your block. We want you to feel comfortable sharing your story so you can tell us as much or as little as you would like. If you don't want to share with the public about yourself or the block, please let us know. We are hoping this added information will give viewers of the quilt a more complete experience.

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### GET INVOLVED

The March Quilts is an excellent program for small groups who enjoy doing activities together. If you would like to host a virtual session contact Lillis Taylor at [bibandtuckersewop@gmail.com](mailto:bibandtuckersewop@gmail.com).

Like us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/themarchquilts>

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