

Jean McLaughlin is Director of Penland School of Crafts, a center for contemporary craft education located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Prior to 1998, Jean worked with artists and visual arts organizations through the NC Arts Council for 16 years. She has a Bachelor's degree in studio art from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Master's degree in liberal studies from North Carolina State University. She currently serves on the board of the Craft Emergency Relief Fund, the Mitchell County Community Foundation, and the UNC Center for Craft Creativity and Design. She is an advocate for the needs of artists and, when possible, writes and serves on panels to promote their work.