



## Kanazawa supports its local artisans through new technologies

From museums and art galleries to theaters and concert venues, it is an unavoidable fact that some of the most moving experiences of art and crafts were subjected to restrictions and closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, during this period, several innovative and creative ways are being explored by creative professionals and non-professionals to connect with art and culture across the world.

In Kanazawa, a UNESCO Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art in Japan, the city has continued to combine traditional crafts with innovation and new technologies to further support artists and artisans during COVID-19 pandemic.

Recognized for its many artisan workshops, Kanazawa has launched a programme that provides grants for performance groups and artists who are currently facing a situation of hardship due to the current crisis. The programme further supports the artists and their efforts in promoting and disseminating art and culture.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to fewer opportunities available for creative workers to display their artistic creations. To address such challenges, the city along with the Kanazawa Craft Council has organized a special digital craft exhibition, inviting local craft artists to showcase their work virtually and display the beauty of Kanazawa's traditional crafts.

The project focuses on artists specializing in ceramics, lacquerware, fabric dyeing, metal works, bamboo and woodcrafts, Japanese dolls, paper, glassworks, and other crafts. The exhibition and the online website are being gradually updated with pictures of artworks, the personal profiles and shops of the artists, and information of solo exhibitions. To help promote art and folk crafts to the public and further make the online experience interactive, the website also contains video clips elaborating on the artistic process or explaining the applied skills.

### To know more:

<https://kanazawa-dkogei.com/about/> (in Japanese only)

**KEY WORDS:**

- Access to and participation in culture
- Financial and policy support