

Kathleen Dawson has been the Quilt National Director at the Dairy Barn Arts Center for more than three years. Quilt National, an exhibition produced by The Dairy Barn Arts Center, has been one of the premiere venues for contemporary art quilts since its first appearance in 1979. Kathleen works with the limited full-time staff and a corps of volunteers year-round to manage all aspects of this exhibition. She is responsible for the selection of jurors, who ultimately are the individuals responsible for the final selections of works included in each exhibition. She coordinates all of the publicity and dissemination of information to both the media, and to artists including contract negotiation. She manages all aspects of the production of the exhibition and related events including soliciting sponsorship. Kathleen creates and facilitates the exhibition design and also supervises the touring components of Quilt National including the solicitation of host sites.

Kathleen graduated from Ohio University in 1973 with a concentration in English and Philosophy. Before becoming Quilt National Director, she managed her own business in Athens, Ohio. She started working at the Dairy Barn in 2004 as the finance manager and over the next few years took on additional administrative duties until August 2006 when she added Quilt National Director to her list of job responsibilities. She lives in Athens with her husband Ron, and they enjoy the life of empty-nesters. Kathleen serves on the Executive Board of the Athens, Ohio St. Vincent de Paul Society.