Mission Statement:
To engage the public in creative experiences through contemporary craft.

Core Values:
Contemporary Craft offers meaningful art opportunities for more than 135,000 people a year through four core values:
• Provide Vital Support for Artists
• Fill Critical Gaps in Public Education
• Share Cross Cultural Perspectives
• Use Art to Build Community

Background:
• 1971 — Elizabeth R. Raphael opened The Store for Arts and Crafts and People-Made Things in Verona, PA.
• 1986 — The Store for Arts and Crafts and People-Made Things became the Society for Contemporary Craft and moved from Verona to the historic Produce Terminal Building in Pittsburgh’s Strip District.
• 1990 — The Satellite Gallery at BNY Mellon Center (formerly One Mellon Center) was created as a companion exhibition space for Contemporary Craft.
• 2001 — The Society for Contemporary Craft became Contemporary Craft and doubled in size following a major expansion/renovation at the Strip District location. The Studio, a 4,000-square-foot education center with three large working studios, opened at Contemporary Craft’s renovated space.
• 2019 — Due to the historic Produce Terminal Building redevelopment, Contemporary Craft purchased a property in the Upper Lawrenceville neighborhood in Pittsburgh, PA to ensure a sustainable future for the organization. The $5.5 million-dollar facility will provide a space for inspiration, contemplation, and creativity in everyday life, as well as serving as a cultural gateway for Upper Lawrenceville and a new tourist destination for the region.
• 2020 — Contemporary Craft moved into its renovated, permanent location in Upper Lawrenceville neighborhood at 5645 Butler Street, Pittsburgh PA 15201.

Summary of Programs and Activities:
• Exhibitions – 2 – 3 major exhibitions with a national/international programming focus per year at the main gallery, and 3 – 4 exhibitions with a local/regional programming focus per year at the Satellite Gallery located in the BNY Mellon Center in Downtown Pittsburgh.
  o The Bridge Exhibition Series, established in 1988, seeks to heighten the public’s awareness of the powerful works being created by contemporary artists. Three concurrent solo exhibitions feature mid-career artists.
  o The Elizabeth R. Raphael Founder’s Prize Exhibition, established in 1997, is a biennial juried exhibition/award that awards a $5,000 prize to one winner. The exhibition’s material focus changes with each iteration.
  o Social justice exhibition series, a biennial exhibition that explore complex human issues that can shape and influence positive change in pressing social issues, was established in 2013. This exhibition series has explored violence in 2013–14, mental health in 2015-16, human displacement and housing insecurity in 2017-18, and will explore food justice in 2020-21.
• The Studio – Offering workshops taught by local and regional artists, as well as ten to twelve master workshops led by national visiting artists. Arts enrichment for schools includes the Museum/School Partnership with Southbrook Middle School, annual teacher training programs, and school tours.

• Public Programs and Events – a free, hands-on Drop-In Studio art activity is designed by one of the exhibiting artists in the major exhibition, artist lectures and demonstrations, artists' studio tours, gallery openings, salon-style speaker series, and the annual gala event.

• Outreach Programs – Contemporary Craft partners with social service agencies that address four target audiences: at-risk children and families, the elderly, and those experiencing homelessness.

• The Store – A store featuring the best of international, national, and regional artists, and an annual award called the Lydon Emerging Artist Program (LEAP) which seeks to advance the careers of emerging artists through retail gallery representation.