

*Featuring the latest from  
the International Society of Glass Beadmakers*

# The 2019 ISGB Gathering

*by Susan Richards*

In April 2020, the International Society of Glass Beadmakers (ISGB) will hold its annual conference, the Gathering, at the South Point Hotel Casino & Spa in Las Vegas, Nevada. The organization will again partner with the Glass Craft & Bead Expo (GCBE) in order to provide participants at both events with an extraordinary glass experience.

Although the GCBE and the Gathering remain independent of one another, this partnership offers ISGB attendees the opportunity to participate in their usual educational and fun-filled Gathering while enjoying the events offered by GCBE. Registrants of the GCBE will also gain access to the ISGB's Glass, Beads & Jewelry Bazaar as well as the Friday night Open Torch Event.

The Gathering will run April 1–5, 2020, with preconference workshops beginning on Tuesday, March 30. The ability to take advantage of GCBE class offerings and the show floor packed with vendors means that ISGB participants will have access to diverse and novel glass-related instruction and materials that showcase virtually every topic of interest to glass enthusiasts in addition to the ISGB classes and events.



*Beau Barrett 2019  
Live Torch Demo*



*Bead Bazaar*

## Promoting the Art of Glass Bead Making

The ISGB is the leading organization for the promotion, education, and appreciation of the art of glass bead making for wearable, sculptural, and functional art. Its mission states that the organization's goals are "to preserve the rich and diverse traditions of the art of glass bead making and glassworking techniques, promote educational initiatives and professional development, and encourage the innovative use of complementary mediums among artists and craftspeople." This Las Vegas event is an exceptional opportunity for the organization to pursue its mission because of its long-standing embrace of the glass arts.

The Open Torch Experience will take place on Friday during the Gathering and is open to both ISGB and GCBE registrants. In addition to the usual opportunity to sample many torches and tools, the ISGB will have guest flameworkers demonstrating for the crowd. The combination of flame and fun will make it a great evening for everyone.

## Something for Everyone

A highlight of every Gathering is the Glass, Bead, and Jewelry Bazaar, a one-day pop-up sale of member's artwork. The Las Vegas Gathering will include the Bazaar on the GCBE show floor for one day only on Saturday, April 4, 2020. The Vegas crowds will be treated to a sale of handmade artisan pieces made by Gathering attendees from around the world.

There also will be a wide variety of other events at the conference to satisfy many interests. It is an opportunity for attendees to network with each other, gallery owners, collectors, technical vendors, and suppliers. In addition, technical vendors will have an

opportunity to showcase new equipment, tools, supplies, and glass. Through demonstrations, lectures, panel discussions, and more, attendees can learn new techniques and business skills to further their glass knowledge.

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Visit [www.isgb.org](http://www.isgb.org) to learn more about the upcoming events for the International Society of Beadmakers and how to become a member.



Sharon's hat

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