



Member Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2022

We asked: **What are your reasons for being a member at The Potters' Studio?**

COMMUNITY

- I feel at home with the ceramics community at the studio.
- I enjoy the comradery, generosity, curiosity of our studio community.
- It's great to be around people who are of like mind, who love clay.
- I appreciate that the studio has people of diverse ages and backgrounds.
- I've noticed that being in a class is helping me feel part of the community.

LEARNING

- I appreciate that all skill levels are welcome at the studio.
- I love the learning and generous sharing of information that happens at the studio.
- The studio offers lots of trainings for members.
- The studio fosters "parallel play" where you can focus on your own work but still have a sense of belonging to a community.
- I have great learning experiences at the studio
- I enjoy seeing and feel inspired by other people's work and their approaches to making things
- It's great do work in the non-digital realm with your hands!
- Working with clay is therapeutic.
- It's a great place to escape the real world and get into the making zone.

STAFF

- The staff is very accessible and helpful.
- The staff and instructors are great.

EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

- The Potters' Studio is the best studio in the Bay Area
- The studio equipment and tools are great!

- It's great for the larger community that we offer firing services.
- The 24/7 hours for members are greatly appreciated.
- It's really cool that we are capturing both water and clay with our Recycling Program.

We asked members for feedback and suggestions about what we can do to improve their experience at The Potters' Studio.

SUGGESTION: Have membership gatherings to increase a sense of community.

- "Big Clay Day"
- Musical chairs pot-making
- Teapots—everyone makes different parts

We currently do not have enough staff to organize events like these. If any members would like to organize and run a community gathering day or community making day, please see Kim! We do have two Parking Lot Sales happening – May 1 and July 31 – and those are great events for community building!

SUGGESTION: How can we improve Staff < > Member relations?

- Members would like to have a Staff Appreciation Day.
- Have a Member & Staff Meeting to hear each other's ideas.
- Have a Weekly Reminders Board - from staff w/ pictures about what members can do to make their job easier.

SUGGESTIONS for Studio Upgrades

- The main parking lot gate lock is difficult...can we replace it? *We will get a new lock.*
- More Brent wheels: *Most people prefer the Shimpo Whisper Wheels. We have 2 Brents in the main studio and two Brents in the Flexspace. It's unlikely we will order more.*
- Have more sponges + buckets available *DONE*
- The heat should be turned on earlier than 2pm. *If it's cold you can turn on the heater earlier – just ask staff.*
- Can we line the glaze shelves? There are rust and glaze bits falling down onto pots from upper shelves. *We are going to line all the glaze racks with plexiglass.*
- Please add a trash can in glazing area *DONE*
- "No Bisqueware Storage Downstairs" signage *DONE*
- Put the Firing Submission Form up on the website *DONE*

- Bring back outside work tables. *We are moving one of the large 4' x 8' tables outside.*
- Start a Community Board – *we already have one in the restroom hallway.*
- *We just added a Member Bulletin Board in Hallway*
- Can we set up a Clay Exchange area? *You can leave clay in the FREE area as you come into the studio from the side parking lot. Label it the clay name and Cone #. Members can also post about exchanging clay on the bulletin board in the restroom hallway.*
- Are we ever going to get new glazes? *We are working on a new glaze tile wall for the glazes we already have - showing what every glaze looks like on all of the different clays we stock. There will also be a "Glazes Survey" going out soon asking members about what kinds of new glazes they would like us to have available.*

SUGGESTIONS related to Studio Operations

- More frequent Damp Room Dooming by Staff: *This will happen weekly now.*
- More frequent Open Storage Shelving monitoring by Staff. *This will happen weekly now.*
- Remind people about open storage: to use wareboards that fit the footprint of your work. *An email will go out about this.*
- Remind people to be careful and considerate of other people's work on the bisque racks and glaze racks. *An email will go out about this.*
- Remove your work from tiles and bats and put onto a wareboard – otherwise we have a shortage of tiles and bats. *An email will go out about this.*
- Community campaign—be aware of others. Clean up after yourself. *An email will go out about this.*
- Can members make gentle suggestions to other members about clean-up, etc.? *Yes.*
- Teachers—every week remind students of clean-up and good studio practices. *Teachers will be reminded to teach this in every class.*

SUGGESTIONS about Memberships

- It was suggested that we consider having a tiered membership. (1 member opposed)
- The cost of membership is preventing some from joining.
- We need more diversity in our population—can we do more outreach?
- *Bobbi let everyone know that membership is currently at 275 (the same number of members that we had pre-Covid) and will be going up to 300 over the summer and back down to 275 as we approach the holidays.*

