



Member Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2022

Meeting purpose: Information gathering

COVID UPDATES

- Masks will be optional in the studio starting April 15th.
- There is still a strict requirement of being fully vaccinated and boosted and we will be closely monitoring COVID cases. If there is an uptick of cases in Berkeley, we will push out the optional masking date.

FOLLOW UPS FROM LAST MEETING

- People are consistently wearing their name tag which has received positive feedback.
- There will be an upcoming member and staff meeting, date to be announced.
- There is a new white board on the end cap for staff to communicate with members. See “Staff to Members Message Board”.
- The gate lock will be replaced shortly.
- Sponges, buckets, and new shelf lining has been added.
- There are community and member messaging boards in the bathroom hallway.
- There is now weekly Damp Room Dooming by staff.
- We do not have enough staff for membership gathering days. We invite members to volunteer to host gatherings if desired! Please see Kim.

UPDATES

- There has been a delay in the rebuilding of Olsen. It will hopefully be finished by the third week in April.
 - In the meantime, we are working as efficiently as possible to load, fire, and unload the other kilns so we appreciate your patience for the next month.
- We have asked for volunteers for assistance in several areas and have had a good response. We currently need volunteers for marketing, social media, and sustainability.
 - Please email Beth (beth@berkeleypottersstudio.org) or Bobbi (bobbi@berkeleypottersstudio.org) if you are interested in volunteering.
- We are continuing to upgrade new communication systems (better invoicing, surveys, etc.). Please be sure to read our in-house signs and emails for communications.

- We receive a lot of emails so do not hesitate to send a follow up email or phone call if you feel as though an email that you sent us has slipped through the cracks.
- Please use the suggestion box and sign your name on the note (rather than telling staff). It is the best way to get information to the operations team.
- We are moving a lot of material with recycling; we will be cutting down on running the filter press and compressor.
- We will soon send out a glaze survey to receive feedback from members.
- If tools are dropped into the rinse buckets, they will be fished out by staff in 5–10 days and put in the lost and found tool bucket for retrieval.
 - Staff can give you a tool from the cabinet if you need one immediately.
- We will be keeping the gallery up; Kim will be sending an invite to members to bring in their work.
 - Artists will receive a check for work sold the month prior around the 10th of the following month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Clay Club, Fixing Broken Ceramics on Sunday, April 10.
- Raku Night on Friday, April 22. There will be a \$20 fee (invoiced in advance) for enrolling.
- Glazing 101 on Sunday, April 24.
- Soda Firing Workshop with Josie on April 16, 17, and 21. One scholarship position will be offered to a person who has no experience in soda firing.
- Parking Lot Sale on Sunday, May 1.

COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

During our strategic planning process, we identified one of our core values to be “A welcoming and inclusive community - We welcome and care about everyone who interacts with The Potters’ Studio. We foster connections and sharing of experiences in our community. Our goal is to make ceramics available to all regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or ability.”

We asked: **What does a welcoming and inclusive community mean to you?**

- Mentorship program set up between long time members and new members.
 - Suggestion of badges that say, “Ask me!” for experienced members who are willing to assist those who need guidance. *This is a great idea and we’re working to implement. More info to come.*
- Family nights and high school nights to bring in new community. *We’ll look into it.*

- Membership gatherings to share lessons learned. A space where members can bring in successful and unsuccessful work and share information. *As mentioned previously, we do not have enough staff to organize events like these. If any members would like to organize and run a community gathering day/event or community making day/event, please see Kim!*
- More themed lunches with goals and work sharing. *See above.*
- Interview and introduce new members as they arrive.
 - Suggestion of a newsletter where new members can be introduced.
- Member critique groups/ exchanges. *See response about member gatherings.*
- More talks with lower fees spotlighting local artist. *We'll look into it.*

SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Small work is crowding the storage space for larger pieces.
 - Suggestion to put stickers on the work that is not in the correct place.
- There is concern around the lack of storage space in the studio. *There is available storage upstairs. This will be addressed in the next member newsletter.*
- There has been a reoccurring problem with new members and students not cleaning up their space.
 - Suggestion of teachers checking wheels before students leave.
 - Suggestion to upload a video demo on how to properly clean your space.