



Lakeville Area Arts Center

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LakevilleAreaArtsCenter.com

Please review this guide at the beginning of your first class. If you have any questions, please ask your instructor or the administrative staff.

Lakeville Area Arts Center Pottery Studio Welcome Packet

Welcome to the Lakeville Area Arts Center (LAAC) pottery studio Community! We want everyone who has an interest in art or a love of clay to find opportunities to use this facility and be part of a growing group of like-minded creative people. We endeavor to keep the environment light and upbeat and centered around art. We want to support each other artistically and learn fun projects and techniques from one another as we move forward in our individual creative journeys.

Classes and Open Studio Sessions

Classes and open studio times are posted on our [website](#) and in the studio. Please be respectful of other students' time if there is a class in session and utilize the art classroom south during classes in the main studio.

The south art classroom is set up for open studio for use when the pottery studio is not available due to the scheduled classes. The space includes two wheels, handbuilding tables and a variety of pottery tools. When using the south art classroom students may access the ware room through the south door. Access to the slab roller and glazes are not available while classes are in session in the main studio.

Open Studio sessions are a privilege granted to adult students enrolled in a class and for adult students signed up for Open Studio Sessions in the summer. We ask that you do not bring additional guests to the studio.

Clay

Clay can be purchased from the instructors or administrative staff any time the building is open. Cash or check are accepted in the studio and the office accepts cash, check, and credit cards. Clay bodies range in price and in order to accommodate kiln space to the number of students in each session, there is a studio limit of three bags of clay per student per session.

Students in adult classes may also purchase clay from Continental Clay. Acceptable clay bodies are Buff Stoneware, B-Clay, and Domestic Porcelain. Any clays used in the studio must mature between cones 6 - 10.

The only slip cast work permitted in the studio is work provided to the student by the LAAC. Low fire clay is provided to children and family classes on an as-needed basis in class.

Student clay must be labeled with the first and last name of the student and kept in cubbies or the lowest shelf in the ware room. Student clay must be removed from the LAAC on the last day of class unless the student is signed up for the next session of classes. Clay that is left in the studio will be recycled or disposed of after the first week of new classes if the student is not enrolled.

Tools

Tools are provided in the pottery studio for student use. Students are also allowed to use their own tools. These tools should be marked clearly with the student's initials/name and kept in a locker or taken out of the studio at the end of a student's work time. The Arts Center is not responsible for lost or stolen tools.

The Arts Center has a variety of decorative mats, stamps, and sprigs for student use. There are forming tools such as: wheels, a slab roller, an extruder, drop trays, and slump and hump forms. We also have fans, slip trailing bottles, brushes, and a heat gun. Please leave studio tools at the Arts Center. Students are responsible for seeking out information from an instructor on how to properly use and clean these tools if they have not yet been covered in class. No open flame is allowed in the pottery studio.

Work in Progress

Students may start new work through the fifth week of the class. After this time students should concentrate on trimming and glazing. If a student has already registered for the next session, this requirement is waived.

Current work should be stored on ware shelves. Please keep your 'footprint' as small as possible. Put as many of your pieces on a ware board as will fit. Consolidate work each time you visit the studio and move the work through the process in as timely a fashion as possible. Trim as soon as the work is leather hard. Move work to the Greenware Cart as soon as it is stable to do so. Work made on bats, in drop trays, and using slump or hump forms should be moved to ware boards as soon as possible.

Bisque work will be marked with the month (numerically) it was removed from the bisque kiln. Bisque work should immediately be claimed from the Bisque Cart and placed on a ware board with the maker's name on the ware shelves. Students have 30 days from the end of their class to make sure that glazing is complete and pick up their pieces. There should be no carry over of bisque pieces from one session to another beyond the 30 days.

If work sits on the bisque carts so that two months have ended since it was removed from the bisque kiln the work will be discarded or used by LAAC. Similarly, if glaze work is left at the LAAC for more than 40 days after the last day of class, EVEN IF you are enrolled in another class, it will be discarded.

Work Made at Home

Students that are currently enrolled in a class or open studio session may bring in work that was made at home as long as it is made from one of the three acceptable clay bodies. These pieces must be made by the enrolled student. Work by student's children, parents, etc., will require a separate enrollment.

Selling of Work and Charity Work

We do encourage our students to sell their work at holiday and craft shows but please keep your work at hobby levels. As the pottery program at LAAC is an educational and recreational program we cannot allow production work to take place in our facility. Charity work can be made in the studio, but you must get permission from the Studio Manager and have a clear set of goals, deadlines, and expectations before beginning work.

Glazing and Firing

The LAAC pottery studio does High-fire Oxidation (specifically Cone 9) for adult classes. We have 19 High-fire glazes that are custom made in our studio. Staff works diligently to maintain these glazes, however for a variety of reasons some may out of stock. These glazes are represented on the sample walls by themselves and in combination on tiles that are marked with the combination written out. We also have some underglazes and some Stroke n' Coat glazes that can tolerate Cone 9 temperatures with varying results. We have red iron oxide stain, black iron oxide stain, blue engobe, and waxes. Students should be instructed in the general use of our glazes, even if they have prior glaze experience, before glazing any pieces.

After a student has completed three or more sessions in our studio, they can use approved commercially made glazes in accordance with the Commercial Glaze Policies. See the Studio Manager for details.

Work that is put out for glazing on the Glaze Shelves in the Kiln Room must be accompanied by the appropriate amount of glaze slips. The rate for glaze firing is \$1.00/lbs. These slips should be signed and dated. They do not need to be cut apart for each piece. A 'chunk' of glaze slips accompanying a group of pots is fine.

Pots that have flaws in the raw glazing such as messy feet, not enough clearance, or flaking glazes will have notes with "Needs TLC" placed on them and will not be fired until the flaw is addressed. Pieces that need extra kiln furniture such as mushroom caps or B-Clay foot rings should be placed on that furniture (kiln stilts and cookies, respectively) on the Glaze Shelves so the Studio Manager will know how you want the piece to be loaded.

Pieces that come out of the glaze firing with flaws due to a technical problem may be re-fired without additional fees. Second firings because of matters of aesthetics must have new firing slips. The LAAC pottery studio limits glaze firings to two.

Cleaning

Please reserve 30 minutes at the end of class or your Open Studio slot for cleaning. The general rule is "Clean anything you use plus a little extra." Dry clay dust is a breathing hazard, so for the safety of all, wipe clay off all surfaces, including the tables, chairs, and floor, in any part of the studio that you used. The sinks cannot handle clay, and water any thicker than milk should be poured into the colanders.

Before you leave, your clay must be put away properly. Work must be consolidated, labeled with your name, and shelved. Bats and ware boards must be scrubbed top, bottom, and sides. Bats should be dried in drying racks. Tools must be very thoroughly cleaned, sanitized, AND put away (yes, even if they are wet).

Enjoy!

The Lakeville Area Arts Center is proud to have a wonderful pottery studio to share with the community. With everyone working together we will continue to grow and improve the facility and offerings.

You can find more information on our website *LakevilleAreaArtsCenter.com*. If you have any questions about the times that the studio is available, what classes are offered, or questions about the policies, please feel free to call the office at 952-985-4640.