claymakers
Year in Review 2018
October 20, 2018

Dear Claymakers Community,

Claymakers is concluding another year of growth. Classes are busy and the store bustling. Students enjoy quality programming and diverse class topics as they gain new skills. An expanded upstairs classroom will support new class offerings. The gallery again showcased six exhibits featuring professional local, regional, and national artists. Throughout the year, community and student work filled the kilns, firing nonstop!

What makes Claymakers special? You do. Creative and constructive people who share Claymakers’ space and resources are most important. Our studio enjoys an exceptionally cooperative and supportive atmosphere. You make it a friendly and productive place. We also urge you to reflect on how Claymakers makes this happen. How is all the greenware fired within a week? How did the selection of glazes and slips come into being? Who changes the light bulbs and wipes up the spills? Please remember the behind-the-scenes activities that are essential to the success of Claymakers.

As a community owned nonprofit, we build Claymakers together. Our goal is to provide a high caliber ceramics center to Durham and the surrounding area. Our video (on our website) illustrates the meaning Claymakers has for people in a variety of ways. Whether working with clay is a hobby, a source of solace, or a professional pursuit, we share much joy with it. Our store customers create nurturing communities in many other clay studios and classrooms. Claymakers’ alumni have become ceramics teachers, and so pass on knowledge and enthusiasm for the medium.

Together we ensure the future of Durham’s ceramics arts center. We hope that you will join us in contributing to Claymakers.

Here are a few ways that you can help us remain vital:

• **Become a Donor or Sustaining Donor.** Our donors safeguard Claymakers’ long-term stability. Become a monthly sustaining contributor via donation or bequest if you are able. We are grateful to our supporters.

• **Become a Store Patron.** The small tools supply near the gallery is a handy resource for students. Additionally, Claymakers’ store is the only ceramics supply in the Triangle. We provide artists, studios, and schools around the area with clay and other supplies. The retail store has been operating for 16 years. Let’s keep this local resource available!

• **Visit the Gallery.** Take time to enjoy diverse exhibits throughout the year. Patronizing the gallery furthers Claymakers’ educational mission and supports other clay artists.

• **Volunteer.** Share your skills. Check our website for a volunteer sign up link.

• **Year-end Donation.** In November, we will begin our fall fundraising drive. Every donation is meaningful and appreciated.

• **Share the joy** with a gift certificate for a class or workshop, clay supplies, and/or artwork from the gallery.

Thank you, everyone, for making this year a success!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tenor, Board President & Analia Howard, Executive Director

info@claymakers.org ~ phone: 919.530.8355 ~ fax: 919.530.8306
Financial Report

Claymakers achieved the financial goals set for the fiscal year (October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018). Our goals this year did not change from last year. A conservative budget focused on building stability and financial resilience. Payments will be complete on Claymakers’ purchase of the business in January 2019. Programming income has covered payroll, operating, and maintenance costs. Donations are set aside for longer-term financial well-being, separated from operational money; sustainability concerns will be ongoing due to changes in Durham and rising costs in general. We have been building a solid foundation for improvements and preparing for expansion or other ways to meet the needs of our growing community.

Income this fiscal year follows previous trends. We continued to fill classes to capacity again this year in nearly every class session. There has been a steady rise in enrollment over the past five years. In 2012 and 2013, we recorded roughly 500 enrollments per year, while last year we had 788 enrollments, or a 54% increase over five years. With so many students, we can rarely accommodate downstairs communal studio renters except on a drop-in basis. In the store, retail sales have shown a small range of fluctuation each year. This year, however, they rose 12.6%, with a notable 22% increase in clay sales. The upstairs studios remain occupied and gallery sales rose slightly from last year. Community support during the 2017 Year-End Fund Drive matched previous years, and the number of Sustaining Donors grew.

Expenses stayed in balance over the fiscal year but increased in several areas. Several factors influence the change. We expect studio and instructor costs to rise as classes grow. More firing requires more kiln maintenance. Gallery consignment payments go up with more gallery sales. Claymakers has a new property lease and some of the changes in the 2019 agreement were retroactive. Because of this, we spent an unexpected $3000 this year for a required elevator inspection. Our principal clay vendor, Highwater Clays, stopped production for over a month this spring, causing unforeseen expenses for freight and goods. We had to source most supplies from our other vendor, Standard Ceramics, which is further away and more expensive. Even as Highwater's clay gradually became available again, we added handling costs due to processing more frequent, small shipments. Other expenses over the year were as expected.

Healthy financials are the result of a careful fit with Claymakers’ evolving circumstances. Our steady growth reflects growth everywhere in Durham. While a positive factor, growth is also a concern. We have long recognized inefficiencies that result from struggling to stock a small store space. As the non-student demand for firing services expands almost as quickly as the number of students, our kilns are sometimes unable to support both. The studio feels the limits on time, staff, and space that arise with more classes and store needs, and scheduling and supporting workshops or other activities can be a challenge. We will be seeking greater balance between these dynamics in the coming year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October 2017 - September 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes &amp; Workshops - 43.8% ($161,699.85)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Sales - 39.1% ($144,242.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rentals - 7.9% ($29,292.85)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising - 4.3% ($15,827.21)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallery Sales - 4.3% ($16,009.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (Investment) - 0.6% ($2,249.17)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong> - 100.0% ($369,320.23)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expense</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store - 31.1% ($97,048.69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classes &amp; Workshops - 19.8% ($61,795.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building &amp; Equipment - 19.3% ($60,220.75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff - 18.8% ($58,641.36)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations, non-staff - 6.4% ($20,027.13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gallery - 4.1% ($12,819.38)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising - 0.6% ($1,742.50)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong> - 100.0% ($312,294.96)</td>
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</tbody>
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Claymakers presents seven class sessions over the course of each year. Sessions are six or seven weeks in length and, for the most part, classes cycle continuously. Each class session is planned with both newcomers and continuing students in mind and offers classes for skill levels ranging from the beginning to advanced student. Recurring wheel topics are taught by different teachers throughout the year to increase student exposure to different approaches and methods. This year, Claymakers offered 12 or 13 classes each session, for a total of 85 different classes, with 37 unique topics. These included 5 general, repeating introductory or continuing wheel classes, 13 specialized wheel topics, 2 classes on specific surface treatments, 8 different sculpture or hand-building topics, and 6 non-electric firing classes. Attendance for this period is the highest in Claymakers’ history, with a total of 788 enrollments (383 students).

Oct. 2017 - Sept. 2018

Core Wheel Classes
- Beginning Wheel
- Continuing Wheel
- Introduction to Clay Techniques
- Saturday Clay
- The Next Step

Topical Wheel Classes
- Bowl Making for Champions
- Combined Forms
- Illuminations!
- Lidded Vessels
- Lids, Shoulders, Knees, and Feet
- Plates and Platters
- Style and Design
- Tableware
- Texturizing Pots
- Throwing in a Series
- Thrown and Altered Up!
- Utilitarian Pots

Sculpture and Hand Building Classes
- Faces, Masks, and Portraits
- Figurative Details
- Hand-Built Bowls
- Indoor/Outdoor Ceramic Sculpture
- Advanced Hand-Built Sculpture
- Introduction to Ceramic Sculpture
- Introduction to Clay Techniques
- Sculpture and Hand-Building

Firing Classes
- Cone 6 Soda Firing
- Crystalline Glazes
- Gas Fired Reduction
- Saggar Firing
- Raku I & Raku II

Classes on Surface Treatment
- Decorating Functional Pots
- Developing the Ceramic Surface

From the beginning... Class Enrollments
Many thanks to our Studio Assistants!

Studio assistants offer support for critical studio functions in exchange for class tuition and studio access. They assume significant responsibility when handling everyone’s work—making many decisions while carefully loading, unloading, and programming the three electric kilns each day—and reliably mixing all the glazes and materials for common use. They put in many hundreds of hours each year to keep our workspaces clean and collaborate on the countless unseen tasks that smooth the flow of activities at the studio. We wouldn’t know what to do without them! The 2017-2018 assistants are Catherine Cindrich, Nate Hood, Amy Irish, Kathleen Miglia, Emmanuel Oquaye, and Savannah Scarborough (active), and Hendall Loeffler, Grace Montgomery, Grace Scale, and Laura Selmer (former).

Retail Store

Claymakers’ retail store holds a unique role as the Triangle’s only supplier of clay, plaster, and dry ceramic materials. The store is an important resource for artists, teachers, makers, and builders in the Durham region and surrounding counties, and it often connects people and activities in the larger clay community. This year, we supported 980 separate retail sales accounts and our small storage area accommodated the sale of 180,459 pounds of clay and dry materials. Our customers include at least 50 community clay studios or schools, along with camps and individual artists.

People who found Claymakers in 2018 came from all over the map (nearly)!

2017-2018 Instructors:
Anya Avrutskaya  
Gaines Bailey  
Lisa Brown  
Charles Dillingham  
Christopher Donald  
Nancy Garrett-Mead  
Deborah Harris  
Nathan Hood  
Julie Olson  
Marsha Owen  
Elizabeth Paley  
Ronan Peterson  
Caroly Van Duyn  
Evelyn Ward  
Curry Wilkinson

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Raw Materials

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“Unstop-a-Bull!”

We’ve long joked about the wish to make a “roadside attraction” near Claymakers that might let passersby in on a few secrets of the studio. What goes on in that building, after all?! Despite the visibility of the gallery, there can be a certain opacity about our activities to others, and people often comment on how extensive Claymakers is, once inside.

What better attraction than the curiosity, “Unstop-a-Bull?” Our creature (the spirit of Durham bustin’ out?) was made in a workshop led by sculptor and Queens University professor, Denny Gerwin. A team of students improvised the Durham themed piece when challenged to form a large work composed from many parts. Students imitated support structures that Gerwin employs in his own work and added local themes, inspired by the changing skyline as seen from the upstairs, sculpture studio window. The cityscape includes a construction crane! On a side note, the workshop also provided an opportunity for students to grapple with the technical challenges of combining wet thrown, leather-hard extruded, and freshly sculpted elements. Gerwin and his students brought “Unstop-a-Bull” together in only a few workshop hours. After firing, he lingered at the edge of the downstairs classroom, waiting for a home.

This summer, at Christie Drew’s initiative, “Unstop-a-Bull” moved to the front of Claymakers where he now looks out on Foster Street from a concrete pedestal. Of course, the concrete form was first appropriately filled with discarded pottery shards before the cement was added.... Christie Drew, Catherine Cindrich, and Caleb Parker all pitched in on the cement work/time capsule. Amy Irish assembled and installed the buildings that form the upper portion of the sculpture, providing the finishing touches. Now there’s often the sound of laughter outside at night, as people stop to debate the meaning of the piece. Mission accomplished!

Workshop attendees who created “Unstop-a-Bull” under Denny Gerwin’s direction in 2016 were Lorraine Cramer, Charlie Evergreen, Lynne Griffin, Judy Maier, Elizabeth Paley, Savannah Scarborough, Priscilla Scherer, and Caroly Van Duyn.

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Claymakers Gallery begins and ends its annual cycle with “Steinfest,” our national invitational that is in its sixth year. Other exhibits this year were the annual community holiday show, which displayed the range of work produced by Claymakers’ teachers, students, renters, and friends; “as·sem·blage - a Ceramic Sculpture Installation” by Rosalie Midyette; “Ceramic Work of Ibrahim Said,” a solo show; “Light in Line,” which combined the wall pieces of Lisa Stinson with Tim Turner’s pottery; and two large installations by Anne Gregory-Bepler and Dare Coulter, titled “Falling into Stillness” and “Right Before We Fly” (selected work from the Black on Black Project’s AnchorLight Gallery Exhibition).

"6TH ANNUAL STEINFEST"
Exhibit of Contemporary Ceramic Beer Steins

Our signature, national invitational exhibition, “Steinfest”, opened on September 29th and continues through November 10th. The consensus every year is “that this is the best “Steinfest” so far!,” and the sixth anniversary of the show was no exception. 58 artists sent steins and the show includes potters from across the country. Three Canadian potters participated this year. Curators Gillian Parke and Evelyn Ward ensured a selection of choice work, and the show again offers many vibrant and diverse interpretations of steins.

“Steinfest’s” opening events are also a special thank you to the loyal supporters of Claymakers. While the show connects Claymakers and artists from around the country, we also enjoy working together to present it. Much appreciation goes to those who assisted in assembling the show: the curators, Jenny Tenor, Kathleen Miglia, Marty Warburton, Ana Howard, Catherine Cindrich, Marni Farrar, Julie Rice, Manny Oquay, and Christie Drew. We have a very special thanks to our sponsors, Bull City Brewery, Loaf, and Toast, who helped fill our plates with delicious goodies and cups with refreshing beer.
Please Help Keep the Fires Burning!

Make a Year-End Contribution to Claymakers

Like many small non-profit arts-education organizations, Claymakers relies on donations for stability and growth. We thrive because of community support and are grateful for your help. As we grow as a non-profit, our strategic planning includes expanding our clay-arts services and educational programs, while maintaining financial stability for the long-term. We cannot do this without your support. Please consider making a year-end contribution to Claymakers: use the enclosed envelope, visit www.claymakers.org, or call us at (919) 530-8355 to learn how.

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Jena Matzen
Catherine Lidov (former)

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Thank you, Volunteers!
Claymakers thanks the many people in our community who volunteer in ways large and small to support our mission. We greatly appreciate your talents, time, and expertise!

Around the Studio
Claymakers staff and the studio assistants are tasked with keeping an eye on how to maximize studio space, update tired equipment, and improve the community experience. Other eyes are welcome! Let us know if you see something that needs attention or can be improved.

This year, we replaced another kiln and two well-worn wheels, and our little studio fridge. David Dwin has recently changed out many of the wheel cords and plugs (especially, tell us about hazards!). The upstairs classroom was reconfigured, and we added more work surfaces and student shelving (shelves gratis Manbitesdog Theater). The heavy-duty banding wheel you’ll find in the spray booth is a recent donation, given to us by Wade Ford, along with another scale (just in time for next year’s glaze classes!). Ralph Ross seems to have a special knack for looking out for Claymakers, too, and we’ve made good use of the bench grinder he kindly left in the glaze room. Catherine Cindrich has lent a litany of tools to our projects (everything from a wheelbarrow and a pick to sledgehammers, drill bits, and a GoPro). We have many people to thank for making Claymakers a success!

In the past 12 years, at least 4000 bowls have been created by the Claymakers community and then donated to Urban Ministries of Durham’s spring Empty Bowls event. Many thanks to all who lend a hand with this effort.

Yes, you’re right if it seems the kilns are always firing! Here’s how often the kilns are rented… plus the kilns are firing for our productive students, too. (2012 incomplete)

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Claymakers Mission

To promote the joy of working with clay; to sustain a thriving community of artists, students, and teachers; and to foster enthusiasm for the ceramic arts through classes, workshops, exhibits, special events, and services.

Back: Stacey Wright, Sculpture
Front: Ibrahim Said, "Water Lily," detail