

Newsletter

January 2024



Is Your Membership up to date?

Memberships run from January through December. Renew now to get all of your benefits and updates on the news. You must be a member to apply to Clay Fest.

Your membership also gives you a discount on purchases at Georgie's.

Please remember to add your email to be sure to hear news on our new member's online forum.: www.clayfestonline.com

Click below for a safe link to pay your 2024 Membership:

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/P8V3D3TSWN6PR/checkout/1BNLCNMRIFCAJIRD4IMTKPMY>



Feedback

As we head into 2024, we would love to hear your feedback on Clay Fest 2023. Please take this brief survey and let us know what went well and where we can improve in 2024.

Click this [link](#) to take a brief survey:

Open Positions

Job Opportunity:
Bookkeeper for Clay Fest

Are you detail-oriented, adept at handling sales numbers and experienced with Google Sheets and Gmail?

We have an exciting opportunity for a Bookkeeper to join our Clay Fest team!

See more information on page 4

"A vessel is formed from a lump of clay with care, however, it is the empty space within the vessel that makes it useful". [Laozi](#)

Letter from Clay Fest Board Chair



Dear Clay Fest Members,

I am thrilled to share the fantastic news that Clay Fest 2023 marked a record-breaking year in sales for our Local Clay Potters. The success of last year's event speaks to the dedication and talent of our existing members. It signifies the welcoming of many new potters to our vibrant community. This influx ensures that even after 25 years, we continue to grow and thrive as an organization.

Among our cherished group of potters, we are proud to have eight individuals showcasing their work since the inaugural show 1998. Their enduring commitment is a testament to the enduring spirit of Clay Fest.



One of the highlights of Clay Fest 2023 was the return of Clay Demonstrations and the Kid's Clay Area. Witnessing the joy, smiles, and fun that these additions brought to the show was genuinely heartwarming. It reinforced the sense of community and shared passion that defines Clay Fest.

As we bask in the success of last year, the Clay Fest Steering Committee has wasted no time and is already hard at work, meeting to initiate the planning process for this year's 26th annual fall Clay Fest show. We are committed to building upon the triumphs of the past and introducing new elements that will make the upcoming event even more memorable.

Thank you for being an integral part of Clay Fest's journey. Your contributions and enthusiasm make our community truly exceptional. Stay tuned for more updates as we embark on this exciting journey towards Clay Fest 2024.

Warm regards,
Laura Wikane



CLAY IN EDUCATION

Share your passion with school kids! Do you already have a connection with a local school district? Do you have experience working with kids? Do you have ideas for fun and educational clay projects you can lead during class time? You can be a Clay in Education Ambassador! (Contracted hourly work, not an employee position.)

For more information, don't hesitate to contact the Clay in Ed board member Denise Meyer at :

denisepmyers@gmail.com

Clay in Education Ambassadors must be current members of Local Clay.

Please note: Before final selection, we will perform a background check on candidates.



Local Clay Meeting

Local Clay Members Meeting and Board Elections February 20th at 7:30 with Zoom link to be sent out closer to the meeting. The meeting agenda is board elections, budget approval, and a discussion on consolidating board meetings with Clay Fest Steering Committee meetings.

The meeting is open to all Local Clay Members, especially anyone interested in joining the Local Clay Board. If you want more information regarding open positions, contact Laura Wikane at:

TerrapinPotteryEugene@gmail.com.



Newsletter



Are you looking for artistic inspiration?

- 1. Explore Diverse Art Forms:** Attend exhibitions and galleries showcasing various artistic expressions like paintings, sculptures, and performance art. Draw inspiration to bring fresh perspectives and techniques to your pottery..
- 2. Nature's Influence:** Find inspiration in the intricate details of nature's colors and textures.
- 3. Personal Stories:** Let your own experiences and emotions inspire your pottery creations.



Bookkeeper Position

Responsibilities:

- Utilize Google Sheets and Gmail to convert sales numbers into checks.
- Set up the spreadsheet before the show, updating last year's data with new participant information.
- Manage the show laptop for efficient data processing.
- Use Square to track show sales and generate reports for each potter's daily sales.
- Email daily sales reports to potters by merging the spreadsheet and our email list.

Post-Show Duties:

- Compile final numbers for the spreadsheet at the show's conclusion.
- Collaborate with the show chair and treasurer in the week following the event to write and mail checks to participants.

Qualifications:

- Experience with Google Sheets and Gmail.
- Experience with Square for sales tracking.
- Detail-oriented with strong organizational skills.
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines.
- Excellent communication and collaboration skills.

If you are passionate about supporting the arts and have the skills to excel in this role, we'd love to hear from you! Join us in making Clay Fest 2024 a success!

Newsletter



3 Interesting Pottery Facts:

- Pottery has been around for a long time and is found in nearly every civilization in some form. The potter's wheel was invented in Mesopotamia between 6000 and 4000 BCE, bringing pottery to the next level as potters could craft their wares more quickly and efficiently, with more symmetrical and even shapes.
- Ancient Egyptians used pottery during the embalming process. Egyptians used jars, sometimes ceramic and sometimes wood or stone, to hold the organs of the departed after they were embalmed. They believed the person would need their organs in the afterlife, so the stomach, intestines, lungs, and liver were all stored in canopic jars.
- Traditional Japanese pottery takes up to a week to fire. For thousands of years, traditional Japanese clay art has been fired in chambered wood kilns called anagama (one-chambered kiln) or noborigama (multi-chambered kiln). The fire is kept burning 24 hours a day for as long as a week and then left to cool for several more days. The process is so labor intensive potters often only fire their work once a year.



Looking for new Tips and Tricks?

Here are 5 YouTube channels to help you learn new skills in 2024:

1. [Timsee clay](#) - lots of great ideas for ceramic education.
2. [Karans Pots & Glass](#) - check out this potter, a high school ceramics teacher with 30 years of experience.
3. [Old Forge Creations](#) - A graphic designer turned self-taught ceramicist out of Surrey, UK.
4. [Ingleton Pottery](#) - Long-time potter who makes demonstration videos
5. [Little Street Pottery](#) - Follow Ann Ruel as she makes pottery techniques accessible to all.

If you have a favorite potter that you want to share, in a future newsletter, please send Mark a link to mudtoart@gmail.com

Newsletter



Important Dates and News

Stay Tuned for Clay Fest Bookmarks!

Keep an eye out for Clay Fest bookmarks releasing in April, available at Georgies' Ceramics.

Oregon Potters Association 2024 Ceramic Showcase at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon, on April 19–21, 2024. Registration is available at oregonpotters.org

ClayFolk Spring Show & Sale at EdenVale Winery in Medford, Oregon, on May 18, 2024, 10:00 am–5:00 pm. The registration is available at clayfolk.org

Mark Your Calendar for Clay Fest 2024!

- Show Dates: October 11, 12, and 13, 2024, at Lane Event Center.
- Show Application: Available on the website in early April 2024.

Barcode Labels from 2023

If you were part of Clay Fest 2023 and have any barcode labels left, save them—they'll work this fall.

Get ready for another exciting year at Clay Fest!

