

NEWS

IN CLAY



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DARLENE PRATT

Seventeen dedicated members of the London Potters Guild came together for a day on Sunday, February 22 to discuss how to continue to strengthen the operational foundation at London Clay Art Centre.

The group decided that there are 3 key areas of focus for the next 18 months:

1. Strategic Planning – define our strategy, or direction, and make decisions about the allocation of resources to pursue the strategy. This involves setting goals and determining specific actions and timelines in which to achieve the goals.
2. Organizational analysis – examine all programs at London Clay Art Centre to determine areas of improvement and greater efficiency in terms of cost recovery and increased revenue to support the organization's sustainability.
3. Management – explore grant programs that can provide seed funding to support the salary of a Manager/Executive Director at LCAC for up to 3 years. This would give us time to develop a plan for sustaining the position.

In addition, the board, in conjunction with Sandy, Kaitlyn and Cheryl, will be tackling some remaining capital projects to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the studios, such as putting industrial laminate flooring under the south sink in the members' studio, devising a system to properly dispose of the clay sludge mopped off floors and extracted from the sinks, and building a storage shed to house the raku kilns and winter equipment, etc. As plans develop, you will re-

ceive periodic updates on progress.

On March 6, the marvelous Empty Bowls committee and many volunteers mounted the most successful event to date, exceeding its fundraising goal in sup-



port of the El Sistema Aeolian program. There can be no doubt of the importance of the London Potters Guild and London Clay Art Centre to the community.

I would like to welcome some new faces to key volunteer leadership roles. Margaret Nickle has taken over as LCAC Store coordinator from Genet Hodder and Sandra Paterson. She will use her experience in retail to build on the success of the store. Judy Riseling is taking over from Patti Wilk to coordinate internal workshops to keep our members engaged and on a path of continuous learning. And, Cassandra Prokop is taking over membership coordination from Teresa Ainsworth as she heads off to tour the world for a year.

Many, many thanks to Genet, Sandra, Patti and Teresa for their long-standing and significant contributions to the LPG and LCAC. We have all benefitted from your tremendous talents and dedication.

Spring is upon us and so is the next LPG sale. Summer clay camps for kids are on the horizon as is the Old East Village Block Party and the Home County Folk Festival. Be sure to get involved over the next few

months. It's a great opportunity to meet enthusiastic, talented potters and to learn more about your community.

All the best,

Darlene

EMPTY BOWLS

TERESA AINSWORTH



The 2015 edition of the Empty Bowls Event was the most successful yet. Ticket sales exceeded our most optimistic estimate - 403 were sold! Although the final tally of funds raised isn't finished yet, the recipient group (El Sistema) will

be getting around \$10,000. The soups were as usual amazing - my favourites were the creamy potato with rosemary and the curried lentil dahl.

The amazing LPG members threw, trimmed, decorated, glazed and fired over 500 bowls. This year we started earlier with a Superbowl Saturday in December (2014) in which about 16 members threw over 200 bowls. Another Superbowl in January added another 200 or so and our wonderful members added another 100 on their own. This year, we received many compliments on the decorated bowls - some saying we are getting better and more creative each year, even though they thought we couldn't possibly top the year before. Thank you to each and every one of you. We couldn't put this on without you.

As most of you know, the funds raised this year will go towards the food portion of the El Sistema program run by the Aeolian Hall (our neighbour to the east). El Sistema is a music program based on the one which was started in Venezuela in 1975. It offers musical learning opportunities to children, regardless of their background, ability, gender or financial need.

The program offers 6 hours of instruction a week (4 days a week right after school). The children get a snack when they arrive, practice for an hour and a half and then get a full hot meal after the practice is over. The instruction includes orchestras, choir, string instruments, piano and gamelan. The program includes having the children perform publically every 6-8 weeks at the Aeolian Hall. Performances are admis-





sion by donation and are well worth attending. The evening dinner sitting had the opportunity to listen to some 30 members of El Sistema as they sang and performed to great applause.

The children got to chose a bowl of their own and went home proudly clutching their bowls. Really cute - especially the little ones with their Aeolian Hall t-shirts that went down to their knees.

We appreciate all the volunteer hours that went into the Empty Bowls event - from the making of bowls, the transport of bowls, soup, etc. to and from the Goodwill Centre, the set up crew, the kitchen crew of Jenn, Kari and Nathaniel, the soup servers and the takedown crew. Thanks again to Michael for the design of the poster and tickets. You know who you all are and we truly appreciate the volunteer work you do for this event and all the others.

From the grateful Empty Bowls Committee of Judy Sparkes, Danielle Moynihan, Eva Koh, Alice Nagus, Christina Tischler and Teresa Ainsworth



We would like to thank publicly the donors of Silent Auction items - your generosity allowed us to raise another thousand dollars - Pauline Durham, Melody Green, Lynn Haslam, Jenn Jack, David Moynihan, Jordan Scott, Chris Snedden, Christine Tischler and Fran Whitney.

LIBRARY

TERESA AINSWORTH

We have entered a new (to us) DVD on throwing to the library (a former London Public Library DVD) and a couple of new books - one on glazes and one an autobiography by a former LPG member and founder - Suzanne de Clercq. There are still many old Ceramics Monthly magazines for sale at a mere 25 cents each. There is much that can be learned from these old magazines and each one sold add to the funds for library purchases.

MEMBERSHIP

As many of you already know, Teresa Ainsworth is no longer on the LPG executive and is handing over her position as Membership Chair to Cassandra Prokop. She will help Cassandra during the transition so feel free to ask her questions, but Cassandra will be the ultimate authority.

Cassandra can be reached by email at: cassandra.prokop@gmail.com

SPRING SALE

TERESA AINSWORTH

All of you should have received an email message reminding you about the Spring Sale. Your signup form must be received by the end of March and then a email for schedules will be sent out. If you can't make it into the Guild to sign up in person you can call the Guild during business hours and sign up through Cheryl or the store. Alternatively, you can email Nancy Friedrich to let her know you want to participate in the sale and let her know how you will be paying. Nancy can be reached by email at nfriedrich@hotmail.com

JCP PROGRAM

TERESA AINSWORTH

Our last two JCP (Job Creation Position) workers, Kelly and Bob, were great additions to the Guild. We have now received word that our applications for new JCP funding (for 42 weeks) has been approved and we can now hire 3 new staff under this program - a Web Designer, a Health and Safety Officer, and a Volunteer Coordinator. If you know of anyone with these skills who has been (or is currently) on EI, please let them know of the positions. Formal job descriptions and job postings are being developed.

EXHIBITION COMMITTEE

JANE PATERAK

'The Gallery' at the London Clay Art Centre is currently accepting submissions for its 2015 programming roster. This call is open to all ceramic-based artists

wishing to display their work in an effective and intimate space. Priority will be given to proposals that include strong creativity, high quality craftsmanship and an innovative theme/concept. If you are interested, please review the attached application form (p. 6). The deadline is April 15th, 2015. We look forward to seeing your entries.

We are also looking for a new chair for the Exhibition committee. If this is something you would be interested in or you would like to know more about the position and what it entails, please contact Jane Paterak.

STUDIO TECH

Red Aprons

Studio techs Sandy Harquail & Kaitlyn McGill, and YOU placement Nicole Hillier, will be wearing London Potters Guild "Red Aprons" while they are paid staff.

Please remember that during that time, they have a great deal of work that needs to be completed.

Sandy and Kaitlyn's hours are flexible, based on their schedule. When they are here as a studio members, please respect their time to play.

Nicole's hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 3:30pm. (although, there may be occasional exception). Nicole has been granted some studio privileges, so you will see her at other times.





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London Clay Art Centre Call for Submissions

Application Due: April 15th

‘The Gallery’ at the London Clay Art Centre is currently accepting submissions for its 2015 programming roster. This call is open to all ceramic-based artists wishing to display their work in an effective and intimate space. Priority will be given to proposals that include strong creativity, high quality craftsmanship and an innovative theme/concept.

All submissions must include:

Artist’s Statement / Biography

5-10 Digital Images (jpg on CD or Flashdrive)
Work must be made within the past year.

One page description of the proposed exhibition.
Please include an outline of the theme/concept of the work and any specific display ideas/instructions.

The London Clay Art Centre is not responsible for lost or damaged submissions. Do not send slides, photographs, or original artwork. Only Digital Images will be accepted. Materials will not be returned unless a Self Addressed Stamp and Envelope is provided.

Chosen Exhibition Artists will be paid in accordance with the CARFAC Fee Schedule.

Please send your submission/proposal to:

Attn: The Gallery

London Clay Art Centre

664 Dundas Street

London Ontario

N5W 2Y8

You can also email your submission to:

pottersguild@execulink.com

Please include “ The Gallery – Submission” In the Subject Line