



CLAYWORKS



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**ANNUAL REPORT | 2019-2020**

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### MISSION

Clayworks is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of ceramic arts, advancement of artists and students, and enrichment of the communities it serves.

### VISION

Clayworks engages, enriches, and inspires diverse populations in the discovery, creation, and celebration of the ceramic arts.

### IMPACT STATEMENT

Clayworks is a leader in the field of ceramic arts, providing its students and artists unparalleled access to top-quality facilities, equipment, and instruction. It provides robust arts education programming, centered on hands-on experiences with clay, to diverse populations across Mecklenburg County with many programs at low-cost or no-cost to the participant. Clayworks enriches its community by helping individuals reach their potential for creativity and personal growth, and connecting people from a variety of backgrounds through shared values.

## LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2019-2020 started out as an amazing year with lots of growth and changes at Clayworks. We were in the first year of our 5-year plan, during which Clayworks aspires to double our impact in our community by enhancing our support for students and artists who desire to build on their creative skills and by expanding the role of Clayworks as a community resource dedicated to enriching lives.

Due to the generosity of the Women's Impact Fund (WIF) Arts and Culture grant, Clayworks purchased a second Mudmobile van to support our community engagement programs. Clayworks is the first organization to be awarded a second grant in the Arts and Culture category by WIF. It is an honor to be recognized a second time by the Women's Impact Fund.

Having the second van expanded our program capacity and flexibility to engage with more community members. Clayworks offered 261 programs in 59 host sites from July, 2019 through mid-March, 2020. The vans were on the road an average of 9.8 times per week. With host partners across the county, we were able share the wonders of clay with our community. People of all ages, abilities, and interests had their hands in clay.

Clayworks hired a new studio manager, Brett Beasley, to strengthen our programs. Brett joined our staff in October 2019, and has done an outstanding job of organizing the studio and bringing new ideas to the functioning of our classes. He has become a vital part of the Clayworks community.

Clayworks is a major provider for the Arts and Science Council's Culture Blocks program. Funded by Mecklenburg County, this program supports cultural experiences that are planned with input from host sites all around Mecklenburg County; they take place at libraries, recreation centers, parks, and relevant community spaces. Clayworks offers programming to seniors, veterans, preschoolers, and school-aged children, in addition to multi-generational programs and programs in Spanish. In addition, last year, we supported community programs with grants from the NC Arts Council and the Women's Impact Fund. Overall, our Community Engagement programs involved individuals more than 10,900 times in the first three quarters of last year.

**"WITH HOST PARTNERS ACROSS THE COUNTY, WE WERE ABLE SHARE THE WONDERS OF CLAY WITH OUR COMMUNITY; PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, ABILITIES, AND INTERESTS HAD THEIR HANDS IN CLAY."**

Clayworks has continued its growth trajectory with 18% overall growth in participation in our programs from the previous fiscal year. However, when an unexpected world-wide pandemic hit the United States, Clayworks had to close its doors in March 2020. The good news is that before Coronavirus, Clayworks was on track to have record breaking participation numbers. Clayworks has pivoted and adjusted our programs considerably since reopening in June. We know it will be difficult, but as we move forward from this crisis, please know that your financial gifts will continue to allow for transformational experiences for individuals across our community.

Clayworks is still committed to doubling our impact within the community we serve. You can help us make a difference by contributing to Clayworks to reach more schools, more community partners, and more participants within Mecklenburg County. Your donation helps us continue our presence in the lives of individuals across our community. Clayworks is making an impact in the community we serve. Thank you to our talented staff, teaching artists, dedicated board members, and our generous supporters! Your enthusiasm and generosity will ensure that this magical space of muddy fun and creativity can still be an integral part of the arts and culture of Charlotte, now and in the future.

**Adrienne Dellinger, Executive Director**

# CLAYWORKS PROGRAMING



## DURING FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020



**228**

Off-site Community  
Engagement Programs

**THAT'S**



**6.2**

Programs per Week

**33** Programs  
across



**26**

Schools

An average of...

**30** 

Participants

**1.2** 

Instructors


Per program

## SUNRIDGE AFTERSCHOOL CENTER

We have partnered for many years with the YWCA Central Carolinas in their Youth Learning Centers; offering enrichment classes that complement their high-quality afterschool programming for children in low-income areas. This past year, thanks to a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, we provided a series of 10-week residency programs at six different Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Learning Center sites (three more were scheduled and ready to start when COVID hit). Something special occurred at one of these residencies that illustrates the transformative experience students have while participating in our classes.

One common theme among all Clayworks programs is the excitement that the children have for their clay class. When the teacher walks into the room with the supplies, everyone rushes to help unload and set up. The site coordinators and assistants channel this enthusiasm as an incentive for positive behavior and select student 'set-up helpers' for each class accordingly. While each Clayworks student is impressive in their own unique way, one such Sunridge 'set-up helper' really made an impact on Clayworks teaching artist, Allison, at the Sunridge Youth Learning Center location. From the initial class, there was one little girl who Allison will never forget. The site coordinator shared with Allison that this student had a hearing impairment and spent most of her young life without using hearing aids. At home, at school and at the Learning Center she experienced others yelling at her and pushing her out of the way because she could not hear well. The site coordinator also relayed that as a result of these experiences, she exhibited behavioral outbursts. The Sunridge Learning Center is small, and loud, and understandably overwhelming to someone not able to hear the instructor's directions or engage in quiet conversations with her peers. But even with these obstacles, she loved her clay class and always wanted to be selected as a 'set-up helper.' Even when she was not picked to help set up, she was determined to behave well and stay engaged in hopes of earning an opportunity to help clean up and pack up the supplies.

Working with clay was a joyful experience for this young student; rolling, pinching and transforming it into a lovely creation. Allison recognized that when this student began to misbehave, that a simple reminder of losing the privilege to participate in the class was enough to calm her down and help her stay focused. It was noticeable that she was building skills of focus and self-control.



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Sculpting the clay really helped develop my children's fine-motor skills.

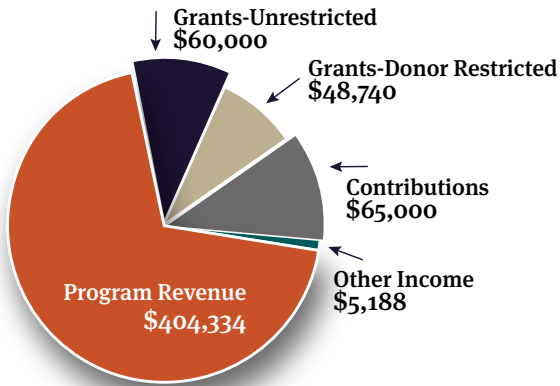
## CULTURE BLOCKS PRESCHOOL PROGRAM: A MOTHER'S STORY

A mother shares an inspirational story about her five-and-a-half-year-old twins' experience attending the Culture Blocks Preschool Pottery Program at Mallard Creek Recreation Center. The kids have enjoyed these monthly classes since they were three years old and would not dream of missing the chance to participate.

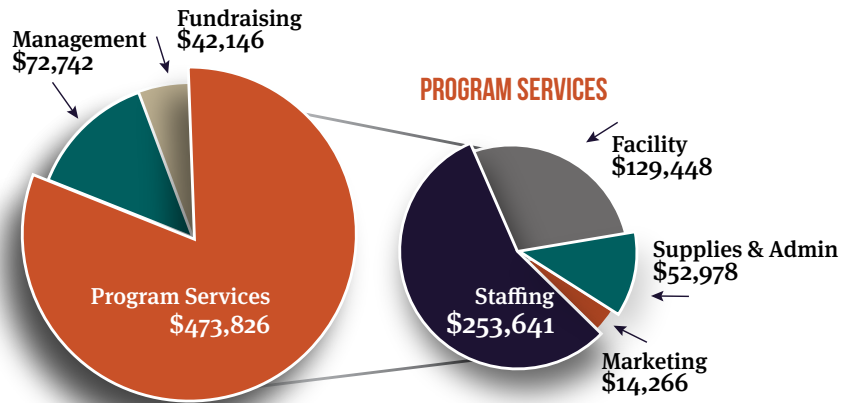
Here is their mom's reflection of their Clayworks Culture Blocks experience: "Our living room mantel and their bookshelves are filled with amazing pottery pieces they created over the last two years. This class allowed them to be creative. I firmly believe children should have opportunities to express their individual creativity. These hands-on experiences greatly help their brain development and problem-solving skills. Each project they built has their own personal touch and is a unique creation. When we first started the classes, I would assist my children with their projects, but never did the work for them. By the final class, they completed their projects on their own without my assistance. Ms. Becky was wonderful at instructing, showing multiple techniques or examples, and helping the students; meeting them each where they were in the process. She always encouraged the children to do their best and make their work their own. One reason we attended every month was because sculpting the clay really helped develop my children's fine-motor skills. Another bonus of participating in the program was the friendships my children formed with their classmates. Every session my children were excited to learn about the next project, to collect their previous artwork, and to see their friends. They are very proud of their work and show every houseguest their pottery projects. I appreciated that this program was free and that my children experienced a different type of art form, 3-dimensional. We look forward to attending more Clayworks Culture Blocks pottery programs. Thank you."

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

## CLAYWORKS REVENUE



## CLAYWORKS EXPENSES



## 2020 YEAR-END BALANCE SHEET

<b>Current Assets</b>	
Operating Cash	\$163,618
Cash-Restricted by Donor	\$44,350
Reserves-Restricted by Board	\$121,383
Other Current Assets	\$19,815
<b>Noncurrent Assets</b>	
Property & Equipment, net	\$1,025,770
Investments (scholarship fund)	\$45,071
Other Assets	\$1,500
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,421,507</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Deferred Income	\$50,65
PPP loan-forgiveness pending	\$49,200
Other Current Liabilities	\$14,301
Long Term Debt	\$469,146
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$583,304</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$838,203</b>

# 2019-2020 DONORS

Clayworks gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the following donors who made gifts between July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020.

\* indicates 5+ years of consecutive giving

\*\* indicates 10+ years of consecutive giving

† Indicates Memorial Gift, in memory of Jean Davis Eagle

†† Indicates Memorial Gift, in memory of Max McLeod Scholarship Fund

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