



CLAYWORKS



ANNUAL REPORT | 2021-2022

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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

This year was one of tremendous growth for Clayworks. Through our current 5-year plan, Clayworks aspires to double our impact on our community by enhancing support for students and artists and expanding Clayworks' role as a community resource dedicated to enriching lives. To continue to move forward on these initiatives, we added more one-time programs, expanded our class offerings, and had our first two in-person gallery sales since 2019!

After emerging from the pandemic, we were able to offer our adult classes at full capacity, open the studio again to 24/7 access for our students, and offer more programs for children and youth. We had an incredible increase in demand for private and group lessons.

Throughout 2021, Clayworks continued to offer virtual programming for many of our community engagement programs. During six months, spread across the fiscal year as funding fluctuated, Clayworks offered 670 free take-home, air-dry clay kits per month with video instructions for several projects listed on our website. Participants could do projects on their own time, or they could join a live zoom class for free. This was all made possible through our Culture Blocks program: a partnership with Arts & Science Council, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, and Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. Clayworks also offered community engagement in-person programming where host sites were comfortable letting us come into their facility and offer classes. Some of our long-term community partners included Promise Resource Network, OurBridge, Brookstone Schools, Greater Enrichment Project, and Freedom Schools.

In the Spring of 2022, Clayworks in-person programs were allowed again in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools. Clayworks provided 56 programs in 12 schools and served 754 students, 66% of these programs were delivered in Title 1 schools. Program offerings included Face Jugs for the Fourth graders who were learning about North Carolina History, raku pottery workshops, pinch pot animals, twentieth century sculpture, African masks, Suess's Out of the Pages and Into Clay, and monoprinting on clay.

CLAYWORKS REMAINS COMMITTED TO EXTENDING OUR IMPACT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE.

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

Adrienne Dellinger, Executive Director

138 ONE DAY WORKSHOPS OFFERED



34 raku firing workshops



85 wheel workshops



13 family workshops



6 specialty workshops

ADULT CLASSES

12 schools served:



56 school programs

1,355 adult students

108 adult classes

CULTURE BLOCKS PROGRAMMING

7 Charlotte Mecklenburg Libraries and Recreation Centers

4,030 air dry clay kits



18 instructional videos



626 total virtual participants



522 total in-person participants

IAN HOOD



It is said that fire is a refining and purifying process, and this phrase comes to mind when hearing Ian Hood describe his experience taking raku workshops at Clayworks. Ian first came to Clayworks through his mom who had started attending workshops after her retirement. Ian's creative interests started when he was young and he took art classes during his K-12 years. But his primary experience was in creating 2-dimensional art. He received a degree in business management from Howard University in 2009, and a law degree from NC Central University in 2019. He began his career at Wells Fargo in internal communications. With his continued interest in the arts, he was intrigued by the work his mom was doing at Clayworks and decided to join her for a raku workshop. One raku workshop turned into many and soon Ian realized that every step of the raku process "...tickled different parts of the brain. Some of the steps were therapeutic and others, like the actual firing of the objects, were energizing and fun."

Eventually, Ian determined that to progress further in ceramic art he had to start from the beginning and learn more about clay as a material and an artform. He read numerous books on clay suggested by Clayworks' raku artist and instructor Greg Scott, and then enrolled in beginner wheel and handbuilding classes. In these classes, he learned to create his own forms instead of using the premade vessels provided in the raku workshops. After functionally mastering the wheel and handbuilding, he returned to his first (and favorite) Clayworks experience: raku. As a "career student" and now bona fide "clay curious" learner, Ian thoughtfully describes the raku process as one of accepting results and working toward more control; of mastering process before moving on; of problem solving and wonder alongside crossing fingers. Ian finds the process he has learned from raku—that of letting go, discovery and finding value in each creative endeavor—translates well into everyday life.

Ian gives credit for the progress of his clay journey to Clayworks' welcoming and collaborative environment and many interactive conversations with instructors, staff, studio artists and other students. While at a career crossroads in June 2022, he left Wells Fargo and then was accepted as a Clayworks Studio Monitor. In this role Ian is learning more about clay, different techniques, loading and unloading work from the kilns, and the mechanics of the kilns.

What's next for Ian? "Be on the lookout soon for Ian in a new role at Clayworks as a Raku Studio Assistant. He has also been encouraged to participate in upcoming community art shows, which he hopes to do within the next year.

What does Ian want you to know about Clayworks?

Clayworks is a supportive, collaborative, accepting and welcoming community of artists and exceptional people—so, come and try new things by taking a few one-time workshops as a path to finding a class that is best for you... AND give raku a chance, you won't regret it!"

CLAYWORKS' WELCOMING AND COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT



Photo courtesy of Carl Wilson



CLAYWORKS IN THE CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS

Clayworks has been leading the way in providing hands-on ceramic opportunities for students in the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System for over 10 years in partnership with the Arts & Science Council through their school funding opportunities. After an 18-month hiatus due to COVID, Clayworks was thrilled to be able to bring live, in-person programs back to schools for the second half of the school year. Clayworks planned programs for 12 CMS schools, including eleven traditional public schools and one charter school; eight were Title I schools serving lower-income neighborhoods. Programming focused on one-day workshops and 2–3-day residencies and served 754 students representing all grade levels. Schools choose from a diverse list of programs, including African masks, pinch pot animal sculptures, twentieth century sculpture, and raku firing. Each program was adapted appropriately for the specific grade level.

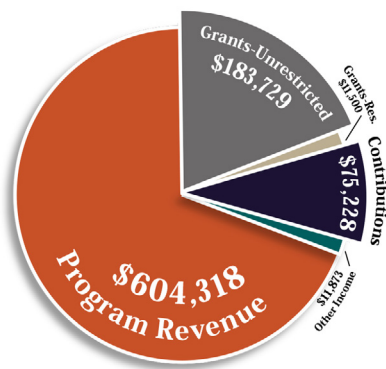
Clayworks received an “A” report card in the form of evaluations from school personnel. The average provider evaluation rating for Clayworks was 91%. Individual observers from the schools praised the Clayworks instructors (including Becky Story, Kait Kelsey, and Greg Scott) and were grateful for Clayworks’ flexibility and collaboration in planning programs. The high praise especially noted the hard work of Susan Hughes, Community Engagement Coordinator. Several CMS teachers mentioned the commitment shown by Clayworks artists in responding to varied needs of different students. The CMS teachers observed that great value can be placed on our programs since they require multiple steps to accomplish a finished product. The staff at Clayworks looks forward to continuing this collaboration with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools and the Arts & Science Council.

Call out quote: “Students were able to dive in and expand their prior knowledge of clay as an art material. Clayworks provided a video to show students before the workshop so students would better understand the cultural references with the project.”

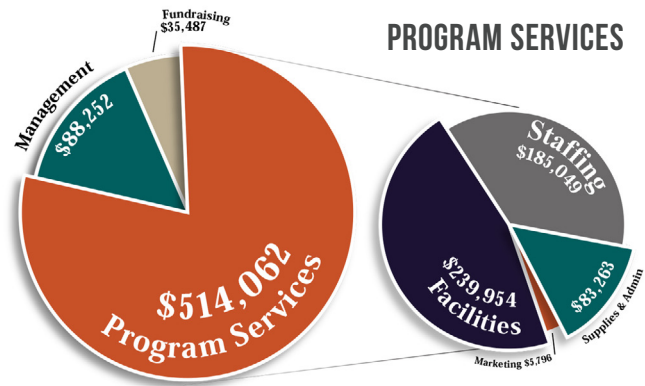
“STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO DIVE IN AND EXPAND THEIR PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF CLAY AS AN ART MATERIAL. CLAYWORKS PROVIDED A VIDEO TO SHOW STUDENTS BEFORE THE WORKSHOP SO STUDENTS WOULD BETTER UNDERSTAND THE CULTURAL REFERENCES WITH THE PROJECT.”

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

CLAYWORKS REVENUE



CLAYWORKS EXPENSES



2022 YEAR-END BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$548,972
Accounts receivable	\$1,150
Property condemnation deposit	\$53,225
Prepaid expenses	\$5,892
Inventory	\$24,030

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS **\$633,269**

Beneficial interest in foundation assets (with donor restrictions)	\$59,450
Property and equipment, net	\$945,298
Other assets	\$1,500

TOTAL ASSETS **\$1,639,517**

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$18,005
Deferred income	\$77,467
Refundable deposits	\$3,470
Current portion of long term debt	\$37,147

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES **\$136,089**

Long term debt \$362,309

TOTAL LIABILITIES **\$498,398**

Net assets:

Without donor restrictions	\$1,071,409
With donor restrictions	\$69,710

TOTAL NET ASSETS **\$1,141,119**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS **\$1,639,517**

2021-2022 DONORS

Clayworks gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the following donors who made gifts between July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

^ Indicates Memorial Gift, In honor of Robin Briggs

† Indicates Memorial Gift, in memory of Sally McMillan

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CLAYWORKS, INC.

4506 Monroe Road
Charlotte, NC 28205
P: 704.344.0795

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