



ANNUAL REPORT | **2022-2023**

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MISSION

Clayworks is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting ceramic arts, advancing artists and students, and enriching 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 our region 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 and abilities.

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year was another year 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. Clayworks added more adult and children's weekly classes, and more one-time programs; we were able to be back in-person for our community engagement programs, hosted two in-person gallery sales and hosted our fundraising event, Celebrate Clayworks!, for the first time since 2019!

In January of 2023, our Culture Blocks programing (a partnership with Arts & Science Council, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, and Charlotte Mecklenburg Library) was able to move forward with in-person programs in libraries and recreation centers throughout Mecklenburg County. Clayworks provided 111 free programs in 5 recreation centers and 3 libraries. Some of our long-term community partners included Promise Resource Network, Digi-Bridge, Greater Enrichment Project, Mosaic School, Phillips Academy, YWCA, Covenant Presbyterian Church, YWCA and Freedom Schools.

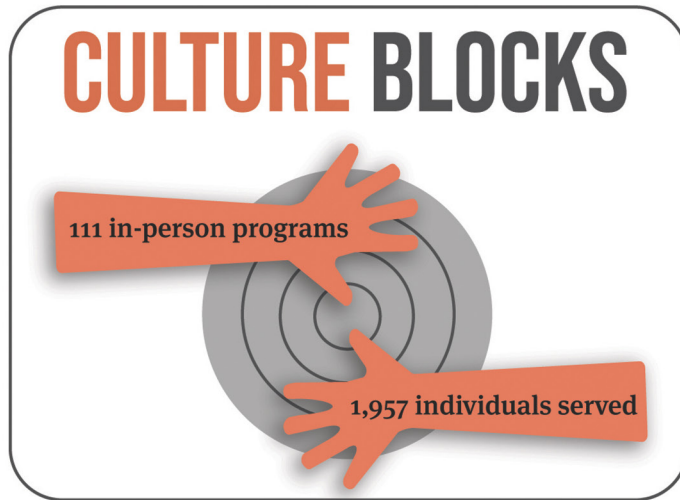
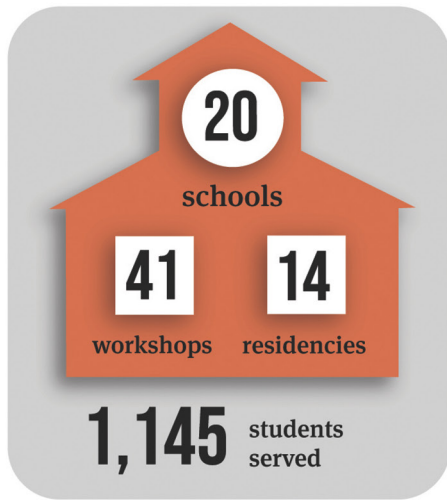
CLAYWORKS REMAINS COMMITTED TO EXTENDING OUR IMPACT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE.

Clayworks provided 14 residencies of two or more days and 41 workshops programs in 20 schools and served 1145 students, 65% 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, Sues's Out of the Pages and Into Clay, and monoprinting on clay.

Clayworks remains committed to expanding 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

CLAYWORKS PROGRAMS 2022-2023



165 one day workshops offered:



113 wheel workshops



14 family workshops



29 raku firing workshops



9 adult handbuilding workshops

ADULT CLASSES:

118 classes | 1,130 students

YOUTH CLASSES:

15 classes | 147 students

SUMMER CAMPS:

13 camps | 156 students

CLAYWORKS HOSTED CELEBRATE CLAYWORKS!

On April 28, 2023, Clayworks hosted the first in-person fundraiser since 2019. The party and silent auction was attended by 118 people and the auction had pieces from 31 artists from all over the state of North Carolina. The funds raised from the event were used to support the mission of Clayworks.



THE CANNON FOUNDATION

This past summer, Clayworks made a significant investment to waterproof our facility, upgrade the infrastructure on the roof, and repaint the exterior. We want to thank The Cannon Foundation and Strickland Waterproofing. We are grateful for these organizations, along with our donors, for helping Clayworks achieve our goals so that we can continue to work to fulfill our mission.



DIGIBRIDGE



Clayworks has a long history of partnering with other nonprofit organizations to bring the joys and wonders of clay to their participants. For three consecutive summers, Clayworks has partnered with DigiBridge, a local nonprofit organization whose mission is to spark interest and passion among youth in science, technology, engineering, arts and math.

Ceramics, as an art form, serves as a unique canvas where the threads of STEAM intricately weave together. “I think that art gets lost in a lot of STEAM programs—sometimes they touch on art, but rarely does it incorporate science, technology, engineering, and math. With ceramics, all of those are inherent in the art form and firing processes. This is why we like to do a field trip day to Clayworks with our summer campers.” (Sherry Sample, Program Manager at Digi-Bridge.)

Children from DigiBridge embarked on a journey to Clayworks, where the tactile beauty of ceramics met the precision of STEAM. Their summer day unfolded with hands-on adventures, starting with the mesmerizing spin of the pottery wheels. Guided by skilled instructors, the kids tried their hand at shaping clay, transforming simple lumps into vessels of self expression. As the pottery wheels hummed with creativity, and the room was filled with laughter, the young the young participants were introduced to the principles of engineering and math in every delicate curve and thoughtful design.

Clayworks enhanced the campers’ learning experience by introducing them to the use of 3-D printing with clay. Artists can design intricate forms digitally, pushing the boundaries of what’s achievable with traditional handbuilding methods. While we were not able to print with the students by machine, they learned how to roll coils and stack them in the traditional construction method. Both 3-D printing and coil building involve a layered approach to constructing ceramic forms. Both methods are additive processes, where the form is built by adding coils of clay to each other, gradually shaping the piece.

The collaboration extended beyond the studio walls, as the children took a behind-the-scenes tour of Clayworks, gaining insight into the intricate processes that turn raw clay into works of art: observing, for example, how chemicals suspended in water become the ‘shiny colored outside’ of the finished pot, and seeing the kilns where the chemical change occurs under high temperatures. The melding of artistic mastery and STEAM fundamentals became a bridge that connected the seemingly disparate worlds of ceramics and technology.

When asked why DigiBridge chooses to come to Clayworks each year, Sheri said [Clayworks provides an] “important mode of creativity that most students don’t get access to in the classroom. We like hands-on learning at DigiBridge. Clayworks is unique in that it offers a low-tech counterpart that incorporates STEAM into learning. Besides, the kids love the experience and are so proud of their creations”.

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PROMISE RESOURCE NETWORK

Since 2019, on the last Friday of each month, a Clayworks staff member packs the Mudmobile with clay, tools, a project idea, and heads down the street to Promise Resource Network's (PRN) Recovery Hub to lead a hands-on workshop to anyone wanting to participate. Sam Cowden, Director of Recovery Hub & RCO Initiatives, describes PRN as "a space where people can learn about self, grow, build relationships and support people in being the person they want to be." Cowden continues to describe PRN as "an agency operated by and for people with complex life experiences that utilize our wisdom to support others, change traditional treatment systems and advance social justice." The Recovery Hub is the drop-in center where peers (what they call participants at PRN) can hang out with each other and attend different classes.

In support of the whole person, PRN has several initiatives for support through Recovery Education, Support for coping with the Criminal Justice system, Supported Employment, Housing Support, Trauma-Informed Peer Support and Integrated Care to name a few.

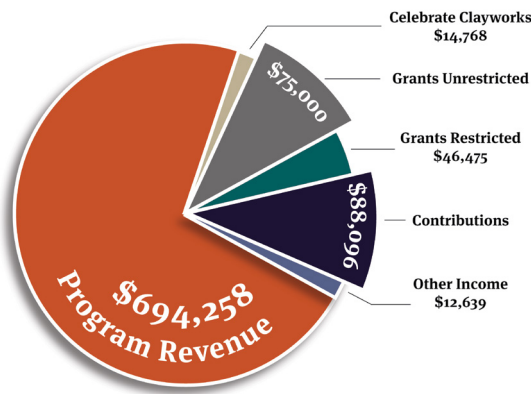
According to Cowden, Clayworks workshops are core offerings for their peers. Entering in 2023, would mark five years of partnership, the Clayworks workshops are some of the few hands-on group classes offered at PRN. Other non-talk activities include bead and jewelry making, yoga, journaling, and music. Cowden mentioned several people come to PRN only to attend the Clayworks workshops where laughter, conversation and helpful encouragement are additional benefits for the attendees.

The participants at PRN would love Clayworks to offer classes more frequently because they enjoy expressing themselves creatively through their artwork. The Clayworks workshops are a win-win for PRN and their peers. PRN believes introducing new art forms and skills encourages creative expression and provides unique opportunities their peers likely have not previously experienced, while the workshop attendees like working with and the feel of clay. These hands-on workshops allow each individual to move beyond their comfort zone in a positive way. Partnerships with organizations like PRN are important to fulfill Clayworks' mission and we hope to continue this partnership well into the future.

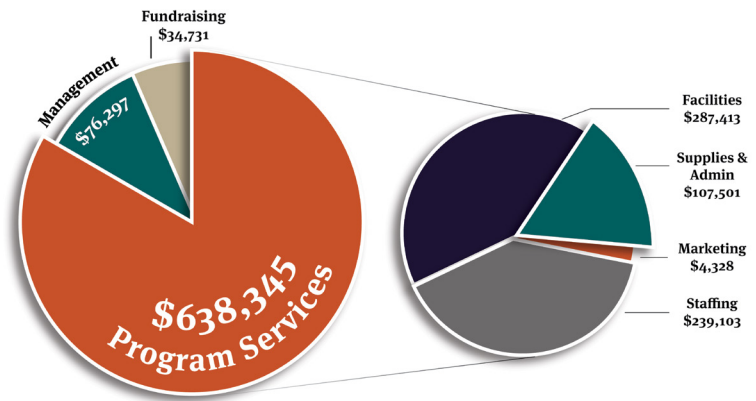
THE PARTICIPANTS AT PRN WOULD LOVE CLAYWORKS TO OFFER CLASSES MORE FREQUENTLY BECAUSE THEY ENJOY EXPRESSING THEMSELVES CREATIVELY THROUGH THEIR ARTWORK.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

CLAYWORKS REVENUE



CLAYWORKS EXPENSES



2023 YEAR-END BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$727,982
Accounts receivable	\$4,175
Prepaid expenses	\$1,704
Inventory	\$24,569

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS

\$758,430

Beneficial interest in foundation assets (with donor restrictions)	\$63,721
Property and equipment, net	\$954,666
Other assets	\$2,150

TOTAL ASSETS

\$1,831,967

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$23,018
Deferred income	\$116,340
Refundable deposits	\$3,049
Current portion of long term debt	\$38,359

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES

\$180,766

Long term debt

\$323,950

TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$504,716

Net assets:

Without donor restrictions	\$1,253,270
With donor restrictions	\$73,981

TOTAL NET ASSETS

\$1,327,251

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

\$1,831,967

2022-2023 DONORS

Clayworks gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the following donors who made gifts between July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.

^^ Gift in honor of Susan Hughes new Deputy Director of Clayworks

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Infusion Fund
A Partnership for Arts + Culture



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