

Access Arts' Ceramics Department Artist-in-Residence Description

Access Arts hosts two spacious, well-lit Ceramics studios on its campus. One is a large, active class studio, complete with adjacent glaze room and kiln room. In the classroom, there are typically 10 electric wheels available for use, as well as a large wedging table, slab roller, and multiple table surfaces for handbuilding work. There is an abundance of shelf space for storing finished pieces and/or greenware waiting to be fired. The glaze room is stocked with various compounds used in preparing glazes, and has a well-ventilated spray booth and large work table. The second studio is a smaller, more private work area. It contains five electric wheels, one kick wheel, a slab roller, and two electric kilns. There is also an area to do glaze work and room to store work in progress and finished pieces. Both studios have a lot of windows that provide natural light year-round. The classroom area is a very social place, with classes ongoing and students making use of extra practice times. This atmosphere promotes discussion in a range of topics and a sharing of ideas and inspiration between instructors and students. The smaller studio is not typically used for classes, and so provides an area for quiet reflection and individual focus. The Artist-in-Residence is encouraged to spend time in both spaces in order to provide guidance to students as well as produce a solid body of his own work.

The local ceramics community offers many diverse firing options. Access Arts routinely fires electric kilns to cone 6 or higher for student work. We also have a sophisticated setup for raku firing. In addition to these in-house firing options, there are also ties to local artists with gas kilns, wood kilns, and the ability to conduct pit firings, salt firings, etc. These artists enjoy collaborating with Access Arts, and are eager to work out community firings if desired. One of the benefits to Access Arts' program is this collaboration and how it enables students to experience a diverse range of firing techniques. This network also is a benefit to the Resident Artist in that it allows a greater range of options for developing a body of work and pursuing collaborative exhibition and sales opportunities.

Requirements of Ceramics Artists-in-Residence:

In exchange for the benefits received, Artist will work a specified number of hours (typically 10-15) per week for Access Arts. Duties will include:

- Teaching classes

The primary responsibility will be teaching adult clay classes (an average of 2-3 classes per term, maximum class size 10 students). Artist is expected to teach a range of ability levels, from beginning handbuilding to advanced sculpture and wheel throwing. It is expected that new course topics will arise, as students mature and interests shift. The AIR should encourage exploration among students and work to expand their vocabulary and advance their development.

- Helping maintain well-functioning studios

The Artist in Residence will work closely with the Ceramics Studio Manager to provide an efficient, safe work environment and maintain an inventory of adequate supplies. Upon occasion, Artist may be asked to fire kilns, prepare glazes, pug clay, or other tasks as needed to keep the studios running smoothly. It is important to have good communication skills to coordinate these tasks with the Studio Manager.

- Representing Access Arts at in-house activities and community events

Artist is expected to participate in workshops and demonstrations that are for the promotion of the Ceramics program. One such event typically occurs each month, and the Artist will facilitate them and/or schedule guest artists to facilitate them. There are also other local ceramic studios, and the Artist is expected to network with them and help develop events that would be mutually beneficial to both entities.

- Actively promote and develop the Ceramics program

The organization expects the Artist to demonstrate a high level of ownership of the program. S/he should eagerly recruit new students, as well as engage with current students in order to advance them to the next stage in their development. S/he should also share the organization's desire to reach underserved populations and personally strive to do so. This is a program with a lot of potential, and it requires someone with vision and dedication.

Benefits to Ceramics Artist-in-Residence:

In return, Artist will receive:

- Rent-free Living Quarters (see attached description)
- Use of either Ceramic Studio at any time class is not in session in that studio
- Storage space for greenware and finished artwork
- One bisque kiln firing per month
- One glaze kiln firing (with shop glazes) per month
- The amount of stoneware (cone 6) needed to fill one kiln load (around 3,000 cubic inches) per month
- Opportunity to network with diverse ceramic art community connected to Access Arts
- Assistance marketing their artwork

These amounts are basic calculations. It is understood that if the resident will be using materials that are not typically stocked in the studio, they will be allowed to order supplies through Access Arts' suppliers and receive the organization's usual discount. The amount of clay and glazes included as a benefit may need to be adjusted if the resident wants to use materials that are priced higher than what is typically stocked. Other individual costs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to maintain fairness. Artist is encouraged to produce as much work as desired. If materials or firings in addition to those included in this list of benefits are needed, the artist may purchase them at cost. Artist also may have the option of serving Access Arts additional hours in return for any additional costs accrued. All such decisions will be made by the Executive Director with input from the Artist and the Studio Manager.

Living Quarters

The residence area provided for the A.I.R. is a cozy two-room apartment within our studio rental building. It has a private entrance off of a small sheltered yard with mature trees surrounding. The yard would be perfect for gardening, grilling, creating art, or just relaxing/reading in the open air. There's a large bedroom/study, and an even larger kitchen/work area with a sink, counters, and storage areas. A small refrigerator and microwave are provided. South-facing windows provide moderate natural light in addition to overhead fixtures.

There is also an entrance into the common area for the studios, which may be used for meeting clients or hosting receptions and shows. The studio rental building is a former ranch-style home, and includes two other private rental-studio workspaces and a shared bathroom. The layout of the rooms offers both privacy and the option for interaction with other artists. Since this building is adjacent to our administrative building and just across a residential street from our main teaching facility, daily transportation requirements are minimal. Our campus is in a quiet, pleasant neighborhood, convenient to parks, multiple stores and businesses, and about a mile from downtown Columbia, the University of Missouri, Columbia College and Stephens College. There is plenty of free parking, and the city bus stops across the street.