

The Clay Studio offers wall-to-wall classes and workshops for students of all ages and walks of life, from novice to advanced. Taught by top practitioners, our eagerly sought-after classes have steadily grown in size, variety, and depth. In the past seven years alone, attendance has quadrupled, tuition income has doubled, and workshop waiting lists are at an all-time high.

a model educator on the move

Our educational mission also reaches into schools and public spaces throughout the city. Since 1994, our Claymobile program has brought clay into the classrooms of over 30,000 kids, with nearly half a million hours of instruction. We've also built partnerships that bring clay-making to tens of thousands of our friends and neighbors at street fairs, festivals, and public parks.

The Clay Studio

For the serious amateur or adventurous hobbyist, The Clay Studio is a natural go-to hangout, with events that connect clay with crafts, lifestyles, and the handmade. Clay Fest, Date Nights, HandCrafted Workshops — it's all part of a vibrant, urban cultural shift: a newfound respect for the artisanal product, an embrace of a green, DIY ethos, and a return to the maker movement.

a solid neighborhood friend

For over 40 years we've been a cultural anchor and a champion for community in Old City. Today, as the South Kensington area revitalizes with dozens of creative businesses, arts nonprofits, and hundreds of new residences, we're poised once again to play a leading role as a true neighborhood partner.

Collaboration has always been at the heart of ceramics, and it's deep in the core of The Clay Studio culture. Here, people of all ages come together to form a dedicated community of lifelong makers and mentors, volunteers and patrons.

a family of makers and doers

From seniors and retired professionals to young interns and recent grads, there's a place — and a purpose — for everyone in our welcoming collective.

Keep an eye on our recently revamped Work Exchange Program, which provides young artists with studio space, mentorship, and the kind of formal training that they cannot get in any other setting.

“My friends and I refer to The Clay Studio as our ‘happy place’ — and it is, but it’s so much more.”

Hundreds of emerging artists have launched their professional careers at The Clay Studio. Here, they have space to develop and prototype ideas, equipment and materials to create extensive bodies of work, and vital opportunities to teach, exhibit, and build valuable networks in the field of craft.

With our prestigious residency and guest artist programs, we attract and support local, national, and international practitioners, creating a richly creative ensemble where concepts and traditions intersect and flourish.

an incubator for artists and artisans

Our kind of studio stands out in other ways as well. We pride ourselves as an open atelier where creativity is taken seriously, no matter the skill set or artistic intention. We embrace new students, hobbyists, serious amateurs, budding entrepreneurs, and professional artists with programs that match their skills and grow their visions.

Not to brag, but The Clay Studio has also hosted three of NCECA's national trade conferences, and we're a member of the prestigious International Academy of Ceramics (IAC), a UNESCO-affiliated educational institution.

a critical thought-leader

Even so, we make sure to exhibit works not only by world-class artists, but also emerging artists, outsider artists, and even schoolchildren. For the public, it's a chance to be continually inspired. For fellow artists, it's a way to maintain the critical dialog between traditional craft and contemporary art. For scholars and collectors, it's a privileged window into the latest trends in ceramic art, as well as the Studio's extensive collections and archives.

we're going places

In 2020, our new facility in the vibrant South Kensington neighborhood will propel us forward. Here's what's coming:

- more classrooms, and new spaces dedicated to youth education programming
- larger studio spaces with state-of-the-art equipment and digital technologies
- new prototyping space for production projects
- a dynamic gallery space for more varied exhibitions, installations, and traveling exhibitions
- larger, more flexible public spaces for special events, conferences, and lectures, as well as gathering spaces for private functions
- reimagined retail space offering ceramic works and clay-making materials
- more energy efficient equipment, a passenger elevator, and improved ADA compliance



the first of its kind, purpose-built ceramic arts facility in the U.S. strategically designed for long-term business sustainability in a revitalized cultural corridor



a complete, comprehensive ceramics center expanding our role as art educators and securing our place as a leader in the field of ceramics



a dynamic, flexible 21st century facility that will meet the rising tide of public demand and evolving artistic needs

leading the way, together

This is a defining moment, when our shared creativity becomes an even greater force for good. Together, we'll make this vision a reality.

Your support is especially critical. Contact me to make a donation today!

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Clay Together