

The Clay Studio

Center for
Innovation in
Ceramic Art

FY2025 ANNUAL REPORT





Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share highlights from another successful fiscal year at The Clay Studio: Center for Innovation in Ceramic Art, spanning June 1, 2024, through May 31, 2025.

This year was especially meaningful as it encompassed the final months of our 50th Anniversary celebrations, alongside the 30th Anniversary of our Claymobile Community Engagement programming. These milestones offered an opportunity to reflect on our rich history, honor the many individuals who have shaped The Clay Studio over five decades, and look forward with intention to what comes next.

Across every department, the accomplishments of the past year were truly inspiring. From robust community engagement initiatives and dynamic classes to impactful artist residencies and the capstone 50th Anniversary exhibition, *The Future of Clay*, the breadth and depth of our work continues to grow. As we entered 2025, we officially began The Clay Studio's next chapter—one rooted in creativity, access, and community connection.

Our success is not achieved alone. It is made possible by the passion, generosity, and active participation of our artists, supporters, partners, and community members. Your belief in our mission fuels all that we do.

On behalf of everyone at The Clay Studio, thank you. Your continued support strengthens our community and ensures that clay remains a powerful tool for expression, learning, and connection for years to come.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer D. Martin".

Jennifer D. Martin
Executive Director

Vision

**What we shape
with our hands
—transforms
our future.**

Mission

As artists, advocates, and educators, The Clay Studio is committed to ensuring the space, support, and inspiration necessary for expression and learning in the ceramic arts. We work in partnership with artists and the community to advance the ceramic arts as a force for good to build connections where all can flourish.

Core Values

- Serving a diverse community
- Maintaining an open and welcoming environment
- Delivering inspiring arts experiences
- Maintaining high-quality services and programs
- Serving as a resource for artists.

Since 1974 our vision, mission, and values ensure that we strive to create a space where everyone can access the arts regardless of age, experience, or background. We strive to reach audiences who lack access to hands-on artmaking. We are where artists from across the street, the country, and the world cultivate their careers. We are a vital resource for local schoolchildren. We are a community where people discover and nurture their creativity. We are artists and makers, teachers and students, innovators and visionaries. We believe that ceramic art is a force for good.

Year at a Glance

The Clay Studio is grateful for all the neighbors, students, artists, and ceramic enthusiasts who consider us their second home. We are thrilled to serve so many students through our classes, workshops, and events. As an organization, we work tirelessly to be a good neighbor and serve our growing community in meaningful ways.

1103

Participants in 48 free community workshops

10000+

Visitors in our galleries

5925

Artists of all ages working with clay in our Claymobile program

7744

Students in 186 classes and workshops

600

Participants in Curator-led tours

700

Artists represented
in Exhibitions

67

in house Artists

12 Resident Artists

48 Associate Artists

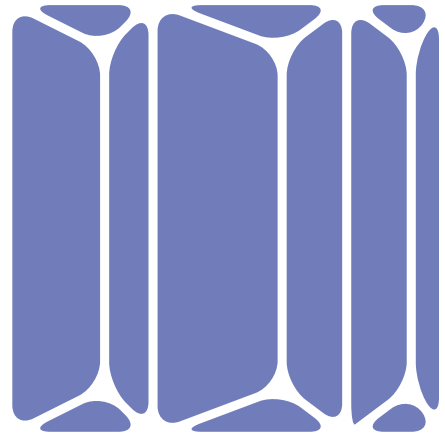
7 Guest Artists

1150

Artworks made
at Clay Fest

4800

Participants at 20 festivals city-wide





June: Clay Fest



July: Clay Play Read



August: Clay Camp



September: Mud Ball



October: Future of Clay opens



November: Community Workshop

December: *Future of Clay Symposium*



January: *Claymobile Creations: Our Earth*



February: *Valentines Date Night*



March: *Operation Mud begins*



April: *Philabowl*



May: *Annual Pottery Sale*





Exhibitions

Exhibitions in our Jill Bonovitz Gallery showcase the broad range of styles, techniques, and concepts being addressed in the field of ceramic art. Our galleries feature works by a diverse group of emerging and established local, national, and international artists.

The start of FY25 marked the conclusion of The Clay Studio’s 50th-anniversary celebrations, which featured two marquee exhibitions: *50 Years in the Making* and *The Future of Clay*.

50 Years in the Making celebrated the people who have contributed to The Clay Studio’s half-century history. The show included work from current and alumni Resident, Associate, gallery, and teaching artists, as well as past and present staff members.

The Future of Clay looked forward, engaging a team of diverse curators, and presenting the work of eight artists who offered their unique interpretations of “what is the future of clay?”

In our gallery spaces, we also presented four solo shows by new Resident alumni, alongside an exhibition of work by Michael Biello. Biello’s *holy.body*—containing avant garde, LGBTQ content from his 1980 exhibition—encapsulated 50 years of his interdisciplinary artistic practice. This bold exhibition featured an array of original characters embodying the artist’s deep familial roots on Italy’s Adriatic coast, his queer cultural activism, and the totality of his creative vision.

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY



SPONSORS



FY25 Exhibitions



50 Years in the Making
June 13–September 1, 2024



Mike Gesiakowski, *Bricks & Botanicals*
July 5–September 1, 2024



Mud Ball Auction
September 12–21, 2024



Future of Clay
October 5–December 31, 2024



Served
October 5–November 1, 2024



Flourish
November 10–December 29, 2024



Our Earth: Claymobile Creations
January 11–31, 2025



Liisa Nelson, Dreams
January 15–March 30, 2025

FY25 Exhibitions



Jinsik Yoo, *Palimpsest*
January 15–March 30, 2025



Josephine Mette Larsen, *Doesn't It Feel Warmer Just Knowing The Sun Will Be Out*
January 15–March 30, 2025



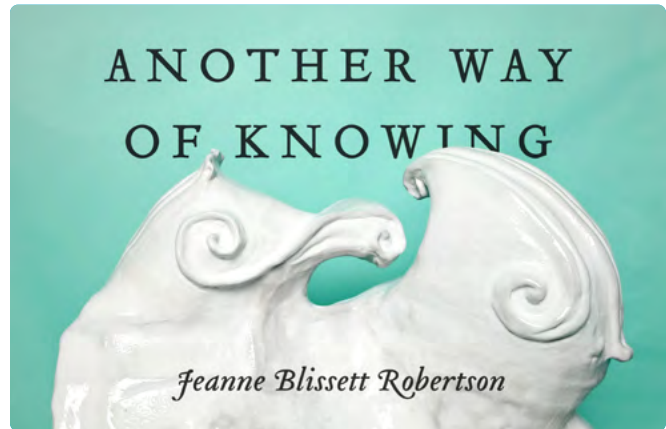
Legacy Auction
January 17–February 12, 2025



Small Favors 2025
April 10–June 29, 2025



Michael Biello, *holy.body*
April 10–June 29, 2025



Jeanne Blissett Robertson
Another Way Of Knowing
April 10–June 29, 2025



Anne Koszalka, *I am Midnight, This is My Story*
May 9–June 30, 2025



Resident Artists

The Resident Artist Program is an integral part of the creative engine of The Clay Studio, and is a direct outgrowth of the community our five Founders created in 1974. Offering the top emerging ceramic talent in the U.S. and abroad the space, time, and resources to develop their artwork and professional lives. The program reflects diverse experiences, aesthetic approaches, cultures, and perspectives. A significant grant from the Windgate Foundation allows greater financial support to each Resident Artist.

This year, The Clay Studio bid farewell to six of our Resident Artists, many of whom are staying in Philadelphia. Their decision to put down their roots here illustrates the impact of our Resident Artist Program on the creative economy of Philadelphia.

Minah Kim continues her practice in Idaho with her own personal studio.

Josephine Mette Larsen has started as one of The Clay Studio's new studio technicians in addition to continuing her artistic practice in our studio.

Jeanne Blissett Robertson is continuing her practice at The Clay Studio as an Associate Artist.

Kevin Snipes will continue his practice as a long term Resident at Penland School of Craft in North Carolina starting in March 2026.

Ruth Easterbrook has established her studio at Carpenter Street Studios in Philadelphia and will continue to teach courses here at The Clay Studio.

Adebunmi Gbadebo continues her practice in Philadelphia in her new studio in North Philadelphia.

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JACOBSEN

JILL BONOVIK,
KATHIE REGAN
DALZELL,
JANICE MERENDINO
& KEN VAVREK



ARTWORK DONATED BY:

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BUNNY GLICK

THE FAMILY OF
WILLIAM (BILL) DAILEY

ELAINE
DANIELS

New Resident Artists

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 2025



Adrián Gómez
WINDGATE FELLOW



Dehmie Dehmlow
WINDGATE FELLOW



Daeun Lim
WINDGATE FELLOW



Nicholas Malik
WINDGATE FELLOW



Micah Sweezie
WINDGATE FELLOW



Robert Zumwalt
WINDGATE FELLOW

Returning Artists

AS OF SEPTEMBER 2025



Soojin Choi
FOUNDERS FELLOW



Bradford Davis
SYBILLE ZELDIN FELLOW



Michael Dela Dika
WINDGATE FELLOW



Celia Feldberg
THE CERAMIC SHOP FELLOW



Jeremiah Ibarra
WINDGATE FELLOW



Janina Myronova
THE CLAY STUDIO FELLOW



Associate Artists

The Associate Artist Program cultivates a communal and diverse creative culture, offering individuals affordable rented workspace, discounted tools, and supplies to deepen their ceramic art practice. The Artists benefit from this environment, sharing a wide range of experience and expertise. The program's aesthetic diversity is vast, with functional ceramic artists working alongside both abstract and representational sculptors.

Len Barag

Allen Barndt

Cynthia Bayer

Debbie Bicker

Michael Clemmons

Fredric Cohen

Anna DeVassal

Saskia Fleishman

Victoria Geba

Vicky Gold

Ellen Greenberg

Janie Gross

Maria Gwynn-Samblas

Karen Harmelin

Daphne Hawkins-Parker

Cheryl Hendershott

Julie Jung

Melissa Koenig

Ivan Krevolin

Brenda Levin

Samantha Lockwood

Nick Milando

Chuck Morris

Don Nakamura

Kathryn Narrow

Sullivan Owen

Margot Palley

Rachel Pearlman

Sarah Peters

Marjorie Robbins

Scott Rosenthal

Anne Rothman

Janet Samuel

Dori Savignac

Margarita Schmid

Margo Schreiber

Sandrine Sheon

Conni Spiegle

Chris Staley

Eileen Stanfield

JoAnne Sutkin

Samantha Szura

Judith Tannenbaum

Meghan Tranauskas

Carol Ventura

Corey Weiser

Robin Williams-Turnage

Melissa Zook



DO NOT WORK UNDERNEATH THIS LIFT
UNLESS IT IS MECHANICALLY LOCKED

Guest Artists

The Clay Studio's Guest Artist in Residence program has served as an international hub of creative exchange since 1992, hosting ceramic artists from over thirty-five countries. This year, artists participating in the one-to-three-month residencies were vital members of our local community. They engaged with the public by giving artist talks and teaching workshops. A particular highlight was long-time community member and mural artist Cesar Viveros, who used his residency to expand his practice into ceramics. He created three amazing large-scale works that were later featured in our *Future of Clay* Exhibition.



Gillan Doty



Eva Kwong



Allie Stack



Chris Staley



Kate Strachan



Cesar Viveros

44

Adult scholarships
awarded

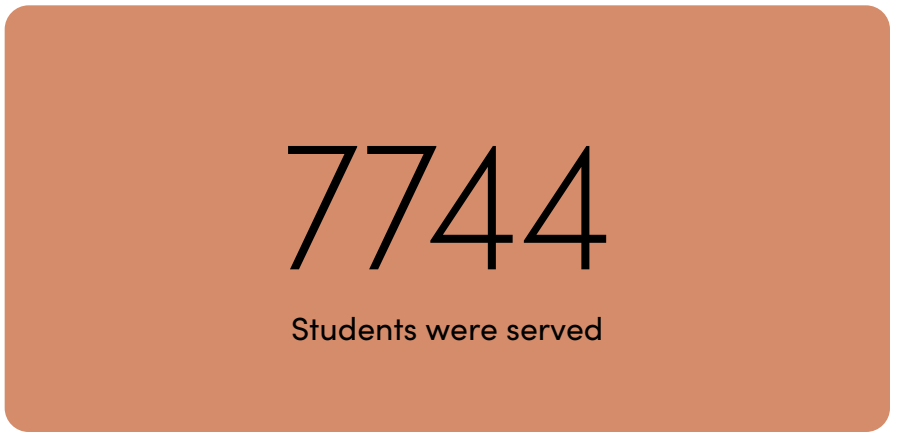


338

Students utilized our
sliding-scale tuition

7744

Students were served



32

Youth scholarships
awarded



School

At The Clay Studio, education is paramount, providing high-quality instruction within our vibrant, inclusive community. Our purpose-built studios are equipped with the latest technology, enhancing the learning experience and making ceramic art practice more accessible and engaging for everyone.

We offer a rich, year-round variety of classes, from beginner to advanced, in techniques such as hand-building, wheel throwing, casting, and glazing. Our school is taught by top practitioners, including many Resident Artists and alums.

People of all backgrounds, ages, and skill levels are welcome to learn, connect, and create art side by side. The Clay Studio is committed to youth education, offering a range of programming, including a popular summer camp and Saturday youth classes.

225

Classes and workshops offered

42 teachers

15 assistants

12 interns



5925

Claymobile Participants

48

Adult Sites



136

K-12 Sites

738

Classes

Claymobile

Claymobile, our award-winning Community Engagement program, has been providing thoughtful, hands-on ceramic art programming since 1994, reaching over 50,000 participants. Known for its cost-effectiveness, the program is completely mobile, with teaching artists bringing all necessary materials to partner sites. This approach ensures minimal logistical disruption for locations hosting the in-school and out-of-school opportunities.

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William Penn
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 **FAO Schwarz Fellowship**
Lead the change

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250


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RJ FOUNDATION

MARGOT B. PALLEY &
JEFF BLADEN

LOUISE
STRAWBRIDGE

Community Engagement Initiatives



After-School Clay Club

A 10-week program offering a safe, supportive space for local school children. Participants receive homework help and engage in hands-on ceramic art projects, culminating in a celebration of their artwork with their families.



Clay, Play, Read

This popular, free intergenerational literacy program targets families with children aged 3 to 8. It aims to make reading fun, provide tools and tips for encouraging reading at home, and generally support enjoyable learning.



Operation Mud

What began as a dream of Resident Artist Bradford Davis, has turned into a reality. The Clay Studio and Bradford worked together to create a safe and welcoming environment for Veterans to experience ceramic art.

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Hands on Clay

78

Hands on Clay Events

48

Weekly Community Workshops with 1103 in-house Participants

20 Projects at Community Festivals

5903 Participants

3500 Pieces Produced

The Hands on Clay (HOC) initiative is a critical component of The Clay Studio's Community Engagement efforts. Established in 2015, HOC removes economic and geographic barriers by bringing free arts programming directly to individuals in their neighborhoods. This unique approach involves participating in local festivals and hosting on-site events at TCS, effectively reaching a diverse audience. The program has seen successful growth and has become a sought-after opportunity, with many participants returning annually. Additionally, we have expanded our Hands on Clay programming to include Saturday Intergenerational Workshops that provide free, lively, and fun Saturday events that bring local families together for an afternoon of collaborative ceramic art exploration and creativity.

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First Annual Legacy Auction

The Clay Studio inaugurated its annual Legacy Auction in January 2025. This new event celebrates individuals whose contributions have been vital to the institution’s ongoing success. The auction featured generous donations from prominent art collectors in our community, with all proceeds directly benefiting the Resident Artist Program. This initiative strongly supports our core mission: fostering expression and learning in the ceramic arts by providing essential space, support, and inspiration.

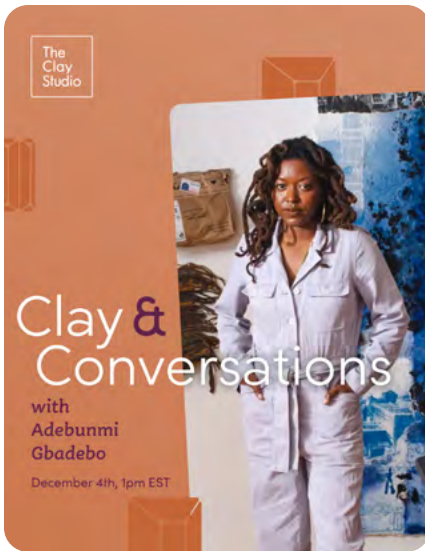
Introducing The Clay Studio: Center for Innovation in Ceramic Art

Reflecting The Clay Studio’s remarkable growth, the Leadership and Board decided to adopt a new title that fully encompasses our broad scope - The Clay Studio: Center for Innovation in Ceramic Art. This change is accompanied by an exciting new logo that visually incorporates architectural elements from our building. This rebranding effectively captures the breadth of our work, from our origins as a home for outstanding artists to our current offerings, while also honoring our history.



Start of Operation Mud

This year marked the launch of our veteran program, Operation Mud, a dream brought to life by Resident Artist Bradford Davis and The Clay Studio. Bradford and The Clay Studio team have worked tirelessly to cultivate a safe and welcoming space where veterans can engage with ceramic art and experience the warmth of our community. Thanks to generous support from the Armed Forces Creative Communities Grant, administered through the Mid-America Artist Alliance, and many individual contributions, we are able to host a group twice a month, featuring guest teaching artists who are also veterans at no cost to participants.



Clay & Conversations:

Since its launch in May of 2020 Clay & Conversations - originally called Lunch & Learn - has brought together notable artists and curators with our community in a hybrid format of in-person and virtual presentation. A central element of each talk is host Jennifer Zwilling's question: "How and why did you make the brave decision to make your life in art?" The program serves as an opportunity to delve deeper with artists who are exhibiting in our gallery or conducting exciting research globally.

Large Group of New Resident Artists

In September 2025, The Clay Studio welcomed a large cohort of new residents: six talented artists. With this significant change, as half of our residents shifted, we were reminded of the wonderful legacy of camaraderie, connection, and mutual inspiration upon which our institution was founded.



Rekindling Old Connections

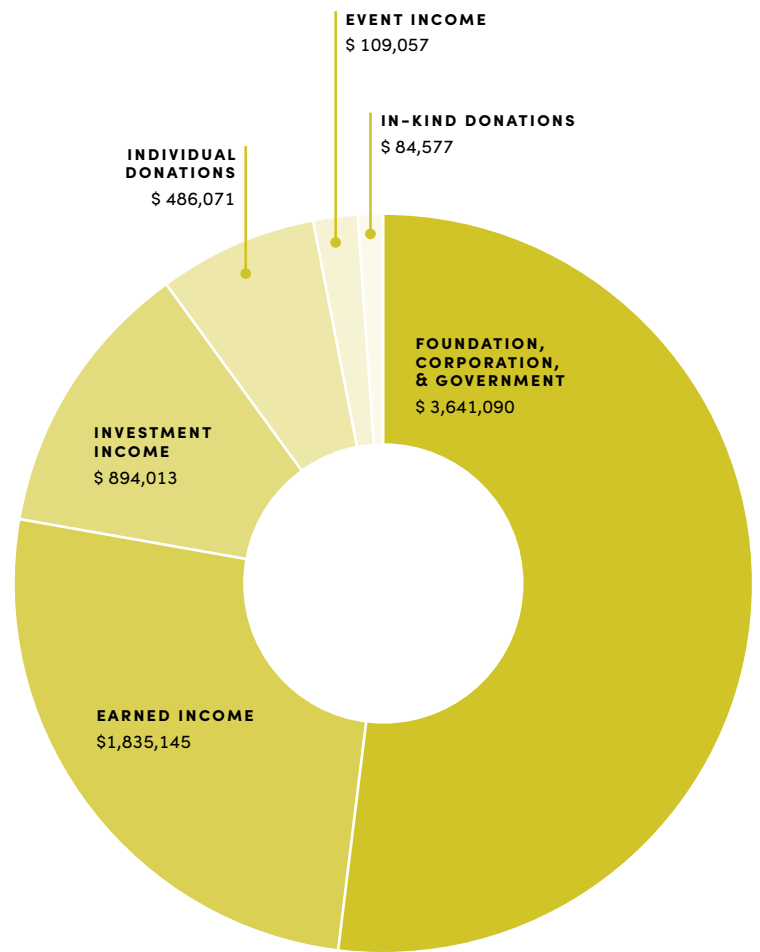
The Claymobile was thrilled to resume regular visits to Women Against Abuse (WAA) locations after a four-year hiatus. WAA, which started in the mid-1970s as a part-time hotline in a women's center, has since grown into a leading advocate and service provider for victims of domestic violence. This fantastic organization was one of the Claymobile's earliest partners, and while the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a break in visits, we were able to successfully restart our collaboration thanks to support from the RJ Foundation.

Financial Information

Revenue

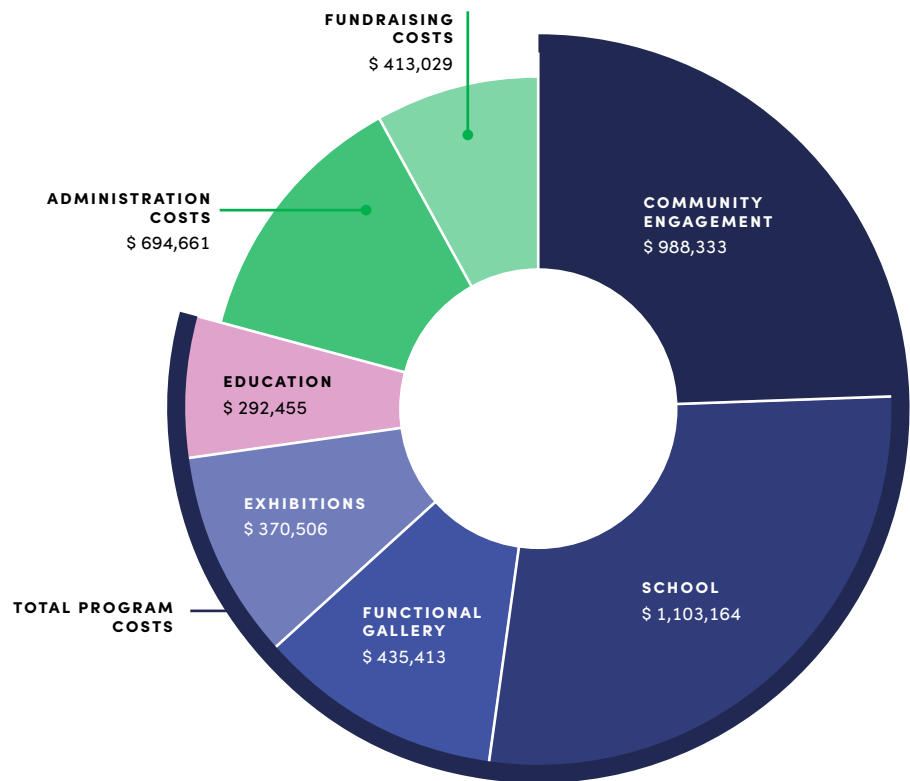
Includes income restricted for future programs & exhibitions

\$ 7,049,953



Expenses

\$ 4,297,561



Funders

The Clay Studio extends its deepest gratitude to the many supporters—including foundation, corporate, government, and individual donors—who make our educational and artistic programs possible.

We are also thankful for the generosity of our entire community, who contribute by attending openings, volunteering, and sharing their artistic talent at events.

Your collective support is vital in:

- Raising the profile of the ceramic arts.
- Supporting the development of ceramic artists.
- Bringing the joy of the arts to underserved communities.
- Ensuring the future of our organization.

Thank you!

Gifts in Fiscal Year 2025

JUNE 1, 2024 TO MAY 31, 2025

Foundation, Government, and Corporate

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Thanks to all the donors who supported the organization with gifts to support the 50th Anniversary of The Clay Studio, donated to the Annual Appeal and Giving Tuesday, gave to specific programs during the year, or gave a gift in honor or memory of a loved one.

Chairman's Circle (\$10,000+)

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The Exhibition Fund
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 and Kathie Dalzell-awesome
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 Maria and Herb Zwilling
 in honor of Jennifer Zwilling

Community Education & Scholarship Supporters

We thank all our students and supporters who gave a gift or opted to “Clay It Forward” in support of our scholarship program. This support allows The Clay Studio to offer access to adults and children for classes, workshops, and summer camp.

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 Alyssa Boyle
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Naomi Minkoff	Grace Rossi	Gintautas Stirbys
Shona Moseley	Devin Ryan	Naimah Stith
Shannon O'Neill	Netta Sadovsky	Zoriana Strockyj
Sullivan Owen	Leah Scherzer	Kristin Swanson
Alexander Ozlowski	Tracy Segal and Mark Webber	Harmony Thompson
Margot B. Palley	Paul Serena	Minori Thorpe
Kathryn Percy	Mia Shang	Jennifer Tsui
Jennifer Pearman Lammer	Pat Shegda	Joan Wade
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Alexis Porter	Meryl Silver	Emily Watson
Keith Porter	Myra Silverstein	Sophie Webster
Gregory Putkowski	Tricia Sittauer	Alexander J. White
Emily Rankin	Emily Snider and William Bradley	Anna and Jamie Whitesell
Alexander Raynor	Susan Starr	

LIST ALPHABETICAL

Event Sponsors

We extend our sincere gratitude to all the sponsors and in-kind donors of PhilaBowl and Mud Ball. Your generous support was instrumental in the success of these events, enabling us to advance our community engagement initiatives and scholarship programs.

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LIST ALPHABETICAL

Furthermore, we deeply appreciate everyone who donated food or made a bowl, or contributed artwork to these events. Also, our deepest thanks to everyone who attended PhilaBowl and Mud Ball—your participation was key to making both events a resounding success!

The Clay Studio makes every effort to publish our donor listings accurately. If there is an error, please contact Trinity Dubois TDUBOIS@THECLAYSTUDIO.ORG.

Staff

As artists, advocates, and educators, The Clay Studio staff are responsible for ensuring the space, support, and inspiration necessary for expression and mastery in the ceramic arts. We are committed to working in partnership with our artists, students, and Philadelphia community while advocating ceramics as a tool to build connections.

Jennifer Martin
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of Artistic Programs

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Lily Freeman
Communication &
Artistic Intern

Ivy Jewell
Education Program Assistant

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After School Program
Coordinator

Madeleine Johnson
Marketing Coordinator

Tessa Kennamer
Community Engagement
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Studio Technician

Laure Krumenacker
Community Engagement
Teaching Artist

Corrine Kula
Education Manager

Mattie Lacognata
Community Engagement
Teaching Artist

Josephine Mette Larsen
Studio Technition

Emily Lu
FAO Schwarz Fellow

Abby O'Brien
Community Engagement
Teaching Artist

Rachel Pearlman
Production Assistant

Chase Pendleton
Development Manager

Elianna Pérez
Production Assistant

Ivan Resnick
Facilities Assistant

Carin Sankus
Social Media Coordinator

Nikki Seng
Administrative Assistant

Paul Serena
Studio Technician

Dairian Smith
Events Coordinator

Naimah Stith
Gallery Manager

Charity Thackston
Operations & Finance
Manager

Nitza Walesca
Community Engagement
Teaching Artist &
Studio Coordinator

Emily Wallace
Communication Manager

Ari Zuaro
Studio Technician

Board of Directors

The Clay Studio recognizes that to live up to our values; we must continuously recommit to educating ourselves, listening to our community, and making changes based on the feedback we receive. Our Board of Directors is integral to this process.

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Governance Committee Chair

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