

WHAM Clay Studio Rules and Processes

1. **Intro statement:** Members, this studio is here for your enjoyment. Unfortunately, there is not always a manager on the premises to answer questions. As many of you know there are a lot of things to remember to keep the entire clay making and firing process moving forward with no issues. Please make it your responsibility to learn all the required processes and steps to take a piece from start to finish. If anyone of the steps is not followed, we will reserve the right to not fire your pots for safety and equipment protection reasons. WHAM wants you to have fun and create incredible works of art and will do everything in our power to facilitate your success.
2. **Categories:**
 - a. **Sign in Sheet:** Every member and guest must sign in when working in the studio.
 - b. **Clay studio usage fees:** \$50 annual membership + \$20/monthly studio fee. Monthly studio fee is waived for members that are renting studio space. 12 hours of volunteer time is required annually.
 - c. **Firing fees:** All bisque and glaze firings require an information tag and self-adhesive stickers identifying that you have paid to fire your pieces affixed to the tag. Stickers are purchased from the docent at the front desk. All bisque and glaze firings will happen when there is sufficient work available to fill a kiln. There is information posted showing the pricing schedule in the studio.
 - d. **Clay available** for purchase: B-Mix, Speckled Buff & WS-5. Members should not bring their own clay unless approved by the clay department manager. Earthenware or low fire (Cone 06) clays are not permitted and will not be fired.
 - e. **Safety:** Clay is a dusty business. Every effort should be made to minimize clay dust.
 - i. Any sanding of pots needs to be taken outside in the courtyard and a particle dust mask should be worn for your protection. Not provided by WHAM.
 - ii. Wear shoes that provide good traction around wet floors. Pots can also be very heavy and hurt or break a toe if dropped on.

- iii. Wear clothes that you don't mind if they get stained. Certain clays and glazes will stain clothing. Provide your own apron and towel.
 - iv. Loose clothing and jewelry are a no, no while throwing on the pottery wheels.
 - v. Clean up after yourself when finished. Sponge down tables, tools, equipment, and any messes that have fallen on the floor.
 - vi. Disposal of clay-**IMPORTANT**. All clay except for slop from throwing can be thrown in a trash can with liners. The heavy clay/slop needs to be separated from the water and thrown into a five-gallon bucket next to the outside sink. The remaining dirty water can be thrown down the sink. **Never** pour dirty water down any sink except the one outside in the courtyard. The glaze room sink should only be used when washing brushes or cleaning glaze mixing utensils. Be sure to run water in the plastic container sitting in the sink. **Do not remove.**
- f. **Cabinets** in hand building room have a variety of items available to all members. Please clean and return when finished using items.
- g. **All ware boards** (taped sheetrock) are located under large wood work table and leaning against the slab roller in hand build room. Place all pots whether hand built or wheel thrown on an appropriate size ware board and then place on drying racks.
- h. Understanding different stages of clay:**
- i. Dry stage of clay
 - ii. Slip stage of clay
 - iii. Plastic (workable) stage of clay
 - iv. Leather hard clay stage of clay
 - v. Bone dry stage of clay
 - vi. Bisqueware stage of clay
 - vii. Glaze firing stage of clay
- i. **Racks:** We have a variety of racks throughout the studio that accommodates projects in different phases of completion. They are identified as follows:
- i. Drying: Could be plastic (wet), leather hard or bone dry.

- ii. Greenware: Bone dry ready for bisque firing. Include name info tag and firing stickers.
- iii. Bisqueware: Pots that have been bisque fired ready for glaze.
- iv. Cone 5/6 Mid-Fire Glaze: Pots that have glaze applied ready to fire. Include name info tag and firing stickers.
- v. Cone 10 High-Fire Glaze: Pots that have glaze applied ready to fire. Include name info tag and firing stickers. **Clay department manager approval required for Cone 10 firings.**
- vi. Fired Pots/Pick up: Pots that have been glaze fired and ready for pick up. **All pots cannot be on any rack for more than 3 weeks. Unfortunately, we are limited on storage space.**
- j. **Basics of hand building tutorial.** A beginning class is highly recommended before working for the first time in clay. There is a lot to learn and WHAM wants to be sure that your clay journey is fun and not totally exasperating. The basics of hand building tutorial should be viewed as a reference guide after having had some training. Tutorial will be published later.
- k. **Use of slab roller.** Use appropriate canvas to match color of clay being rolled out – white (e.g., B-mix, WS-5) and dark (e.g., Special buff). Do not roll more than twice the desired thickness at a time through the slab roller. (e.g., Desired thickness ¼.” Starting thickness 1.” Set roller to ½.” Roll through roller. Adjust rollers to ¼.” Roller for final pass. Finished thickness is ¼.”
- l. **Use of extruder.** See clay department manager. Information is forthcoming.
- m. **Wheel room.** Do not use the wheels unless you have experience or have taken a beginning class. WHAM offers Beginning Wheel Throwing and Intermediate classes. Throwing tools are available for use. However, it is recommended that each member provide their own tools. Giffin grips are available with a brief tutorial. See Clay Department Manager.
- n. **Glazing.** The art and study of glazing is a lifelong journey. Please read the basic glazing tutorial. (Will be posted later.) It is also highly recommended to take a glaze class. WHAM offers Cone 5/6 Mid-range glazes only. They are available either through a brush

application, pour, dip or spray. WHAM has Cone 10 glazes located in the hand build room that will be eventually used for our Geil gas reduction kiln. These are **not** to be used without the clay managers approval.

- o. **Spray Booth:** Spray guns are available for use. This method of applying glaze does take some knowledge and practice to perfect. The spray booth uses an air filter like those found on air conditioner returns. The spray booth and spray gun are to be thoroughly cleaned after each use. Please sign up for a glaze spray class or see the Clay Department Manager before using for the first time.
- 3. The tactile, expressive qualities of clay is an amazing medium. The ceramic community at large is generally an extremely giving and friendly group. WHAM lives by those very precepts. Let's learn, dream, make, enjoy and give back whenever you can. See you in the studio!