

ACCESS ARTS NOVEMBER 2021 WOOD FIRING!!!

All clay has to be heated (fired) to become hard, and wood-fired pottery is the oldest method of firing clay. The wood, when burned, creates ash that floats through the atmosphere of the kiln and falls on the surfaces of the pots, which gives this type of firing an aspect of unpredictability to what your pot will look like at the end! Throughout the weekend of November 5-7, Access Arts will be hosting their very own community wood firing! Want to participate? Here are the details:

CLAY

You will need to make any pieces you want to go into the kiln with the cone 6 stoneware that is offered in classes at the 800 Moss Street studio. If you are currently taking classes at the Cottle Drive studio and want to participate, please email us at accessarts@schoolofservice.org. We will sell you 5 lbs of our stoneware for only \$7, but you will HAVE TO work on it during open studio hours at the Moss Street location only.

Students who sign up and complete a full 6-hour firing shift are allowed to put up to 3 pots in the firing. Students who sign up and complete a full 6-hour firing shift AND the prep/orientation on September 25th are allowed to put up to 5 pots in the kiln. All of these pots may be up to 9"x6"x6" in size.

Pots will be going into the wood kiln for a **glaze firing**, so your pots will need to be bisque fired and glazed before going into the wood kiln.

GLAZING

There are special types of glaze that you will need to use for the wood kiln. We will be putting 3 types of wood-fire glazes (labeled) in the studio during the last week of classes (October 11-18). You will then choose one of these options to dip your pot into, please do not cross-contaminate (double dip) between glazes. All other rules about glazing that are explained to you in class will apply to these glazes as well.

After you finish glazing your pieces, please take your pot(s) to your instructor to ensure they are fit to go into the wood kiln! (If you don't do this, there is no guarantee that your pieces won't end up on the reject shelf, and will not be fired - PLEASE make sure there is a ¼ inch space on the foot where there is NO glaze.) When they approve, you can then wrap up your finished pieces in something that will protect them from breaking on the way to the wood kiln (bubble wrap, newspaper, packing peanuts), and box them up. Please box up all of your pieces together in one box and write your name on the side of the box, along with your phone number and the shift you have signed up for. Then place your box on the shelf labeled 'Wood Firing' in the back left corner of the studio by the heat box! Please complete all of these steps by the evening of November 3rd. We will be picking up all of the pots and hauling them to the wood kiln for loading during the early morning of November 4th!

THE SMALL (but important!) DETAILS

Please please please ensure your name or initials are clearly written on the pot. It will be hard to decipher which pot is yours after the firing, especially since you can't anticipate what the surface will look like!

To ensure your pots for the wood kiln are bisqued in time for you to complete all of the steps in the 'Glazing' section, please ensure all pots that you want to go into the wood kiln are on the "Wood Firing" shelf to be fired by October 8th.

Another important deadline is October 29th. You must be signed up for a firing shift by this date, or we will not be including your work in the firing.

If you put pots in the kiln but do not show up for your 6-hour shift, Access Arts will then be keeping the pots. We hope this does not happen throughout the course of the firing, but since the exchange for firing your pots is the volunteer shift (in other words, it's a free firing), if you don't hold up your end of the bargain, then the exchange is not fair!

THE FIRING

Directions to the site will be emailed to you directly after you sign up for a shift (so make sure your email is correct when you sign up!). However, you should know that the site is located way out in the middle of nowhere in Clark, Missouri (about a 30-minute drive from Columbia). There is no running water nor electricity, and cell service can be spotty. We do have a porta-potty and hand sanitizer. You are welcome to camp out at the site but will need to bring your own equipment and supplies.

When talking about clothing, it is important to keep in mind that the fire we are working with will be around 2000 degrees. If possible, you will want to wear only natural fibers (cotton is best). Do not wear polyester! The radiant heat from the kiln will melt those plastic fibers and it will burn you. Long sleeves are best to keep your arms protected from the heat. Layer up with flannel for the late-night shifts. You also can wear a mask or bandana over your face to keep from breathing smoke. Wear appropriate shoes - sturdy work boots are best, and definitely no flip flops or open-toed shoes. Do not wear cologne, perfume, or hairspray. These can sometimes ignite when you are stoking. If you have long hair, you should pull it back in a ponytail/clip or wear a bandana to keep it from getting singed. We will provide you with special gloves that can withstand the heat of the kiln!

To give you an idea of what a shift will look like, participants will be poking wood into the kiln every 2-3 minutes or so... for that full 6-hour shift. Not to scare you away though! Since we have at least 2-3 people there at all times, the workers can take turns to give people a break from not only the labor of launching wood into the fire but from the heat itself! If this is something that is too labor-intensive, but you still want to put pots in the kiln, you are more than welcome to find someone else to do your shift for you! You will just need to communicate with us who that person will be and their contact info, so we can reach them with any info they may need about the firing.

We want all participants to show up at least 10 minutes before their shift starts just to help ease the process. We will have an Access Arts employee at every shift to act as the shift lead. The shift lead that will be present during your shift will also be the person with who you will be in contact regarding any questions and concerns. (They will text you prior to the firing so you will have each other's contact info.) If something were to come up and you couldn't make your shift AND can't find someone else to take your shift, you will need to contact your shift lead ASAP. Also, you are welcome to come and hang out at the space outside of your shift if you want, we won't kick you out!

You will definitely want to bring a water bottle and a meal or snacks to your shift. If you have a night shift, it is a good idea to bring a flashlight, and really make sure you bundle up!

THE END

We don't have a date set for when we will unload the wood kiln, but the kiln itself takes a week or more to cool. A definitive date to unload will be set after the firing, and we will notify all participants. Participants are more than welcome to come to the unloading to retrieve their pots there, but we will put any remaining pots on the same shelf labeled 'Wood Firing' in the studio for students to retrieve during open studio. All pots should get back to their rightful owners before Thanksgiving!

DEADLINES

10/08 Greenware pieces need to be on the "Wood Firing" shelf by October 8

10/18 Pieces need to be bisque fired and glazed by October 18

10/29 You need to sign up for a shift by October 29

11/03 Pieces need to be boxed up by November 3

CHECKLIST

Signed up for a shift

Pots are all under 9"x6"x6" in size

Pots are glazed and approved by the instructor

Pots are boxed up with something protective wrapped around them

Box is labeled with name, phone #, and shift

Box is on the appropriate shelf

SIGN UP FOR A SHIFT HERE

