

# WAC NEWSLETTER



willamette  
art center

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## IN THIS ISSUE

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- Fundraising at the WAC
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- Family Clay Sunday
- Spotlight on Patrons - Cindy Cauffman and Mary Jo Corrado
- And, more ...

## THE STUDIO IS OPEN!

Check the website calendar for open studio times. For those taking a class, this time is included in the cost of the class.

Passes can be purchased for those not taking a class.

**Day Pass** - Adult Day – \$12

**15 Visits** - Adult – \$125

Open studio passes give you access to the equipment and glazes. We also sell clay, tools, and firing tickets at the monitor desk.

Passes can be purchased in the studio on the day of use.

Members with passes can use spaces not in use during classes. Check with the monitor for clarity.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings WAC community! I'm excited to share with you some of the work that's been happening to take us forward to a new location. Our executive director, Lisa Joyce, has shared some information, but I thought it would be helpful to offer some more specifics.

Our wonderful search committee (which includes an accomplished local real estate agent) have been hard at work scouring Salem for a facility that will suit our needs. The committee has developed a list of our needs ([www.willametteartcenter.com/wac-move-faqs/](http://www.willametteartcenter.com/wac-move-faqs/)) and has looked through dozens of listings. Many of the listings they viewed were quickly eliminated due to inadequate parking or were financially out of reach. Members of the committee have toured seven facilities in person and we have some very good leads. But, the Salem area is a tight market and we're competing with others looking for space.

This brings me to the next part of this message: fundraising. The very best way for us to get into a facility, retain our amazing staff and get things up and running is to raise enough money. Our goal is \$200,000. To be honest, when I became the Board President, I didn't know I was going to have to ask

you to donate. It's not something that's been part of the WAC culture and honestly, it's outside my comfort zone. This community has been a refuge and a light for so many people, so I hope you'll consider a gift to WAC. We're also looking for sponsors and major donors. If you or someone you know fits those categories, I'd be grateful to connect and talk about supporting WAC. Please send an email to me, [wacpresident@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:wacpresident@willametteartcenter.com) or Josie Hummert, [wacsecretary@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:wacsecretary@willametteartcenter.com).

Finally, we'd love to see you at our board meetings. Everyone is welcome. They're the second Wednesday of each month from 5:30-7:00 p.m. The next meeting is April 9, in the gallery room at WAC.

Thanks for being a part of our community. Feel free to reach out to me any time at [wacpresident@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:wacpresident@willametteartcenter.com).

Carla Axtman, Board President

*Next Board Meeting*

April 9 @ 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.



# Family Clay Update

By Kelly Matney

Family Clay has been buzzing with lots of new families. The last cupcake project brought in 109 clay artists. The early birds hour now has confident little ceramicists who have grown in their skills over the past few months. (April will be a break for Family Clay due to the holidays.) We will have one more project in May to close out the season. We will be making spring wreaths as the main project, and the Early birds will be making textured bowls. Thank you to everyone who has picked up their projects and come into glaze. Just as a reminder, we will glaze again in May and on the first Sunday in June. Please be sure to pick up your work shortly as we pack up for our big move. It has been a pleasure getting to know all of our families and watching everyone grow in their art.



## DON'T THROW THEM AWAY, DONATE!

Family Clay appreciates donations of clay tools. Please consider donating new or used tools:

- Working or broken clay or carving tools. (We're happy to repair them.)
- Paintbrushes
- Texture stamps and rollers
- Sponges
- Letter stamps
- Small cookie cutters (2" or less)
- Wooden dowels
- Ribs

### Volunteering

If you are interested in helping during FCS, reach out to Lisa Joyce or Kelly Matney at the studio.

## WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Renita Hiebert, Amanda Katzenmeyer, and Paul Hutter joined the board in 2025.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Executive Committee

**Carla Axtman** - President  
[wacpresident@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:wacpresident@willametteartcenter.com)

**Dana Field** - Vice President

**Josie Hummert** - Secretary  
[wacsecretary@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:wacsecretary@willametteartcenter.com)

**Wendy Cornelisen** - Treasurer

### Board Directors at Large

**Pam Baldwin**  
**Renita Hiebert**  
**Paul Hutter**  
**Amanda Katzenmeyer**

### Staff

**Lisa Joyce** - Executive Director  
[lisa@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:lisa@willametteartcenter.com)

**Megan Mersino** - Administrative Assistant  
[megan@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:megan@willametteartcenter.com)

**Doug Dacar** - Studio Tech

### We're Listening

If you have ideas, questions or concerns feel free to connect with a board member or staff.

If you have a desire to serve WAC as a board member, reach out to Lisa Joyce.

## BUILDING OUR DONOR CULTURE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Since launching the **Reshape Our Community Studio** campaign we've raised \$14,000. This is a win and you should be proud of the connections and work all are doing to support WAC. We have a long way to go! Keep up the positivity.

For any non-profit to thrive, it needs consistent and reliable funding. Think of funding as a stool with legs, at least three, that support the seating surface. If one leg is longer than the others, the stool is liable to fall over. If three legs are fairly even in length, the stool won't tip.

Relying on multiple funding sources allows a non-profit to create a sustainable model where the non-profit can focus on its mission and plan for the future with confidence.

For the WAC, grants, classes, and firing tickets have been the only funding sources. That coupled with generous lease terms, have allowed the WAC to thrive. In this new era, we need to adjust our considerations of funding. We need to identify the other legs of the stool and work to fill them.

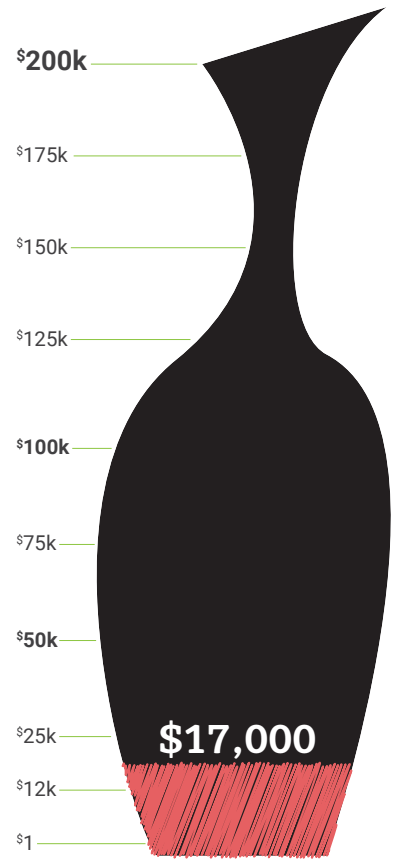
One of the best ways to fill another leg, is to build our donor culture. Other legs (more than three is ideal) must also match income goals so that long term goals can be planned and achieved.

### How You Can Help

As patrons of the WAC, it takes all of us to make this a welcoming community. Spreading the word and sharing the WAC story is critical. Do you have a story about how the WAC has had a positive affect on your life? Share that with your friends.

**Do you want to make more of an impact with your donation?** Let's double your donation by using it as a matching campaign.

**Do you work at, own, or regularly use a business that supports the arts or community organizations?** Let's chat about what kind of impact a business could have on the WAC.



Watch for updates to our progress vase on the website and social media.

**Do you regularly visit, or a member of, other art groups, associations, or businesses?** We have cards, posters, postcards, letters, and social media artwork that could be shared with those organizations. Let's chat about your connection and how we can best reach out.

### We Want to Hear From You

If you have questions, thoughts, or suggestions, get in touch with Josie Hummert, [wacsecretary@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:wacsecretary@willametteartcenter.com) or Lisa Joyce, [lisa@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:lisa@willametteartcenter.com).

### Staying in Touch

Be sure to follow us on socials, sign up for our email list, and stay connected with the website.

### Instagram and Facebook

@willametteartcenter

### Sign up for email

[www.willametteartcenter.com/newsletter](http://www.willametteartcenter.com/newsletter)

### Website

[www.willametteartcenter.com](http://www.willametteartcenter.com)

# AMANDA OHRN'S GLAZING TIPS

To see more, check out @ohrnmand and #wacglazes on Instagram.



**01** A textured mug glazed in Red Dawn and Magic Mushroom. First, the body of the mug was dipped in Red Dawn, and then the inside and rim were dipped in Magic Mushroom, with about 1/8" overlap of the glazes. I'm intrigued by the purple color on the overlap and will be experimenting further!



**02** A goofy-shaped little darted mug! It got a full dip in Tomato followed by a dip on the rim in The Beekeeper.



**03** When Red Dawn breaks just right, it sure is nice! A 3-second dip of this bowl resulted in a deep red that broke clear in the thin spots, enhancing the split rim, curves, and swirling in the middle of the piece.



**04** Three colors and two glazes on this textured mug! The bottom 2/3 of the piece was dipped in Rhodes Matte. The inside and top 2/3 were dipped in Jeff's Long Beach Blue. The latter glaze was applied a bit thinly, which I think resulted in a greener color with some brown highlights instead of its more typical blue. The overlap of the glazes turned a nice sky blue.



**05** Another mug! The body was dipped in Red Dawn, and then the inside and rim were dipped in Stoney Yellow. Some really interesting crystallization happened at the overlap. It looks a bit like ice crystals!



**06** This vase was an exercise in tape resist, design, and glaze application. I liked the curves of the piece, so I decided to accentuate them with vertical lines of tape and then added diagonal lines to keep things interesting. The shape of this piece made the use of glazing tongs impossible, so I inflated a balloon inside the piece and used it as a handle of sorts. I then dipped the piece in Blue Crystal and painstakingly removed the tape.



**07** A snowflake piece glazed in Chun White over Black by Popular Demand which resulted in a beautiful blue. The snowflake design came from a stencil which I placed on the bisqued piece and taped down to get it nice and flush with the surface of the plate. I then dipped a stiff-bristled toothbrush in Black by Popular Demand and used it to "spray" the glaze over the stencil. Then I removed the stencil from the piece and dipped the whole thing in Chun White. Voila!



**08** A mug with Blue Satin Matte on the body and Magic Mushroom on the inside and rim. The little bit of overlap between the glazes resulted in a nice color gradient.





# Spotlight on Patrons

## MEET MARY JO CORRADO

*How long have you been working in clay?  
Where?*

Clay is a material that I like to get my hands in, however, to be creative with clay you need a space where you can make a mess and some available equipment such as a kiln, slab roller, wheel etc.

A few years ago, I moved to Salem and discovered Willamette Art Center when I accompanied my grandchildren to Family Clay Sunday. This is a place with that space and equipment. I enrolled in my first hand building class, Spring 2024. This Winter I returned to WAC for a paper clay hand building class.

*What do you enjoy most?*

I find joy in the entire creative process. The energy that comes from it, the whole spirit, mind, body connection. I delight in turning a lump of earth into creative animal or figurative sculptural pieces. Mostly I do not consciously think about it, I relax, take pleasure in this sweet state of contentment where nothing else matters. The pieces I create have meaning to me, mostly from my love of the natural world.

*What do you find most challenging?*

My head is full of ideas. When I think about what I am doing too much or want to work towards a desired design requiring certain construction skills that I have not yet figured out, it is hard.

*What did you like best about your class?*

Our instructor, Doug Dacar, pushes the boundaries with paper clay. It was exhilarating to be around that energy, creativity and passion and trying techniques I never thought possible with clay. My absolute favorite activity was the raku firing. To actively take my pieces that next step: to place them into the fiery furnace, pull them out all glowing, place them in a combustible combination, then witness the enchanting transformation, was just awesome, full of excitement and magic. Amazing!



# emptyBOWLS

## RAFFLE WINNERS & LOOKING AHEAD

Congratulations to those that won the Empty Bowls raffle items. Thank you to those who donated their items for the raffle.

Empty Bowls has become an integral part of the WAC culture. While we're sad that we won't be hosting this fundraiser in 2025, it will be back.

The Board of Directors made the decision to suspend this event for one year in part because it takes a full year to make all the pieces and plan the event. With the move to a new location, the loss of a month or more to make the items, would have a negative impact. The Marion Polk Food Share is in full support of the decision and is rooting us on.

Since the start, WAC has donated more than \$304,000 to MPFS. The check for 2024 was \$17,492.94 representing half of the net proceeds.

### The Future

We're looking forward to all that 2026 holds for this community fundraiser.

We'll be looking for patrons to help with this event early in 2026. Whether you donate your skills to creating items for sale or volunteer for logistics planning or marketing, remember to keep an eye out for the all call.

Thank You to our EB all stars!



(l to r) **Damion Blair's** photo was used on the 2025 EB poster and marketing. **Cherie Posedale**, made many of the bowls for sale. **Karen Hackney**, decorated many of the bowls for sale.



### WILLAMETTE ART CENTER

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Newsletter Team | Lisa Joyce, Executive Director — Pam Baldwin, Editor — Josie Hummert, Graphic Design



# With Gratitude

Thank you, **Renita Hiebert**, for coordinating the volunteer celebration and all the prep!

A big shout-out to **Dana Field** for her work on the workshops held throughout March. From searching for instructors and coordinating dates, it's a big task to pull off the very full workshop schedule we've enjoyed all month long. In addition, Dana's great work resulted in \$3,000 in income that went into the *Reshape Our Community Studio* fund. Kudos, Dana!

Thank you to **Claudia Hill**, longtime Board Member and studio monitor. Her contribution to the WAC and behind the scenes work has made this studio that much better. Claudia leaves us to move closer to a new grand baby, and we wish her all the best in her new adventure.



Claudia Hill

Thank you, **Don and monitors**, for taking the class photos. You're the best!

**Margrethe and Greg Gregg** are hard-working volunteer monitors on Monday evenings and favorite instructors. While Margrethe answers patrons' questions, Greg produces bag after bag of recycled clay. It's a messy process to take the red cart of waste clay, add re-hydrated chunks of dried-out clay, and load the scraps into the pugmill in the right proportions to yield a blend with the proper moisture. Each batch includes a scoop of fine-grained ball clay to ensure good plasticity, so the reclaimed clay is as workable as new. This clay is available for patrons and is also used for Family Clay. Thank you, Margrethe and Greg!



The Greggs

## GREAT GLAZE COMBO

Jim Ransom used Jeff's Blue over Mushroom to make this lovely translucent teal. The stripes were made by applying tape before the first dip in Mushroom. The tape is removed for the second dip in Jeff's Blue.



Doug Dacar puts a hot piece of pottery in a bucket filled with flammable material. Want to participate in a raku firing? Check the calendar for opportunities. Wear close-toed shoes, natural fiber clothing you don't mind getting smoky smelling, and bring bisque-fired pieces.



# Class Pictures



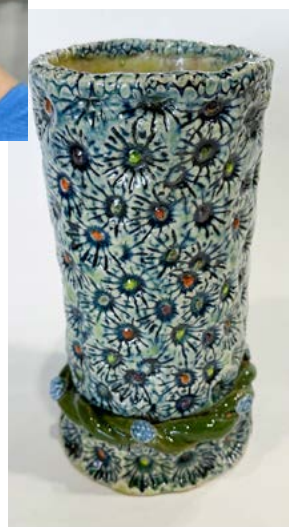


# Spotlight on Patrons

## MEET CINDY CAUFMAN

by Amanda Katzenmeyer

I know many of you will recognize this artist's face, her welcoming nature makes her one of the great things about coming into the center. I first met Cindy when we took a hand building class together. I had so much fun sitting next to her and learning from her as well as the instructor. That's the thing about a center like this; ideas shared turn into even greater ideas! It's fun to sit next to someone who shares their knowledge and gets excited about creating. She's been coming to the center for quite a long time, seven years, in fact!



Mostly you'll find Cindy working on hand built projects, could be an animal of sorts, a whale, a rhinoceros, a hippopotamus. Seriously, she can sculpt just about anything. She's even donated some of these sculptures to Artisan Village raku at the fair and they have been some of the first things to get scooped up. She also makes a lot of garden art, vases and mugs. If you're lucky enough to find yourself in the same class, you might just be lucky enough to get some of the best tasting guacamole ever at the potluck on the last day of class.

Cindy recently talked her husband into taking Andrea Misbach's beginning wheel throwing class. He seems to have really taken to it, kind of a natural. That's the thing about art. There's usually something for everyone and when we get excited about it, our people get excited and curious about it and then our community grows! And that's good for everyone at the center.



## WAC OUTREACH

Did you know WAC will host private educational and community events? Anything from a field trip for a class or group, team building, club activities, and more. WAC can help you plan a fun activity.

If you would like to schedule a clay workshop for a special group, contact Lisa Joyce, [lisa@willametteartcenter.com](mailto:lisa@willametteartcenter.com).

## REMINDERS

### *Don't Recycle Clay without Checking*

Carefully sift through your water buckets and trays for tools, leather, plastic, and other non-recyclable bits and bobs before dumping them into the bins.

Only recycle clay that fires to Cone 10. All clay purchased at the WAC qualifies. But if you're using clay purchased elsewhere, be sure it is appropriate for recycling.

### *Mark Your Pots*

It is really important to mark the bottom of your pot to be fired with your name or special mark. Always write your name on the back of the firing tickets. Also add the special mark if you use one.