

Guelph Potter's Guild – Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, January 12, 2016; 7:00pm

In attendance: Hilary, Anita, John, Eleanor, Joanne, Lynn, Ester, Gail, Lisa, and Amanda

Sorry we missed you: Nancy, Carol

1. Creative Item Share:

- a. Eleanor brought in a tile made by Linda Ellet (Etsy website available); master tile made out of a wax carving, a simple/effective way to create highly detailed molds for tile making;
- b. Culture Days article in Tribune – Guelph ranked as #8 in Canada, hosting 50 different culturally engaging activities for community members to participate in!

2. Studio Relocation:

- a. No new updates; speculations only;
- b. City reviewing possible real estate; Delhi not ruled out, also considering a space in the old food court section of Quebec Street Mall;
- c. Potters are encouraged to move as much of their stuff out of the studio as possible, and to please label with your name the items to leave in the studio until the move;
- d. Unknown where spring class session will be, or if the spring schedule will or will not be delayed;
- e. Begin planning space and materials inventory needs.

3. December 5th Exhibition and Show Review:

- a. On sign-up sheets for show, indicate a minimum arrival time to have pieces displayed and ready, and an absolute time that pieces must remain on display
 - i. If sale starts at 9am; all pieces must be ready at 8:45am to allow extra time for table arrangements to make room, etc., and pieces must only be taken down not earlier than 4:01pm if sale goes to 4pm.
- b. Having extra tables for everyone to set out all wares worked well; inconspicuous table adjustments and takedowns throughout the day worked well;
- c. Written protocol/checklist for cash table would be an asset for clarifications;
- d. Record needed to write down items as they are sold would be helpful as a backup sold inventory list; Gail has compiled an Excel file of pieces sold by each potter (will be useful to review);
- e. Invest in a Cube to allow for non-cash sales; the cost of the account/data could be re-claimed from lost sales due to cash/cheque only; would need a Cube, a laptop/tablet/phone with WIFI access or a data plan to work the needed Cube app.

4. Ontario Trillium Grant

- a. Seed Money grant pool application for the Guild to fund new kiln, wheels, etc. (what is purchased with hopeful grant funds will be for Guild use only);

- b. Goal: double studio space – one section Guild, one section classes run by the City;
- c. Registration is due March 9th, and the final application due April 6th;
- d. Hilary and Lynn investigating.

5. Pricing Pottery Guide

- a. Basic rubric developed by Hilary using rough estimates of clay needed to make certain sized items, with descriptors to help gauge complexity of design, etc.;
- b. Not a rulebook, but the goal is to serve as a starting point to help with pricing pieces to avoid last minute decisions before shows; in no way should this hamper the creative process, or how we decide how to judge our own value-added aspect of pieces; not all work will fit the guideline;
- c. Please take some time to consider the guideline, and add point as you think helpful, as this is something to be discussed further.

6. Shows, Exhibitions, Display Opportunities:

- a. **Night Market:** No go for the February market at the E-Bar (February 12 or 13th); possibility to join a future market as a Guild, or as a single potter; highly successful event, hosting three shows a year.
- b. (From previous meetings) 2016 Guelph Potter's Market – GPG could offer a demonstration table, competition challenges (e.g. how tall can you go); if we were to have a table at professional shows, we would need to self-jury pieces to be able to ask professional prices. By providing a demo and challenge event, in addition to a juried GPG table, we would still be able to engage all of our members (shows don't always need to be about selling);
- c. **2016 Spring Sale** – not this year due to uncertainty around studio space relocation timelines;
- d. **Mug-Fest (Culture Days, late September)** or participate in **Veg-Fest (mid-September)** as a fall fundraiser for the Guild (or in combination as a show/exhibition as well); Veg-Fest has an early bird special for tables, decision needs to be made by April about participating in this event; consider using a bowl theme for Veg-Fest (vegetarian/vegan food festival, bowls would go well).
 - i. *A piggy-back event again this year would be helpful to get on board with*
- e. (From previous meeting) Joanne Pullock – McDonald Stewart Art Centre (closed until renos are done; centre to be called Art Gallery of Guelph) has a shop we might be able to display and possibly sell through.
- f. (From previous meeting) Crafts 4 U (Edinburgh St.) shop as another place to sell; lady who runs this shop also coordinates craft shows in Guelph for the Christmas season.
- g. (From previous meeting) Masterpiece Gallery (Scheiz, Fife Rd.) shop as another local place

7. General Studio Business:

- a. John will post firing dates on the GPG website;
- b. **CAUTION!** signs to be made for white and transparent glazes to minimize contamination from paint mixer. Please encourage each other and Open Studio attendees to thoroughly clean the paint mixer tip to top after each use.
- c. **Guild and Open Studio**
 - i. Technical hours vs. cost of glaze/fire included in the price of clay bag (need to determine how the \$14 of glaze/fire cost has been partitioned – does this include

paid tech time, or the material cost of glaze and electricity/maintenance of kilns? If so, should the Guild be receiving a portion of this fee back if we are to fire our own and Open Studio kilns)

- ii. AK can compile a dataset of Open Studio participation from 2013, 2014, 2015 to highlight the Guild's contribution to the City-Guild partnership at the GCPC in support of above if necessary.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 7th, at 7:00 pm
GCPC Location, or TBD