April 20, 2020

Re: Ways you can help Clay Art Center and our community right now!

Dear Friend:

Starting with my first day at Clay Art Center, I have been amazed by the sense of community that our staff, students, teachers, and artists had built over the years. Every person I spoke with has told me stories about why they love Clay Art Center and what we can do to make Clay Art Center even stronger.

Now in this unprecedented time, our community has once again rallied together to support one another, to ask how we can help each other and our community, and to make sure that what makes Clay Art Center so special --our dedication to community and to each other -- is amplified. We have found ways to do that both big and small. We are engaging in virtual happy hours, artist talks, classes and more where we have lifted each other’s spirits, found ways to be creative with limited tools, and connected about our shared passion for clay. We have also asked ourselves the question of how Clay Art Center can support the community. Here are just a few things we have done:

- Our staff and teachers have been working to create learning opportunities so that students can continue building their ceramic skills from home. We are offering classes for free to essential workers, their families, and those facing financial hardship.
- One of our artists collected all of the masks and gloves that our artists had in the studio to bring to a local medical clinic.
- We are added a list of all of the local restaurants that have supported us at our Hand in Hand benefit so our community can go and support them now when they are in need.
- We are making plans for our postponed Empty Bowls event which was scheduled for March so that we can help raise money for groups addressing hunger in our community, an issue that is even more important in this current time.

As we continue to spend time away from the studio for the safety of our community, here are some ways you can help Clay Art Center and our community right now:

- Join us for our virtual programming and spread the word to other people who might be interested in learning a new skill or being inspired by an artist talk. We have classes for adult and youth and you can even plan a virtual clay birthday party or family get together.
- Support the restaurants that have supported us over the years at our Hand in Hand Benefit. See our website for a list of all of the restaurants that have participated in Hand in Hand. Consider getting takeout or delivery from them or buy a gift certificate to enjoy when they reopen.
- Support our artists and Clay Art Center by making a purchase of a handmade object from our online shop - 60% of the proceeds goes directly to the artist. You can browse our shop.
and NCECA Gallery for unique gifts for yourself, your family or your friends. Items will be shipped over the next few weeks.

- **Make a meaningful donation** to Clay Art Center’s 2 Strong Hands Campaign which will allow us to offer virtual classes for free or low-cost now and will help us reopen ready to engage the community in the future. **If you have already made a gift to Clay Art Center, thank you for your support.** As a community, we will get through this together.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and we look forward to seeing you back in the studio,

**Emily**