

Greenwich House Pottery  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
January 21, 2025

**Kiln + Heat Update** : CB will update with the latest

**Deck Project Update** : DB

### Registration

Winter Registration snapshot as of January 13

- Jones Street 88% full before second session 83% total
- Chelsea 86% full before second session 71% total
- Slipcasting moving to Barrow Street – 2 classes running out of 5
- Total enrollment full term thus far, 78% capacity and 78% of budgeted goal.
- Larger budget goal this term
- Total Jones+ Chelsea seats in weekly classes: 850 in the winter term. 843 in the fall.

### Membership

- December 15 fully open with 6 wheels
- 1/1 members: 8 , 1/15 members: 12 . 35 since November with 28 unique participants
- More Social Media pushes planned

**Make-up classes follow up:** project on hold due to scheduling conflicts with student volunteer

### Upcoming Events

- Yage Wang exhibition on view through February 20
- Sophie Gibson workshop February 8 (4 spots remaining!)
- Resident Artist dropped out for personal reasons
- Valentine's workshops at both Chelsea and Jones
- Handmade Happy Hour every Saturday at Chelsea
- Family workshops every Sunday at Jones
- February 21 Slipcasting workshop

**Town Hall:** Working with Alan, the C-Suite Admin to schedule for mid-February.

### Open Discussion / Q&A

Sharing all concerns directly with Pottery admin staff.  
Town Hall Scheduling

### Carol:

- Wondering if Ryan could attend these committee meetings since there are many studio issues which fall under his purview. **\*discussed in fall meeting and decided against staff attendance. Happy to revisit**
- Requests for Val's Green which fires well at cone 6 **\*will request**
- Reinstate white board at Jones showing firing schedule. **Shared request with team**

- New white board at Jones with WISH LIST (like membership) where studio members can add supply concerns and suggestions in one place. *\*will discuss with team*
- Complaints about night classes not cleaning up handbuilding studios. *\*will follow up with faculty*
- Can Liaisons give a 20-30 minute warning at the end of every class w reminders to clean up. *Conferring with supervisors*
- Add info (yet again, I know... so hard to get anyone's attention!) to Pottery Notes as to how one can access Advisory Ctte info. *\*done*
- In general, people complaining that the pottery is expensive and "services" are not being provided. *Please elaborate*
- That's it for now. Many complaints yet people still care deeply about the pottery and the community.

**Larry:**

1. Thanks so much for the improvements you've made while struggling with heat, hot water, and the kilns:
  - a. Lighting everywhere is vastly improved.
  - b. People seem to notice the new wheels but what I think is more important is that the legs of all the stools have new rubber tips and some of the really unstable stools are gone. Much greater stability!
  - c. It's still early in the term but the wheel rooms are much cleaner! The 2nd floor is chronically worse than the 3rd. The 2nd floor is mostly beginners, so the solution may be educating people. That being said, Sasha and Kiera came around to Luc's int/adv class this morning to introduce themselves, etc. and it came out that many people who have been here for years are still pretty clueless about draining water out of their buckets and recycling the uncontaminated clay. They've been draining most of it down the sink and piling the uncontaminated solid stuff in the little cup on the sink. (They also had no idea that the cup is really just to have a place to collect the contaminated clay that's left in the sink, and that they should empty it in the appropriate bucket on the window when they're done.)
2. Thanks also for the timely updates! I think people really appreciate knowing about status changes and time frames, pretty much when you know them.
  - a. Update frequency is a function of the complexity of the project; I don't think anyone feels like they're getting too many update emails. Communication is so much better now than at any time that I can remember.
3. Is there a preferred procedure for students to report equipment problems? Most people, if they have a problem with a wheel, will just move to another wheel. (I'm not sure whether this is about laziness; or a lack of education or empowerment.) In a cooperative studio, people need to understand that it's their responsibility to report an equipment problem if they can't resolve it themselves. I think the procedure is to report to the Office, but I've gone to Rudra directly because the Office was closed. He dropped what he was doing and fixed an issue with my pedal in 2 minutes. He was happy to help, but if there's a lot of repair requests, I could see how the techs would need a gate-keeper. >>*Larry- working through this idea with staff. It's a good one. Talking over logistics and feasibility of monitoring a system like this*

Jane: requests logistical communication about reopening the gas kilns and cone 10 firing.

Jane>> here's a draft we have ready to go:

Now that gas service is restored, we will move through a phased return to gas firing. A few required steps remain, including a smoke test and kiln testing and calibration. We are coordinating with our facilities partners and will share a more detailed guidance on the expected timeline before gas kilns can be used, including when the required smoke test will take place and how long it typically takes.

We will be sending a follow-up communication outlining:

- The expected timing and duration of the smoke test
- When gas kilns will be brought online
- How cone 10 firing will be phased back in
- When cone 10 glazing will reopen

Cone 10 firing update

We're excited to share that we are now able to resume cone 10 firings using our smallest new Blaauw kiln and our older manual kiln, QQ. While we still await final approval to fire our largest Blaauw kiln, these two kilns alone will allow us to make meaningful progress on high-fire work.

As we recalibrate our cone 10 operations, please keep the following in mind:

- Calibration and test firing of new kilns: We will fire the kilns
- Priority firings: We will begin by firing several racks of cone 10 work from the spring term. After that, we will fire fall term work, doing our best to honor drop-off order. This will largely be on the honor system. We ask that people only glaze work made in the Spring and Fall 2025 terms for the first few weeks. Current term students, thank you for your patience.
- Glaze palette: We will maintain our current pared-down cone 10 glaze palette for now. Our goal is to bring back the full classic cone 10 palette as soon as our facilities, staff capacity, and studio flow stabilize.
- Kiln requests: To begin with, we will not accommodate requests for specific kilns (for example, "please fire in QQ instead of the Blaauw"). To move work through efficiently and equitably, firings will be assigned by staff.
- Drop-off space: We will continue to assess glaze drop-off needs over time and adjust space allocation based on studio demand over time.
- Experimental firings: We will not offer cone 2, saggar firings, or burn out (paper clay) firings this semester. These may be reconsidered for summer or fall 2026 once both Blaauw kilns are fully operational.

Glazing update

Cone 10 glazing will reopen on a date to be announced and will remain open for glazing of spring and fall work for a set number of weeks, to be determined by staff and announced in advance. \*TBD This limited window will help us manage workflow as we bring gas firing fully back online.

**Sandi** Issues with clay

Both white stoneware and throwing clay have been short, dry, and hard as a rock. There have been

many justifiable complaints, and no one should have to ask for this. We are a clay studio after all. This is not a place to save money, or tech energies. This should be a priority at all times. **\*Have addressed this with Ryan. Will explain further in meeting**

**Liz:**

Suggestions for membership space

**Barbara:**

Barrow: More tables in the slip-casting room

Chelsea and Jones: Please keep the white boards showing kiln schedules updated.

Chelsea: First day back at the studio after break, basic supplies (wax, vinegar) had not been replenished.