

Greenwich House Pottery
Advisory Committee Meeting
February 18, 2026

Kiln + Heat Update : Boiler was off due to a malfunction yesterday. This has been repaired
Heat: The mobile boiler went out briefly yesterday during morning classes due to a malfunction and is now operational again. As temperatures rise in the coming weeks, we may see this happen again. The system is set to turn off automatically when outdoor temperatures exceed about 50 degrees.

During those in between days, we will adjust the split units as needed and keep space heaters in place for moments when it feels chilly but not cold enough to trigger the boiler. We will also keep percolators available so students continue to have access to hot water in classrooms.

Kiln: Both the plumbing and electrical work have now been completed. The revised PAA plans, updated per Con Edison's requirement to relocate the low pressure switch near the gas service point, were submitted on January 16 and assigned to a Department of Buildings plan examiner on January 28.

The project is currently in the DoB review queue. We have reached out requesting a status update, as restoring gas service is urgent. Once approval is granted, the next steps will be a DOB pressure test followed by a Con Edison inspection visit.

This stage is procedural, and while it can feel slow, we are actively monitoring it and will continue to share updates as we receive them.

Deck Project Update : DB

Registration

Spring Registration opens on March 9. The schedule was sent out yesterday. Spring term begins April 5
Winter Registration snapshot as of February 15

- Jones Street 86% full before second session 85% total B Session begins next week
- Chelsea 80% full before second session 79% total
- Total enrollment full term thus far, 83% capacity and 83% of budgeted goal.

Membership

- December 15 fully open with 6 wheels
- 2/1 members: 9, 2/15 members: 11 . 31 unique participants

Upcoming Events

- Yage Wang exhibition on view through February 20
- February 21 Slipcasting workshop- still some room!

Town Hall: rescheduled for February 26 at 5pm due to my absence last week

Open Discussion / Q&A

Sharing all concerns directly with Pottery admin staff.

Larry:

1. Barrow Street Membership

- Cone 10 Firing Capacity: There is strong interest in Barrow Street membership, but some prospective members are hesitant because they are unsure whether cone 10 firing will be available once the Blaauw kilns are fully operational. Clear communication about the long-term firing plan could help reduce ambivalence and strengthen enrollment.
- Slip Casting Access: Interest in offering a slip casting membership tier, or at minimum providing occasional access to mold making and slip casting for wheel and handbuilding members. The ability to produce multiples, such as handles, would be particularly valuable to members.

2. Ladders – Routine Maintenance

- Recommendation to conduct routine ladder maintenance across sites.
 - Chelsea ladders have historically functioned well but may be due for inspection.
 - Jones Street ladders need wheel cleaning and lubrication, as clay buildup is affecting movement. Self-braking ladders are especially difficult to maneuver on uneven floors and may require adjustment in addition to cleaning.

Jerry:

1. Staffing Levels and Studio Support

Jerry raised concerns about the perceived reduction in Studio Assistant coverage at Chelsea. Students have shared that service levels feel reduced over the past semester, citing:

- A kiln being down for an extended period
- Studio assistant turnover
- Assistants splitting shifts between locations

My note: There are not fewer staff overall at this time. We actually have more staff now than earlier in the year, though fewer than during the summer when the studios were temporarily merged. That said, staff are stretched.

Operationally, Chelsea is prioritized, but our overlap shift supports Barrow Street, and Jones Street staff are also coming to Barrow to support slipcasting classes. The cross-site support model is necessary, though it may create a perception of reduced coverage at times. I acknowledge the additional duties supporting our third space are stretching the staff and have been working to emphasize the importance of prioritizing home studio duties.

Concerns were also raised about firing timelines at Barrow Street. While I understand comparisons have been made to Jones Street, I agree that Jones should not be the standard we hold ourselves to in terms of turnaround expectations. *our second kiln is at last operational. The addition of slipcasting students to the firing queue has taxed our system a bit, and my absence over the last two weekends (I've been loading over the weekend), has contributed to the hiccup.

2. Advanced Programming at Chelsea

Students are requesting more advanced classes, noting there is currently one advanced handbuilding class and two advanced wheel classes.

My response: For the spring term, 10 out of 24 total classes are mixed level or intermediate/advanced. 8 classes are full term, and the remainder are ½ term or 4 week courses. Of the classes offered at above beginning level, 4 are dedicated specifically to intermediate/advanced students - 2 each. While we can continue to evaluate balance and demand, the programming mix reflects the evolution of the studio.

Luigi: One quick thing I wanted to add to the agenda: a bunch of people were asking more specifics about the cone 10 firing, like is there a limit to the size of the three pieces? Can people have one large thing fired instead of three? Those kinds of specifics.

I will send an update to these questions this afternoon with the community email!

Jane- specify best method of packing glazed work. Suggest bubble