



## INTRODUCTION TO

# CLAY IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

The non-profit Oregon Potters Association (OPA) is a group of potters working in Oregon and Southwest Washington, USA. Our goal is to promote creativity, excellence and growth through education and a cooperative spirit.

The OPA serves as a professional liaison to the public and galleries, businesses, publications and arts agencies both locally and nationally. Our members organize cooperative purchases to obtain pottery supplies, books and materials at quantity discount prices. We help to enable members to publicize, exhibit and sell their work at the annual OPA Ceramic Showcase and in conjunction with other guilds, fairs, and craft organizations.

The OPA sponsors a "Clay in Education" program. This program was created to provide clay instruction by professional potters in the community. A portion of our annual dues provides some of the funding for our projects. The remainder comes from donated pottery for sale and our installation each year at Ceramic Showcase. Our members create a clay piece based on a theme. These are displayed and sold to the public with 100% of the funds going to the Clay In Education program.

We also provide clay activities at Ceramic Showcase, Portland Arts Festival, and Art in the Pearl: 3 of the finest festival art venues in Portland. Many of our members are also experienced teachers and participate in our artist residency program. Artists are available to teach in any public, private, parochial, or non-profit community site.

Artist residencies are partially funded by OPA. The Clay in Education program pays 50% of the artist's fee and the school or organization pays the additional 50% directly to the artist. The artist's hourly wage is \$40.00. If you are a title one school, or an organization requesting additional funding, please include an explanatory letter with your application for a residency and increased funding. Funding is not unlimited and therefore will be allocated on a first come first served basis with a maximum of 40 hours per site. Sites may contract for more hours with the artist and pay the entire \$40 per hour. Costs for consumable supplies for residencies are in addition to the program fees. A contract is administered prior to the Clay in Education experience. Residencies are available to offer an awareness of ceramic art forms and to introduce students to new skills, which can be applied to existing curriculum. OPA ceramic artists are professionals with considerable experience and expertise.