

September 14, 2019

Dear Potters,

By now most of you have heard that Northeast Ceramic Supply/Monroe Clay Works will be closing its doors on November 1. With Barbara Reeley's blessing, several potters have shared an interest in developing a proposal to keep Monroe Clay Works operating as some form of Potters' cooperative, the details of which are up for discussion.

Here is what has happened so far: Barbara hopes for a proposal by September 21, so that she can proceed with closing NEC/MCW. Studio space is negotiable for lease with a supportive landlord, and the operation could be a turnkey transition, with the potential co-op purchasing the existing wheels, tables, kilns, etc. There would be lots of member workspace, and the space could be continued to be used for pottery community events and Collar City Clay Guild meetings. Barbara would stay involved as a member emeritus. The Clay Guild is interested in partnering with the entire clay community in helping to make this transition happen for the benefit of all.

The financial requirements are being discussed and we should have some more specific information to share with you in the next few days.

Our preliminary estimation is that the success of a "Monroe Potters' Co-op" requires a group of approximately 40 committed potters to join as members. Depending on how much we raise in membership revenue, we might also need investors to help cover start-up costs. A co-op would also require individuals willing and able to assume leadership, operations and maintenance roles. Some ideas for member benefits so far: a key to the studio so no restricted hours, discounts on clay and firing. Perhaps we could take in firing for revenue. Members may have opportunities to use the space to teach classes and raise revenue for themselves and the Co-op. We can dialogue about this at the open meetings which are being planned, so stay tuned.

No one person can do it all, and we need a wide range of members and ideas! Please let us know **if and how** you would like to be part of this exciting possibility by indicating your interests and abilities.

Investor (to be paid back in 1-2 yrs.)	Yes/No/Maybe
Full member and pay monthly dues	Yes/No/Maybe
Working member to offset my dues.	Yes/No
Participation on committees:	
Leadership and Organizational Structure	___
Daily Operations	___
Membership	___
Finance	___

Because we need to work swiftly to make this happen, we appreciate a quick reply within the next several days. Once we hear from you, we will know whether this project is feasible. In the next few days, an update on costs as well as open discussion meeting date and times will be provided. In the meantime, replies and questions can be addressed to Elizabeth Donovan at edonovan5@nycap.rr.com or (518) 577-3891. Please help us spread the word to potters that aren't on the Guild or Bruno email list.

Many Thanks!

Elizabeth Donovan
Theresa Zubretsky
Cherie Bramley