Ottawa Guild of Potters Mentorship 2026

Call for Applications

The Ottawa Guild of Potters is pleased to announce an exceptional opportunity for a Six-Month Mentorship with renowned ceramist **Leta Cormier.**

The program is intended to be a significant learning experience that is transformative for the participating artists. A maximum of five participants will be selected and challenged to take creative risks. The program will begin with a session during which each participant will present their work and their learning goals and objectives for the program. The group will meet over the next six months to review their progress, participate in group discussions and critiques, and revise objectives as necessary. The program will culminate in a presentation of the participants work to the Guild.

This mentorship program is for practising potters/artists who have established a personal aesthetic over several years of studio work. The focus of this mentorship will be on supporting the development of the capacities of the individual makers interested in evolving their work.

Group discussions and feedback will play an essential role in supporting the creative process and work development.

The mentoring sessions will be held at Leta's studio at 5950 Third Line Road North, North Gower, Ontario (Rural Ottawa). Participants are responsible for their own transportation.

The participants will meet every five weeks April, May and June, with two months off (a summer work hiatus), resuming again in September, October and finishing in November 2026. The start date will be Sunday, April 12, 2026 and future meeting dates will be set by the group.

To Qualify

You should be actively involved in an artistic practise, producing work, exhibiting and should:

- Have completed three years of study or the equivalent. Self educated artists with no formal training but plenty of experience are encouraged to apply.
- Be willing to make a six-month commitment.
- Through discussions with the mentor and others in the group, be prepared to set yourself learning goals, be willing to take risks with your work, accept and offer criticism in a constructive manner.
- Meet the criteria described above.
- Be a member of the Ottawa Guild of Potters.

To Apply

Submission deadline: All applications MUST be received by Friday, January 30, 2026. Please submit your full application to activity@ottawaguildofpotters.ca.

Participants must commit to the following:

- Attending all meetings
- Paying the fee of $1,017.00 ($900.00 + $117.00 HST)
- Setting goals in consultation with the mentor
- Challenging yourself to take risks with your work
- Preparing for and participating in a presentation of your work to the Guild

Please Include the following:

- A cover letter indicating that you are committed to the process and that you accept the conditions above.
- A CV (maximum 2 pages) that demonstrates you are capable of working independently.
- An artist's statement of 150-250 words that includes your reason for seeking to participate.
- A maximum of 10 images, jpeg format, minimum size 300 dpi. Please provide the following information for each image: title, size, medium, date.

The mentor will choose a maximum of five participants for the program. Participants will be notified by the end of February 2026. The program fee will be due by March 30th, 2026. Acceptance will be given by email.

Financial assistance: The Guild will consider requests for financial assistance to subsidize a portion of the cost if the fee is prohibitive to your participation. Requests should include a short justification/explanation and be sent to activity@ottawaguildofpotters.ca.

Questions? Please reach out to activity@ottawaguildofpotters.ca

Timelines (approximate)

Date/Period	Event
December 2025	Call for Applications
January 30, 2026	Applications due – submit to activity@ottawaguildofpotters.ca
February 2026	Mentor selects participants and participants are notified
April 12, 2026	Mentorship program begins
April – November 2026	6 meetings over 8 months: meeting in April, May, June with a two-month working break in July/August Meetings resume in September, October and November
Winter 2026/2027	Presentations of work to the Guild