



OTTAWA
GUILD
OF POTTERS

Fired Up!

Next Meeting: May 12, 2026
Time: 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Location: ✦ Hintonburg Community Centre
 1064 Wellington Str W, Ottawa

President's Message

Happy Tulip Month. I know the tulips and daffodils like these cool spring temperatures. Myself, I would like it a bit warmer, but I'm still grateful for the burst of colour.

A warm welcome to our new and returning Guild members.

New first-year members, how has your first year as a Guild member been? Have you participated in the Guild's General meetings? Have you participated in the workshops given at the General meetings? Have you come to any Guild events? Celebrating Clay at Scrims Florist Shop? Great Bowls of Fire? Clay Festival? Any of the workshops and demonstrations? Keifer Floreal? Sarah Pike? Joan Bruneau? Chandler Swain?

Have you enjoyed them? Felt welcome? Did you get involved? Volunteer? As our Guild grows in number, we must make our Guild available to all our members. Let me know how we are doing. Feel free to email me at lizfournier@rogers.com

The Clay Festival was a great success. Happy 'kids' of all ages got muddy and experienced the joy of clay that we all know and love.

Another outstanding array of ceramics at our Annual Exhibition, juried by Mat Karas. Congratulations go to all the award winners. A sincere thank you to our fellow potter and Special Guest Madame Diana Fox Carney for presenting the Exhibition winners with their awards.

A tremendous thank you to all the Sale participants for another outstanding Spring Sale, absolutely beautiful work. We have much to be proud of.

As always, a huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped put together this amazing weekend event.

Our 2025/2026 will soon be coming to a close, but not before our May General Meeting, where Carmen Gervais will be leading a workshop using Amaco underglaze inks with stencils and silk screens. If you have ever wanted to try them, this is your chance without having the expense of purchasing a jar. Details in a GuildForum post and on our Social Media.

June will be our Annual General Meeting including the election of Executive members, a potluck, and our Garage Sale. So, as you clean up your studios after the Spring Sale, collect all those items that you are ready to part with.

See you all on Tuesday, May 12, at the Hintonburg Community Centre, 1242 Wellington St. W. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Business meeting starts promptly at 6:30 pm. Followed by our workshop with Amaco Inks. Your help with setting up and cleaning up is appreciated.

Liz Fournier 

SALE COMMITTEE

Each year, the Spring Sale, as part of the Clay Festival, continues to grow and draw more customers and clay enthusiasts. Your outstanding creativity and craftsmanship are inspiring.

Here are a few Statistics for you:

Total Sales \$153,559.00 (Spring 2025 \$110,000.00)

Number of Potters 66 including Exhibition participants

Total Number of Customers (Sales) 1,689

Total Number of items Sold 4,053

I will send out a more detailed list of Statistics in the coming week.

An event of this scale is only possible because of the generosity and dedication of our members. Whether you were a sale participant, Exhibitor in the Annual Juried exhibition, a Throw-Down potter, a wheel or hand-building demonstrator, a kids table facilitator, a volunteer, or helping spread the word, your support is deeply appreciated. The Clay Festival not only promotes our artists but also strengthens our connection with the broader community.

A heartfelt thank-you to Nancy Riggs, Lisa Butler, and the entire Communications Team for their outstanding work promoting the Clay Festival across social media platforms. Your creative posts helped spread the word far and wide. We appreciate all the time and effort you put into showcasing our Guild and its talented members.

Many thanks to Joanna Richardson and her Exhibitions team. She secured a wonderful juror, Mat Karas from Concordia University. He had a difficult task selecting only 35 pieces out of 53 submissions. Harder still to select the 8 Award winners.

The Exhibition had the honour of a Special Guest, and potter Madame Diana Fox Carney, to award the Exhibition winners their prizes. She also selected a prize-winning piece of her own.

Sincere thanks to Jocelyn Jenkins and the members of the Standards and Education Committee for their continued dedication in keeping our standards high. Your careful review and commitment to education help ensure excellence across all aspects of our Guild.

Thank you to those members who volunteered their time at the Clay Festival, ushers at the Exhibition, and members who volunteered to take a shift or two at the Spring Sale. As well as, thank you to those members who came to the Sale. Your support is appreciated.

A big thank-you to Erin Ryan-Morgan, Ileana Tierney, Jane Bryttan, and Sue Ann Blakely for their tremendous work on the Spring Sale. Creating the floor plan, coordinating the shift schedule, and organizing the job list are no small tasks. We truly appreciate your hard work and dedication.



Activities & Programs

UPCOMING MEETING ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, May 12: Playtime with Amaco Ceramic Printing Inks. Bring a friend and come test a new product Amaco put on the market recently. We will supply several colours, sponges and stencils as well as bisqued tiles to test them on. If you want, bring a piece of leather hard greenware or bisqueware to decorate! You can also bring your own stencils and silkscreens to see how they work. Anything you make you can bring home.



Tuesday, June 9: Garage Sale! This is our last meeting before the summer break. We'll organize a garage sale so you can clear out the tools you don't use and get some new stuff at bargain prices. This is also our Annual General Meeting and we'll be holding our traditional potluck dinner that evening. It's a great opportunity to network, play and eat well. See you there!

WORKSHOPS

All workshops are done until the fall. The plans for September 2026 to May 2027 will be announced at the June 9th meeting. These plans are still to be confirmed, but they will give you an idea of what to expect. Stay tuned to this newsletter and the GuildForum for information on the next round of workshops, artist talks, demonstrations, and activities.

Ottawa Clay Festival ACTIVITIES

This year we held our annual Throwdown Challenge, demonstrations in hand-building and wheel throwing, the ever-popular Kid's Table, and expanded offerings for Adult Play Time at the wheel. What a great success again this year, thanks in no small part to the amazing guild members who volunteered to make it happen.

We had a stellar Throw Down Challenge with some new faces at the wheels, and once again, the highly dramatic teacher (Meagan Pethick) versus student (Katherine King) face-off. We also had a role reversal for the last challenge, where the judges went head-to-head, and the participants got their turn to judge. The crowds were backed up to the cash registers!

A HUGE shout out to the good-humoured and talented people who made this happen.



by Carmen Gervais

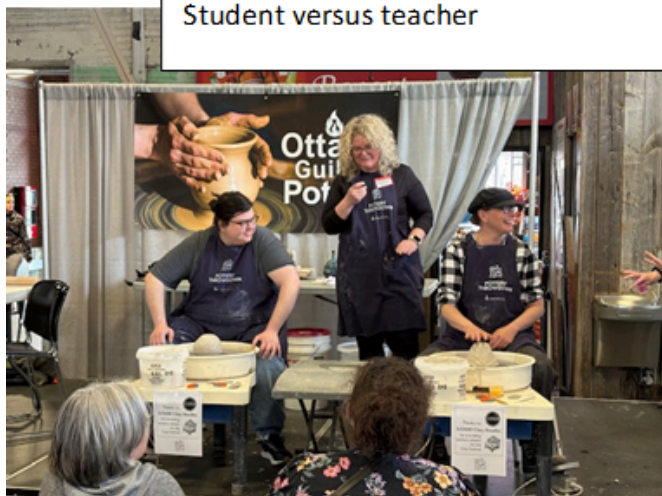
Activities & Programs

Ottawa Clay Festival ACTIVITIES (cont'd)

by Carmen Gervais



Student versus teacher



Role reversal: the judges being judged!



COMMUNICATIONS

Follow us on social media, and tag us @ottawapotters:
Instagram @ottawapotters
Facebook @ottawaguildofpotters

Contact us at:
communications@ottawaguildofpotters.ca

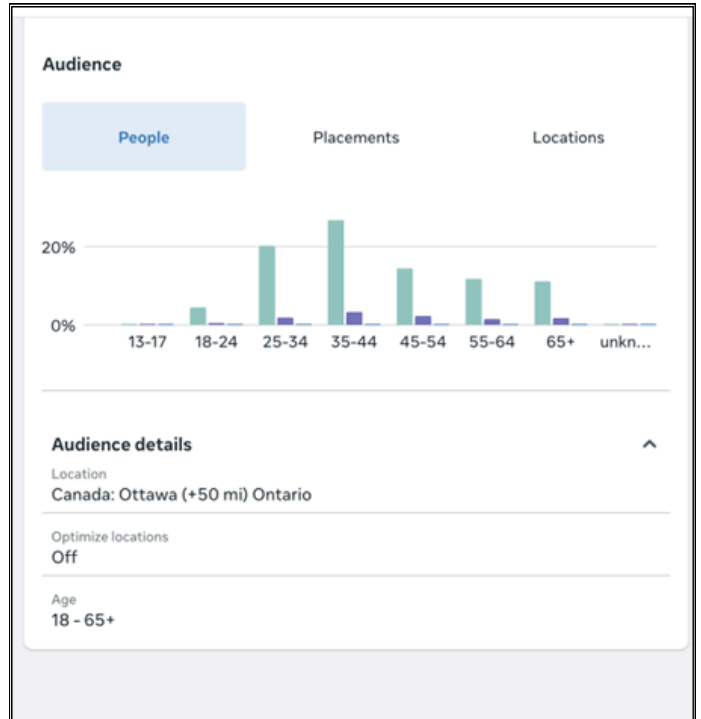
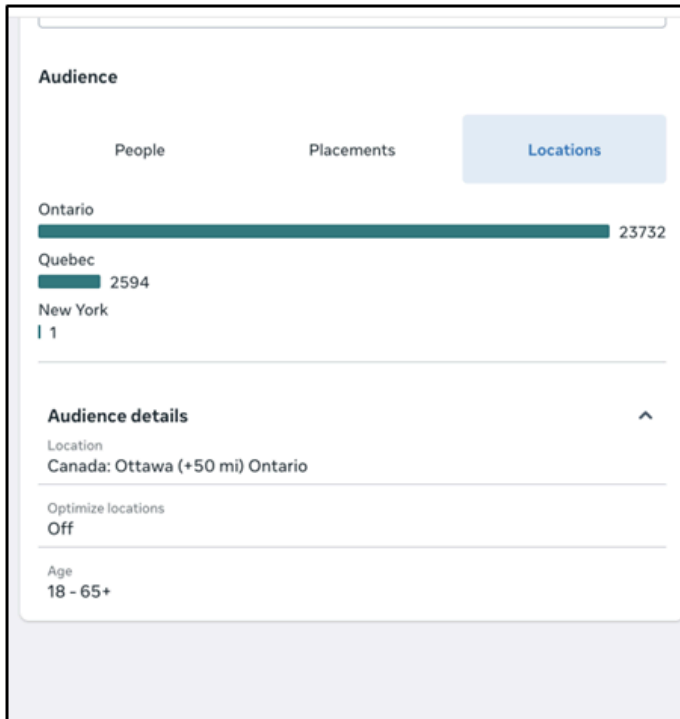
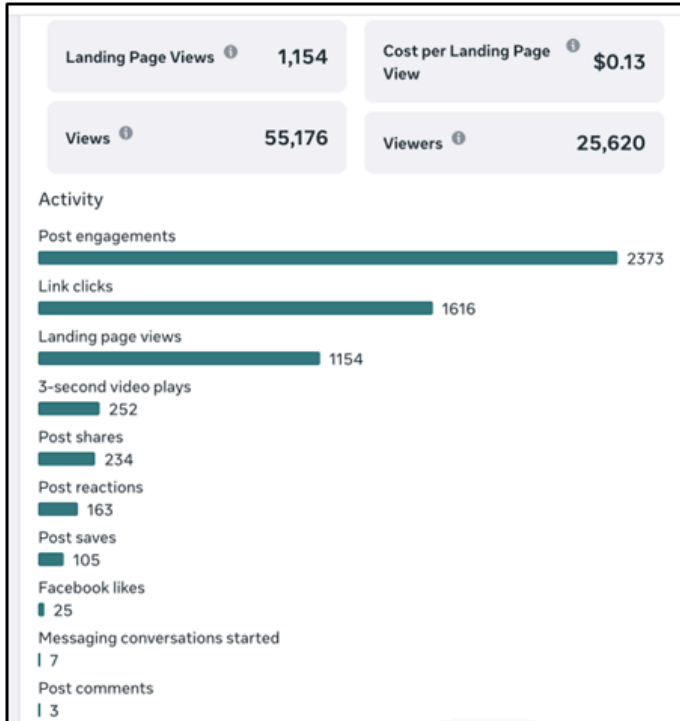
Lisa Butler, Nancy Riggs, Kyla Tyson & Dawn McLeod

Clay Festival Media Updates

The Clay Festival is gaining attention within the Ottawa community, year after year. Our media efforts are paying off! In addition to our regular festival and artist spotlight posts on Facebook and Instagram:

- We unveiled the new OGP banners and sandwich board posters at the festival. We hope you liked them! The vertical floor banners and the horizontal banner across the back of the festival stage really boosted our brand and overall presence onsite. Thanks to Nancy for spearheading and designing the new banners.
- The festival was promoted at least twice on CTV Weekender's updates.
- Social media influencers on Instagram, such as @ottawaisnotboring and @datenightcapital created posts about our festival, thereby amplifying our event.
- We included an ad, as per usual, in the online and printed Glebe Report newsletter.
- We sent out an email campaign to 1,846 newsletter subscribers via MailChimp.
- Many of YOU collaborated with our @ottawapotters Instagram account and shared your own posts. It was great to see your work in progress, getting ready for the sale, your videos as you walked around the exhibition and sale floors, and so on. Collaborating not only helps you amplify your posts (and ours), it adds a feeling of community, diversity, and artistry/craftmanship that we wouldn't be able to achieve on our own. We love it, and we hope you do too.
- We created an online advertising campaign for Facebook and Instagram, which obtained 25,620 views and 1,616 link clicks to our website! Not too shabby! See more stats in the screenshots that follow.

Communications



Communications

Subscribing to (or Unsubscribing from) GuildForum

We are thrilled to see that more people are using GuildForum to communicate with the broader guild membership. It's a great way to connect with guild members and learn from each other.

By default, as a new member, you are subscribed to receive New Topics from GuildForum. If you want to modify your notification settings,

1. In the Member Area menu, click GuildForum.
2. Click Subscriptions.
3. Adjust your Subscription Settings.

Individual Subscriptions - you won't receive emails unless you subscribe to specific topics (aka posts).

New Topics - default setting. You receive email notifications for each new topic, but you won't receive emails when members respond to existing topics.

New Topics & Posts - you receive an email for all new topics and responses to those topics.

As a courtesy to all members, when you create a post that requests responses from other members, please add your contact information to the post so that members can contact you directly, without the need to reply to the post. That will help reduce email traffic for everyone.

Interested in Communications?

Thank you to the people who have reached out with interest in helping the Communications team. We will be chatting with them soon about possibilities. However, at this time, we are primarily focused on finding someone who is interested in joining the executive as the Communications Chair, replacing Nancy and Lisa, for next season. It's a great way to get involved!

If you are interested or merely curious about a day in the life of a Communications Chair, please reach out to Lisa to learn more. It's not hard, and no prior social media experience is necessary. The role requires the ability to keep media projects for our events organized and on schedule.

You won't be alone! We are currently a team of four people; we take turns promoting events, we support each other, and we learn from each other. And we have a team chat group! It's a good team. Lisa will also be available next season to support you!

How to Use Social Media Collaborations

We love collaborating with our members on Instagram to share what you're up to. If you have work in progress, behind-the-scenes moments, or an interesting post, let's collaborate.

It's easy! When you create a post or reel, tap Tag people, select Invite collaborator, and search for ottawapotters. Once we accept, your post will appear on both your own and the guild's Instagram profiles, helping your work reach a wider audience.

We also encourage you to share your Facebook and Instagram posts with ottawapotters. When you create a post or reel, tap the Share Post icon, and search for and select ottawapotters in the list. Your post will show up as a 24-hour story on the guild profile.



Nancy Riggs, Lisa Butler, Dawn McLeod, and Kyla Tyson

Exhibitions Committee

Report to follow...



Membership Committee Report

We now have 209 members! We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Pauline Conley
Caspar van Baal
Ghislaine Miliu
Lyndsay Massey
Suzanne Bubic
Marion Koch
Nina Squires

134 members renewed in April, taking advantage of the early bird fee. There were a few people who were unaware of the new instructions for renewal via the website, but otherwise, the transition to the new method of renewal has been smooth.

PLEASE NOTE: The grace period for membership renewal ends on May 31st. Those members who have not yet renewed will lose access as a member.



by Carol Holmes-Kerr
