

Ovation: Arts & Culture

presented by

Wells Fargo
Private Bank

Clayworks

Connecting community to creativity

Written by Katie Toussaint | Photos courtesy of Clayworks

Kimberly Tyrrell, Studio Manager of **Clayworks**, moved around the Wells Fargo Classroom at the nonprofit's facility, readying the space for an afternoon class. She held out a ceramic plate, painted black with a pale rim splattered with dark dots, and described how one program participant enjoys painting solid colors while another is particularly passionate about adding polka dots. "So it's perfect—he will paint the solid, and then she will go around and decorate," Tyrrell said.

Tyrrell was preparing to teach a class of mentally and physically disabled adults, coordinated through a partnership with **InReach**, an organization that supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Participants started to trickle into the room, which is used for hand-building projects.

"What we're working with them on is creating a product line," said Executive Director Adrienne Dellinger. The idea behind this, she continued, is "that they will start their own program, have their own facility where they will be manufacturing ceramic items to sell, and it gives them a job."

To facilitate that physical connection to art, the studio is ADA accessible. "So anybody can take a class at Clayworks," Dellinger said.

With the expertise of 12 instructors, Clayworks serves about 130 adult students at any given time, while also engaging with children in schools across the community. Last year, the organization served about 12,500 participants. Clayworks is the fourth largest nonprofit teaching facility in the nation and promotes ceramic arts, advances artists and students, and seeks to enrich the community.

About 22 local artists rent studio space at the facility and receive a shelving unit, professional development opportunities and 24-hour access to this building.

Behind the building, the Clayworks Mobile Studio is parked and ready to be used for outreach. The Clayworks Mobile Studio reaches

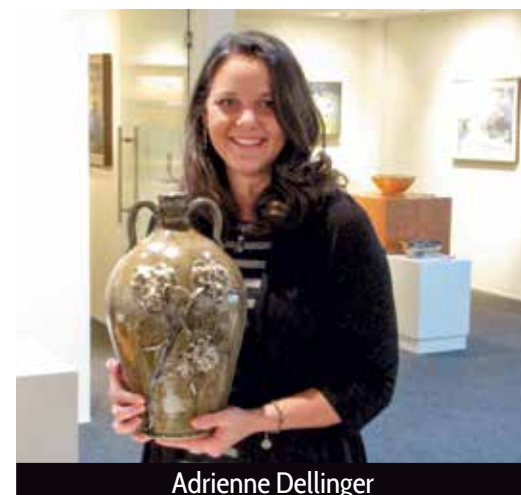


Get Involved: Clayworks
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underserved youths, senior centers, churches and other organizations. "With the kids," Dellinger said, we're trying to introduce them to clay because I think it's important to get them while they are young. We are developing the next generation of art supporters and appreciators."

Dellinger pointed to the main door, where hundreds of feet belonging to artists and students, both young and old, have passed through and will pass through. "We call that door over there the magic door," she said. "You walk through it and you forget about all of your troubles. And you are here to be creative."



Adrienne Dellinger



April Events

Annual Spring Sale
and Open House

April 17, 6p.m.-9p.m.
April 18, 10a.m.-3p.m.

Muddy Fun Day
April 11, 10a.m.-12p.m.

Spring Class Session
April 6 - June 25



THE PRIVATE BANK

This editorial feature is presented to the community by Wells Fargo Private Bank