

Full Circle Pottery, LLC (Studio Policies & Etiquette)

About the Studio

Full Circle Pottery (FCS) is a small (home-based) pottery studio built by Benjamin Gawle in 2014 at 961 S Lake Street in Salt Lake City. Though the space is primarily used as Ben's personal studio, with four pottery wheels, it is just the right size for small classes. Ben studied pottery at Michigan State University and received his Master of Fine Arts in Ceramics from the University of Utah. He has since pursued a career in nursing but continues to teach and regularly create pottery.

Class

Classes are held on Wednesday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for eight weeks. Students are welcome to arrive early and stay late, but this is the timeframe when Ben, your instructor, will be available for demonstrations and questions. Students are encouraged to use the studio during open studio hours to practice and check on their work. Each class includes a 30-minute demonstration introducing a new technique or step in the pottery process, followed by work time with coaching.

Clay

Each student will receive a 25-pound bag of clay. Many students find this amount sufficient for the class session, and more can be purchased if needed. An experienced potter can create around 25 mugs with this quantity of clay. However, beginners often utilize clay less efficiently since their work tends to be heavier, resulting in clay loss during practice.

Each additional 25-lb. bag is \$40, including the glazing and firing costs. Please consult Ben before bringing outside materials into the studio; clay and glaze have a wide range of firing temperatures and may not be compatible with our studio materials and firing process.

Open Studio Hours

Current students are welcome to come to the studio during open studio hours, which are subject to change:

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, Noon – 9:00 p.m.

A calendar is displayed in the studio that indicates when firings are scheduled. The kiln is typically fired twice a month, and due to the extreme studio temperatures and material off-gassing, students should refrain from working in the studio during these times. For

instance, if the kiln is loaded and fired on Sunday, the studio will be closed the following Monday. Although the studio is warmer than usual by Tuesday morning, it remains comfortable and safe.

There is no sign-up process for coming in during open hours; however, if it becomes problematic when too many students are present at once, we will consider implementing a system. Since space is limited, four students can work simultaneously, arriving on a first-come, first-served basis, and any additional arrivals must return at another time. The last person to leave the studio must ensure the lights are off and the sliding glass door is LOCKED before leaving through the north studio door.

Cleaning

Please follow the *Leave No Trace* principle during class or open studio hours.

Depending on studio activities, reserve the last 5-10 minutes for this. Use water and a sponge (no soap) to clean:

- **Surfaces:** Counters, stools, tables, and wedging area
- **Bats:** Clean before returning to the bat rack
- **Tools:** Rinse brushes, remove all clay, and return to tool caddy
- **Wheel:** Remove and replace splash pan if necessary
- **Floor:** Remove large clay scraps with a brush and dustpan (Ben mops weekly)

The sink can become congested at the end of class, so please consider staggered (starting earlier or later) cleanup times.

Food and Beverages

Students are welcome to bring food and beverages into the studio and may also use the refrigerator for community drinks. Students who indulge in community drinks are encouraged to contribute (replenish) at some point.

Friends & Family

Students may briefly bring friends, partners, and children to the studio during open hours outside of class to showcase their work. However, only students are allowed to use the studio space, materials, or equipment. The studio can become crowded quickly, so please avoid bringing others to simply "hang out" while you work for long periods. If you wish for friends or family to use the studio space for an evening, please consult with Ben to make arrangements and cover the appropriate fees.

Firing

FCS has a seven-cubic-foot electric kiln for bisque and glaze firings. The frequency of firings depends on the amount of work, but there is usually one bisque firing and one

glaze firing each month. Bisque firings are conducted at cone 06, while glaze firings reach cone 5-6 with a slow cooling cycle.

Ceramics is an unpredictable process, and final results may differ from expectations. Ceramics can slump, warp, crack, or even explode. Glaze may drip, craze, shiver, or crawl. Students might be pleasantly surprised, devastated, or somewhere in between. FCS is not responsible for flaws or other kiln mishaps, regardless of the time or effort invested in the piece.

Payment

All class and materials fees should be paid to Full Circle Pottery, LLC. Venmo (preferred), cash, or credit/debit cards are accepted.

Safety

Pottery is a relatively safe art form. The main safety concern we aim to address is the inhalation of dry clay dust. Moist clay is harmless. However, when dry clay is sanded or otherwise kicked into the air (for instance, while trimming a dry pot or tracking dry clay throughout the studio), it can become problematic.

Long-term exposure to airborne clay dust can lead to silicosis and pulmonary fibrosis. Please do everything possible to ensure the safety of yourself and others in the studio. Here are a few tips to consider:

- If you *must* trim a bone-dry pot, please soak or spray it with water and continuously hydrate the surface as it dries out.
- If clay is dropped on the floor, please sweep it up and discard it before it is stepped on.
- When sanding (greenware or bisqueware), please use a NIOSH respirator, sand only *outside* the studio, or utilize a wet-sanding technique.

Other studio hazards to consider:

- Scalding hot water: The studio water heater is set to a high temperature to heat the floor. When using the sink, please pull the faucet handle towards you to cool the tap water.
- Dry skin: Clay dries out your skin, especially the backs of your hands. Use lotion (after) and/or a wax-based balm (before) to protect your skin.
- Bat pins: Ensure your wheel has a bat adequately affixed to the wheel head before turning it on.

Renting

Students who wish to continue their pottery journey after an 8-week class can pay \$75 per month for studio access. Clay costs an extra \$40 per bag.

Other Items

- There is a restroom located on the north side of the studio, directly to the right of the main studio door. Please let Ben know if you have any concerns regarding the restroom's conditions.
- Please use street parking on Lake Street or 800 E, near Belmont Ave. You can access the studio through the front or back gates. Avoid parking in the alley or on Belmont Ave.
- Basic studio tools are available. Students are encouraged to bring their own to keep on their shelves.
- Use only plastic or wooden tools on wooden bats, canvas, or plaster surfaces. No metal tools.
- Glaze ware will not be loaded if it presents a high risk of dripping.
- Please sign your work before adding it to the firing rack; you may not be able to recognize it as your own if you don't.
- Most importantly, remain patient, be creative, and have fun!