



**TOLEDO  
POTTERS'  
GUILD**

Toledo Botanical Garden - 5403 Elmer Dr. - Toledo, Ohio 43615 - 419.535.6937

The Toledo Potter's Guild (TPG) was founded in 1951 under the suggestion of the internationally recognized ceramics and glass artist Harvey Littleton, who was then the ceramic instructor at the Toledo Museum of Art School of Design. Early in its history the Guild maintained studio facilities near Toledo's Old West End, and later becoming a resident organization of the Toledo Botanical Garden (TBG), owned by the City of Toledo. TBG is now under the management of Metroparks Toledo. Throughout the years, TPG has provided a working studio for members, educated the public about ceramics, and held sales, workshops and classes.

The goal of the Toledo Potters' Guild is the education of its members and the general public. To meet its goal, the Guild has undertaken several ongoing objectives:

1. To foster an appreciation and understanding of ceramic arts in the general public by presenting exhibitions, workshops, classes and sale of members' work.
2. To support and provide for members' artistic and professional development through workshops, exhibitions and educational programs.
3. To provide a fully functioning studio for members and for the public via classes.

Membership Categories & Requirements for Application

There are three categories of membership: ACTIVE, PROVISIONAL, and SUPPORTING. Applications for membership in the Guild are accepted two times a year — March and September. The application form and submitted work (see below) must be submitted before or on the second Monday of March or September. Applicants are expected to have basic knowledge of the methods of working clay in pottery or sculpture.

ACTIVE: Applicants who have majored in ceramics in school, or have worked in ceramics for an extended period of time, are most often accepted as active members based primarily on the level of craftsmanship exhibited by their 5

submitted ceramic pieces. The working knowledge, refined skill, and craftsmanship of ware, permits these members to participate in the Guild's exhibitions and sales.

PROVISIONAL: Applicants who have only basic skills, and lack an acceptable level of craftsmanship in their ceramics to attain active status, are accepted as provisional members. This status allows individuals to improve their skills and knowledge of working in clay through access to the Guild studio and educational activities. Provisional members are not permitted to participate in Guild exhibitions or sales. Provisional members may have their work reviewed in March or September for possible advancement to Active membership status as their craftsmanship and skills improve.

SUPPORTING: The Supporting category is for individuals who strongly support the goal and objectives of the Guild. However, they cannot use the studio facilities, participate in Guild sales or exhibitions, or vote. They can attend Guild meetings.

All applicants for membership in either the Active or Provisional categories must submit 5 examples of their work and a completed application form to the Guild's Executive Board for review. Actual pieces of finished work are greatly recommended and preferred over photographic images. The review will determine if the applicant's submitted information and examples of work are acceptable for either the Active or Provisional membership categories at the time of application to the Guild. Individuals may have their membership application declined if their work is found to be unacceptable in craftsmanship and/or intended function for the Provisional category. Membership applications are reviewed in early March and September of each calendar year.

### Dues & Fees

Dues are \$130.00 annually for Active and Provisional members, and \$30.00 for Supporting members. New members must also pay an initiation fee of \$20.00. Dues will be pro-rated based on date of application review. Membership dues for the calendar year are due no later than March 1 of that year.

## Guild Activities

The Guild studio at TBG is maintained by the Guild to promote pottery and clay sculpture as fine craft and art. It is a place for members to work and a classroom for students of the Guild. Storage space is not always available upon initial entry as a member, so new members may be asked to transport their work until that shelf space becomes available. Any available space will be allotted according to the date the application is received. Members may use either studio building at any time of the day. However, classes or special activities occurring at the Garden may limit access to the studio buildings. Access to the studio is easiest during the hours that the Garden is open to the public. Members who use the Guild Studios (Buildings #5 & #6) are expected to perform ongoing tasks in the maintenance, cleaning, and operation of the studio.

The Guild schedules a monthly general membership meeting the third Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. except July and August when no meetings are held. Unless one is a supporting member, attendance to at least one meeting a year is required to maintain membership. The meeting focuses on various subjects, including educational programs, planning sessions for Guild sales and exhibits, business procedures and Guild maintenance. Executive Board meetings are held once a month and are open to the general membership.

The Guild also participates in activities held at the Toledo Botanical Garden, and in the TBG Resident Organization Program. TBG has offered the Guild a unique opportunity in having invited it to participate in the Resident Organization Program, which provides the studio building, access to meeting and exhibition space, administrative assistance and public exposure for the Guild.

A membership application is attached (see following pages). Additional information on the Guild and its activities is available at [www.toledopottersguild.org](http://www.toledopottersguild.org), or by writing to the TOLEDO POTTERS' GUILD, 5403 Elmer Drive, Toledo, OH 43615.



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## Membership Application Form

Please Print Your Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Text Messages? (circle one): Yes / No

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer the following questions as comprehensively as possible.

1. Education in ceramics: years of experience, art degrees, number of courses and where i.e. TPG, 577, college, workshops, other (explain).

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2. What are the years in which your submitted pieces were created?

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3. Have you ever exhibited your pottery? (circle one): Yes / No  
If yes, where and when?

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4. Please indicate your experience with studio equipment, i.e. kilns, wheels, extruder, clay mixers, etc.

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5. What are your reasons for seeking membership in the Potters' Guild?

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6. What times are you most likely to use the studio? (circle all that may apply):

Weekday - Morning / Afternoon / Evening

Weekend - Morning / Afternoon / Evening

7. If you will be working at the studios in whole or part, would you require use of any of the following when you initially begin working? (circle all that apply):

Shelf storage / Potters Wheel / Slab Roller / Clay Extruder / Pugmill /

Glaze Mixing Supplies /

Electric kiln (low-medium fire) / Gas fueled kiln (high fire) / Raku (low fire)

8. Approximately how many hours per month can you donate to the Guild for various activities, i.e. committees, building maintenance, equipment maintenance, sales events, workshops, etc.? \_\_\_\_\_ Hours Per Month

Toledo Potters' Guild, Toledo Botanical Garden, 5403 Elmer Dr., Toledo, OH 43615 Phone No.: (419) 535-6937 Website: <a href="http://www.toledopottersguild.org">www.toledopottersguild.org</a>
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