

PRIDE POTS: Community Conversations

Upcoming Exhibitions of the Community Pots:

WCU Fine Art Museum, Faculty Biennial (*excerpts*)

Jan-May 2023

The Clay Studio, Solo Exhibition, Philadelphia, PA

April-May 2023 (During Philly Pride!)

Proceeds from sales of the community pots will help create an endowment for an MFA Studio Arts – Ceramics – Community Engagement Scholarship for an underrepresented student applicant (to help create future community arts events)

Project Founder: Heather Mae Erickson, Associate Professor, WCU

Email: hmerickson@wcu.edu

Follow:


Heather Mae Erickson Ceramic Design (FB)



hmaemaeceramics, wcuceramics, wcusoad, wcumfa, bardoartscenter (Insta)






Western
Carolina
UNIVERSITY





Catalyst Grants



The Catalyst Grants exist to stimulate innovation in several critical areas vital to the future of the David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts (BCFPA):



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Western Carolina University



hmaemaeceramics News Flash!!!! I just received word that Pride Pots: Community Conversation socially engaged project has graciously received a Catalyst Grant through the David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts at Western Carolina University! [#gratitude](#)

This past Saturday we welcomed the community to the Hive for the first event for Pride Pots: Community Conversations. We painted ceramics, engaged in creative placemaking, and

[View insights](#)



Liked by **gordonjen555** and **40 others**

APRIL 25



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More info on the Grant:

<https://www.wcu.edu/learn/departments-schools-colleges/fpa/catalyst-grants.aspx>

David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts

🏠 > Academic Programs & Support > Departments, Schools & Colleges > David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts > Catalyst Grants

Catalyst Grants

The Catalyst Grants exist to stimulate innovation in several critical areas vital to the future of the David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts (BCFPA):

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
- Resilience, Well-being, and Career Preparation
- Enrollment Management
- Curricular Innovation and Development
- Creative Placemaking and Community Engagement
- Audience Education and Development



With a focus on these areas as well as other key initiatives tied to the 2023-2025 BCFPA Strategic Plan, Catalyst Grants are in alignment with [WCU's Strategic Plan: Honoring Our Promise](#) (updated in 2021), and serve to advance the mission of the Belcher College:

To inspire, educate, and train our next generation of artists, scholars, and teachers in the intellectual foundations and creative processes of the fine and performing arts while fostering excellence and artistic curiosity across western North Carolina and beyond.

A Focus on Innovation

These grants are for innovative and impactful initiatives that change the way we engage our world through the arts. Initiative proposals of any budget up to \$10,000 will be considered; please see the Criteria and Guidelines document for full details.



Love the arts?

Invest in the students and programs in the College of Fine and Performing Arts!





Pride Pots: Community Conversations
Socially Engaged Art Project
Heather Mae Erickson Ceramic Design
April 23-May 10, 2022
569 Mill Street. Sylva, NC

We welcome the community to the Hive for the first event for Pride Pots: Community Conversations. We will be painting ceramics, engaging in creative placemaking, and helping to foster safe spaces for belonging.

Heather Mae Erickson Ceramic Design will have various events throughout WNC for those interested in taking part in the project. The culmination of the work will be exhibited at The Clay Studio, Philadelphia, PA towards the end of 2023. Each member of the community who takes part in in Pride Pots will be honored as a collaborator. Proceeds from the sales of the work will be applied toward creating an endowed scholarship in the Western Carolina University's School of Art & Design's MFA in Studio Arts Program in the David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts. The goal for this newly created scholarship is to provide financial support to an underrepresented candidate in the MFA Program who also has interests in ceramics, service-learning, and community engagement.



For more information:
Jen Gordon, Hive Director
gordonjen555@gmail.com

To follow project:
heathermaeerickson.com
Instagram: hmaemaeceramics

Pride Pots: Community Conversations
Pop-Up Survey Exhibition
Heather Mae Erickson Ceramic Design
April 23-May 10, 2022
569 Mill Street. Sylva, NC



Past Event with Haywood Arts Council – 1st LGBTQ+ exhibition for Haywood Arts Council:



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hmaemaeceramics Reception tomorrow night for Living with Pride Exhibit, June 3 - 26, 2022. A visual arts exhibit sharing the stories & experiences of queer life in Southern Appalachia.

Special Event:

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! Visit HaywoodArts.org

An Enchanted Evening with Pride, June 30, 5 – 7 pm.
Join in the discussion. get your hands dirty and make a pride

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Liked by [gordonjen555](#) and 15 others

JUNE 2



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HaywoodArts.org
info@HaywoodArts.org
(828) 452-0593
86 N. Main Street
PO Box 306
Waynesville, NC 28786



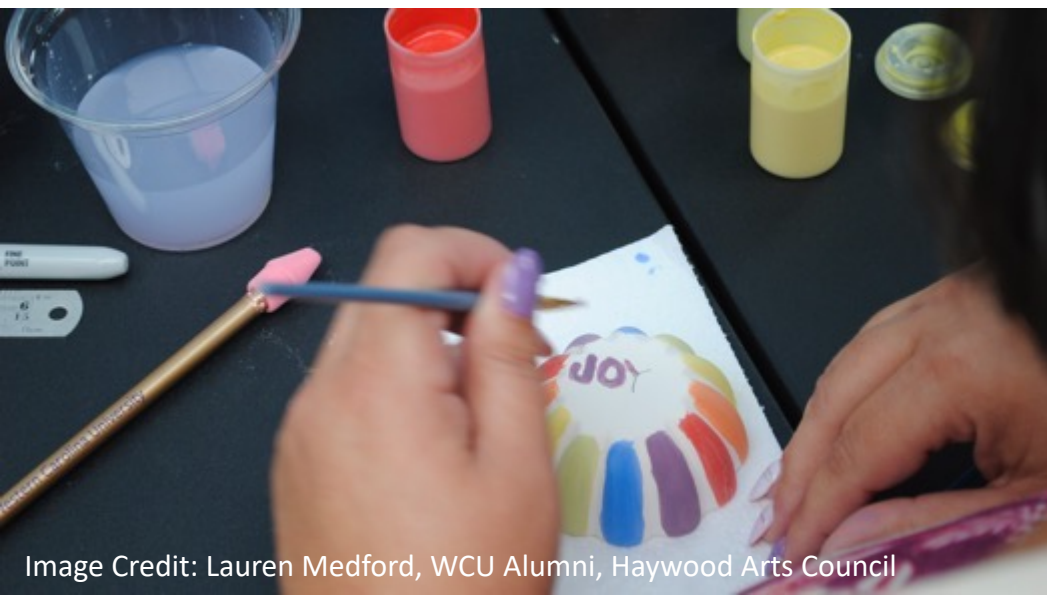
meet the makers

brought to you by HAYWOOD COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

Participate in an enchanted event with visual artists, interesting hosts, live performers, delish snacks, and more at four exclusive events per year.



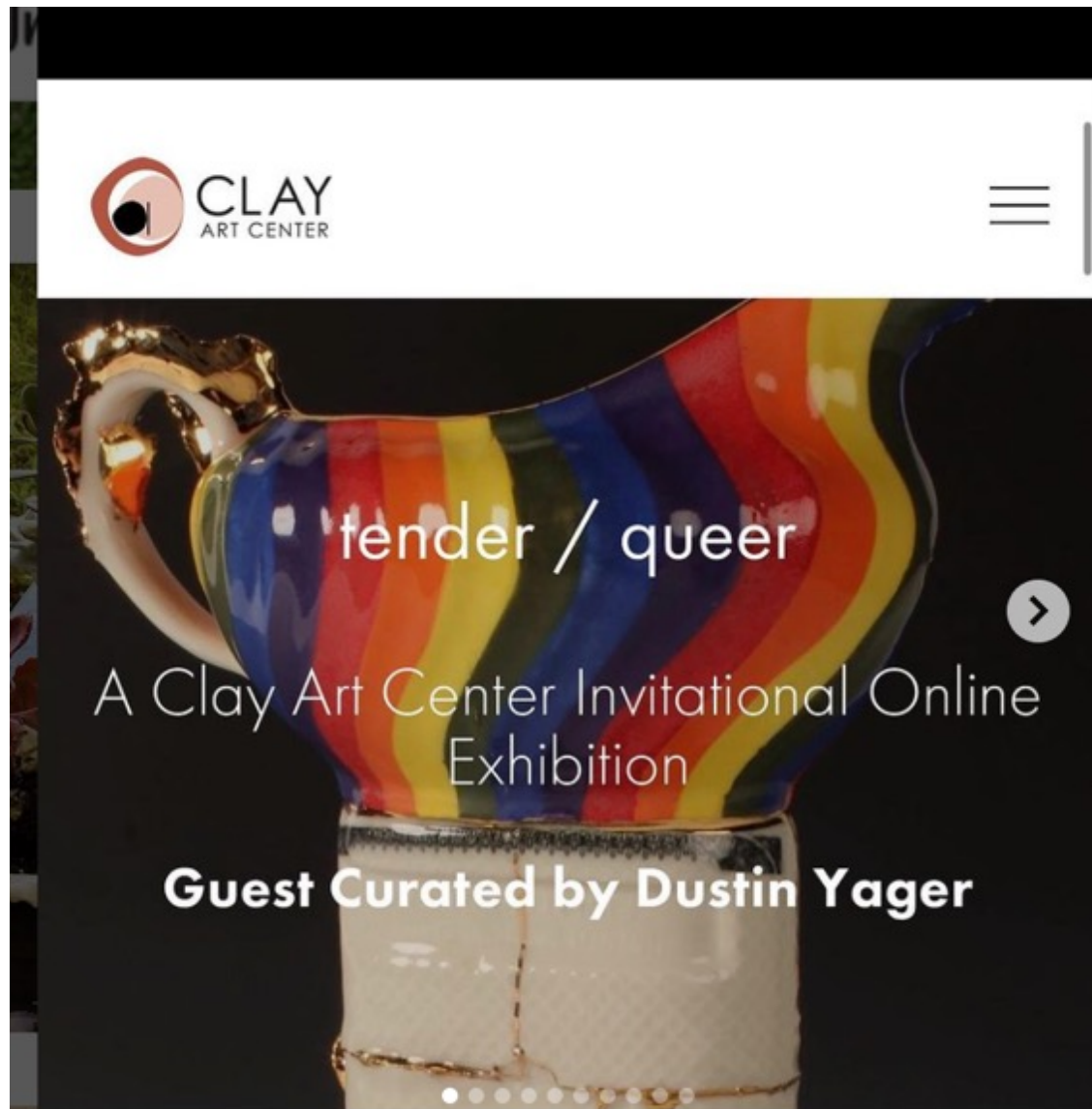
Heather Mae Erickson





Exhibition with HME's Pride Pots at the Clay Art Center, Port Chester, NY

ONLINE VIRTUAL TALK: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfNbEZHM1cl&list=PLDTYBUGjGe_1kf1b6ptKpJ_xlKgXsrAYK



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Clay Art Center



hmaemaeceramics Check out the Clay Art Center Invitational Online Exhibition: tender / queer that just opened! Thank you to the Clay Art Center for hosting and thank you to guest curator Dustin Yager for including me in this important exhibition!

<https://www.clayartcenter.org/tender-queer>

[@itmustbedustiny](#) [@clayartcenter](#)

[View insights](#)



Liked by **workingmancollective** and **60 others**

JUNE 6



Add a comment...

Post



hmaemaeceramics Pride Pots: Community Conversations is expanding daily. Here is a summer section of Art104: Intro Visual Arts with [@jennyfisher6955](#) [@western_carolina](#) taking part in the conversation! So far we have had 76 collaborating community member/artists collaborate! I wonder how many we will have total by next years Pride Pots exhibition during Philly Pride at The Clay Studio?!

If you are interested in taking part in the project (by painting a pot or in other possible ways) please message me. If you are interested in potentially hosting a Pride Pots party or event I am now scheduling various sized events in and surrounding the WNC region.



#pridepotscommunityconversations #pridepotscollection
#pridepots @western_carolina @wcuc ceramics @wcusoad
@wnc_lgbtqia @bardoartscenter #pride🌈 #pride2022
#pridemonthevermonth #wncpride #wncprideart #wncprideceramics

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Liked by [sethechlin](#) and 31 others





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WCU Bardo Arts Center



hmaemaeceramics Pride Pots: Community Conversations is expanding daily @western_carolina and @artpollinatorhive

Jr. High/HS Art Campers glazed Pride Pots! You all rock!

If you are interested in taking part in the project please message me. If you are interested in hosting a Pride Pots party or event I am starting to schedule small and larger events.



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@wnc_lgbtqia @bardoartscenter #pride🌈 #pride2022
#pridemonth #lgbtart #queer #queerart #gayceramics
#cullowhee #cullowheenc #gaypride #lesbianart
#queerceramics #socialpractice #socialpracticeart #safezone
#belonging #sociallyengagedart #collaborativeart
#ceramiclearning @SpeedballCeramics @wnc ceramiclearning

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Liked by sethechlin and 53 others

JUNE 19

Upcoming Community Events:

Sylva Pride

Saturday, September 10, 2022

Cocke County's 1st Pride Event

Saturday, September 17, 2022

(a county on the eastern border of the U.S. state of Tennessee – event created because of Pride Pots!!!!)

Blue Ridge Pride (Asheville)

Saturday, September 24, 2022

Sylva Community Table – Empty Bowls + Pride Pots Collaboration

Friday, October 7, 2022

Booked Private Event:

WCU School of Social Work - Faculty and Staff Retreat

Tuesday, August 16, 2022 (9-10am)

Booking in Progress:

WCU school of Teaching & Learning – Faculty and Staff

TBD

Currently in conversation with or have reached out to:

Southwestern Community College, Ceramics Art Club contact: Jeff Marley, WCU Alumni (HME)

SAGA, WCU Club (Jenna)

SGA, WCU Student Government Association (Jenna)

Cornbread & Roses, Sylva, NC (HME)

Tranzmission, AVL (Jenna)

Red Roses Commission (a LGBTQIA Arts Commission in Atlanta) (Jenna)

Gender Benders, Spartanburg, SC (Jenna)

Southern Fried Queer Pride, Atlanta and Durham (Jenna)

Clemson University – Ceramics (HME, fall event, tbd)

Hub and Heights (Brent McCoy, Alumni)

WCU Intercultural Affairs (HME)

Possible connections with:

Nashville Pride (Jenna's mom)



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Collaborators – Sara Steiner and Travis Roundtree and the WCU LGBTQ Archives

We will showcase the LGBTQ Archives in Philly at the Clay Studio Pride Pots: Community Conversations exhibition to help tell our story!

WCU LGBTQ Archive partner with UNC-Asheville and the non-profit organization Blue Ridge Pride to create a regional archive of LGBTQ oral histories and ephemera.

The Western Carolina University LGBTQ Archive: Jackson County Collection was established in Fall 2019 with the collection of Western North Carolina drag performer oral narratives by Sarah Steiner, head of research and instruction services and associate professor, Hunter Library. In Spring 2019, Dr. Travis A. Roundtree, assistant professor of English and Dr. Erin Callahan, associate professor of English, joined Steiner in the writing of a successful Provost Grant that has allowed them to expand the archive with the help of WCU undergraduate students.

Article on the Archives:

<https://southernappalachiandigitalcollections.org/browse/collections/lgbtq-archive-of-jackson-county>

Archives:

<https://southernappalachiandigitalcollections.org/browse/search/search/ac-collection:lgbtq-archive-of-jackson-county>





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hmaemaeceramics Pride Pot in progress! A tribute to the late Chancellor Belcher 💖

Pride Pots: Community Conversations is expanding daily
@western_carolina and @artpollinatorhive



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#queerceramics #socialpractice #socialpracticeart #safezone
#belonging #sociallyengagedart #collaborativeart
#servicelearning @SpeedballCeramics @wcuservicelearning

5w

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JUNE 18

Pride Pots Assistants:

Jen Gordon, WCU MFA Candidate and Director of The Hive, Sylva, NC

Jenna Orbeck, WCU undergraduate, Recreation Therapy (major), Studio Arts (minor)

Mary Grace (MG) Grube, Smoky Mountain High School, rising sophomore

Barrett Yanik, Smoky Mountain High School, rising freshman

Autumn Hinton, Smoky Mountain High School, rising senior

Hopefully more to come in the fall!



Image: Heather Mae Erickson, right, Jen Gordon, MFA Grad Assistant, left



hmaemaeceramics It is my pleasure to introduce my second [@smokymountainhighschool](#) Pride Pots Assistant, Barrett [@blah_boo_barrett](#) Yanik. She is an incoming freshman and is pictured here with upper class student, MG Gruby. We had such a fun day talking about high school advice, upcoming Pride Pots events, and issues surrounding non-acceptance in our community. I am wholeheartedly enjoying these young people and am glad to have the privilege of giving them a safe space to create and be who ever they are meant to be. They are teaching me so much as well. They rock!!!! [@wesleyjeanne](#) [@middleagedhikingmama](#) [@dpgrube](#)

Edited · 3w



mbpalleyceramics You are one amazing woman.

3w 1 like Reply



wesleyjeanne ❤️❤️❤️ Barrett Yanik. Thank you for giving

[View insights](#)



Liked by **sethechlin** and **74 others**

JULY 6



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WCU Bardo Arts Center



hmaemaeceramics Pride Pots: Community Conversations has a high school assistant! Introducing MG Grube who had her first day on the project and painted their first Pride Pot with her momma, Dean AJ Grube of the WCU College of Business!

Today I began casting and am excited to get the project going in full force.

If you are interested in taking part in the project please message me. If you are interested in hosting a Pride Pots party or event I am starting to schedule small and larger events.



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#cullowhee #cullowheecore #gaypride #lgbtiart

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JUNE 14

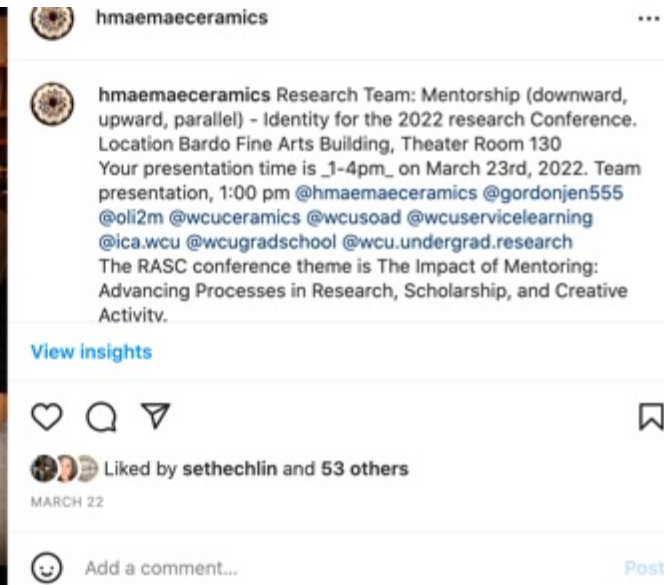
Student/Faculty Research Team Presentation Link:

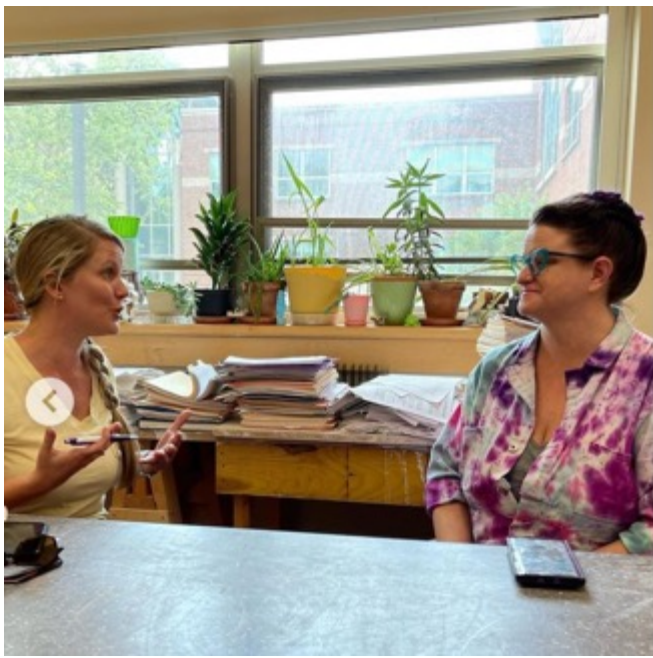
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwC_eKzyd7Q

Impact of Mentoring: Advancing Processes in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (WCU)

Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC Research and Scholarship Conference wcu.edu/RASC Faculty-Student Featured Presentation (March 23, 2022) Moderator: Dr. Brian Kloeppe, Dean of the Graduate School and Research CONCURRENT SESSION 2: Bardo Arts Center Theater, Room 130 Identity: Faculty-Student Mentorship Faculty Mentor: Associate Professor Heather Mae Erickson **Student Mentees: Jen Gordon & Ollie Morrison**

Mentoring relationships are vital to the advancement of knowledge and part of the process to advance a discipline's collective expertise, skills, and techniques to the next generation, yet it is often understated and poorly acknowledged. The 2022 Research and Scholarship Conference wishes to highlight the impact of mentoring in research, scholarship, and creative activities that faculty-student mentoring teams have advanced.





hmaemaeceramics Another amazing day in the ceramics studio @western_carolina with Pride Pots: Community Conversations project. Image 1: undergraduate, studio arts major and Veteran Matt Shipley with his 1st Pride Pot, Image 2: Newest @smokymountainhighschool Pride Pots Assistant Autumn Hinton @autumnn.hintonn on her first day working with us on the project, Image 3: Kloo Hanson, from the office of Undergraduate Research with WCU undergrad assistant, Jenna Orbeck, Recreation Therapy major and Studio Arts minor in a meeting to prep for our upcoming research

[View insights](#)



Liked by [ron_laboray_studio](#) and 17 others

20 HOURS AGO



Project Underglaze Sponsorship – North Carolina's - Speedball



<https://www.speedballart.com/our-product-lines/speedball-ceramics/speedball-underglazes/>



+

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Heather Mae Erickson Ceramic Design

Pride Pots

Portfolio and Works in Progress

Few fun links

WCU Faculty Bio:

<https://www.wcu.edu/faculty/hmerickson.aspx>

Wiki:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heather_Mae_Erickson

Podcast Series with Intercollegiate Research Team:

TILT Talk E2: Wholehearted Teaching: Authenticity, Self-Care & Gratitude

Duration: 00:22:33 | Recorded on September 27, 2021

<https://tigerlearn.fhsu.edu/podcast/15727/>

Nights at the Museum. Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art
Video:

vimeo.com/100060894

●

Philadelphia Freedom was created in remembrance of my time as a Resident Artist at The Clay Studio in Philadelphia, PA from 2006-2009. The body of the piece is reminiscent of the Century (Centennial) Vase which was created for the U.S. Centennial Expo which was held in Philly in 1976. Philadelphia Freedom honors one of our Founding Fathers, known as the nation's first gay friendly ambassador, maker, inventor and entrepreneur. 2006 marked Franklin's 300th birthday known as the tercentenary. He aided with escapes from prosecution and also printed the first homoerotic publication.

Heather Mae Erickson, 2020





Philadelphia Freedom, 2020



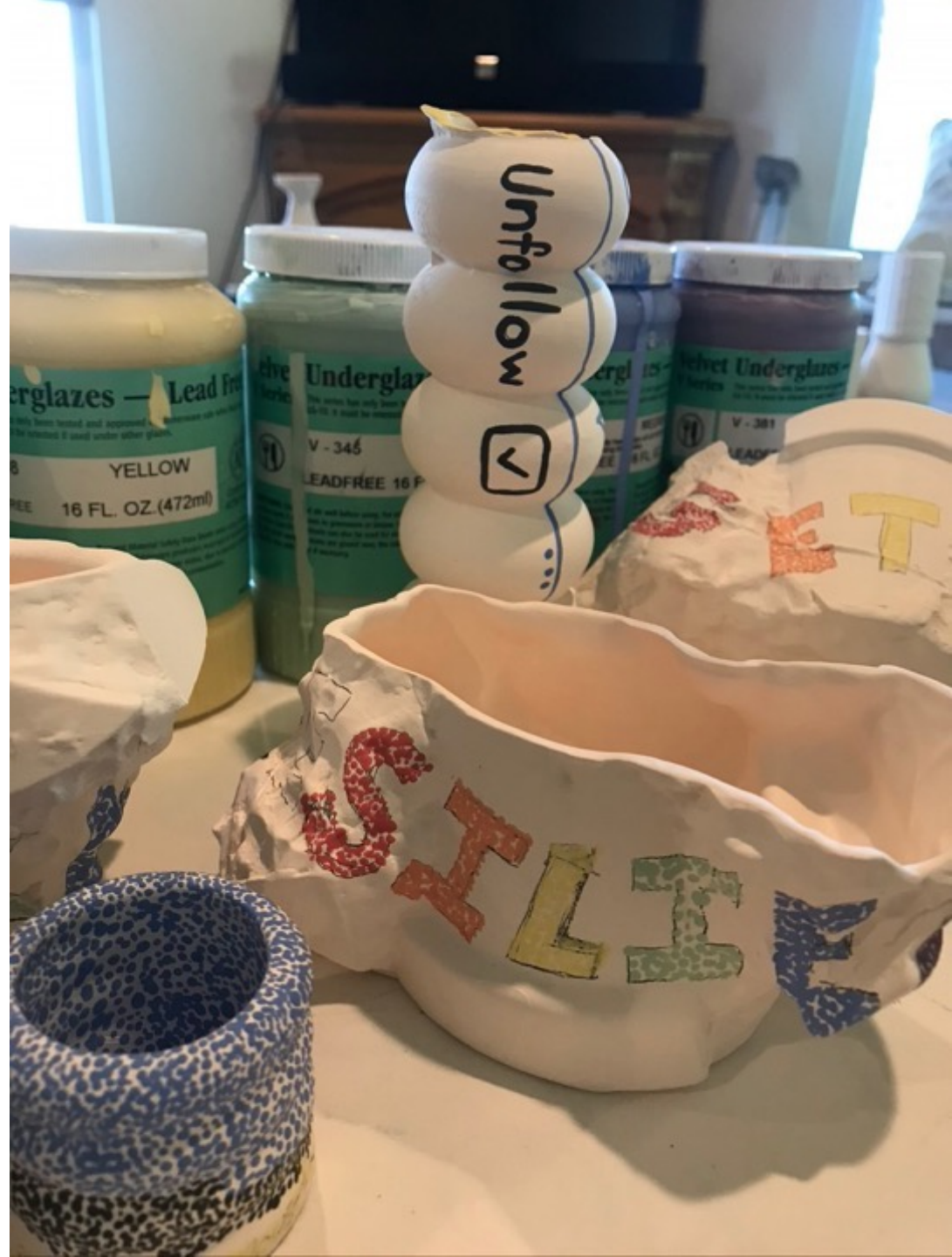






Pride Pots: United, Together, Resilient

Heather Mae Erickson, 2020-2021





Pride Pots

What we reveal

What we keep hidden

