

Residents Experience Art through Extension

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

 University of
Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



Open Pottery Classes Provide Opportunities for Residents to Express Artistic Creativity

Extension enriches lives with hands-on, high-quality arts experiences and instruction.

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It starts with us



The Extension Arts Center has been serving Southern Kentucky artists and residents since 2012 in **Whitley County**. Whitley County Extension Community Arts Center provides quality access to the arts in Williamsburg. When community members expressed a desire to receive hands-on arts engagement opportunities in ceramics, the Arts Extension program launched its Community Pottery Studio. In response, two local artists donated studio equipment including a potters' wheel, two kilns, and a clay mill to support the program.

Professional potters provide weekly hands-on instruction in the Open Pottery Studio, allowing residents of all ages and experience levels to learn techniques in hand-building, wheel-throwing, and glazing clay. Over the past five years, 80 youth and 200 adults have received direct skill-building training and over 900 Whitney County youth have learned pottery creation process through demonstrations from teaching artists. By conducting the program during after-school hours, youth and adults have the opportunity to learn from each other in a

multi-generational format as well as from the instructor. Evaluations indicate that 95% of participants found the program was inviting to all ages, provided an opportunity for peer-learning and interaction, and allowed a positive, educational social experience. Seventy-five percent of participants value the location of the Extension Arts Center, and would normally have to travel outside the county for a comparable arts experience.

The mission of Arts Extension is to create and support opportunities for Kentucky residents to stimulate creativity, engage in social opportunities, and to nourish relationships with artists, arts educators, and arts supporters at all levels and mediums. The Whitley County Extension Arts Center establishes a nurturing environment for community residents to gain positive community-building experiences and increase personal quality of life by expressing and exploring their own art creativity.

The Extension Community Arts Center in Williamsburg provides positive social interaction, increased exposure and economic encounters for Southern Kentucky residents and artists. Extension continues to building more ties between artists and residents through their county programming.

"Participating in this program has given our clients at the adult care center the opportunity to have increased social activity, enhance their motor skills, and even create products to sell to raise money. They look forward to class each week and are benefiting from the engagement they receive."

Adult Care Coordinator