

Update 3/27/20

Clay Studio of Missoula Members and Studio Artists

Our facility is closed starting 12:01am Saturday, March 28 through Friday, April 10. This closure is subject to extension, based on directives set forth by the State of Montana and/or the City of Missoula. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLAY STUDIO OF MISSOULA IS CONSIDERED A NON-ESSENTIAL BUSINESS.** Therefore, we ask that all members, staff and students abide by state mandated Stand-in-Place provisions.

Under the directive, Montanans may leave their homes for essential activities, including:

- **For health and safety.** *To engage in activities or perform tasks essential to their health and safety, or to the health and safety of their family or household members (including, but not limited to, pets), such as, by way of example only and without limitation, seeking emergency services, obtaining medical supplies or medication, or visiting a health care professional.*
- **For necessary supplies and services.** *To obtain necessary services or supplies for themselves and their family or household members, or to deliver those services or supplies to others, such as, by way of example only and without limitation, groceries and food, household consumer products, **supplies they need to work from home**, and products necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences*
- **For outdoor activity.** *To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with social distancing, as defined below, such as, by way of example and without limitation, walking, hiking, running, or biking. Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas, including public lands in Montana provided they remain open to recreation. Montanans are discouraged from outdoor recreation activities that pose enhanced risks of injury or could otherwise stress the ability of local first responders to address the COVID-19 emergency (e.g., backcountry skiing in a manner inconsistent with avalanche recommendations or in closed terrain).*
- **For certain types of work.** *To perform work providing essential products and services at Essential Businesses or Operations or to otherwise carry out activities specifically permitted in this Directive, including Minimum Basic Operations.*

- **To take care of others.** *To care for a family member, friend, or pet in another household, and to transport family members, friends, or pets as allowed by this Directive.*

Questions We Can Answer Now:

Can I come in and work?

Unfortunately, what we offer is not deemed as essential product and service at an Essential Businesses or Operation.

Can I still access my supplies and work?

The State of Montana still permits that you can go somewhere to obtain *supplies you need to work from home.*

I would like to continue my rental though April and/or have already pre-paid. What should I do?!?

Once we are able to open to limited access again, we will let you know, and pro-rate and credit accordingly based on our re-opening date for Studio Artist Access.

Any individual who cannot access the space at all during the month of April due to health and safety concerns can “pause” their rental for the entire month. If you need that provision, please send us an email to info@theclaystudioofmissoula.org so we can make note of it. As usual we will update everyone with changes. This situation has been extremely unpredictable, and we are doing our best to share information as we receive it and to adapt to policies that prioritize the health and safety of our community.

If you have not yet paid overdue March rent, please contact us for payment instructions as the best means of payment can be conducted online (info@theclaystudioofmissoula.org). We truly appreciate it and want to continue to being a resource for you and the rest of our community.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Please visit our Adult Class

3/15/20 GENERAL UPDATE

March 15, 2020

Dear Friends of the Clay Studio of Missoula,

We made the unfortunate, but very necessary decision today (Sunday) to cancel the final class meetings for all current Wintersession classes. Starting Monday, March 16, will be closed to the public for at least the next two weeks, and possibly longer.

We are also postponing our annual fundraiser, Potsketch, which was scheduled to happen April 11, with a preview reception on March 20. As I knew this past week this would be our likely course of action, we will also not be holding the preview reception and exhibit as scheduled. We will be discussing rescheduling the event later this year, or moving to an online platform if that is what is necessary.

- If you are a Potsketch event sponsor, ticket holder, or participating artist, please be patient as we will be in touch with you soon regarding our next steps.
- If you are enrolled in a Spring Session course (classes starting March 30 or after), we will be sending out an email sometime this week about our future plans for these classes as we know for we will at least be postponing the start dates, shortening the session, or canceling entirely. This of course all depends how the coming days and weeks go, and subject to change at a moment's notice.
- If you are a renting studio artist, we will be sending a notice separately to you regarding access policies.

Please bear with us as we are dealing with plans of action in a certain order.

This has been a tough and heartbreaking week for all of us, and a huge blow to all the small businesses and organizations in Missoula and beyond. But above all, we value the safety of our community members.

Thank you so much for your patience and understanding. Be well.

Shalene Valenzuela
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