

Dear,

If we haven't met, I'm Herrick H. Smith, a Husband, Father, Artist, and Educator in St. Augustine, FL. Together with my wife Laura, we also operate Smith Works Studios, a creative space in the historic uptown neighborhood.

Our studio mission is to promote artistic excellence, innovation, and creativity across media in our community through instruction and creation, to engage creatively with conceptually complex issues, and promote authenticity of human engagement and beauty in genuine interaction.

To support this mission, we are embarking on a journey to construct an Anagama-style Woodfired Kiln in St. Augustine, FL. This unique kiln will be the only one of this kind in Northeast Florida and Southern Georgia. I am writing to seek your consideration of support in funding the construction of this kiln Seen to the right in profile.

This special kiln produces entirely unique work and its construction will depend on a community of people working together to achieve a shared artistic goal.

During graduate school, I participated in many firings in this style and studied alternative kiln design. After the main chamber of our kiln, the combustion gasses will pass through a brick lattice creating extra turbulence and a kiln that is smokeless during firing. This firing style gets the pottery so hot that the wood ash fluxes the silica in the clay and creates the glazed surface from just those two materials!

To achieve our vision, By July 2024, we are seeking a total funding amount of \$19,565 for the cost of a concrete slab and lumber for the shed. The concrete slab will be built by a local contractor and we have already broken ground! The construction of the kiln itself will be completed in a workshop-style format with community members and stakeholders working together to build and sustain the kiln. Over past several years, all of the bricks -over 5,000- have been purchased by the studio.

To date, we have submitted building plans to the City of St. Augustine and they have issued construction permits. Also, through our website, the workshop has been advertised with participants already registering! The only barrier now is funding. This kiln will make a significant impact on our regional arts community, and your support would be greatly appreciated. Direct donations may be made payable to **Smith Works Studios**. Support in-kind and support through purchase of my work is also welcome! To make an in-kind donation please reach out to herrickhs@bellsouth.net

Thank you for your time and consideration of this project.

Follow this QR code for kiln-building workshop info!

Sincerely,

Herrick H. and Laura Smith



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