



SOCIAL NARRATIVE

A Guide to Taking a Class at NCC

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GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION

Address: 2424 Franklin Avenue East, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Northern Clay Center is located one block south of the 25th and Riverside exit off Interstate 94.



CONTACT INFORMATION

612.339.8007 | nccinfo@northernclaycenter.org | northernclaycenter.org

WHERE TO PARK

- There is a student/gallery visitor parking lot. It is located on the west side of the building. I can enter Franklin Ave or 24th Street. If I need one, there are two accessible parking spots. I know that I can also park on the street.
- I cannot park in the back of the building off 23rd, that is staff and studio artist parking.



HOW CAN I GET THERE?

- I can take a bus, the lightrail or ride my bike
- Northern Clay Center is located near Twin Cities Metropolitan Transit System route 2.
- I can take the METRO Blue Line to Franklin Avenue Station. The building is located 6 to 7 blocks east along Franklin Ave. from the station.
- There is a place to lock up my bike in front of the gallery doors on Franklin Ave.



ON-SITE RESOURCES

- We have two accessible wheels for those who use wheelchairs and a standing wheel.
- NCC is ADA compliant and is entirely wheelchair accessible.
- Contact us at least two weeks in advance if there are other accommodations we can provide.
- For signed interpretation, please allow us three weeks in advance to request an interpreter.



INTRODUCTION TO NCC CLASSES

- I registered for a class at Northern Clay Center. During this class, I will create ceramic pieces with the help of my instructor, who is also a working artist. They will teach me how to create functional and sculptural artwork out of clay, how to clean up, and everything in between. I know they are there to teach me and to answer my questions throughout the term.



WHAT TO BRING TO CLASS

- I will bring a 16 to 32 oz. yogurt container or a bucket. I will bring my pottery tool kit which I bought from an art store or borrowed from a friend. If I didn't get the kit before class starts, I can buy a tool kit when I check in for the first night of class. I can pay with cash, use Apple pay, or a credit card. I can put my tools in my yogurt container or put them in another container, like a tackle or toolbox. I have a small hand towel and an apron from home, if I choose to wear one.
- I can bring a water bottle to class and fill it up at the water fountain in the education hallway. I passed the water fountain on my way to the studios.



WHAT TO WEAR

- I am wearing clothes that can get clay on them, and I wear my close-toed shoes. I am not wearing any loose clothing that could get caught on pottery equipment and if I have long hair, I brought something to tie it back with. When wheel throwing, one leans in and long hair can sometimes get in the way.



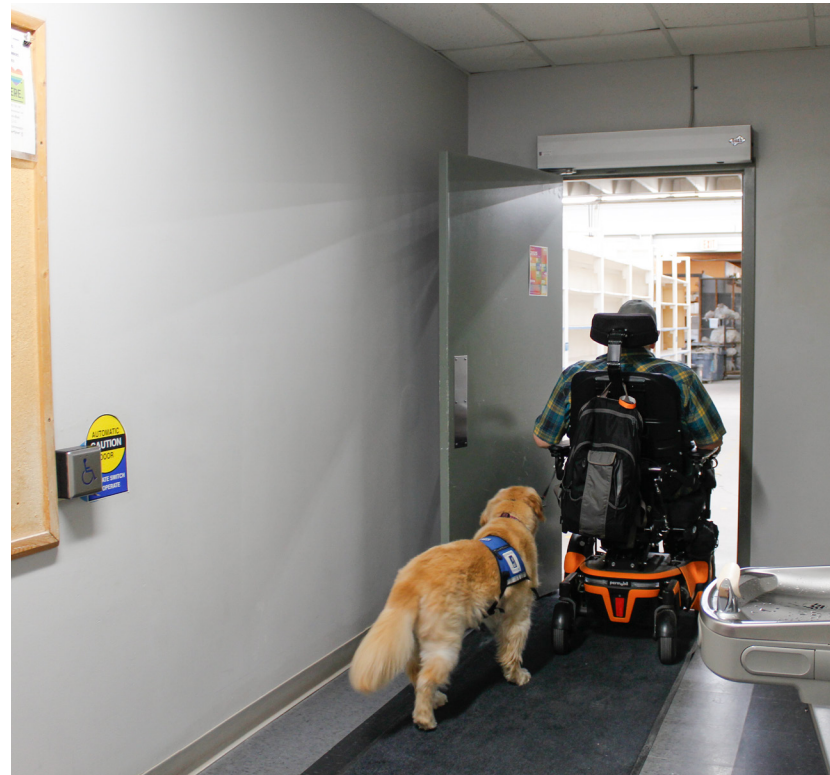
ENTERING THE BUILDING FOR A CLASS

- I enter through the door located on the west side of the building. There is a keypad. Each term, students receive a new code in their registration confirmation email. I have my code with me. I know I can pull up the email the education department sent for reference. I use this every time I enter the building.
- If I enter the code wrong, I can wait ten seconds and re-enter.
- If I forget my code and it is during gallery hours (10 am – 5 pm, Tuesday – Sunday, open late on Thursdays until 7 pm), I can walk through the gallery. If the gallery is closed and I cannot locate my code, I won't be able to get into the building.
- The door is accessible: put the code in and then press the accessible door-opening button.



EDUCATION HALLWAY

- Upon entering, right in front of me I see a display case with ceramics inside. The door to the right is the office. The office is open Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. The community bulletin board is to the left. Across from the bulletin board are two gendered restrooms and a water fountain.
- At the end of the hall is the door to the studios where my class is held. There is an accessible door-opening button located on the left wall.



RESTROOMS

- In the education hallway there is a men's restroom and a women's restroom. In the men's bathroom there is one stall, a urinal, and a sink. In the women's bathroom there are two stalls and a vanity with two sinks.
- NCC also has two single-stall, accessible restrooms for people of all genders located near the gallery.
- If I have to use the bathroom, I get all the clay off my hands before I go, using the sink in the classroom studio and paper towels or my hand towel. The sinks in the restrooms cannot handle clay down the drains. I don't have to let the instructor know I am using the bathroom; I can just go.



FIRST DAY OF CLASS CHECK-IN

- Check-in starts 15 minutes before class and ends 15 minutes after class starts, so I do not have to worry if I am running a little late.
- I walk through the studio door to sign in with staff at the fuchsia check-in bar. There might be a line or several people waiting to check in.
- There will be a mix of people, some who know each other and others who do not. Everyone is welcome.
- At check-in, I give staff my name, and they check me off the list. Another staff member helps me choose a shelf in the hallway between the studios. If I have difficulty bending down, I might want a shelf in the middle rows. If I am short, a top shelf might be hard to reach.
- I can also rent a locker for \$8 per term and must bring my own lock. Lockers are first come, first served, but most students find a shelf is enough. If I want an available locker, I can pay at check-in with cash, card, or Apple Pay.



WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE FIRST CLASS

- During the first class, the teacher will give me an overview of the term and give me a lot of information about our class, the organization, and some do's and don'ts. I might not be able to take everything in. I can ask questions for clarification throughout the term. I can ask my instructor, staff in the education department, or my fellow students. The teacher will take us on a tour of the space, highlighting the clay cage.
- I will also receive my clay punch card, and I will get a bag of clay on the first day of class.
- In beginner classes, there will be up to 13 other students of varying skill levels. In advanced classes, there will be up to 13 other students of varying skill levels. It is okay that different skill levels are in the same class, I can learn from my fellow students.
- Learning a new skill in a new space can raise some questions. I can ask my fellow classmates or my instructor for additional help. I can even ask my instructor or a fellow student to watch me throw and see if they have any suggestions.



CLAY PUNCH CARD

- I receive my clay punch card on the first day of class from my instructor. I cannot lose this. If I do, I will have to purchase a \$33 firing fee in addition to the clay cost.
- My instructor will walk me through the clay punch card process and give the class a tour of the clay cage.



STUDIOS

- There are four studios in which classes are held. At check in, staff will help me find my studio.
- If I am taking a hand building class, I am in Studio C. After checking in, I head to Studio C and sit at a stool around any table and set my tools in front of me.
- If I am taking a wheel class, I will be in Studio A or B, maybe D. After checking in, I head to the studio and sit at a wheel. I set my tools down either in front of the wheel or on the ground next to me. I can hang my personal items on the hook behind the wheel, or I can hang my coat up on the coat hanger when I check in.
- There are two taller wheels, one is for throwing standing up or sitting on a higher stool and the other is for people who use wheelchairs or prefer an adjustable wheel.



INTRODUCTION TO OPEN STUDIO

- One of the great things about taking a class at Northern Clay Center is that open studio access is included with tuition. This means I can work on projects and practice skills between class sessions if I choose.
- Open studio hours rarely change, but I can check the current schedule online under “Student Info” or on the studio bulletin boards. Hours are the same during Fall, Winter, and Spring but change during Summer due to Clay Camps. Open studio may also be unavailable during special events, such as Winter Open House.
- During office hours, technicians are available to answer questions about clay, glaze, wheels, and the studios. During evenings and weekends, studio monitors are available to sell clay and help in an emergency. I can also ask them to watch from the door as I walk to my car at night.



OPEN STUDIO HOURS FOR FALL, WINTER & SPRING TERMS (SEPTEMBER TO MAY)

- Mondays: 4:30 to 9 pm
- Tuesdays: 9 am to midnight
- Wednesdays: 9 am to 9 pm
- Thursdays: 9 am to midnight
- Fridays: 9 am to 9 pm
- Saturday and Sunday: 9 am to 9 pm



OPEN STUDIO HOURS FOR SUMMER (JUNE TO AUGUST)

- Mondays: 4:30 to 9 pm
- Tuesdays: 4:30 pm to midnight
- Wednesdays: 4 4:30 to 9 pm
- Thursdays: 4:30 pm to midnight
- Fridays: 4:30 to 9 pm
- Saturday and Sunday: 9 am to 9 pm



HOW TO ACCESS OPEN STUDIO

- After my first class, I can take advantage of open studio time. To access open studio, I enter the education door using my keypad number for the term. I can use any studio that is empty, including studio D. There is no sink in Studio D, but I can use the sink in another studio to fill my bucket/yogurt container and to clean my wheel.
- There are a lot of “regulars” but that is okay. I can find an open wheel or open table to do my work. I can wear headphones if I want to. My clay and tools are on my shelf, so I am ready to go.
- When I am done with my time at open studio, I clean up my space like I do in class.

