STORIES POTTERS TELL:
DOCUMENTING CLAY AND COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA’S ST. CROIX VALLEY
Vision: A culture in which craftsmanship is embraced for its contributions to community, economy, and human fulfillment.

Mission: We champion craft.

Janel Jacobson, potter
THE AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL LIBRARY

- Preservation
- Dissemination
- Education
- Storytelling
POTTERY TOUR
SIGNIFICANCE

50+ participating potters

23 years & counting

4-5,000 visitors annually

Influence on local/regional/national ceramic arts
SELECTING SUBJECTS & IDENTIFYING FUNDERS

10 Interviews with nine artists & one craft scholar

$10,000 State Arts Board grant

2 Oral historians

1 Marantz digital recorder

Partnership with the Minnesota Digital Library

Warren MacKenzie, potter
PROJECT ORGANIZATION

Phase 1: Background research

Phase 2: Interviews

Phase 3: Transcription

Phase 4: Review & Edit

Phase 5: Publication
REVELATORY THEMES

- Correlation between politics & pottery
- "Minnesota Potter" as identity
- Community-driven marketplace
- Unique geographic & cultural location lends to potters' success
Minnesota Reflections

All Collections

American Craft Council
The American Craft Council (ACC) is a national, nonprofit educational organization dedicated to promoting understanding and appreciation of contemporary American craft. The ACC Library maintains the most comprehensive collection of print and visual material on American studio craft in the country, including books, catalogues, periodicals... more...

American Swedish Institute
The American Swedish Institute, a historic museum dedicated to the celebration of Swedish culture, is home to collections on the history of Swedish immigration to the United States, particularly immigration to Minnesota, Swedish-American life and culture and the history and culture of Sweden as it has influenced Swedish America. The... more...

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
The Amherst H. Wilder Foundation is a non-profit health and human services organization founded by a philanthropic Saint Paul businessman, Amherst H. Wilder and his family. For more than 100 years, Wilder has combined direct service, research, and community development to address the needs of the most vulnerable people in... more...
PROJECT PITFALLS

Scheduling

Transcription

Technology
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Expected Impact</th>
<th>Progress Indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short-Term</td>
<td>Users access oral histories &amp; transcripts online</td>
<td>Statistics, comments, reference requests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Programming created around oral histories; use &amp; promotion in educational settings inside &amp; outside the ACC (i.e. lectures, conferences, classrooms)</td>
<td>Statistics, comments, reference requests; attendance count &amp; survey at educational programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-Term</td>
<td>Use of oral histories in scholarship on ceramic artists and ceramics in Minnesota; interest in more oral histories on craft artists</td>
<td>Statistics, comments, reference requests; additional state &amp; national funding to continue recording oral histories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT'S NEXT?

Ideas
Wanted:

- Bright Ideas
- Funny Ideas
- Fresh Ideas
- Serious Ideas
- Old Ideas
- New Ideas
- Friendly Ideas
- Simple Ideas
- Helpful Ideas
- Unusual Ideas
- Good Ideas
- Great Ideas
LISTEN

VISIT
www.craftcouncil.org/library
for information & additional digital resources

Bob Briscoe, potter
THANK YOU!

JESSICA SHAYKETT -- JSHAYKETT@CRAFTCOUNCIL.ORG