



# Clayworks Newsletter

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Savanna Woods after school program in partnership with the YWCA

## Community Outreach—A Clayworks Priority

As an independent organization Clayworks has implemented a new core program to concentrate more of its activities on community outreach. Within our community outreach activities, there is an emphasis on educational outreach to the youth of our area, particularly to disadvantaged children.

Last summer we did our first program in conjunction with the Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation Department. This six week program was a cultural discovery summer experience designed to enrich cultural heritage and create cultural awareness among youth. This summer we will once again partner with the Mecklenburg Parks and Recreation Department to offer three, six-week programs. These programs will be

held at our studio and will focus on Asian and Latino children that are enrolled in the cultural discovery summer experience.

This past fall we collaborated with Community School of the Arts to expand our outreach into an underserved community. We participated in The Siegle Avenue Freedom School to enable student ages 9 -13 years old to enrich their lives through exposure to the arts.

This winter we are working with the YWCA at the Savanna Woods after school program providing a caring environment for children ages 5 -13 years old from the public housing development. With funding from Faison Enterprises, Clayworks is able to provide one ceramics class a week for six weeks to these children. Clayworks and the YWCA are hoping to expand these

classes to other youth development sites with the assistance of grants and the business community.

Last fall we invited middle and high school art teachers from Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools to select one student's work to be entered in a clay exhibit at Clayworks. The opening event will be Friday May 5th from 6 pm until 8 pm at the studio. Certificates will be awarded to all participants with cash awards of \$150, \$100, and \$50 for Best in Show, 2nd place and 3rd place respectively. Teachers of winning students will receive one free class or free summer session at Clayworks. This clay exhibit was made possible by a grant from the Arts and Science Council.