

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BRICK Ceramic and Design Studio to Fire Up in Waterloo Arts District!

CLEVELAND, OH (April 8, 2015)- When Valerie Grossman graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art in 2012 with a degree in Ceramics, she had no idea in less than three years she would be opening one of Cleveland's first shared space ceramic studio. On April 30th BRICK Ceramic and Design Studio will be opening thanks to Grossman's vision, and funding from the Kresge Foundation, IFF and NoteWorthy Credit Union.

The new studio will feature a variety of amenities including: work space for artists, several electric kilns varying in size, pottery wheels, table space, shelving, a slab roller, an extruder, a glaze lab, a mold making area, and a gas kiln built by Val and the BRICK team. At a later date, the studio will also feature a resident artist program which includes a visiting artist efficiency apartment, as well as workspace in exchange for helping manage the studio and teaching during the residency.

The launch of BRICK was made possible due to the Collinwood Rising Grant. The grant program is a multi-year initiative that provides funds to transform vacant and abandoned spaces into permanent artist and artistic residential space in the Collinwood area. BRICK's transformation alone was a \$500,000 project. The Kresge Foundation and IFF provided funding for the renovation, and NoteWorthy Credit Union provided a micro-enterprise artist loan for supplies and equipment in the studio.

In addition to a shared artist space and visiting artist studio/apartment, BRICK will also offer a variety of classes to the public. These include access to all materials and glaze as well as initial bisque firings. Different class options are available on a per-class basis, monthly memberships and/or open public studio time for independent work. For a complete listing of current class offerings, please visit: www.brickceramics.com.

"Excited doesn't even begin to describe how I feel about BRICK," said Grossman. "This dream of mine is now literally becoming a reality! I wanted to create an option for a shared space in Cleveland, because I couldn't find one anywhere! The only options were private studios. Not only did I want to create a shared artist space, but I also wanted to offer classes and opportunities to the public interested in ceramic art. Everyone should have an opportunity to create!"

To celebrate their grand opening, BRICK will be hosting an official ribbon cutting ceremony open to the public on Thursday, April 30th. As part of the ceremony, the public will be invited to help partake in the creation of a community ceramic wind chime that will be hung in the studio to commemorate its opening. The event will also feature guest speakers, tours of the space, and light refreshments and beverages. The studio will officially open to the public for use on May 1st.

The BRICK ribbon cutting on April 30th will take place at the studio's location 420 E. 161st St. at 10:00am. If interested in attending the ceremony, please RSVP to Carly Marginian by Tuesday, April 21st at Cmarginian@northeastshores.org.

For more information on BRICK, hi-res photography or to arrange interviews, please contact Becki Silverstein at Becki@rebeccaadele.com, or via phone at 440-227-8794.

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ABOUT BRICK

BRICK Ceramic + Design Studio provides a unique service by offering affordable shared studio space, storage space, a fully operational ceramics studio and gallery. BRICK will offer classes in ceramics both in the studio and off-site. Experienced ceramicists are encouraged to utilize our equipment and all artists and beginners are invited to attend the classes and workshops we offer on a regular basis. For more information, please visit: www.brickceramics.com.

ABOUT NORTHEAST SHORES DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Northeast Shores is the local community development corporation that creates a better North Shore Collinwood for everyone to live, work, and visit. We are proud to serve this mixed income, mixed race neighborhood located on the shores of Lake Erie. The organization is a non-profit that increases homeownership in the neighborhood and helps entrepreneurs bring their business ideas to the market. Over the last 10 years, the organizations' activities have resulted in over \$48 million in neighborhood investment.