

The Skillman Foundation Presents

# GOOD STUFF

for kids & families

## A Neighborhood Jewel Promotes and Produces Ceramic Magic

Pewabic Pottery has been around since 1903 – over a century (100 years) old – and its mission has remained the same: to promote ceramic art and artists, educate youth and adults, and to preserve its legacy as an American Heritage site.

Today, the Pottery continues its legacy of crafting architectural tiles, gift tile and pottery, which is sold through the museum store. ♦ In 2007, Pewabic Pottery welcomed 60,000 visitors and students.

Pewabic Pottery is a significant Detroit art and cultural institution, and a National Historic Landmark. ♦ It was founded by Michigan artist Mary Chase Perry Stratton, and under her direction, the Pottery produced nationally renowned pottery and architectural tiles for public and private buildings in Detroit and throughout the United States.

We have one dedicated Pewabic Pottery teacher, Meredith Duckworth, who shares in her own words, the program and the kids she taught in the Fall of 2007 at Detroit International Academy and Crosman High School – both located in the Northend, which is one of The Skillman Foundation's Good Neighborhoods.



● *Ms. Duckworth's reflection:*

● Students generally enter my ceramics class with one of three attitudes: they either can't wait to get started, want to run right out the door, or they just don't know what to make of it. ♦ Usually, they don't know what to make of it.

● Many of these students spend their years in elementary and middle school without an art class, let alone ever touching clay. ♦ And that to me is OK. ♦ That's the way I would rather they be if I had to pick from the three.

● The overly excited ones already know where they want to go and what they want to do. ♦ The ones that want to run out the door, well, those students will be back and they are actually just the undecided students in disguise.

● Why do I want to teach the undecided students? ♦ Mainly because I can push them and ask them "why?" a lot. ♦ Surprisingly, they appreciate it because the more I find out about them, the more they find out about themselves.

● Class always starts with the ceramic basics. ♦ Pinch pots, coils and slabs. And the basics continue for session after session until it becomes so routine, the students can eventually combine the basics. ♦ And by that point, they aren't beginners any longer.

After the third or fourth week, my constant plea of "MORE detail" isn't as much nagging as it is second nature. ♦ And by the end, instead of ME saying, "You can't be finished yet, you just started!" the statement comes from the students. ♦ But this time, at the five-minute warning at the end of class, they are the ones calling out "But I'm not finished yet, I just started!"

– Meredith Duckworth

● The Pewabic Pottery offers group tours and has an in-house design studio. ♦ You are able to purchase beautiful designs in the museum store, and there are always events and exhibits to enjoy. ♦ The Pottery has an Education department, which includes youth workshops and school partnerships, in addition to several other types of classes.

**The Pewabic Pottery**  
10125 East Jefferson Ave.  
Detroit, Michigan 48214  
313.822.0954

The Pottery's hours are:  
Monday – Saturday,  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sunday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Skillman  
FOUNDATION



100 Talon Centre Drive,  
Suite 100 Detroit, MI 48207  
313.393.1185  
WWW.SKILLMAN.ORG  
MAILBOX@SKILLMAN.ORG