

36th Annual Appalachian Potters Market **"Celebrating 36 Years of Craft, Community, and Creativity"**

The 36th Annual Appalachian Potters Market will return to McDowell High School on Saturday, December 7th, from 10 AM to 4 PM. This year's event is set to be the largest in recent memory, featuring over 50 local and regional ceramic artists—more in attendance than any year since before the COVID-19 pandemic. Hosted by the McDowell Arts Council Association staff and board of directors, the event will showcase a wide range of handcrafted pottery, live demonstrations, local food vendors, and musical entertainment.

This year's market features more than 50 talented potters, showcasing a variety of pottery styles including functional pieces like mugs, bowls, and plates, as well as decorative vases and sculptures. This year is especially meaningful for potters who suffered studio, home, and significant income losses due to Hurricane Helene.

Live pottery demonstrations will allow visitors to see the creative process firsthand. **Summit Coffee** will be serving hot and cold beverages, including coffee, tea, matcha, and pastries. Local three-piece band **The Happy Enchiladas** will provide live entertainment throughout the day, adding to the festive atmosphere. Local potter **Joana Ortiz** will be leading a ceramic ornament booth for both kids and adults at the market from 10 AM to 3 PM. This hands-on experience offers visitors the chance to create their own holiday ornaments, making it a perfect family activity or fun way to get into the holiday spirit.

Admission \$5 for attendees ages 16 and older (Children under 16 attend free) and parking is free. All proceeds benefit McDowell Arts Council Association and arts programming in our community. There are two convenient entrances to the market so that everyone can enjoy the festivities: **Entrance #1** is accessible for all patrons, including those using wheelchairs, strollers, or supportive devices, as well as those with mobility concerns, featuring a gently inclined ramp that brings visitors directly to the front of the commons area, where they can access both the commons and gym. **Entrance #2** is a second option for those who are able to navigate stairs, this entrance leads visitors to the upper level of the gymnasium entrance.

All participating potters, along with links to their websites and social media, can be found online at www.mcdowellarts.org/apm. Visitors can also access a digital map of the market to help navigate the event, making it even easier to plan their visit.

About the McDowell Arts Council Association: Since 1972, McDowell Arts Council Association (MACA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting the arts in McDowell County, NC. Through events like the Appalachian Potters Market, MACA connects local artists with the community, celebrates Appalachian traditions, and fosters creativity throughout our community.

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