

The Clay Cottage

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Corporations branching out into art therapy

Imagine this – As you walk into The Clay Cottage, you notice that all the walls are different colors, people in aprons are serving vibrant paint and offering a few hints to the patrons at tables, music fills the atmosphere with that “come in and make yourself comfortable” attitude. Then you notice a bunch of professional men and women “suits” painting away on their pieces. Not only are they painting, but laughing, talking, joking, singing, and tapping their toes to the beat of the music.

The Clay Cottage, a Paint Your Own Pottery Studio, located at 1895 Happy Times St., specializes in corporate parties. With a warm coffeehouse atmosphere, The Clay Cottage provides everyone an opportunity to be creative regardless of his or her age or artistic skills. Customers simply select a piece of pottery, create a design, and paint. The relaxed process of painting on pottery in the stress-free environment also makes it a great team building activity.

“Everyone was reluctant at first because they don’t view themselves as artists, but once people saw fellow employees painting, it caught on. People don’t realize how talented they are, so being creative gives them a different avenue to express themselves. I felt I learned more about my fellow employees and had a real sense of team spirit.”

Janice Trainer, External Affairs
Sierra Bell

The Clay Cottage is home to many parties. The most popular of course is birthday parties and not just for children. Recently, the front page of The Wall Street Journal mentioned that pottery parties such as date nights, bridal showers, and birthday bashes are big hits at the new contemporary ceramic studios. “People are always searching for something new to do for parties,” says owner Gregory Glazer. “Corporate parties are great because they all have the same materials but everyone’s project turns out different reflecting himself or herself”. The most common office party items corporations choose to paint are mugs (that’s so they know who left their dirty cup in the sink!), but The Clay Cottage offers over 300 items to choose from. The Clay Cottage will also come to you. Office mugs are a flat \$15 per person to come to your location with all supplies needed such as mugs, paints, stamps, stencils, sponges, coaching, and a smile. Then it’s back to the studio for a final glaze and fire. Businesses who have painted together include Sierra Bell, Igo, Washoe Health Systems, U.S. Bank, McDonald Carano Wilson McCune Bergin Frankovich & Hicks Law Firm, all the way to counselors in the teachers lounge at school. Whether it’s team building, office meeting, or your next birthday party, at The Clay Cottage doing the dishes has never been so fun!

Born and raised in Tempe, 35 year old owner Gregory Glazer discovered the idea while shopping for his wife’s birthday present. Gregory was thrilled with the idea that he could have a place for others to make gifts for their loved ones as well. He is planning on opening his second studio location later this fall in the Village Shopping Center.

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