

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

Computer Controlled Test Kiln

Title

Professor John Gargano

Name of Submitter
(Faculty or Staff Only)

Department of Visual Arts

Organization

Title: Professor Date: 7/13/17
Name (Contact Person): John Gargano
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Department/College/Org: Department of Visual Arts

ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

This request is for the acquisition of a computer controlled test kiln to enhance our curricular offerings in the Ceramics Area. This kiln will allow students to test glazes and develop new surfaces to be used on their projects. The computer controller provides infinite flexibility for experimentation that is not possible with manually fired kilns. Another benefit of a small test kiln is the energy costs we will save considering our current kilns are large and inefficient to use for testing. Our ceramics program prides itself on providing students the means to express themselves and develop a personal vision with their artwork. This kiln will seamlessly fit into our kiln room infrastructure and provide immediate results to our students.

A. Purpose of grant and impact to student body as a whole

The purpose of this request is to enhance the learning outcomes for students in all Ceramics Area courses. The Department of Visual Arts, strives to bring advanced technologies into the classroom/lab to improve learning experiences and maintain pace with developments in our disciplines. Our goal is to provide students with marketable skill sets to make them competitive in their career pursuits.

The requested computer controlled kiln will allow students to quickly and efficiently test glazes and surface treatments. Traditionally, kilns are manually fired and require constant monitoring to fire them successfully. A computer-controlled kiln will allow students to experiment with firing temperatures and approaches to develop new glaze surfaces to meet their artistic needs. Currently, the ceramics area only houses large capacity kilns that are not efficient nor accessible for testing purposes due to their dedicated use in servicing the needs of the program. A small test kiln will allow a quick turn-around and give students the opportunity bolster their kiln loading and firing skills.

The Ceramics area courses are populated by students from Visual Arts, the School of Architecture and Design and the University at large. The introductory courses do not have a pre-requisite and are a popular choice for students full-filing an art elective.

B. Projected lifetime of enhancement

This enhancement will last 20+ years with routine maintenance.

C. Person(s) responsible for i.-iv. Implementation, Installation, Maintenance & Operation

Professor John Gargano will implement, install, maintain, operate and teach students safe and proper operation of the requested kiln. The kiln will be housed in the Kiln Room at Fletcher Hall and is compatible with our current electrical infrastructure.

Training (with qualifications)

John Gargano is a Full Professor at the University, with over 25 years of experience building and maintaining ceramics equipment and kilns

D. Equipment Budget and Justification

1. Skutt Glazetech

208v single phase, 20 amp, 1.1 cubic foot kiln
KilnMaster LT controller

This kiln is specifically designed for glaze testing using a computer controlled interface.

QTY: 1

Price: \$1,040

Total: \$1,040

Shipping: n/a

2. Furniture Kit

- (4) 13" x 14" x 5/8" Rectangular Shelves
- (12) 1" Length Posts

This furniture is the proper size to allow ceramic test pieces to be loaded into the kiln. Shelves and posts are necessary to safely and effectively fire a kiln.

QTY: 1 Price: \$162.00 Total: \$162.00 Shipping: n/a

Budget Proposal

1.	Equipment	\$ 1040.00	Skutt Glazetech Kiln,
		\$ 162.00	Furniture Kit
2.	Software	\$0	
3.	Supplies	\$0	
4.	Maintenance	\$0	
5.	Personnel	\$0	
6.	Other	\$0	

TOTAL: **\$1202.00**

Additional Information

Previous STEP Funding

None