

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

Pugmill for Ceramics Studio

Title

John Gargano

Name of Submitter
(Faculty or Staff Only)

Department of Visual Arts

Organization

Title: Pugmill for Ceramics Studio Date: 7/14/17
Name (Contact Person): Professor John Gargano
Address: 116 Fletcher Hall
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Department/College/Org: Department of Visual Arts

ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

This request is to purchase a de-airing pugmill for the ceramics area in the department of visual arts. The rising cost of ceramic materials has forced us to find new ways to conserve materials and avoid raising fees. Recycling the clay that we use is the most cost effective solution. A de-airing pugmill will provide the means for us to effectively reconstitute and remix clay that we would normally discard. A machine with these specifications can process reclaimed clay in a fraction of the time it would take to manually recycle.

A. Purpose of the Grant

The UL Ceramics Area students use thousands of pounds of clay each semester to complete their required projects. Clay is our largest consumable expense and the most challenging material to recycle. The time demands, space and physical labor involved in recycling clay make it a daunting and unfair burden for students and faculty. Traditionally we have discarded clay that becomes too dry for use. The rising cost of ceramic materials has forced us to find a way to recycle the clay in hopes of keeping our course lab fees stable and/or not cutting the other consumables needed in our courses.

The Peter Pugger VPM-30 De-airing Power Wedger Pugger-Mixer would allow the students and faculty to efficiently recycle clay. This machine uses patented technologies that allow for quick maintenance free recycling of clay materials. Peter Puggers are designed to be safe, lightweight and space efficient.

Currently when students recycle hundreds of pounds of clay; the clay must be cut or smashed into small pieces, slaked down in large buckets until mush, spread out over plaster slabs or in boats to begin drying, in between the clay must be wedged or re-circulated to get the lumps out, this process is repeated until homogenous and at a workable consistency, last but not least the clay is wedged/kneaded to clear any air bubbles out. This process takes days to weeks and compromises our studio/lab space. The Peter Pugger will mechanically do the entire process in 85lb batches at a rate of 400lbs per hour. This will radically impact our capabilities and finances.

B. Projected Lifetime of Enhancement

Peter Puggers have an outstanding reputation for durability and easy maintenance. A properly maintained machine will last 15-20 years.

C. Person Responsible For Implementation, Installation, Maintenance, Operation & Training

Professor John Gargano will be responsible for the implementation, installation, maintenance, operation and training of students with regards to the pugmill. 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. Peter Pugger VPM-30 De-airing Power Wedger

- Max Batch Capacity: 85 lbs
- Mixing Rate: 240 lbs/hr
- Pugging Rate: 800 lbs/hr
- Dimensions: 46"L x 24"W x 33"H
- Pug Diameter: 3"
- Hopper Door: 8" x 8"

- 1/2 hp Vacuum Pump: 3.8 amps at 120V
- 1.5hp Motor

This machine is specifically designed to allow quick and efficient recycling of clay. It is capable of batch mixing any combination of wet, dry, greenware, slip, slop, powder and scrap. Students and Faculty can recycle clay without slaking, wedging, or constant force feeding in a compact space efficient manner.

Quantity: 1 Price: \$6,281.00 Total: \$6,281.00 Shipping: est. \$300

Budget Proposal

1.	Equipment	\$6,281.00	Peter Puggger VPM-30 De-airing Power Wedger
2.	Software	\$0	
3.	Supplies	\$0	
4.	Maintenance	\$0	
5.	Personnel	\$0	
6.	Other	\$300	Estimated Shipping Cost

TOTAL: **\$6,581.00**

5. Additional Information
None

6. Previous STEP funding
None