

Clementine Plate Project

Project Outline and How-To Guidelines

The Workshop:

When Tracy and I were discussing the formation of Clementine Porcelain, she was adamant that we have some form of community outreach/engagement/service. She designed an experience to educate young people about hunger in their community by engaging them in direct charitable action.

Below, I've laid out the way in which we implement this mission, but the model is flexible enough to accommodate all kinds of variations. I leave it to you to extrapolate.

The Plates:

- We use plates because they're made to hold food and they're easy to decorate. We slip cast porcelain dinnerware, so that's where we get them. They go all the way through the process before the workshop and the participants use oven bake china paints to decorate.

The Paints

- [Pebeo Oven Bake China Paints](#)
 - We started off using underglaze on bisque, but we lost too many. They would chip in transit, get broken by the kids, crack during the glaze. Etc. It's also really hard for the uninitiated to account for the changes in color and texture that take place during the firing. The china paints don't change so the kids have more control over their compositions, and they cure in a conventional oven to a vibrant and surprisingly durable, food safe surface.

The Kids

- We've given workshops to participants of all ages but prefer working with children whenever possible. By teaching kids about need in their immediate peer group and providing them with a concrete way to help, we hope to create a lasting sense of agency and efficacy. Besides, parents can generally be counted on to buy their child's plates so we raise more money.

The Event:

- Our most successful events include collaboration with the venue. For example, last year we partnered with a local shop called True Blue Goods and Gifts here in Omaha. True Blue furnished us with a comfortable and convenient space to hold workshops, then hosted a brief exhibition of the plates.

The Transaction:

This part can be tricky. We started by collecting a flat fee per plate then donating \$25 to the food bank. This is the simplest way for everyone involved and we still do this when we have to, but the flat fee presents several problems: The donation amount is fixed, individuals need to trust that we are donating for them, it's difficult to separate donation transactions from sales, and the buyer can't receive tax credit.

Flat Fee:

- This is the simplest way for the buyer. Just set an amount for materials and/or shipping and add this to the donation amount and you have a single transaction that's easy to process.

Our preference is that the customer pays us directly for materials and shipping then donates directly to the charity. This model allows the buyer to donate above the suggested donation, it's easier on our accounting, and the buyer receives the tax credit. Below are some guidelines for accepting evidence of donation in exchange for plates rather than money.

Online Purchases:

- Website purchases:
 - Materials fee per plate plus shipping and handling (we usually charge \$5 for materials and use a UPS calculator to estimate shipping)
 - Both are included in the flat rate shipping number
 - Payment collected through website or by check made out to CP
 - \$25 donation per item (Set a minimum donation, but patrons will frequently contribute more)
 - Check mailed to organizer made out to the Food Bank
 - Digital or paper evidence of donation from charity institution made within 1 week of sale date
 - Evidence must include:
 - Name (must match that of customer)
 - Date
 - Amount
 - The Transaction w/ CP is complete upon payment of flat rate shipping. Plate(s) will be reserved
 - Plate(s) ship upon Confirmation of donation or receipt of check to Food Bank

Exhibition Purchases:

- Exhibition Purchases (in person)
 - Estimated materials fee per plate (no shipping)
 - Check, Square, or website
 - \$25 donation (Set a minimum donation, but patrons will frequently contribute more)
 - Tablets and/or computers available for customers to donate through the Food Bank website
 - Evidence of donation made independently up to 1 week prior to sale date.
 - Check made out to Food Bank

Links:

- [Clementine Porcelain](#)
- [Feeding America](#)
- [Contact Us](#)