AMOCA / American Museum of Ceramic Art

For immediate release -

AMOCA ANNOUNCES OPENING OF NEWLY RENOVATED SPACES



(Pomona, California–October 26, 2026) AMOCA today announces the highly-anticipated public opening of the museum's new and newly renovated spaces.

Since 2021, AMOCA has undergone a 7,000+ square-foot renovation, expanding its Education Hall and building a new Kids Makerspace, a Collection Study Room, a Curatorial Preparation Space, a Reading Lounge, accessibility ramps, and gender-neutral accessible bathrooms. AMOCA has also built a new Studio Classroom and partnered with renewable energy company ReJoule to install 100 solar panels and a battery system, partially funded through a state grant for sustainable energy initiatives. These transformative upgrades strengthen AMOCA's ambitious education, community, and family programs, offering more space for creative engagement in the Greater Los Angeles area.

All are invited to a community celebration on Sunday, November 15, presenting art, music, family fun, and activations of the museum's new and newly renovated spaces. At this public opening celebration, taking place from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on November 15, activities will include performances by the School of Arts and Enterprise jazz ensemble, family-friendly art and clay

crafts, gallery tours of current exhibitions, a scavenger hunt, wheel-throwing demonstrations, snacks and treats, and more. Admission to Sunday's Re-Opening Celebration is complimentary with advance reservation.

Preceding the public opening, AMOCA will thank donors who supported the renovation project and recent mortgage payoff at a private reception on Saturday, November 14. The private Donor Reception will include presentations, facility tours, hors d'oeuvres, and beverages.

AMOCA's new and revitalized spaces serve as a strong foundation for advancing the educational and outreach initiatives that make AMOCA a vibrant, diverse, and unique community institution. The Ruth Reed Arts Education Hall expands our capacity and creates a flexible space for events. The Walsh Family Kids Makerspace provides a nucleus for families visiting the museum to enjoy hands-on art activities. The Tool Family Permanent Collection Study Room features a rotating selection of AMOCA's permanent collection not ordinarily available to the public. The Sasaki Family Reading Lounge invites visitors to further explore topics and themes relevant to current exhibitions through a selection of publications.

Along with the renovations, Millard Sheets' *Alfred* mosaic has been reinstalled in the central breezeway and a John Mason ceramic sculpture, previously located in Palm Springs, is featured in the Education Hall. In the Kids Makerspace, a cheerful ceramic mural created by Peter VandenBerge has been installed.

AMOCA's Executive Director Beth Ann Gerstein shares, "We're thrilled to invite the community to visit and enjoy these exciting new spaces. AMOCA's recent renovations are both timely and necessary, allowing the museum to engage art lovers of all ages and backgrounds. We can't wait for you to join the fun and experience our revitalized ceramics museum."

AMOCA's phase one Capital Campaign renovations included moving the library to the second floor and installing accessible ramps to connect the Juliane and David Armstrong Gallery to Gallery B and the new Education Hall space. Later renovations included the Solar Panel Installation and Battery Backup system completed in 2024 and the new Ed and Robin Blahut Studio Classroom in 2024. The November 2026 Re-Opening Celebration presents the final phase of renovations, when all are invited to engage with and activate the museum's new spaces for learning, community, and hands-on activities.

The museum received visionary support from the Ahmanson Foundation, DEW Foundation, Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, Ruth & Joseph Reed Foundation for the Arts, Windgate Foundation, as well as from the AMOCA Board of Directors and individual donors. Equipment

and technology support for the Education Hall has been provided by the Perenchio Foundation through their Capital Improvements Grants.

In addition to the Capital Campaign supporters who made these renovations possible, AMOCA thanks our generous Re-Opening Celebration sponsors: Don Pattison, Diamond Elevator Services, Laguna Clay and Glaze Company, Sergio Quintor, and Todd Memorial Chapel.

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CALENDAR LISTING
All are invited to join the Re-Opening Celebration at the American Museum of Ceramic Art, 399 N Garey Ave, Pomona, CA 91767 on November 15, 2026. From 11 a.m.- 4 p.m., enjoy free admission, family fun, and activations of the museum's newly renovated spaces! Admission to the event and Museum galleries is complimentary with advance registration.

For more information: www.amoca.org/events/re-opening-celebration/ or (909) 865-3146 or communications@amoca.org.

About AMOCA
The American Museum of Ceramic Art was founded in Pomona, California, in 2003. The museum's mission is to champion the art, history, creation, and technology of ceramics through exhibitions, collections, outreach, and studio programming.

Regular Museum Hours
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 11 am – 4 pm

Admission
General $14, Senior $9, Student/Pomona Resident $7, Members & under 12 Free
Pay-what-you-can First Fridays are the first Friday of each month.

Location
American Museum of Ceramic Art
399 North Garey Avenue, Pomona, CA 91767
(909) 865-3146 • www.amoca.org

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