



Labor Market Analysis: 1002.30 – Ceramics

50.0711 – Ceramic Arts and Ceramics

Ceramics – Certificate requiring 8 to <16 semester units

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, August 2026

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met	☐	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met	☒	Not Endorsed	☐
Program Endorsement Criteria						
Supply Gap:	Yes	☒	No	☐		
Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25 th)	Yes	☐	No	☒		
Education:	Yes	☒	No	☐		
Emerging Occupation(s)						
Yes		☐	No		☒	

SUMMARY

This report analyzes whether local labor market demand is being met by community college programs aligned with the identified middle-skill occupations¹ or whether a shortage of workers exists. Labor market demand is measured by annual job openings while education supply is measured by the number of awards (degrees and certificates) conferred on average each year.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for the three identified middle-skill occupations in the region. While there is a wage discrepancy between employed workers and self-employed workers in this field, the majority of workers in these occupations earn entry-level wages that are lower than the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange Counties. However, more than one-third of current workers in the field have completed an associate degree or less education as their highest level of educational attainment.

Recommendation: Due to two of three program endorsement criteria being met, the Los Angeles Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (LA COE) endorses this proposed program.

Key Findings

Supply Gap

- 1,188 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2030. This number is greater than the three-year average of 686 awards conferred by educational institutions in the region.

¹ Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree. The COE classifies middle-skill jobs as the following:

- All occupations that require an educational requirement of some college, associate degree or apprenticeship;
- All occupations that require a bachelor's degree, but also have more than one-third of their existing labor force with an educational attainment of some college or associate degree; or
- All occupations that require a high school diploma or equivalent or no formal education but also require short- to long-term on-the-job training where multiple community colleges have existing programs.

- However, the SOC codes in this report include a wide range of art and production jobs, including ceramic professionals. Since the SOC code does not solely represent ceramic-related occupations, **the number of annual job openings is likely overstated.**
- Over the past 12 months, there were **1,675 online job postings related to these art and production occupations and 9 mentioned “ceramic art” as a specialized skill.**

Living Wage

- The majority of workers in these occupations are self-employed and self-employed workers in all three target occupations have entry-level wages **below** Los Angeles County’s self-sufficiency standard hourly wage (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- 61% of the annual job openings typically require a bachelor’s degree for these target art and production occupations in the LA/OC region.
- 43%-78% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.

Community college supply

- 6 community colleges issued awards related to ceramics in the greater LA/OC region.
- 12 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2023 and 2025.

Other postsecondary supply

- 15 educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred awards in programs related to fine/studio arts over the past three years.
- 674 awards were conferred on average each year by other postsecondary institutions throughout the greater LA/OC region between 2022 and 2024.

TARGET OCCUPATIONS

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market and postsecondary supply data related to three middle-skill occupations. Although the *fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators* SOC code typically requires a bachelor’s degree, it is included in this report because one-third of current workers in the field have completed an associate degree or less educational attainment and this occupation is closely aligned with the knowledge, skills, and abilities required for an entry-level job in the field of ceramics. [For full occupation descriptions, please see Appendix.](#)

² Center for Women’s Welfare, University of Washington. (2024). *The self-sufficiency standard for California 2024.* <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/California>.

- **Craft Artists (27-1012)**³
- **Fine Artists, Including Painters, Sculptors, and Illustrators (27-1013)**⁴
- **Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic (51-9195)**⁵

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for the art and production occupations of interest. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to these occupations is projected to increase by 7% through 2030. There will be nearly 1,200 job openings per year through 2030 due to job growth and replacements. It is important to note that these target art and production SOC codes include a variety of art-related jobs, and not solely ceramic professionals. Therefore, the data in Exhibit 1 is likely overstated for ceramics-related occupations. The majority of jobs in 2025 for these middle-skill art and production occupations (86%) were located in Los Angeles County. Another data point to consider when researching art-related occupations is the number of self-employed workers as compared to the number of workers who are employed by an employer. By 2030, the number of self-employed workers in these target art and production occupations is projected to increase by 10%; this is much higher than the job projection for art and production occupation workers who work for employers (-2%).

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁶

Geography	Employment Status	2025 Jobs	2030 Jobs	2025-2030 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	Employees	1,856	1,817	(2%)	182
	Self-Employed	7,652	8,403	10%	838
	LA Total	9,508	10,220	7%	1,020
Orange	Employees	420	419	(0%)	46
	Self-Employed	1,152	1,240	8%	122
	OC Total	1,571	1,659	6%	168
Total	Employees	2,276	2,235	(2%)	228
	Self-Employed	8,803	9,643	10%	960
	Total	11,079	11,878	7%	1,188

Detailed Occupation Data

Exhibit 2 displays the current employment and projected occupational demand for each of the target occupations in Los Angeles County. The average percentage of workers aged 55+ across all occupations in the Los Angeles/Orange County region is 26%; occupations with a larger share of workers aged 55 and older typically have greater replacement needs to offset the amount of impending retirements. On average, 81% of workers across all occupations in California are

³ [Craft and Fine Artists \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁴ [Ibid.](#)

⁵ [Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic \(bls.gov\)](#)

⁶ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

employed full-time. Occupations with a lower-than-average percentage of full-time workers may have less employment security but may see increased activity in the gig economy. Exhibit 2 also displays the percentage of workers in each occupation who are self-employed. The vast majority of *craft artists* and *fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators* working in Los Angeles County are self-employed (95% and 83%, respectively).

Exhibit 2: Detailed employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles County⁷

Occupation	2025 Jobs	2030 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	% Aged 55 and older	% Full Time Workers	% of Self-Employed workers
Craft Artists	2,432	2,741	13%	281	35%	69%	95%
Fine Artists, Including Painters, Sculptors, and Illustrators	6,202	6,644	7%	636	33%	69%	83%
Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic	873	834	(4%)	103	31%	100%	22%
Total	9,508	10,220	7%	1,020	-	-	-

WAGES

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for these target art and production occupations in Los Angeles County as they relate to the county's self-sufficiency standard wage. Orange County wages are included below to provide a complete analysis of the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region.

When looking at the wage data in this report, it is important to consider the nature of the work ceramic artists perform (commercial, artistic, or other), job type (full-time, part-time or hobby) and the complexity of compensation. For some occupations, such as *fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators*, there may not be available data on what workers make per hour – only annual earnings data. To calculate hourly earnings, the annual earnings are divided by 2,080 working hours. This can cause an issue when occupations typically do not log that many working hours annually, or when the nature of the work operates on an irregular schedule. For example, many *fine artists* and *craft artists* in the region work only part time (31%; see exhibit 2). When the source data only publishes annual earnings, and these part-time annual wages are divided by 2,080 hours, the published hourly earnings number may be lower than the actual hourly earnings for a *fine artist* or *craft artist*. Due to this discrepancy, wage data are displayed for both employees and self-employed workers.

⁷ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

Los Angeles County – Employees

The majority, 56%, of annual openings for these employed arts and production occupations have entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$20.41 and \$63.79. (Exhibit 3).

Two occupations have entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage:

- *Fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators*, \$63.79
- *Craft artists*, \$31.33

Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$27.92 and \$90.29, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

Exhibit 3: Earnings for occupations in Los Angeles County – Employed workers

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Craft Artists	\$31.33	\$50.35	\$65.36	\$104,700
Fine Artists, Including Painters, Sculptors, and Illustrators	\$63.79	\$76.19	\$90.29	\$158,500
Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic	\$20.41	\$22.75	\$27.92	\$47,300

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Los Angeles County – Self-Employed

Self-employed workers in all three occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$3.00 and \$5.98. (Exhibit 4). Experienced *craft artists* can expect to earn \$14.80, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage. However, experienced *fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators* and *molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic* can expect to earn wages between \$25.11 and \$27.50, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupations in Los Angeles County – Self-employed workers

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Craft Artists	\$3.00	\$7.16	\$14.80	\$14,900
Fine Artists, Including Painters, Sculptors, and Illustrators	\$5.10	\$12.15	\$25.11	\$25,300
Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic	\$5.98	\$13.58	\$27.50	\$28,300

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County – Employees

The majority, 69%, of annual openings for employed arts and production occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$20.94 and \$55.48 (Exhibit 5).

One occupation has entry-level wages above the self-sufficiency standard wage:

- *Fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators*, \$55.48

Experienced workers can expect to earn wages between \$28.64 and \$78.54, which are higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

Exhibit 5: Earnings for occupations in Orange County – Employed workers

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Craft Artists	\$27.04	\$43.45	\$56.40	\$90,400
Fine Artists, Including Painters, Sculptors, and Illustrators	\$55.48	\$66.27	\$78.54	\$137,900
Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic	\$20.94	\$23.35	\$28.64	\$48,600

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County – Self-Employed

Self-employed workers in all three occupations have entry-level wages below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Typical entry-level hourly wages are in a range between \$2.92 and \$5.93 (Exhibit 6). Experienced *craft artists* and *fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators* can expect to earn between \$14.39, and \$24.66, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage. However, experienced *molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic* can expect to earn \$27.27, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

Exhibit 6: Earnings for occupations in Orange County – Self-employed workers

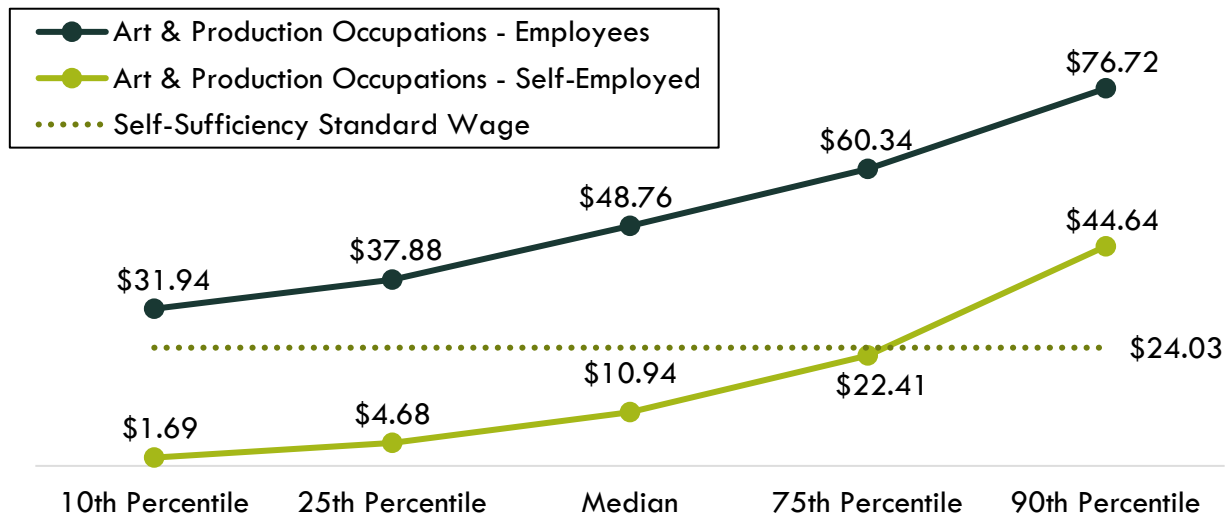
Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Craft Artists	\$2.92	\$6.97	\$14.39	\$14,500
Fine Artists, Including Painters, Sculptors, and Illustrators	\$5.01	\$11.94	\$24.66	\$24,800
Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic	\$5.93	\$13.47	\$27.27	\$28,000

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Exhibit 7 shows the average hourly earnings for the occupations in this report for both employees and self-employed workers. On average, employees in the occupations of interest typically earn more than the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$24.03) at all experience levels. However, self-employed workers in these occupations typically earn less than their

employed counterparts and less than the region's self-sufficiency standard wage, regardless of level of experience.

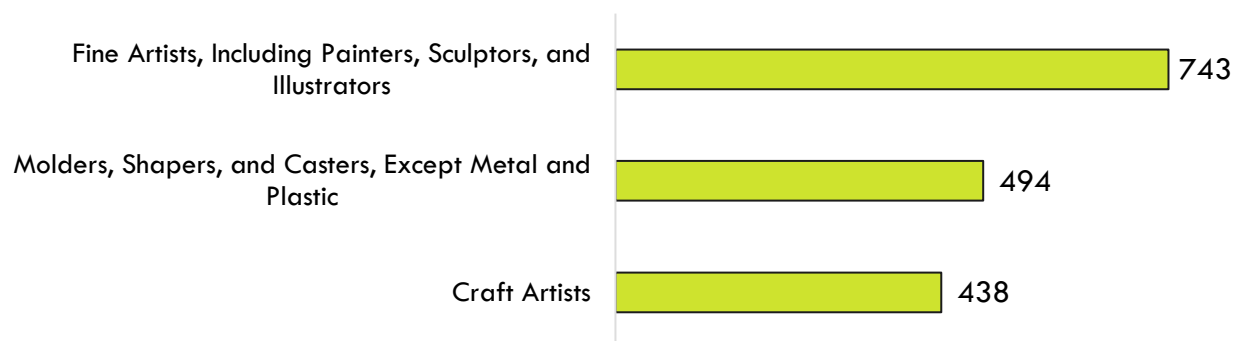
Exhibit 7: Average hourly earnings for target occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 1,675 online job postings related to these target art and production occupations listed in the past 12 months in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Exhibit 8 displays the number of job postings by occupation. The majority of job postings (45%) were for *fine artists, including painters, sculptors, and illustrators*, followed by *molders, shapers, and casters, except metal and plastic* (29%) and *craft artists* (26%).

Exhibit 8: Job postings by occupation (last 12 months), Los Angeles and Orange counties



Job postings were analyzed for the most common job titles, skills, and employers associated with the target occupations in this report (Exhibit 9).

Exhibit 9: Most commonly requested job titles, skills and employers in job postings, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Top Job Titles	Top Skills	Top Employers
- Grinder operators - Teaching artists - VFX artists - Artists - Summer interns - Framers - Test operators - Technical artists	- Workflow management - Animations - Adobe Photoshop - Tooling - Lifting ability - Adobe Illustrator - Visual effects - Autodesk Maya	- Michael's - Camp Galileo Summer Quest - NBC - Aerotek* - Walt Disney - Insight Global* - Riot Games

*Staffing companies

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 26% of the target job postings listed a minimum educational requirement. Exhibit 10 details the number and percentage of job postings by educational level.

Exhibit 10: Education levels requested in job postings for target occupations, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	166	38%
Associate degree	26	6%
High school diploma or vocational training	250	56%

Of these 1,675 art and design job postings, only **9 job postings listed “ceramic art” as a specialized skill**. The top ceramic art-related job titles were instructors (2 job postings), studio technicians (2), ceramics technicians (1), ceramic studio assistants (1) and teaching artists (1). The only two companies to post job ads in the past 12 months were Scripps College and Camp Wildfolk.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the majority of annual job openings (61%) typically require a bachelor's degree (Exhibit 11). However, the national-level data indicates between 43% and 78% of workers in the field have completed an associate degree or less education as their highest level of educational attainment. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following typical entry-level education levels for the occupations in this report:

Exhibit 11: Entry-level education preferred by employers nationally, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Occupation	Education Level
Fine Artists, Including Painters, Sculptors, and Illustrators	Bachelor's degree
Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic	High school diploma or equivalent
Craft Artists	No formal educational credential

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY**Community College Supply**

Exhibit 12 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP codes: Ceramics (1002.30) and Applied Design (1009.00). The colleges with the most completions in the region are Glendale and Rio Hondo. In the last three years, there have been no awards conferred in the region under the Applied Design (1009.00) TOP Code.

Exhibit 12: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2023-2025

TOP Code	Program	College	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	2024-25 Awards	3-Year Average
1002.30	Ceramics*	Cerritos	1	2	1	1
		Citrus	2	-	1	1
		Glendale	1	4	8	4
		LA Pierce	1	3	-	1
		Rio Hondo	-	-	8	3
		West LA	2	2	-	1
		LA Subtotal	7	11	18	12
Supply Total/Average			7	11	18	12

*Ceramics (TOP 1002.30) is designated Non-CTE, but is included here due to the relevance of this proposed program.

Exhibit 13 displays the community college awards broken down by award type. In this case, the majority of awards issued by community colleges are certificates (58%).

Exhibit 13: Community college awards by award type, 2023-2025

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
A.A./A.S. degrees	5	42%
Certificates	7	58%
Total	12	100%

Other Postsecondary Supply

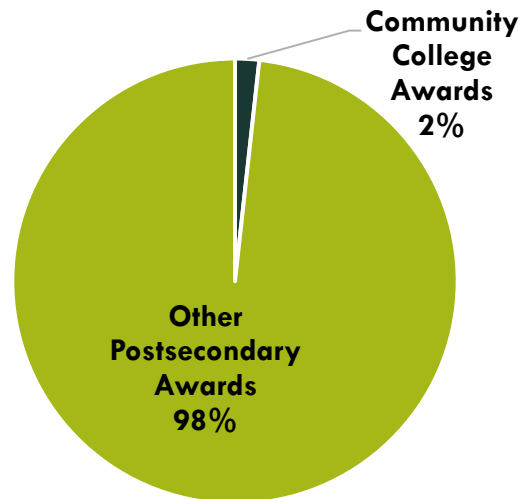
For a comprehensive regional supply analysis, it is important to consider the supply from other institutions in the region that provide training programs for ceramics-related occupations. Exhibit 14 shows the number of awards conferred by these institutions in relevant programs. Due to different data collection periods, the most recent data is from 2022 to 2024. Between 2022 and 2024, other postsecondary college institutions in the region conferred an average of 674 bachelor's degrees. In the past three years, there were no awards conferred in the related CIP Code: Ceramic Arts and Ceramics (50.0711).

Exhibit 14: Other regional postsecondary awards, 2022-2024

CIP Code	Program	Postsecondary Institution	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
50.0702	Fine/Studio Arts, General	Art Center College of Design	14	18	12	15
		Biola University	20	19	8	16
		California Institute of the Arts	16	19	23	19
		CSU-Fullerton	299	301	290	297
		CSU-Long Beach	181	229	200	203
		Claremont McKenna College	1	-	1	1
		Laguna College of Art and Design	6	12	20	13
		Loyola Marymount University	36	48	44	43
		Otis College of Art and Design	27	26	24	26
		Pitzer College	4	6	4	5
		Pomona College	11	7	5	8
		Scripps College	4	5	5	5
		UC-Irvine	1	2	-	1
		Univ. of La Verne	8	7	7	7
		USC	14	26	13	18
Supply Total/Average			642	725	656	674

Exhibit 15 shows the proportion of community college awards conferred in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region compared to the number of other postsecondary awards for the programs in this report. The majority of awards conferred in these programs are awarded by other institutions in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Exhibit 15: Percentage of community college awards compared to other postsecondary institution awards in the Los Angeles/Orange County region



APPENDIX: OCCUPATION DESCRIPTIONS

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market supply and demand data related to these target occupations:

- **Craft Artists (27-1012)** Create or reproduce handmade objects for sale and exhibition using a variety of techniques, such as welding, weaving, pottery, and needlecraft.⁸
- **Fine Artists, Including Painters, Sculptors, and Illustrators (27-1013)** Create original artwork using any of a wide variety of media and techniques.⁹
- **Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic (51-9195)** Mold, shape, form, cast, or carve products such as food products, figurines, tile, pipes, and candles consisting of clay, glass, plaster, concrete, stone, or combinations of materials.¹⁰

⁸ [Craft and Fine Artists \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/27-1012)

⁹ [Ibid.](#)

¹⁰ [Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic \(bls.gov\)](https://www.bls.gov/occupations/51-9195)

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DATA SOURCES

POWERED BY



- O*NET Online
- Lightcast (formerly Emsi)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington
- Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

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