

March 13, 2020

To: Members of the GVR Planning & Evaluation Committee

From: GVR Glass Artists Club

Dear Members of the Committee,

In January, members of your Facilities Expansion subcommittee toured the space used by the Glass Artists Club at Abrego North (ABN) and saw first-hand that our club urgently needs both storage space and dedicated studio space. There are two proposals today that will help move us forward.

Growth of the GAC

- Our Club has doubled in size this year, from 42 to 84 members. We expect to have more than 100 members by the end of this year, and could easily have 300-400 within two years if we had appropriate space.
- GVR allows us to use ABN only two days per week and the space can accommodate only 10 members at a time.
- When classes are posted, they are fully reserved within moments.
- When there is a class, the room is closed to use by other members.
- Our three kilns at West Center are running 4-5 days per week. Soon we will need a fourth kiln, but there is no room for it until we remove non-kiln related items currently stored in that space in anticipation of having a dedicated studio.

Health & Safety

- Since there is little storage at ABN, instructors and members must carry heavy glass and tools in and out of ABN every day. Nothing can be left out overnight. This is especially problematic when the few close-in parking spaces are full and our members must park farther out in the lot.
- We move the tile saw and its accessories from the West Center kiln room to ABN every time it is needed. It is cumbersome, heavy, and difficult to maneuver through the aisle between the kilns and storage shelves.
- ABN's all-purpose tables are too low and are causing back problems among members who must bend over them to cut and assemble glass art. Many members complain of sore backs after working on their projects or completing a class.
- ABN's ventilation is not adequate for a glass arts studio.
- Acoustics are detrimental to hearing during the use of ring saw and grinders.
- Crowded conditions when carrying and working with glass is a safety issue. When 10 people work in the studio, two people share each work table. Glass shards fly.
- Members occasionally trip over others' chairs or bump into each other as they carry glass to and from the Morton system, grinders, sink and work tables.

Our storage needs are immediate and critical if the Club is to continue growing. We are requesting that GVR purchase a Tuff-Shed this spring, to be placed on the South corner of the ABN parking lot, near the pool equipment. Only three golf cart parking spaces will need to be removed. **The Tuff-Shed can be purchased and installed this spring for under \$10,000.**

Tuff-Shed proposal

- We will store glass, class supplies and equipment there, which will reduce the instructors' and members' burden of hauling these items. We will use a cart to transport items from the shed to the ABN room, rather than lifting boxes in and out of cars.
- We will move the tile saw, light table and vitrigraph out of the kiln room to the shed, making them more accessible for members' use, easier to set up, and freeing up space for a fourth kiln.
- Once GAC has our own dedicated studio space, the Tuff Shed can be moved to other GVR locations for other purposes.

In addition, we must anticipate and plan for the Club's growth to several hundred members. The alternative is that members will drop out because GVR has not been able to meet our legitimate needs. We strongly believe that, if we are to remain a viable club, we must have a home within two years.

Studio Space Proposal

At the request of Facilities Expansion, we prepared a floor plan for a 6000 square foot dedicated studio. The crowded conditions at ABN present safety issues that can only be resolved with larger and appropriately configured space.

We urge you to include the Glass Arts Club Studio in next year's Capital Plan, and to form a task force or subcommittee to identify a location and funding to build it.

Thank you for your consideration and your support.

Respectfully,

GVR Glass Artists Club

Linda Touzeau, President

Jayne Becker, Vice President

Nora Mena, Treasurer

Gail Brooks, Secretary