



Sophia Dzialo

The Claypen

West Hartford, Connecticut - United States

sophia@theclaypen.com



Q: How long have you been in business?

A: *The Claypen opened in 1997. I purchased the studio from the previous owner in 2017.*

Q: What products does your studio offer?

A: *On a walk-in basis we offer pottery painting + glass fusing. We also hold 3-4 workshops a week that explore a variety of mediums such as canvas painting, string art, linoleum carving, knitting + more*

Q: Are you a mobile studio or have a storefront?

A: *Storefront*

Q: Have you served on any other Boards?

A: *No*

Q: Have you owned any other business or what is your professional background?

A: *I purchased The Claypen during my senior year of undergrad. This is my first business, and I love this industry because I can watch my business grow in many different areas such as Team Building + Corporate events, Kids Classes + Camps, Adult Events and more. Each of these areas are unique and I love working with my team to grow each segment. Before I purchased the Claypen I worked full time at Flour Bakery + Cafe in Boston. Working for a successful business woman taught me many valuable lessons including the importance of clear communication, time management and systems improvement.*

Q: Why did you open or purchase a PYOP?

A: *Growing up having an entrepreneur as a parent, I always knew that I wanted to own my own business. I had worked at The Claypen for over 3+ years, my sister had been employed there for over 10. The Claypen felt as if it was a second home to me.*

The opportunity to purchase The Claypen arose during my senior year of undergrad. At the time I was at Lesley University for a B.A in Business Administration working full time at a bakery + cafe. When I heard the news that the business was for sale, I immediately knew that I need to be part of the next chapter of this business. What better place to start my entrepreneurial journey, then at a place that meant so much to me and my community.

Q: What attributes do you think you would bring to the CCSA?

A: *Since purchasing the business I have seen 30% growth year on year. I feel confident that the processes and strategies I have used to grow my business can provide value to the board and CCSA members.*

I want to bring the dedication I have for my business and the industry, to this position. I am committed to the work that I do, and look forward to the opportunity to give back to and invest in the CCSA.

My passion for learning pushes me to try new things and find new avenues for success. I am excited to work with the CCSA board members to think out of the box to provide creative solutions to help our studios grow.

Get to know Sophia better by watching this video: <https://youtu.be/JBbC8ku0j5E>