

## Industrial Arts Center Volunteer FAQ

- 1. What are your hours?**

Currently, we are always open Tuesdays 10-2 during the Gulfport Fresh Market and during Art Walks – first Friday and third Saturday from 6-10 p.m. We're also open to the public whenever a class is going on. Volunteers are needed to be on call for assistance during classes. The class schedule will be filling up beginning in September.
- 2. Is there an age limit for the classes?**

Most classes are for adults 18 & up. We are developing special classes for kids. Anyone 8-80 may participate in blow your own activities.
- 3. How much are the classes?**

The cost of classes varies according to the number of hours. Each class also has a materials fee. Industrial Arts Center members get a \$35 discount on adult classes.
- 4. When are the classes?**

Classes are held every day of the week. Check the website for the schedule.
- 5. How many objects are made in the classes?**

Students will make at least one finished object, depending upon the class and the number of hours in class.
- 6. How much is the membership fee?**

Currently, the membership fee is \$25 per person.
- 7. What do you get with membership?**

Members get a \$35 discount on adult classes, discounts on special IAC merchandise, invitations to members only events, IAC email newsletters.
- 8. How long does the membership last?**

Membership is for one year.
- 9. Is there a discount when membership is renewed?**

No
- 10. Can a member rent studio time?**

Yes. We have a flyer with details in the filing cabinet and details are on the website.
- 11. What are the prices of the artwork on display in the IAC building?**

Prices are as marked.
- 12. What is all the equipment in the IAC building?**

The large blue box is the furnace. It is kept at around 2100 degrees to keep the glass melted 24/7. We have two "hot" weeks every month when the furnace is kept on. It takes about 24 hours to fully melt the glass in the furnace. On each side of the furnace is a "glory hole." This is used to keep the glass soft while the piece is being manipulated. The long pipes used to blow the glass are called blowpipes. The large silver colored box in the back is the annealer. This is where finished glass pieces are cooled gradually over a 12-hour period so that they do not shatter or crack. The large steel table with attached torches is used for lampwork. Most people are familiar with the glass beads and small figurines made by lampworkers,

but many lampworkers also make larger objects including goblets, candlesticks, etc.

13. **Why do they call it lampwork?**

The first lampworkers used glass rods and an oil lamp. They would blow on the flame to raise the temperature and melt the glass. The Industrial Arts Center uses natural gas and oxygen combined in the torch.

14. **Is there a danger of fire?**

The exterior walls are solid concrete with fire-rated doors. In case of fire, the bay doors will close automatically. The exterior walls are designed to fall into the building so that adjacent structures will not be endangered.

15. **What else can you tell me about the building?**

The building is the only facility in the nation built exclusively as an industrial arts education center. Hours of research and design were essential to ensure a safe and modern facility with an ability to serve a wide variety of industrial arts. A high-tech ventilation system exchanges the air in the building six times an hour to prevent fumes and heat accumulation for the safety of the artists. Plus a large electric panel was installed to accommodate existing equipment and future expansion.