

LOCAL

Kingston women's studio holding Chili Bowl Fest, with federal funding in jeopardy



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The 29th annual Chili Bowl Fest fundraiser is coming to the Hudson Valley in April.

Hosted by [Women's Studio Workshop](#) since 1997, the event is billed as a joyful celebration of community and ceramics, hand-crafted by local artists.

Festival visitors can enjoy a free serving of chili for purchasing a bowl, in addition to all-day live music from The Library Band. At past festivals, up to 800 have attended during the course of a day.

All proceeds from sales benefit arts programming at WSW, which is located in the Shawangunk Mountains. Some programming components include the primary mission of supporting women artists for stays at the studios, a partnership with the local school district, and paid internships for young people to live on campus while learning about running an artist and printmaking studio.

“We have an art education partnership with the Kingston City Schools,” said Natalie Renganeschi, acting director, “that brings K-12 public school students to our site for full days in the studio, working as professional artists with professional artists, so they get to work in these professional grade mediums on our professional studio equipment in ways that can really be sort of eye-opening and expansive for them.”

WSW is experiencing reduction in federal funding

WSW, a nonprofit for the past 50 years, has historically received about \$70,000 per year in federal funds, and for 2026 so far, the organization is uncertain about what they stand to receive.

“We received \$40,000 for fiscal year ‘25,” Renganeschi said.

The changed guidelines have stipulated the funding allocation in relation to support for gender ideology projects and the use of certain DEI terms, such as ‘feminism,’ Renganeschi said.

The new rules render WSW ineligible because of their mission for some grants and funds from [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) and [National Endowment for the Arts](#).

Who is serving the chili?

Donated by dozens of local restaurants, the chili offerings will have vegetarian as well as meat options, with a range of bean stews to soups.

Some confirmed restaurants that will serve the chili at the event include [Cafe Mio](#), [Davenport Farms](#), [High Falls Cafe](#), [Karma Road](#), [Main Course Catering](#), [McGillicuddy’s](#), [Mohonk Mountain House](#), [Mountain Brauhaus](#), [Stone Soup Food Company](#), [The Disgruntled Chef](#), and [Tilda’s Kitchen & Market](#), according to the announcement.

When, where, how much is it?

The festival will be held on Saturday, April 11, from 2-7 p.m. at Women’s Studio Workshop, located at 722 Binnewater Lane in Kingston. The venue is about two minutes away from downtown Rosendale, according to Renganeschi.

Early admission during 2-4 p.m. will cost \$10. Free entry for kids. Free entrance for all between 4-7 p.m.

The earlier paid admission allows a first pick of more than 500 unique bowls, each one-of-a-kind, of various shapes, sizes and designs. The later free-for-all window makes the event accessible to everyone.

The handmade bowl, tumbler and mug pricing range will be \$5-\$100.

One-day ceramics sales are also available online at bit.ly/ChiliBowlOnline, beginning 10 a.m. on April 11.

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