

Pottery Home Project Completion Report

Background and Goal

We have met the potters Sajan and Srijan Prajapati in Bhaktapur shortly after the devastating earthquake of May 2015. By late 2016, an opportunity arose to purchase a destroyed building on Pottery Square, and we started a project to support the two brothers and the local potter community by funding the building's reconstruction as a community center to revive interest and development of local pottery activities.

Project Setup

Local Project Coordination:

- Sajan and Srijan Prajapati (with support of their parents)

Overall Coordination and fund raising:

- Kathrin Wild (representing *Himchuli Schweiz*)

Financial Contributions:

- Institutional and private Donors, Members of *Himchuli Schweiz*

Construction

After the initial purchase of the property and the tear-down of the old building in 2017, construction of the 4-story building took another 20 months. Due to the prominent location right on Pottery Square, a historic facade with sculpted bricks and traditional woodwork was required by the city of Bhaktapur.

The finished building now consists of a ground floor workshop with room for several pottery wheels, a small exhibition space for historic artifacts, two guest rooms to rent for students or visitors and a small kitchen on the 5th floor.

Finances

The numbers in the table below give an approximate break-down of the total costs per year. While all Himchuli contributions (money transfers) are accurately accounted for (see our yearly reports), the hand written (Nepali) receipts are often difficult to interpret exactly or incomplete, because it is common practice to pay small salaries and items without demanding written receipts. However, based on many phone conversations and local visits we are confident in the resulting total expenses and the amounts contributed by the brothers Prajapati themselves.

Year (phase)	Total (SFr)	Himchuli	Prajapati
2017 (property, tear-down)	21'000	11'000	10'000
2018 (construction)	30'000	22'000	8'000
2019 (construction, furnishing)	20'000	11'500	8'500
Total (SFr.)	71'000	44'500	26'500

Final Remarks

Over the past three years, we have observed a steady increase in publicity and respect for the potter community in Bhaktapur. Thanks to the varied activities of Sajan and Sridjan, today even many Nepalis (students, hotel owners, visitors) come to Pottery Square and purchase pottery produced by local manufacturies.

With this final project report at the end of 2019, we are very happy to hand over the ownership and responsibility for the future development of the new Pottery Home to Sajan and Srijan Prajapati. We are confident that their skills and dedication will generate enough income to maintain and improve on the current state of the new potter community center.

We wish both of them best luck and success for the future !



