



January 6, 2023

Dear Long-Range Planning Committee Members,

As the Bray Resident Director from 1992 - 2006, former Resident Artist and former Board of Director, I want to enthusiastically express my support for funding public programming at the Archie Bray Foundation (The Bray) to directly benefit the local community. The Bray is a unique organization that brings artists and art enthusiasts from around the world to Helena, MT. With a history of over 71 years, The Bray is deeply rooted in creating place for gathering, learning, and inspiration.

Simply described as "a pottery and a brickyard," The Bray was established in 1951 with the mission to nurture the ceramic arts by providing a place for serious artists to work. At the 71-year milestone, this intention remains in place. Artists from around the globe come to spend time focused on their process of working--making pots, producing sculpture, discussing ideas, and creating a remarkable network of friendship and support that extends throughout the ceramic arts community.

The Bray alumni who have shaped the Foundation have created a rich story. Beginning with Archie Bray himself, a long list of strong individuals is responsible for making The Bray what it is today. Through public programming, like the Artist Amplified lecture series, The Bray can shine a light and share the voices and vision of those working in The Bray studios.

Sharing the history, past and present, of The Bray will benefit generations to come and give life to many of the stories that are known and retold but do not currently exist for all to participate in.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope you will support this important organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Josh DeWeese'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Josh DeWeese  
Professor of Art, Ceramics, Interim Director MSU School of Art