

Workshop FAQ's

About the Archie Bray Foundation (Bray)

What is the Archie Bray Foundation?

The Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts is a public, nonprofit, educational institution founded in 1951 by brickmaker Archie Bray, who intended it to be "a place to make available for all who are seriously interested in any of the branches of the ceramic arts, a fine place to work." Its primary mission is to provide an environment that stimulates creative work in ceramics. At the heart of that mission is a group of rotating ceramic artists who come to the Bray to work and who make up our residency program. In over 65 years, we have served over 600 residents. [Click here for more information about our residents.](#)

Where is the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts?

The Archie Bray Foundation is located in Helena, Montana.

Workshop Registration

Where can I find information about registration?

The most complete information can be found [online here](#).

When does workshop registration begin?

For 2018 summer workshops, registration begins at 9 am MST. You can [register online here](#) or by calling 406-443-3502 x11. Shortly after a workshop is full, waitlist will be posted online.

What forms of payment do you accept?

Through our online system, we accept Visa, Master Card, Discover and American Express and Bray gift certificates in the form of a coupon. When using a gift certificate, enter "GIFT" into the coupon code box and select "Apply Coupon". You will not be asked to enter a credit card to complete registration. At this time, we are unable process gift certificates as a form of payment. This allows you to reserve your spot online. You will be contacted after registration to confirm details of your gift certificate.

For cash and check payments, please call 406-443-3502 x11 to register.

Can I pay with a Gift Certificate online?

Yes, as a coupon not a form of payment. When using a gift certificate, enter "GIFT" into the coupon code box and select "Apply Coupon". You will not be asked to enter a credit card to complete registration. At this time, we are unable process gift certificates as a form of payment. This allows you to reserve your spot online. You will be contacted after registration to confirm details of your gift certificate. In the case that your gift certificate is for less than the workshop price, you will be invoiced for the outstanding balance. In the case that your gift certificate is for more than the workshop price, we will note the remaining balance in our records, and we recommend that you mark it on your gift certificate as well. Please bring gift certificate to workshop as proof of sale.

Will I receive information about the workshop?

Yes. Immediately following completion of workshop registration, you will be emailed a receipt and a confirmation letter with detailed information about the workshop schedule and about traveling to Helena so you can make preparations. You will also receive a reminder email a month before your workshop that will include detailed information about what you will want to bring such as tools.

What if I don't have easy access to a computer or have an email address?

Not a problem. You may call to register at 406-443-3502 x11. You may also request that any information regarding the workshop be mailed to you.

Is there a lab fee?

Yes. The lab fee is included in the tuition price that is listed for each workshop.

Will there be extra costs beyond the workshop price?

No, not to participate in the workshop. Your workshop price covers materials that are essential to the workshop topic.

Additional costs outside of the workshop will include travel, transportation, housing accommodations and food. Tools and materials purchased for personal use beyond what has been provided for the workshop or to take home after the workshop. The Bray Clay Business offers workshop participants a 10% discount on items purchased during the time of the workshop. For more information,

go online at archiebrayclay.com or call the Clay Business 800/443-6434 or 406/442-2521. Normal Clay Business hours are Monday–Friday 9 am–5 pm and Saturday 9 am–1 pm. To ensure that your desired items are in-stock, you may put in an order ahead of your workshop and pay for it, discount applied, at the time of the workshop.

Accommodations and Transportation

Is housing included with workshop registration?

No. Unfortunately, the Bray does not have on-campus housing. Student recommended housing options include Mountain Meadow Inn, Best Western Premier Helena Great Northern Hotel and Airbnb or VRBO locations. For more information about hotels in Helena, visit HelenaMT.com. Camping is available at the [Lewis & Clark County Fairgrounds Campground](#) and Cromwell Dixon Campground.

Where can I find information about workshop accommodations?

The most complete information can be found [online here](#).

Is there camping available on the Bray campus?

No. The Bray does not allow camping on the premises. The closest campsite is [Lewis & Clark County Fairgrounds Campground](#). Students also recommend Cromwell Dixon Campground.

Can I bring my dog?

Regrettably, the Bray does not allow dogs on the grounds. Please leave your pets at home during your workshop. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.

Does Helena have an airport?

Yes. Students can fly into Helena through Helena Regional Airport (HLN).

I won't have a car. Is there public transportation I can use?

No. Helena is a small town without public transportation. We recommend renting a vehicle if your accommodations are not walkable to the Bray or you would like the independence of exploring the Helena area. If you are staying at the Mountain Meadow Inn, they offer a shuttle to and from the airport and to the Bray every day of the workshop for students. Bike rentals are available through Big Sky Cycling & Fitness.

If I extend my trip or bring a friend, what else can I do in the Helena area?

Next to the Bray is a small spring-fed man-made lake called Spring Meadow Lake. It is a great place to take a quick swim or a nice walk. Thirty minutes east are a couple larger lakes called Canyon Ferry Lake and Hauser Lake and just northeast you can find the Missouri River. These areas offer nice beaches and many opportunities for sailing, canoeing, windsurfing, boating, fishing and rafting. A couple of Helena health clubs have gyms, spas and swimming pools. There is also a city pool which is heated.

Just south of the Bray is Mount Helena, a beautiful mountain city park where people may hike and picnic. Nearby are many mountain bike trails, camping spots, hot springs and golf courses. As you may know, both Glacier and Yellowstone National Parks are less than a four-hour drive from Helena.

For more information about Helena or Montana, click on the links below:

[Visit Helena Montana](#), [Helena Chamber of Commerce](#), [Downtown Helena](#), [The Lively Times](#), [Montana Travel and Tourism information](#) and [Official Montana State Travel Information](#).

Workshop

I'm flying and would like to ship my tools there ahead of time. Can I do that?

Yes. Anything that you would like to send ahead of you can be shipped to:

Archie Bray Foundation
ATTN: Your Name and workshop name
2915 Country Club Ave
Helena MT, 59602

What do I bring to my workshop?

We generally recommend bringing your preferred clay tools, particularly those relevant to the topic of the workshop. You will receive an email one month before your workshop with more detailed information regarding which tools you should bring and what

the Bray is providing. The Bray always provides clay and glaze and any other materials that are essential to the workshop topic such as plaster for a plaster workshop.

What is a typical schedule for workshops?

A hands-on workshop typically runs from 9 am–5pm every day with an hour lunch. The first day begins with an orientation and tour of the Bray with staff. Workshops go until 5 pm on the last day. [Click here for questions regarding accessibility.](#)

Where will my workshop take place?

The workshop will take place in the new Education and Research Facility which was opened in October of 2017. [Click here for more information about the location of the Bray and its campus.](#)

Will lunch be provided during the workshop?

No. Unfortunately, we do not provide lunch for students at this time. The Bray does not have a food service on campus nor is there an easily walkable lunch location. If you have a vehicle, you will have the opportunity to go get lunch. There is a refrigerator, microwave and eating area available for student use in the Education and Research Facility. We recommend students bring a sack lunch. Since the Bray is located on the edge of town, few restaurants will deliver to our location. If this is your preference, we recommend ordering from recommend Bridge Pizza as one of the few places that will deliver to the Bray. [Click to view their menu.](#) For this the workshop assistant will help coordinate ordering lunch as a group.

How long will the workshop break for lunch?

Hands-on workshops break for an hour. Demonstration-only workshops break for 30 minutes.

What if I don't finish work during the allotted workshop time?

Workshops are designed to finish by 5 pm on Friday. Due to the time it take to properly dry work, some workshops are designed more to teach technique than create a finished and fired piece to take home. Each workshop will state if firing is a part of the workshop.

Firing is not a part of my workshop, and I really want to take my piece home.

We understand that you worked really hard while you were here and may want to take home work. We will fire and ship your piece if it is within the dimensions of 16"x16"16" for a firing, handling and packing fee of \$50 plus shipping costs.

Will I have access to the studio outside of the 9 am–5 pm workshop day?

Yes. The studio in which the workshop takes place will not be used for other programming during the course of your workshop and will be open around the clock with unrestricted access for workshop students.

I would like to come early or stay late to work in the studio.

Unfortunately, the studio is only available to workshop students for the duration of their workshop. Studios are not available to rent.

My workshop says to bring bisque. Can I buy bisque at the Bray?

No. However, we often have leftover bisque from previous workshops that you can use.

I forgot my tools! Is there somewhere I can buy tools?

Yes! We have our very own Bray Clay Business which supplies not only the Bray artists but this entire region with tools and clay. The Clay Business offers workshop participants a 10% discount on items purchased during the time of the workshop. For more information, go online at archiebrayclay.com or call the Clay Business 800/443-6434 or 406/442-2521. Normal Clay Business hours are Monday–Friday 9 am–5 pm and Saturday 9 am–1 pm. To ensure that your desired items are in-stock, you may put in an order ahead of your workshop and pay for it, discount applied, at the time of the workshop.

What kind of clay will we use?

Bray Clay. We manufacture nineteen of our own clays which we use for all workshops. The type and temperature range is dependent on the workshop. Students will receive an email one month before your workshop with more detailed information regarding which tools you should bring and what the Bray is providing.