



MEDIA CONTACT

Amy Hunter
Weinstein PR
amy@weinsteinpr.com
(503) 927-5872

Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts Receives \$15 Million Endowment Gift from the Windgate Foundation

—The endowment is the largest gift in the renowned creative center’s history and will provide ongoing support for current programs and future goals—

Helena, Mont. (June 2, 2022) – The [Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts](#), an internationally renowned nonprofit creative center dedicated to the ceramic arts known as The Bray, has received a \$15 million endowment from the [Windgate Foundation](#). This donation, which will be established as the ABF Fund, is the largest in The Bray’s 71-year history and will help strengthen and enhance all aspects of its current programs and future priorities.

The Windgate Foundation, which is dedicated to supporting contemporary craft and visual arts in the United States, has been working with The Bray since 2010. The funds generated from this new endowment will continue Windgate’s financial support of The Bray’s international [artist-in-residence program](#). The endowment will also help The Bray achieve its strategic goals, including extending its reach in underserved communities through artistic and organizational partnerships and [educational programs](#), and further expanding its commitment to actively increasing inclusion, representation, belonging and equity in the ceramics community.



“The Windgate Foundation has been an incredible longtime partner, and we are humbled by and extremely grateful for this transformative gift,” said Steven Young Lee, director emeritus and special

projects manager of The Bray. “By establishing this endowment, Windgate is providing The Bray with both immediate support and long-term stability. While the endowment proceeds will only cover a portion of our annual need, this provides us with a solid foundation from which we can continue to evolve and foster opportunities in the ceramic arts.”

“We are deeply impressed with the work and vision of The Bray,” said Patricia Forgy, executive director of Windgate Foundation. “Our significant investment represents both the trust we have going forward and a deep belief in the mission and values. We encourage others to join us in support of this important ceramic arts institution.”

The Windgate Foundation began its support of The Bray for the creative center’s 60th anniversary celebration. Ongoing grants from the foundation have enabled The Bray to strengthen its artist-in-residence programs by providing overall financial support for the program, as well as direct funding to artists through Windgate fellowships and scholarships. In 2013, Windgate contributed a \$750,000 matching grant to The Bray’s \$6 million capital campaign, completed in 2021, to redesign the north campus, including a new education and research facility, the remodeling of the historic pottery building as an administrative center, a new sales gallery, new visiting artist housing, and a remodeled exhibition gallery and permanent collection display. The foundation also provided unrestricted grants to help support The Bray during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Individuals and organizations interested in supporting The Bray can visit archiebray.org/join-give/.

About The Bray

The Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts, known as The Bray, is a public, nonprofit creative center solely dedicated to the ceramic arts. Founded in 1951 by brickmaker Archie Bray, the mission of The Bray is to enhance commitment to, and investment in, the ceramic arts. Located in Helena, Montana, near the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, the 26-acre former brickyard serves as a gathering place for emerging and professional ceramic artists. Its programs include an international artist-in-residence program, workshops and community classes, curated exhibitions, an on-site and virtual sales gallery, and a ceramic supply facility that provides “Bray Clay” and technical support to artists from around the world. [The Bray](#) | [Bray Clay](#) | [Bray Gallery](#)

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