

Cheers! Auction kicks off January 22

Get ready to raise your cup!

Online Auction: January 22-24, [Preview Cups & BID HERE](#)

Opens: Wednesday, January 22, 10:00 am MST

Closes: Friday, January 24, 7:00 pm MST

Reception: January 24, 5:00-7:00 pm at our Bray Gallery:
Downtown



Join us for the Cheers! Auction, featuring a stunning collection of ceramic cups. Bid on your favorite pieces from January 22-24, with a special closing reception on the 24th at The Bray Gallery: Downtown, 434 N. Last Chance Gulch in Helena. Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to add a one-of-a-kind piece to your collection!

[Bid online here>>>](#)



Classes are Filling Fast - Reserve Your Seat Today!

We're a month out from the start of our spring adult (16+)

HOURS

Clay Business

Monday-Friday, 10 am–5 pm

Saturday, 9 am–5 pm

Gallery & Visitor Center, Exhibitions & Artist Studios

Tuesday-Friday, 11 am–5 pm

Saturday, 12 pm–4 pm

Closed Sunday and Monday

Bray Gallery: Downtown

Wed-Fri, 11 am–5 pm

Saturday, 12 pm–4 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, Jan 20, MLK Holiday

Bray Offices, Galleries and
Clay Business Closed

Cheers! Online Auction

Opens Jan 22, 10am MST

Closes Jan 24, 7pm MST

Reception Fri, Jan 24, 5-7 pm

Bray Gallery: Downtown

[Visit the Auction Website](#)

Speaking of Pots with Sarah Jaeger

Sunday, Jan 26, 2-3 pm

Organized and run by Sarah, Speaking of Pots is free and open to the public. Meeting from 2-3pm in the second floor lounge in the Frances Senska Center for Education and Engagement, this conversation

based series intends to increase knowledge and awareness of handmade pottery. January's topic revolves around managing expectations in the studio.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

Continuing Education classes and they're filling fast! One of the best features of Educational programming at The Bray is our ability to offer distinctive classes found nowhere else. Two of our unique classes this session are:

From Inspired to Intended Forms with Long Term Resident Artist, Jason Lee Starin

In this class, students will learn how to use simple hand building techniques and discover how to break down complex sculptural forms to take your ideas from inspiration to reality. This beginner to intermediate class meets on Wednesday mornings from 9:30am-12:30pm Feb 12 - April 23 (no class March 26th). [Register here.](#)



Wild Adornment: An Exploration of The Applied Surface in Clay with Alumni Resident Joanna Powell

Students can expect to learn how impactful ornamentation and decoration can be to a vessel, piece of pottery, or sculpture in this surface themed class. Learn and explore various techniques and methods of decorating with clay including coiling, braiding with clay, creating and using sprig molds and so much more in this Intermediate level class. Meets Saturday's 10am-1pm, Feb 15 - April 26 (no class March 29th). [Register here.](#)



2025 Workshops at The Bray

Get ready for a new and improved version of our popular workshops! We are pleased to offer a handful of exciting workshops throughout 2025 featuring talent from our long term resident artists as well as artists from afar. First up in our 2025 workshop announcements is:

Glaze of Our Lives

Understanding Glazes for the Beginner with Matt Katz
(One of three amazing hosts of our popular podcast, [For Flux Sake!](#))

THE BRAY'S BRICKYARD NETWORK

A wealth of ceramic conversation and knowledge right at your fingertips! Check out our most recent episodes on your favorite podcast app!



[CLAY IN COLOR](#)



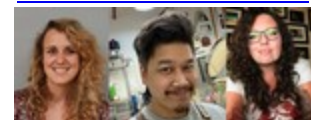
Angelik Vizcarrondo-Laboy and Alex Anderson talk with young professionals of color who use humor, cuteness, and the decorative in their work.

[FOR FLUX SAKE](#)



Kathy King, Matt Katz and Rose Katz answer your burning questions about clay and glaze. You'll be laughing and learning about glaze chemistry in no time.

[THE KILN SITTERS](#)



Marianne Chénard, Brendan Tang, and Carole Epp bring you enlightening interviews from Canadian makers.

[MAKER'S PLAYBOOK](#)

July 21-25, 2025 at The Bray



Glaze of Our Lives is a comprehensive study of ceramic glazes that helps people learn about what glazes are and how they work. In this 5 day in-person workshop we will answer all of the questions you have and smash a lot of the ceramic myths you may have been told. As a class, you'll take the mystery of materials, formulas and firings and translate them to change your studio forever! [Learn more here.](#)

All levels welcome! (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced)

[Registration Opens February 26, 10:30am MST on our website.](#)

Please stay tuned for information about additional workshops coming soon!

Montana Educators – Receive OPI Renewal Units for Classes at The Bray!

2024 Education and Engagement Snapshot

The Frances Senska Center for Education and Engagement continues to bustle with curious minds, discovery and growth! In 2024, we served 1,781 students and participants through eight educational programs! We are proud to have connected so many of you to the ceramic arts through educational offerings and hope to see you back at The Bray in 2025. Take a peek below to see how



Rebecca Ickes Carra talks with artists about what it's really like to make a living from the things we make.

THE SHOT CALLERS



Each week Virgil Ortiz and Justin Reese will make a signature cocktail with their guests as they talk about their journey through the world of art.

TALES OF A RED CLAY RAMBLER



Ben Carter talks with potters, sculptors, and ceramic designers about their creative practice.

TRADE SECRET



Adam Chau hosts conversations about contemporary issues in

the numbers break down.



- **562 students served through our Engagement Programming** (increased by 192 from 2023!) with 20 community partnerships such as Helena Indian Alliance, Helena Home School, Lewis & Clark Teen Services, many Montana schools and more.
- **24 individuals participated through our innovative Incubator Programming** fostering relationships with groups like Manchester Craftsmen's Guild & Youth Arts, Lame Deer Junior High, and Peoples Pottery Project.
- **Seven emerging professionals in our Educational Assistantship** program including Amanda Jacquez, Shannon Geaney, Lindsey Pankratz, Henry Prentiss, Janette Torres, Anvil Williamson, and Dana August
- **262 students served over 32 of our one time Experience Classes** (increased by 156 from 2023!), with the quickest to sell out and longest wait lists being our Dirty Date Nights! *wink, wink: mark your calendars for announcements in the February Newsletter!*
- **105 students learning new techniques** and pushing their comfort zones over two sessions and nine unique classes in our Continuing Education programming
- **367 participants on 32 guided tours** of our historic grounds
- **434 audience members showing up to support 26 talented artists** and presenters over the course of 11 Artists Amplified events showcasing new perspectives on the arts

Additionally, we employed 23 artist educators made up of 13 Bray Resident Artists, six Education Fellows, one Visiting Artist, two local artists, and one staff member. What a year 2024 was - **we thank you for your support and for allowing us to be a part of your clay experiences.** We hope you'll join us here again soon for more fun and learning at The Bray!

art, craft and design.

Coming Soon! BEYOND THE BRICKYARD

Take a deeper look at the history of the Archie Bray Foundation and its influence on the ceramic world. We are taking listener submitted questions for this podcast. If you have a story to tell shoot us an email and be on the show!
(ben@archiebray.org)

SPONSORS

Thanks to these sponsors for making the Brickyard Podcast Network possible. Contact ben@archiebray.org to join our growing list of sponsors.

The Rosenfield Collection
Contemporary, Functional Ceramic Art Collection

CERAMIC ARTS
NETWORK

GR Pottery Forms
Durable and Economical

QUICK LINKS

[Bray Homepage](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

[Education](#)

[Podcast Network](#)

[Become a Member](#)

[Donate Now](#)

[Online Sales Gallery](#)

If you or your business are interested in sponsoring an educational program or event, please email our Development Director, Liz Harrison at lharrison@archiebray.org

[Clay Business](#)



Welcome Visiting Artists Stephen Burks and Malika Leiper



Introducing our new Visiting Artists, Stephen Burks and Malika Leiper - the duo behind the globally renowned industrial design practice [Stephen Burks Man Made](#).

Known for their unique approach uniting art, craft, and community, their six-week residency in the Peter Voulkos Studio is exploring ongoing themes of ancestry and the metaphysical world through sculptural objects that are at once figurative and abstract.

Welcome Stephen and Malika!

Our Brickyard Podcast Network is Back!

After a short break from posting new podcasts over the holidays, the [Brickyard Network](#) is back at it! Follow our podcasts on your favorite podcast app to be the first to know about new episodes!



The latest podcast from *For Flux Sake* explores the topic, [What's up with all those pinholes?](#) Pin holes are a pesky issue in ceramics, largely because multiple glaze defects are often called pinholes. The gang talk about the myriad issues with pinholes, and if you can fix them on an already fired pot. They also discuss why commercial glazes have wide firing ranges. They start the show laughing and questioning the existence of removable ceramic stickers. Do you have questions or need advice on glazes? Drop us a line at ForFluxSakePodcast@gmail.com and you could be featured on an upcoming show. Listen now on your favorite podcast app or [stream from your browser](#).

Bray Clay Business



At [Bray Clay](#), we provide everything a ceramic artist, hobbyist, or classroom could need or want. We produce clays on-site in Helena, Montana for every firing temperature and color and we stock many more clays from Plainsman and Laguna. Everything you need to work with and finish your ceramic pieces—glazes, underglazes, tools, dry materials, and studio equipment—is all available in our Helena store, by phone, or [online](#).

We are thankful for you!

Because of your generous support, we have been able to fuel our mission to promote, celebrate, and sustain the ceramic arts through the residency program, education, gallery, ceramic materials and technology, and community engagement on a local, national, and international scale. In the words of Archie himself, The Bray makes available, “for all who are seriously and sincerely interested in any of the branches of the ceramic arts, a fine place to work”.



Your love of the ceramic arts and our community makes this all possible. You are an important part of our work and our continued success. Please show your support by making a gift today.



The Archie Bray Foundation recognizes and honors the Indigenous peoples of this region on whose ancestral lands the Foundation now stands. Indigenous people have inhabited the valley in which Helena is situated for more than 12,000 years; the valley acting as a crossover for Salish, Crow, Bannock, and Blackfoot tribes among others.

We respectfully acknowledge and honor all Indigenous communities whose land we reside on in what is now known as Montana— past, present, future—and are grateful for their ongoing and vibrant presence. We believe that acknowledging and reflecting upon the contemporary lived experience and history of the Indigenous peoples here in Montana and around the world are essential steps toward creating a more equitable world. Learn more through the [#HonorNativeLand](#) initiative of the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture, and consider contributing to Indigenous-led organizations doing important work to further the health and wellness, sovereignty and self-determination of the first peoples of this land.

The Bray is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to the enrichment of the ceramic arts, located at 2915 Country Club Ave. in Helena, just 1/3 mile west of Spring Meadow Lake.

This project is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, and in part by the Montana Cultural Trust, the Montana Arts Council, the Bray Business Alliance and the friends and members of the Bray. The Bray is funded in part by coal severance taxes paid based upon coal mined in Montana and deposited in Montana's Cultural and Aesthetic Projects Trust Fund.