

# NEWS from the BRICKYARD



## ka-BLOOM! Brick by Brick Auction

Our next mini auction is kaBLOOM!, a celebration of the bright, radiant, blossoming life springtime has to offer.

This auction showcases artwork from 13 artists that explore floral motifs and function.

### Featured artists include:

Jake Brodsky, Hannah Cameron, Victoria Christen, Sunshine Cobb, Austin Coudriet, Giselle Hicks, Maggie Jaszczak, Ryan Wilson Kelly, Stephanie McGeorge, Brooks Oliver, Austin Riddle, Megan Thomas, Sue Tirrell



[Bidding begins](#) Wednesday, April 24, 10:00 am MDT

Bidding closes Friday, April 26, 7:00 pm MDT

[Click here](#) to get registered for this mini auction today!

## Bray Gallery: Downtown OPENING!

Join us Thursday, April 25th for our Bray Gallery: Downtown ribbon cutting and opening at 10:00 am. This new location will showcase work from local and regional Bray-affiliated artists, and help to tell the story of this internationally known ceramics center that is right here in our backyard in Helena! After the ribbon cutting, hours of operation will be Wednesday through Friday 11am - 5pm, Saturdays 12-4.



We are thrilled to have a presence downtown and looking forward to participating in art walks, historic tours, and showcasing some of the finest contemporary ceramic works in Helena.

## Upcoming Artist Amplified Events

Abbey Cook and Stephanie McGeorge

Thursday, April 18th, 6:30 pm

## 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

## CURRENT EXHIBITION



### Fellowship Artist Exhibition

March 7–May 3, 2024  
Bray Gallery: North

Featuring Bray  
Fellowship Artists:  
Sarah Alsaied, Shea  
Burke, Colby Charpentier,  
Austin Coudriet, Laura  
Dirksen, Simphiwe  
Mbunyuza, Janina  
Myronowa, Austin Riddle,  
Megan Thomas, Maura  
Wright

A big thanks to the exhibition  
lead sponsor, [Mosaic  
Architecture](#).



## UPCOMING EVENTS



Don't miss our upcoming Artist Amplified on April 18th, 6:30pm MDT as local florist and event planner, Abbey Cook, joins forces with regional clay artist, Stephanie McGeorge. Learn how to highlight your floral arrangements and elevate your vases while gaining a deeper understanding of the artistic choices made throughout the process of vase making. A hot topic for both consumers and makers of vases, alike – take your next dinner party or photo documentation to the next level by making sure not to miss their presentation!

Location: In-Person at the Frances Senska Center for Education and Engagement and streaming live, [Virtual Event](#) (Link goes live at the time of the event).

**Sarah Alsaied, Austin Coudriet, Laura Dirksen at Mt. Ascension Brewing Co.**  
**Thursday, May 2nd, 6:00 pm**

## The Bray Gallery: Downtown Ribbon Cutting!



Join us downtown,  
 Thursday, April 25, at  
 10:00 am to celebrate the  
 opening of our newest  
 gallery with a ribbon  
 cutting! Location: 434 N.  
 Last Chance Gulch,  
 Helena, MT

## SPEAKING OF POTS

Join Sarah Jaeger and  
 friends for conversations  
 and community around  
 anything pots.

**2:00 pm, Sunday,  
 Apr 28, May 19**

Frances Senska Center  
 for Education and  
 Engagement  
 kitchen/lounge space  
 (2nd floor)  
 Free and open to the  
 public.



**DONATE TODAY**

**QUICK LINKS**



Join us at Mt Ascension Brewing Co for a very special Artist Amplified event in conjunction with this years Greater Helena Gives campaign! Hear from our three first year resident artists, Sarah Alsaied, Austin Coudriet, and Laura Dirksen as they share and discuss what they've been working on in their studios, their aspirations, and what adventures they took getting here. Grab a beer, support the arts, help celebrate and raise awareness for nonprofits like ours to make our Helena community as special as it is!

#### **In Person Only:**

6:00 pm at Mt Ascension Brewing Co., 317 Cruse Ave, Helena, MT 59601

No Virtual attendance is available for this event – please join us virtually for other future events.

Learn more about this event and the entire [Artist Amplified Series](#) [here](#).

Thank you Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana for making our Artist Amplified 2024 season possible!



**BlueCross BlueShield  
of Montana**

Want to learn more about Sponsorship opportunities?  
Email [kposewitz@archiebray.org](mailto:kposewitz@archiebray.org)

### **Additional Upcoming Artist Amplified Events**

- May 16: Former Resident Joanna Powell
- June 27: Bray Fellow Laura Dirksen
- July 11: Summer Residents

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[Events Calendar](#)

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[Clay Business](#)

## **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!



### **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](mailto:ben@archiebray.org))

### **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.



- August 15: Artists of People's Pottery Project
- Sept 19: Local Artist Danielle O'Malley
- Oct 17: Local Artist Louise Ogemahgeshig Fischer



## Mother's Day Themed Classes; REGISTER TODAY!



Get ready for Mother's Day and join us at the Bray for our special Mothers and Others family themed experience classes. Create a one of a kind, slab built and hand decorated mug or cup that is sure to WOW any mother figure in your life in our **Cups and Mugs** class, or experience the fun and excitement of raku firing in our **Raku** class! [Find out more details and register here.](#)



**Saturday, April 27th!**

[Cups and Mugs: 2-4 pm](#)

[Raku Fire: 4-6 pm](#)

## NEA Supports the Bray

The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded a \$30,000 grant to the Archie Bray Foundation (Bray) to support our Engagement Programming and Visiting Artist Program.

The project goals for the Engagement Programming and Visiting Artist Program are centered in creating opportunities for underrepresented communities and elevating our offerings to better our organization. We hope artists and youth involved will gain mentorship, confidence, and a deep sense of belonging during and after their time at the Bray through new relationships and time to focus on 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.

## THE MAKER'S PLAYBOOK

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 art, craft and design.

## SPONSORS

Thanks to these sponsors for making the Brickyard Podcast Network possible. Contact [ben@archiebray.org](mailto:ben@archiebray.org) to join our growing list of

NEA funding will enable the Bray to elevate the visibility of our Invited Artist Program and amplify the voices of the participating artists by adding a curatorial, exhibition, and monograph component. Additionally, NEA funds would provide direct artist support to allow us to bring invited artists to rural Helena, MT, and support material costs—two very real participation barriers.

“The NEA is delighted to announce this grant to the Archie Bray Foundation, which is helping contribute to the strength and well-being of the arts sector and local community,” said National Endowment for the Arts Chair, Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. “We are pleased to be able to support this community and help create an environment where all people have the opportunity to live artful lives.”



## Visiting Artist Welcome

Give a warm welcome to 2002 and 2011 past resident artist, Susannah Israel! Susannah will be at the Bray for a few weeks, creating art and connecting with the resident artists.

Susannah Israel is an artist and writer living in Oakland, California. Her sculptures reveal a gritty yet passionate view of humanity, drawn from city life. Israel received her baccalaureate in Art & Chemistry, and MFA, from San Francisco State University. She was Professor of Sculpture & Ceramics at Laney College, Oakland and also engaged with diverse communities throughout the western states, giving lectures, workshops and masterclasses. She continues to mentor artists through the Color Network. Israel's expressive work is widely exhibited, appearing in collections across the world. At home in Oakland, she works in her studio at the Vulcan Foundry.



sponsors.

The Rosenfield Collection  
Contemporary, Functional Ceramic Art Collection

CERAMIC ARTS  
NETWORK

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## Community Engagement with Helena Food Share

We are delighted to once again partner with Helena Food Share and support their 2024 Empty Bowls Helena fundraising event! We'll be hosting a community bowl making event as well as collecting bowls from our talented network of residents (past and present), staff, and students!

### COMMUNITY BOWL FEST!

**Join us Sunday, April 14**, from 11am-2pm at the Frances Senska Center for Education and Engagement to make bowls to donate for this year's Empty Bowls Helena fundraiser!

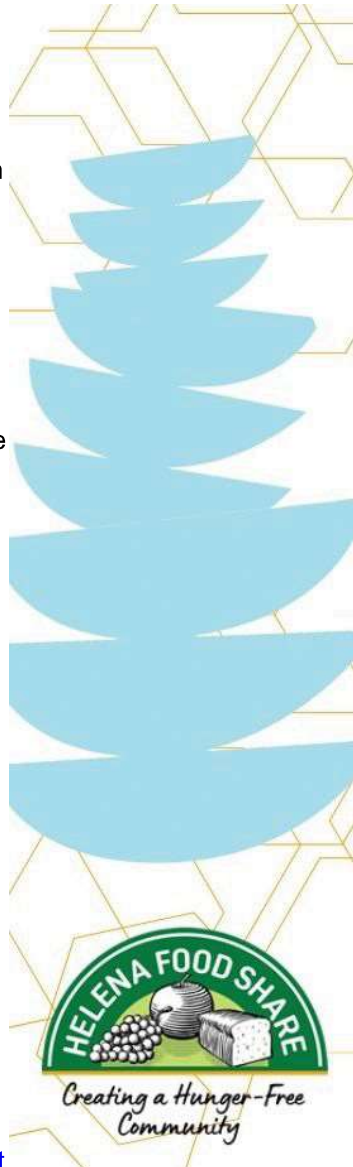
No experience or registration is necessary, suggested donation of \$5 to help cover material and firing fees. Drop in for 1, 2, or 3 hours of fun!

### DROP OFF BOWL DONATIONS

Anytime before **May 6th**, donate handmade bowl(s) to support Helena Food Share in reaching their vision of *creating a hunger-free community* during their 2024 Empty Bowls Helena Fundraiser!

Bowl donations can be delivered to the Frances Senska Center for Education and Engagement at the Bray before May 6th. Ideal bowl donations are handmade, good quality, and between 2-4" high and 6-8" wide. (think soup or cereal bowl)

[Get tickets for the Empty Bowls Event at the Civic Center on May 16th here.](#)





## Rooms for Residents



This summer, The Bray will be welcoming several new short and long term resident artists. If you have space available for rent, or if you know of anyone who might be interested in housing an artist, please reach out to us. This is a great way for our resident artists to connect with the local community. With Helena's high rental rates, many of our resident artists rely on our network of interested people to help them find affordable housing.

If you can help, please [visit this page](#) and fill out the "Bray Landlord Information". Thank you for supporting our artists!

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## 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](#).



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## The Mission

Every donation fuels 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".



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*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 Blackfeet 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.