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Dear Joy,

Imagine a life without art. No Van Gogh's *Starry Night*, Tchaikovsky's *Firebird*, O'Keeffe's *Jimson Weed*, Lange's *Migrant Mother*. Imagine a life without science. No quantum physics, optical microscopes, digital thermometers, geologic maps, or Big Bang Theory.

You and I know that art and science help illuminate the human experience. Moreover, we know that creative expression has the power to transform the world. When we gaze upon our surroundings through diverse lenses, more is possible. Boundaries are pushed farther out.

At PLAYA, we offer artists and scientists the soul-expanding space, solitude, and community to foster creative inquiry and innovative dialogue—inquiry and dialogue designed to bring positive change to our society, environment, and planet.

This holiday season we're asking you to make a gift as generous as you can to support the critical creative expression happening year round at PLAYA.

Art and science are essential to humanity. Research has shown repeatedly that cultures don't embrace scientific and social issues until artists and poets interpret them for everyone's understanding. That is why PLAYA offers residency programs for artists and scientists. These men and women are among the great explorers of our time. Without their voices, society stagnates. With them, we are encouraged to ponder controversial topics, explore deep inside ourselves, and emerge with greater understanding—with the strength and vibrancy that are essential if we are to solve the complex challenges of our time.

PLAYA was established by Julie Bryant and Bill Roach, two creative individuals who believe so passionately in artistic and scientific expression that they purchased 75 acres in Lake County, Oregon, and built and rebuilt the cabins, studios, and research spaces that today comprise PLAYA. They have been PLAYA's main contributors since its residency program began in 2011. Their passion and financial dedication remain with us today, but if we are to continue long into the future and expand this vital work, we need to build a strong and diverse community of supporters.

Each year over 150 brilliant minds, ranging from emerging artists and scientists to established professionals, immerse themselves in PLAYA's inspiring landscape and community. Here they move the needle on critical work that will benefit society and our planet. For many, the PLAYA experience is not only a key factor in the formation and completion of their work, it is life changing.

We would like to count you among our supporters.

This is true of Noah Strycker, who'd never considered an artist residency program before friends and family suggested he apply to PLAYA. "I sat down and filled out an application form, not even dreaming I would be accepted for a month-long stay in spring 2016. The experience was richer and better than I imagined! PLAYA gave me the opportunity to get up each morning, go birding in spectacular desert habitat (I saw 170 species of birds during my stay, including a 100-bird morning) and work for long, uninterrupted days on the manuscript for my third book on birds, *Birding Without Borders*. The finished book was a success, and the circle of friends I made with writers and artists at PLAYA continues to this day."



It is also true of Jana Richman, WILLA award-winning author of *Finding Stillness in a Noisy World* and other books. “Here’s the thing that PLAYA (re)taught me: stillness cannot be overlaid on a life like a dress pattern pinned to a swath of material, rough edges trimmed away . . . it will flow as naturally as the rivulets of water trickling under a frozen sheet of ice. And it did. I wrote furiously during my residence at PLAYA—late at night, in the silent wee hours of the morning, and, every once in a while, during my slated writing time. Stillness spawns creativity; creativity seeds stillness. A perfect loop . . . Shortly before my book went

to print, I made a small but critical change to the title. I replaced “searching for stillness” with “finding stillness,” a change that my time at PLAYA nurtured.”

It is true as well of Evan Frost, who came to PLAYA for his dream residency in summer 2018. He had been trying to complete a paper that identifies high-priority areas for wildlife movement in the Southern Cascade and Siskiyou Mountains, with emphasis on connecting forested habitats used by Pacific fishers, spotted owls, gray wolves, and other wide-ranging species. He hadn’t had time in his busy schedule to make progress on the paper, let alone finish it. Today, thanks to his PLAYA experience, his paper on ecological connectivity in the Cascade-Siskiyou landscape is complete. Evan believes that disseminating his research will help wildlife conservation efforts in this region, and by association, the natural areas upon which wildlife depend.

Residents accepted through our blind application process come to PLAYA free of charge. A contribution of just \$100 covers one full day of one resident’s stay at PLAYA. Residents stay with us on average from two weeks to one month. Many meals are provided during this time, as are outback adventures and important connections to other creative souls.

In addition to our dynamic residency program, each month we offer productions of PLAYA Presents—where residents open their studios and present works in progress—as well as workshops and performances in Lake and Deschutes counties. We’re also offering master classes and weekends ranging from nature journaling on the playa to natural history weekends to dark sky events. PLAYA’s public programming brings rare cultural opportunities for local communities and youth to engage leading artists and scientists from around the world. These programs also enrich PLAYA’s residents through real connection to the strong, unique community that surrounds us.



As PLAYA helps elevate the voices of artists and scientists, our communities reap the reward. There is a real and urgent need for art that reminds us of our place on the planet and for science that explores that place. ***Please give as generously as you can to support the creative inquiry that can lead us to a better tomorrow.***

With deep thanks,

Rebecca Lawton

P.S. Thank you for recognizing the vital importance of artistic and scientific expression and its power to transform our world.
