



November 2019

47531 Highway 31
Summer Lake, OR 97640
info@playasummerlake.org
www.playasummerlake.org

Dear Friend of PLAYA,

The pressing issues of our time – climate resilience, social justice, livable communities – are also the reasons I’m passionate about being PLAYA’s Executive Director. We live with so much news about intensifying weather, water scarcity, poverty, mass migrations, and more that the barrage overwhelms our ability to respond.

Still, I believe creativity helps us sort through even the most dire messages and inspires our brightest future.

At PLAYA, we know that viewing the world through a humanities lens helps give it meaning. Study after study shows that cultures embrace pressing social issues only when they’re spun into various forms of storytelling. When we engage the written word, music, scientific inquiry, film, painting, dance, and other artistic interpretation, facts reach us in ways our brains can understand and integrate. We’re moved to collaborate for beneficial change.

Here in the Oregon Outback, PLAYA gifts residencies of space and solitude to artists and scientists whose creativity allows them to see and respond to our world with unique vision. A big task, surely – and one that makes a profound difference.

In 2019, over 420 individuals immersed themselves in PLAYA’s transformative landscape and community. More than 100 were juried fellows whose lifelong practices earned them complimentary, multi-week residencies. Deepening their focus through immersion, PLAYA’s visiting artists and scientists moved the needle on work that bridges fact and action as only the humanities can.

Failing to support creative perspectives means we’ll miss finding unique solutions. Facilitating such work, we can solve the complex challenges of our time.

This holiday season I’m asking you to give as generously as you can to PLAYA, to support the endless possibilities in the arts and sciences.

A gift in any amount shows your support for PLAYA’s critical role in transforming the world.

With deep thanks,

Rebecca Lawton
Executive Director

P.S. Thank you for recognizing PLAYA’s important work toward our brightest future.

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