PLAYA

March 16, 2020

Dear friends of PLAYA,

The hearts of PLAYA staff and board go out to all those whose lives have already been affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Here at our Summer Lake location, and in PLAYA's planning looking forward, we are taking precautions to help flatten the curve of this pandemic.

In our work of creating community, PLAYA brings artists and scientists together from all over the region and world. That community-building includes convening meals, forums, and dialogue among people from widespread towns and cities. Local and national advisors have convinced us that, were PLAYA to carry on business as usual, we could not offer infected residents the oxygen, medical services, or even sustained grocery and care supplies they would need. In addition, our team is so small that if one staff member falls ill, we have no backup, preventing us from serving residents, well or otherwise.

Therefore, for the time being, we have not only increased the cleaning and disinfecting of communal surfaces, we have also closed PLAYA to incoming residents. Per Center for Disease Control guidelines, we believe we can best help slow the spread of COVID-19 to art and science residents, our central Oregon neighbors, and PLAYA staff by suspending residencies through the end of April or longer.

In taking this action, we realize we're suspending our core work. During the days of closure, however, staff will still be here, keeping in touch with you, maintaining the beauty and comfort of the facility, and devoting the time we rarely can to programming. Please watch for communications from staff and board about how we'll continue to serve you as we stay responsible about COVID-19.

PLAYA's family was made for times like these—art and science are, and will continue to be, the means by which we communicate and support each other through the best and worst of days.

Becca

Rebecca Lawton
Executive Director
PLAYA