



## **IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON PLAYA**

**PLAYA**, like most businesses and organizations around the world, has been deeply affected by the realities of COVID-19. In response to growing concerns about the pandemic, PLAYA was closed to visitors and artists-in-residence in early March. At its March 28 - 29 meeting, the Board of Directors came to the difficult decision to suspend all on-site programming at PLAYA through the end of August, and all arts and sciences residencies through the end of 2020. Depending on the developing situation this summer, the Board will assess the possibility of re-opening to on-site programming in the fall. Local staff members are still at work onsite keeping to social distancing protocols to maintain PLAYA's facilities. All accepted applicants for 2020 residencies will be offered residency positions when PLAYA returns to full operations in 2021. We are currently working to develop the 2021 calendar.

PLAYA's Board is inspired to use this hiatus in programming to sharpen our focus and deepen our sense of purpose. In the words of Carolyn Law, PLAYA's Board President, "These are challenging times, but we at PLAYA are committed to using this opportunity to assess how to be a strong community partner and to further develop our arts and science programming to propel PLAYA's mission forward."

PLAYA has hired Elizabeth Quinn to be Interim Executive Director to assist PLAYA after the resignation of Rebecca Lawton. Quinn lives in Lake County and has 15 + years experience in arts administration. Quinn is co-director of Fieldworks Consulting and

over the last two years, she has assisted several organizations in launching artist residency programs.

During this time of limited programming at PLAYA, the Board of Directors and dedicated staff are looking at the following ways to fortify the organization and further contribute to the Lake County community:

- **PLAYA's Strategic plan will be revisited and strengthened reaffirming the mission and values of PLAYA's founders;**
- A two - three year Program Plan and Funding Plan will be developed that includes emphasizing greater community engagement with residents, arts organizations and cultural activities in Lake County;
- With major funding from a recently awarded grant from the Murdock Foundation, PLAYA will commence construction of a new multi-purpose gallery and meeting space which will allow for more community programming as well as sharing of the diverse arts and science work done at PLAYA.; and
- PLAYA will develop virtual programming that reflects on this unique moment in human history and to help build bridges to our shared future. We will reach out to our artist and scientist residency alumni and more broadly to others to engage in this programming and we will share the on-going collected content widely.

Although these are challenging times, everyone at PLAYA is taking good care and giving deep attention to PLAYA's facilities, many past activities and accomplishments, while setting in place a further strengthened foundation from which to reopen and restart programming.

