

ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

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Paul Taylor
PO Box 1427
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Dear Paul,

I heard you on WPR discussing the Laramie Rec. Center mural project today and it inspired me to send you this long overdue expression of appreciation for your work and for the deep contribution you have made and continue to make to Wyoming citizens and communities.

Those contributions are significant. As an artist in multiple disciplines, you demonstrate the power of art to captivate interest and engage the emotions. As an ambassador of the Australian Aborigine, you broaden our young people's horizons by giving them an authentic, participatory experience of this rich aboriginal culture and mythology that, in turn, helps our young people make connections to their own culture and mythology.

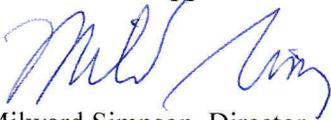
You clearly understand the particular relevance that your mission and approach has for Wyoming. As a people deeply tied to the land, being exposed through art to other cultures that share that connection is empowering and opens doors of self-knowledge that other forms of educational experience cannot.

One of the most serious ills facing our public lands is the growing disconnect between children and nature. This disconnect erodes the experience of nature as a daily part of what it means to be alive and it consequently threatens to sever public support for the preservation of public lands. The way your work nurtures the wonder and mystery evoked by a deep connection to place is a powerful tonic for this modern malady.

Again Paul, I applaud your work and I am grateful that we have artists on the Wyoming Arts Council Roster who have such a passion and commitment to Wyoming.

I look forward to the opportunity to see the new mural and I hope to have many more opportunities to see you in action in the future!

With fondest appreciation and respect,



Milward Simpson, Director
Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources



Matthew H. Mead, Governor
Milward Simpson, Director