**Sample Press Release**

{*Print your press release on your sponsoring organization's letterhead*

*or include name, address, and phone number of organization at top of release*}

**For Immediate Release**

**THE [SPONSORING ORGANIZATION] HOSTS MONTANA CONVERSATIONS “MONTANA’S POET LAUREATE” WITH CHRIS LA TRAY**

[City–date]

The (your sponsoring organization) hosts Montana Conversation “Montana’s Poet Laureate” with Chris La Tray on (date of program). The program is at (location) on (time of program). The presentation is free and open to the public. Funding for the Montana Conversations program is provided by Humanities Montana through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Montana’s Cultural Trust, and private donations. We are funded in part by coal severance taxes paid based upon coal mined in Montana and deposited in Montana’s cultural and aesthetic projects trust fund.

Métis storyteller and Little Shell Chippewa member Chris La Tray approaches the practice of poetry the same as he does the spiritual life of an Anishinaabe person: which is to say, if one lives an Anishinaabe life, with particular attention to the seven guiding principles of the Seven Grandfather teachings – Humility, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Truth, Respect, and Love – then every footstep becomes a prayer. Similarly, if one approaches poetry in a similar fashion, recognizing that everything that happens may be viewed as a poem, and that every moment in life is an experience best paid constant and careful attention to, then every footstep becomes a poem. Whether as words on a page or shared orally, poetry becomes another means for telling and sharing stories; La Tray's programs exist to remind people that their stories matter, that they are the only ones who can properly tell them, and that poetry, however it is defined, is a beautiful means for doing so.

La Tray is a Métis storyteller and an enrolled member of the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians. He is the author of *One-Sentence Journal: Short Poems and Essays from the World at Large.*His next book,*Becoming Little Shell*was published by Milkweed Editions in 2024.

For more information, please call [sponsoring organization] at [phone number].

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Contact person: [project organizer and phone number]