

# White Clay Global Grant Proposal

## D5610 Draft

July 2019

### DESCRIPTION

White Clay, NE borders the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota and has a population of about 12. It is about two miles from the village of Pine Ridge, SD. There were four liquor stores in White Clay that sold about 4 million cans of beer, mostly to residents of Pine Ridge who left the dry reservation to buy their liquor at these stores. In 2017, the State of Nebraska Liquor Commission did not renew any of the liquor licenses in White Clay. As a result, all of the liquor stores closed.

A non-profit corporation, Whiteclay Makerspace (WM), was formed in Nebraska with the purpose of buying one of the liquor stores and transforming it into a makerspace for Pine Ridge area artists and craftspersons. The building has been purchased and a group of local artists and craftspersons are working along with WM to clean and renovate the building. A soft opening of fall 2019 is the goal.

Rotary District 5610 is in the process of writing a global grant from The Rotary Foundation (TRF) to support the artists and craftspeople who will be making use of the new makerspace in White Clay, NE. Elements of the grant project are spelled out later in this document.

### ENTITIES POTENTIALLY INVOLVED

#### ***Rotary District 5610 - Host Partner***

District 5610 will be the host Rotary entity of the global grant. The district will write the grant application, seek out an international partner and other funding participants, oversee the implementation of the grant, measure outcomes, evaluate the effectiveness of the project, and report on grant activities to TRF.

#### ***Whiteclay Makerspace - Cooperating Organization***

WM will partner with District 5610 to deliver the grant project to its participating artists and artisans. We will need to write and execute a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between District 5610 and WM.

#### ***Existing Organizations Serving the Pine Ridge Reservation***

Opportunities exist to involve the following organizations to assist with the planning and implementation of the grant:

- First Peoples Fund
- Oglala Lakota Artspace in Kyle, SD
- Rolling Rez Art Bus, a First Peoples Fund program
- Lakota Funds Credit Union
- Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation
- Prairie Edge Trading Co. & Galleries

### ROLE CLARIFICATION

The **beneficiaries** of the project will be the resident Lakota artists and craftspeople in need of space and other assistance to produce and sell works that will enable them to raise their level of income.

District 5610 will be the **grant applicant and administrator** serving these beneficiaries.

Whiteclay Makerspace will be the **cooperating organization** assisting District 5610 in delivering the project. WM is NOT the beneficiary.

The other organizations listed above, and perhaps others, may be brought into the grant project as **advisors, vendors, or cooperating organizations**.

## **GLOBAL GRANT PROJECT ELEMENTS**

### ***Equip the Artists and Craftspeople***

This element will directly impact the beneficiaries by supplying them with the needed tools and equipment to produce their art. Examples are quilting machines, quilt frames, drill press, table and other power saws, leather working tools, drafting/artist's tables, clamp lights, and so forth. Donations of equipment for a Photo Studio for the purpose of marketing the artists' works have been received. The beneficiaries are being consulted on what is appropriate for their artwork production.

The equipment will be housed in the WM building and will be maintained by the beneficiaries and WM personnel. Ownership will remain with District 5610 at least until the final report is written and the grant is closed.

### ***Provide Training***

In order to succeed in developing their small businesses of art production, the beneficiaries have noted that training is needed in business practices, financial matters, entrepreneurship, marketing, online marketing, computer skills, and professional development. As we develop our grant application, we may discover other training needs. Training will directly impact the beneficiaries.

### ***Stand up a Supply Shop in WM Studio***

White Clay and Pine Ridge are relatively remote and beneficiaries must travel up to 100 miles one way to obtain supplies to produce their artwork. This element will provide an initial stock of the type of supplies used by local artists and craftspeople. The sale of this initial supply should be able to provide replacement stock and thus be self-sustaining. This element will directly impact the beneficiaries.

### ***Install Solar Panels for the WM Building***

Installation of solar panels will directly impact WM by improving their property. It will indirectly impact the beneficiaries by lowering building operating costs and thus lowering the cost to the beneficiaries of using the makerspace. Adding solar panels will directly impact local Lakota tradespeople by providing training in the operation and maintenance of an energy system that is increasingly being installed on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

### ***Additional Potential Elements***

As we develop the grant application, other elements may become feasible to provide; such as support of a Youth Art Camp, a Grant Project Manager, and a Market Research and Analysis Study.

## **GLOBAL GRANT APPLICATION ELEMENTS**

### ***Needs Study***

A study has been started with three of the artist participants in a focus group meeting held in White Clay in February 2019. Continued needs assessments of artists were conducted in May and July. This study needs to be developed further with other beneficiaries, research on the

economic and living environments of Pine Ridge, and the specific needs of the artists and craftspeople using the makerspace.

**Grants Project Committee**

District 5610 is standing up a committee of at least three Rotarians who will write the grant, identify and onboard funding partners, set up financial stewardship, implement the project, measure the outcomes, evaluate the project, and formally report to TRF.

**Develop the Project and Produce Estimated Costs**

The grant committee will need to decide and develop the grant deliverables (elements listed above), and estimate the cost of delivering the project.

**Sustainability**

Elements of sustainability must be designed into the project.

**Stewardship**

A separate checking account to receive and disburse grant funds with clearly defined persons with financial authority to oversee the disbursement of grant funds will need to be established. An inventory of equipment, tools, and supplies purchased and provided to the beneficiaries will need to be created and maintained for the life of the grant and for at least five years following grant closure. A procedure for inspecting the equipment will need to be established for stewardship purposes.

**Memorandum of Agreement**

District 5610 and Whiteclay Makerspace will need to negotiate and write an MOU for the grant application.

**Measurement and Evaluation**

District 5610 needs to develop measures of success and sustainability. We need to monitor and evaluate the project against these measures.

**PROPOSED TIMELINE**

We would like to be able to start delivering the project as soon as WM's remodeling of the building is completed. This may be as quickly as sometime winter 2019 or we may need to wait up to a year for grant application approval.

Upon approval and receipt of grant funds, we can immediately start grant implementation.

Project delivery, particularly the training element, may take up to two years.

Monitoring and evaluation may be done during project implementation and up to five years after project completion to ensure outcomes are achieved and the artists and craftspeople are sustaining their businesses.

**PRINCIPAL CONTACTS**

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## **The Whiteclay Makerspace 501(c)(3)** **<https://whiteclayredo.com/>**

### **The Issue**

Creating art is one of the most common trades here on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Art supplies are hours away and expensive, there is no safe place to work, warehouse art, and the lack of accessible markets leaves our artists operating in a crisis mode (*"This piece is worth \$400 but I need to buy diapers so I will sell it for \$40"*)

### **The Solution**

Contrasted against the old liquor store buildings, the Makerspace will provide a safe place to work, access to art supplies, and state of the art equipment.

The space will also provide an online store where our local artists can establish a more reliable income and teaching/mentoring opportunities.

**April 2017** | Liquor stores are closed down by the efforts of heroic activists after decades of fueling crimes in the area.

**June 2017** | Citizens, artists, politicians, and tribal members brainstorm business ideas. The tangible need of supporting artists is pitched.

**November 2018** | A former liquor store is purchased to build the Whiteclay Makerspace.

### **MAP**

Whiteclay, Nebraska

### **Whiteclay Redevelopment**

The insights, vision, and operation of White Clay Redevelopment is based on almost twenty years of experience and relationships among the Lakota people in Whiteclay, Nebraska and on the neighboring Pine Ridge Reservation. Every aspect moving forward is planned with utmost dignity in conjunction with the Oglala Sioux Tribe members and their thriving culture.

Whiteclay Redevelopment, L3C was the catalyst to launch the nonprofit organization Whiteclay Makerspace. It is a registered low-profit, limited liability company dedicated to organizing resources and activities to accomplish positive change for Whiteclay.

