

Whiteclay Arts Makerspace Rotary Global Grant Project News #5



GRAND OPENING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2021 10 am-3 pm
Refreshments and tours. Public welcome. Please wear a mask, especially if not vaccinated.
Quilt raffle tickets available at District Conference and from grant team. Drawing 2:59 pm

This DISTRICT 5610 is a project that welcomes Rotarians and community members alike!

The committee will host a booth at the upcoming District Conference, and have Native-made products available for sale. The beautiful raffle quilt will be on display. A slide show will feature photos of the makerspace. (That's why there are NO PHOTOS included in this report—too many photos to choose from!)

Where are we today with the Rotary grant project?

The Whiteclay Makerspace has proven to be an excellent project for Rotary. Whiteclay Makerspace global grant project falls within the economic and community development focus of Rotary's seven areas of focus. Rotary District 5610 is assisting Whiteclay Makerspace, the non-profit organization delivering the project. Whiteclay Makerspace Inc. building owner, Jon Ruybalid is handling the building and the management of the facility while Rotary is equipping the makerspace with needed equipment and supplies. Nadine Morrison is the current onsite manager.

Supply store: has a large supply of beads, painting supplies, and fabric and notions offered to locals for sale. Summer hours for 3-4 days per week brought in several artists working with the equipment and selling their goods. Travelers and general public averaged 10/day purchasing goods and touring the facility. The makerspace is already benefiting the local residents!

Workspaces: The artists are creating their art at sewing machines, quilter, and beading tables. A second building/workshop has been added and power equipment installed. Woodwork and leatherwork artists are needed to sign up and get training on equipment. Donated photography equipment has been set up in a studio room. Work days for volunteers to setup and install equipment and prepare the space have occurred from September 2020, thru September 2021.

The news media has been helpful in featuring this makerspace.

Follow these links to read the stories:

KILI Radio interview with Jon Ruybalid, Tom Katus, Ina Winter, and Linda Peterson on September 4, 2021

SDPB <https://listen.sdpb.org/post/once-tarnished-town-changing-its-legacy-1>

RC Journal https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/rotary-club-businesses-helping-to-create-a-new-hub-for-lakota-artists-at-whiteclay/article_852ff0f7-de17-5b48-bb4d-69d8b4d69dc9.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Native News Online <https://nativenewsonline.net/arts-entertainment/remolding-whiteclay-a-once-bleak-bordertown-becomes-an-oasis-for-oglala-sioux-artists>

University of Nebraska/Lincoln <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/students-innovation-studio-team-up-to-help-whiteclay-makerspace/>

Nebraska Living Times magazine (PDF)

Rotary clubs have featured the project team as weekly speakers in Rapid City, Hot Springs, Brookings, Sioux Falls, Brattleboro, VT and at District and Zone conferences. Please let us know if you would like us to speak at your meetings via Zoom! News releases are posted on the District 5610 website, and sent to all grant donors.

What is next?

We have made good progress, considering we are still enduring a pandemic! Rotarians and volunteers have made 17+ workday trips to the property, bringing equipment and supplies, setting up equipment and stocking store shelves, and volunteering at remodeling projects. The sewing and quilting room is completely furnished. Rotarians are volunteering labor on repairing walls, painting, cleaning and assembling donated equipment. The team is thrilled with the enthusiasm and generosity of the local business community as items are procured! Rotary District 5450 in Colorado has also funded a \$6000 District grant to help the makerspace, thanks to Kibbe Brown, former Rapid City Rushmore Rotarian!

Business training is an important segment of the global grant, tentatively planned for spring 2022. The two-day session will be presented by First Peoples Fund staff. Additional equipment/craft training will be needed—a good opportunity for skilled Rotarians to transfer their knowledge! When training is completed, and the balance of the grant is expended, the grant team will provide a final report to Rotary Foundation, probably by late summer 2022. Future plans for the site are ongoing thru the Whiteclay Makerspace organization.

What can you do? Support this project as economic development for the Native American community!

Thank the volunteers! Thank the businesses who have been very generous with discounting equipment and supplies. Be a volunteer! See the list of needed items if you would like to donate!

Follow Whiteclay Makerspace on Facebook and the website www.whiteclayredo.com

Check out the hand made items for sale at <https://whiteclay-makerspace.myshopify.com/collections/all>

Items needed:

fabric for quilting in yardage lengths

laser cutter or Cricut craft cutter

airbrush tools

beading tools

art canvases, brushes, paints

canvas stretcher

wood for frames

wood chisel hand tools set

leather tooling punches, stamps, awls, mallets

carpentry tape measures, angles, saws, misc. hand tools

Donations of cash or in-kind items are welcomed. A donation form is available for download on the rotary5610.org website. Please contact the committee members if you have an item to donate.

PROJECT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ina Winter, Hot Springs Rotary, D5610 PDG 2019-20 kristine.ina.winter@gmail.com

Linda Peterson, Rushmore Rotary, PDG 2014-15, RPIC 2018-20 linda4rotary@me.com

Tom Katus, Rushmore Rotary, Omniciye Committee tmkatus@gmail.com

We are making this economic development project possible with a Rotary Foundation Global Grant!

The project Rotarians are PDG Ina Winter (Hot Springs), PDG Linda Peterson and former Peace Corps Tom Katus (Rapid City Rushmore) worked for over a year to assess local artists, gather equipment costs, supplies list, and secure the training element. We added international Rotary partners with India, Australia, Greece and Mexico, and US Districts in Vermont and Texas, plus our DDF to make a \$57,575 global grant from The Rotary Foundation, approved August 2020. The first year's progress report has been submitted to Rotary Foundation.

What does the grant include?

Equip the Artists and Craftspeople to directly impact these beneficiaries by supplying needed tools and equipment to produce their art. Five centers situated inside the building include: Quilting & Beading, Painting & Drawing, Photography, Leather Working, and a Conference room. A Gallery of art will be in the front and supply

store areas. A separate building on the property has been purchased by Whiteclay Makerspace for the Workshop and Silk Screen equipment. Much of the larger power tools have been donated.

Stand up a Supply Store to provide an initial stock of the type of supplies used by local artists. Paints, canvas, bolts of cloth, batting, and a large inventory of beads have been purchased with the grant. The artists, residents and general public may buy supplies, which sustains the project.

Provide Training to help artists succeed in developing their small businesses of art production with business practices, financial matters, online marketing, computer skills, and professional development. First Peoples Fund is providing two Native trainers to lead business classes, to be held in-person spring 2022.

Background Information:

Whiteclay, Nebraska borders the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and has a population of about 12. It is less than two miles from the village of Pine Ridge, population about 3,308. There were four liquor stores in Whiteclay that sold about 4 million cans of beer yearly, mostly to residents of Pine Ridge who left their dry reservation to buy liquor. In 2017, the State of Nebraska Liquor Commission did not renew any of the liquor licenses in Whiteclay, which closed the liquor stores. A non-profit corporation, Whiteclay Makerspace, was formed in Nebraska in 2018 with the purpose of buying one of the liquor store properties and transforming it into a makerspace for Pine Ridge area artists and craftspersons.

Whiteclay Makerspace is a small, volunteer-run community (10-80 active members) that occasionally teaches classes, shares some amount of tools and space, and pays a relatively low membership fee to sustain the approximately 4,000 square foot space. The online marketing venue will also collect a percentage of sales to sustain both the artists and the operating expenses.



*Thank you for your generous donation to the project.
You are helping make the Arts Makerspace a success!*

**Community Economic Development
benefiting the Lakota Native Artists and Crafts People
on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.**

Supported Internationally by Rotarians in
India, Australia, Greece & Mexico
Supported in the United States by Rotarians in
South Dakota, Vermont & Texas.

This project was also made possible by
Whiteclay Arts Makerspace & First Peoples Fund
2020-2022

www.whiteclayredo.com www.rotary5610.org

Rotary Project Committee: Ina Winter, Linda Peterson, Tom Katus
Makerspace Manager: Jon Ruybalid