

Whiteclay Arts Makerspace Rotary Global Grant Project News #2

We should define just what is a makerspace:

To describe them simply, makerspaces are community centers with tools. Makerspaces combine manufacturing equipment, community, and education for the purposes of enabling community members to design, prototype and create manufactured works that wouldn't be possible to create with the resources available to individuals working alone. These spaces can take the form of loosely-organized individuals sharing space and tools, for-profit companies, non-profit corporations, organizations affiliated with or hosted within schools, universities or libraries, and more. All are united in the purpose of providing access to equipment, community, and education, and all are unique in exactly how they are arranged to fit the purposes of the community they serve.

We think of our Whiteclay Makerspace as 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 3,000 square foot space. The online marketing venue will also collect a percentage of sales to sustain both the artists and the operating expenses.

Whiteclay Makerspace, a non-profit charitable 501(c)(3) corporation, 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, remodeled and opened for local artists and craftspersons. An online marketing space is now open on the website www.whiteclayredo.com

Rotary District 5610 project members Ina Winter (Hot Springs), Linda Peterson and Tom Katus (Rapid City Rushmore) worked with building manager Jon Ruybalid to secure the Rotary Foundation \$57,575 global grant. The grant, approved in August 2020, will provide equipment and supplies for the artists and craftspeople who will be making use of the new makerspace in Whiteclay, NE. The team is thrilled with the enthusiasm and generosity of the local business community as items are procured!

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 (listed below) for a current list of needs.

Work days for volunteers to setup and install equipment and prepare the space have been scheduled for September 12, and 26, October 2, and 10. Please call us to volunteer!

Items needed:

table saw
drill press
laser cutter
Mac computer with Adobe Photoshop software
airbrush tool
quilt hoops
leather tooling punches, stamps, awls, mallets
Carpentry tape measures, angles, saws, misc. hand tools
wood chisel hand tools set

This project supports the **Rotary Community Economic Development Area of Focus**. Goals of the project—as defined by the Rotary Foundation—support: building the capacity of local leaders, organizations, and networks to support economic development in poor communities; developing opportunities for productive work and improving access to sustainable livelihoods; empowering marginalized communities by providing access to economic opportunities and services; and building the capacity of entrepreneurs, social businesses, and locally supported business innovators. District 5610

project committee members are the grant administrators developing actions to serve these beneficiaries.

Elements of the Whiteclay Makerspace grant project include:

Equip the Artists and Craftspeople to directly impact the beneficiaries. The resident Lakota artists and craftspeople are in need of space and other assistance to produce and sell works, enabling them to raise their level of income. Five centers situated inside the building will include: Quilting & Beading, Painting & Drawing, Photography, Woodworking, and Conference rooms. A gallery of art will be in the front and supply shop areas.

Stand up a Supply Shop to provide an initial stock of the type of supplies used by local artists and craftspeople. Prices of items will be set at a discount for the member artists to help replenish supplies. Visitors and the general public will be able to purchase items at posted prices at the store.

Provide Training to help the artists 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.

Whiteclay Makerspace will be the cooperating organization assisting District 5610 in delivering the project. First Peoples Fund is providing two Native trainers to lead business classes, included in the grant. This is the premier national Native American arts organization that has trained and provided funding to more than 2,000 Native artists over the past 20 years.

PROJECT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Contribution: project and process knowledge

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

Contribution: financial management and product knowledge

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

Contribution: people and place knowledge