

Whiteclay Arts Makerspace Rotary Global Grant Project News #8



Whiteclay Makerspace is a small, volunteer-run community (10-80 active members) that occasionally teaches classes, shares the tools and workspaces, and pays a relatively low membership fee. The online marketing venue also collects a percentage of sales to sustain both the artists and the operating expenses of the approximately 4,000 square foot space. The organization has an expanding donor base that continues to support the property development.

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

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 supervising the building development and the management of the facility while Rotary is equipping the Makerspace with equipment and supplies. Holly Albers is the artists' onsite supervisor.

Supply store: has a large supply of beads, painting supplies, and fabric and notions offered to locals for sale. Open hours 5-6 days per week brought in an increasing number of artists working with the equipment and creating their goods. Travelers on the Nebraska Passport, volunteers and general public averaged 10/day doing work projects, purchasing goods and touring the facility. The Makerspace is benefiting the local residents!



Workspaces: The artists are creating their crafts at sewing machines, quilting machines, and beading tables. Training on the quilting machines to 12 members, was hosted by Sewing Center in Rapid City. Holly requested more 3 sewing machines and 4 work tables to support sewing classes, we provided with grant funds in June. We learned that the same make/model of machines made supplies and repairs easier for the manager and artists! Woodwork and leatherwork artists are signing up and getting training on equipment donated and installed. A large order of leather work tools and supplies provided in June, will facilitate training classes. Larry Lyngstad, Pierre-Ft. Pierre Rotarian, donated a large matt-cutting table and supplies. Donated photography equipment has been set up in a studio room, and training will likely



be scheduled this summer when a traveling professional arrives. A second building/workshop on the premises has been cleared and power equipment installed.

Business training is an important segment of the global grant, tentatively planned for winter 2023. Additional equipment training and craft classes are ongoing in July and August, 2023. The management is focusing on artist recruitment and local marketing.

Where are we today with the grant project?

Much of the equipment and supplies have been procured and installed at the buildings. The first year's progress report submitted to Rotary Foundation in September 2021 was approved. A Rotary Foundation audit completed spring 2022 rated this grant with the highest evaluation score: **exemplary!** The auditor confirms the project has strong sustainability, financial management, and monitoring and evaluation. A second year progress report was submitted in September, 2022.

Workdays: Work days for volunteers to setup and install equipment and prepare the space have occurred from September 2020 through June 2023. The winter of 2022-23 made travel very difficult on or near the area, so very few visits were done by the project committee. Ina and Shari have been diligently sorting and putting the bead store on the wall boards in the supply store — a tedious but necessary project! More work days will occur in summer and fall. Contact Linda Peterson if you wish to join!

The news media continues to interview Rotarians and the non-profit owners and managers. Read this latest in-depth story by KELOLAND News: <https://www.keloland.com/news/local-news/native-american-artists-in-south-dakota-travel-new-paths-to-prosperity/>

Ongoing Goals: stock supplies, final equipment purchases, business education and craft training for artists. When training is completed, and the balance of the grant is expended, the grant team will provide a final report to Rotary Foundation. Future plans for the site are ongoing with the Whiteclay Makerspace organization.

What is next?

Rotarians and volunteers have made 30+ 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 rooms are 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 purchase a second quilting machine and Cricut machine, thanks to Kibbe Brown, former Rapid City Rushmore Rotarian!

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! **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 are considering an item 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>

Rotary clubs have featured the project team as 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.

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.

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 buildings include: Quilting & Beading, Painting & Drawing, Photography, Leather Working, and a Conference room. A separate building on the property has been improved by Whiteclay Makerspace for the Workshop 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.

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.

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



*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 made possible by

**Whiteclay Arts Makerspace
& many other community supporters**

www.whiteclayredo.com www.rotary5610.org

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