

OGLALA LAKOTA ARTS CENTER & MOBILE ARTS CENTER

It will be a place for Native artists.

A space for artists who have not had access to programs that support their professional careers as artist entrepreneurs.

And who have not had a place to collaborate with and learn from one another. **This will be their art space.**



PHOTO: Beaded Horse Saddle, James Star Comes Out (Oglala)

SNAPSHOT

Location

Kyle, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota

What

Mixed-use Arts Center and Mobile Arts Center

Estimated Project Cost

- > \$2.75 million for Arts Center
- > \$250,000 for Mobile Arts Center

Partners

- > Artspace
- > First Peoples Fund
- > Lakota Funds

The new **Oglala Lakota Arts Center** on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota is a partnership between Artspace, First Peoples Fund and Lakota Funds—three nonprofit organizations committed to offering programs and space that allow artists to flourish. When complete, the Arts Center will give artists access to capacity building programs, informal and formal training in arts business practices, and opportunities to collaborate with and learn from other artists within their community. It will give Native artists the support they need. It will be a mixed-use facility providing:

- > Shared workspace for group collaboration that can double as a small performance space.
- > Discipline-specific group workspace.
- > A business training classroom.
- > A computer lab and electronic marketplace.
- > A gallery and gift shop, including a place to buy art materials and for visitors to shop.

Once complete, the Oglala Lakota Arts Center will establish connections with other arts and cultural activities and institutions on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and in Western South Dakota.

Plus... A Mobile Arts Center

Pine Ridge is vast—roughly the size of Connecticut. While a centrally located Arts Center facility will ensure a sustainable location for arts activity, it is equally critical that this facility be augmented by a mobile arts center. **Reservation Arts Nomad (RAN)** will be a mobile art unit that will bring art and related services to Native artists across the Pine Ridge Reservation and beyond.

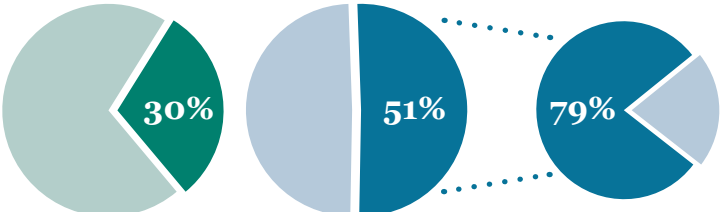


MAP Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota

“ We know art is a strong economic driver for Native people. If we provide a space for them to get training, it will improve their income, and change their life.” –Lori Pourier (Oglala Lakota), First Peoples Fund

Why the Oglala Lakota Arts Center and Mobile Arts Center

Native arts have been, and remain, an integral part of the Native culture. Arts, culture, and traditions have been woven into the tapestry of tribal societies and have sustained Native peoples for generations. Today, an estimated 30 percent of Native peoples are practicing or potential artists.



An estimated 30 percent of all Native peoples are practicing or potential artists and most live below the poverty line.

51 percent of Native households on Pine Ridge depend on home-based enterprises for cash income.

79 percent of those home-based enterprises on Pine Ridge consist of some form of traditional arts.

Sherman, Kathleen, 2009. Cash and Social Economy of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. 6/15/01-6/14/08. National Science Foundation Career Grant Final Report.

However, even in their own communities, Native artists continue to be overlooked for the critical role they play in building economies, generating assets, and constructing effective and culturally appropriate social networks.

In 2011, Artspace, First Peoples Fund, and Colorado State University released the “American Indian Creative Economy Market Study,” which examined the household economics, infrastructural needs, and social networks of Native artists within reservation economies in the Great Plains region. The study, which was funded by Northwest Area Foundation, made clear that art, and artistic and cultural expression, are among the most promising ways to expand the market economy in rural and urban Native communities.

The study offers—for the first time ever—evidence regarding the need and potential for creating sustainable and vibrant Native communities and economic development through Native art. Specifically, it found that what reservation-based artists need to be successful includes: access to markets, access to supplies, space, access to credit and capital, access to information social networks, and increased business knowledge.



PHOTO Location of Arts Center BY Greg Handberg

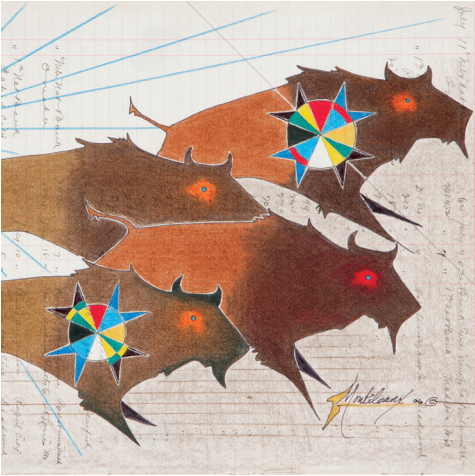


PHOTO Ledger Art, Donald F. Montileaux (Oglala)

IN THIS TOGETHER

artspace

Artspace is the nation’s partner in arts-driven community transformation. Based in Minneapolis, it’s mission is to create, foster and preserve affordable space for artists and arts organizations.
www.artspace.org

First Peoples Fund

First Peoples Fund is a national non-profit that provides support and voice to the creative Native artists who share their inspiration, wisdom, knowledge and gifts within their communities.
www.firstpeoplesfund.org

Lakota Funds

Lakota Funds is a Pine Ridge-based Native Community Development Finance Institution (NCDFI) that delivers financial services and capacity building programs on Pine Ridge Reservation.
www.lakotafunds.org

Learn more at
artspace.org/pineridge

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