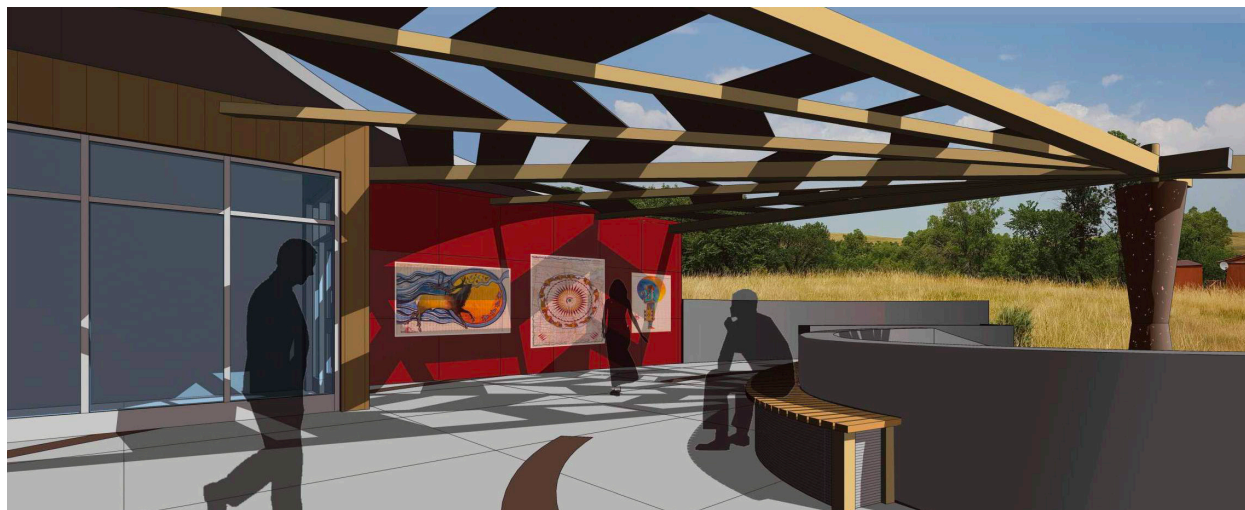




First Peoples Fund



## Oglala Lakota Artspace LLC to Host Groundbreaking Sept. 27 for First-Ever Arts Center on Pine Ridge Reservation



*Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, Sept. 6, 2018*—The Oglala Lakota Artspace LLC—comprised of Artspace, First Peoples Fund, and Lakota Funds—announced today the groundbreaking ceremony for the first-ever arts center on the geographically vast Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota: The Oglala Lakota Artspace. The arts facility is designed to provide local Native artists with increased access to essential resources needed for their work. When complete, the mixed-use arts center will give Native artists access to capacity building programs, training in arts business practices, and opportunities to collaborate. The groundbreaking event will take place 1 p.m. Thurs., Sept. 27 at Lakota Prairie Drive, BIA 2, Kyle, SD 57752 (across from the Pine Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce), and is free and open to the public.

The Oglala Lakota Artspace will expand on services provided by the Rolling Rez Arts mobile arts and financial literacy vehicle (also created by the Oglala Lakota Artspace LLC) and First Peoples Fund's Dances With Words program, a spoken word and literacy program for Native youth. The facility is designed by Architect Tammy Eagle Bull (Oglala Lakota) of Encompass Architects, who has incorporated Lakota star knowledge into its design. The Oglala Lakota Artspace will feature individual artist studio space; a storefront for the Lakota Federal Credit Union; shared workspace for performances or collaborations; a recording and sound studio; a Native art gallery and gift shop, including a place to buy art supplies; and a garage for the Rolling Rez Arts bus.

The Sept. 27 groundbreaking ceremony will include an opening prayer, remarks, an exhibit of artist-designed shovels, art classes, and a lunch. Speakers include:

- First Peoples Fund President & CEO Lori Pourier
- Artspace President & CEO Kelley Lindquist
- Lakota Funds Executive Director Tawney Brunsch
- Oglala Lakota Tribe Chairman Scott Weston
- Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs Dennis Alvord
- USDA/RD South Dakota State Director Elsie Meeks
- Local Native artists
- Spoken word youth poets from First Peoples Fund's Dances With Words program

The creation of the Rolling Rez Arts and Oglala Lakota Artspace arts center both respond to the 2011-13 “Establishing a Creative Economy: Arts as an Economic Engine in Native Communities,” released by First Peoples Fund, Artspace, and Colorado State University, which found that art is among the most promising ways to expand the market economy in Native communities. The study revealed that more than half of Native households on Pine Ridge are engaged in home-based businesses, and 79 percent of those businesses are in the arts. It also found that 61 percent of emerging artists have incomes of less than \$10,000, but through participation in workshops and trainings, that number drops to 7.5 percent. The study identified that what reservation-based artists need to be successful includes access—to markets, supplies, space, credit, and networks—as well as increased business knowledge.



### **About Artspace Projects, Inc.**

Artspace's mission is to create, foster, and preserve affordable and sustainable space for artists and arts organizations. For more information, please visit [www.artspace.org](http://www.artspace.org).

### **About First Peoples Fund**

First Peoples Fund's mission is to honor and support the Collective Spirit® of First Peoples' artists and culture bearers. For more information, please visit [www.firstpeoplesfund.org](http://www.firstpeoplesfund.org).

### **About Lakota Funds**

Lakota Funds' mission is to promote economic sustainability on the Pine Ridge Reservation and geographic service area, through business loans, technical assistance, and wealth building education for families and businesses. For more information, please visit [www.lakotafunds.org](http://www.lakotafunds.org).

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