



UGLALA LAKOTA ARTSPACE

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Kyle, South Dakota

PROJECT DETAILS

PROJECT LLC PARTNERSHIP: First Peoples Fund, Lakota Funds, Artspace

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT: Mixed-use: Native arts and cultural center

TOTAL PROJECT COST: Approximately \$2.75 Million

ARCHITECT: Encompass Architects, P.C.
Established in 2002 by President Tammy Eagle Bull, an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Nation and the first Native American Woman licensed architect in the United States.

SPACE PROGRAMS: 850 sq. ft for artist studios, flexible art and cultural space, community space, meeting space, commercial space for Native arts-oriented businesses, and attached garage to house the Rolling Rez Arts mobile art center.

ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION PERIOD:
 Summer 2018 – Fall 2019

PROJECT FUNDERS TO DATE: Bush Foundation; Economic Development Administration; Hayes Fund of HRK Foundation; Hearst Foundations; HRK Foundation; Margaret A. Cargill Foundation; National Endowment for the Arts

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Oglala Lakota Artspace will nurture the development of a sustainable and vibrant reservation-based creative economy by building the economic strength of Oglala Lakota artists through a culturally appropriate Native arts center and arts-based business incubator. Our model will enable extended business incubation, entrepreneurial training based on Native values, emphasis on shared and common areas to accommodate the tight-knit “tiospaye” (a Lakota word meaning “extended families”), support home based businesses--the majority of Native entrepreneurs on the reservation, encourage youth expression, and foster multi-generational mentorship.

The Oglala Lakota Artspace facility will be a reservation based, Native run program administered by Artspace, Lakota Funds and First Peoples Fund through the Oglala Lakota Artspace LLC. We will partner with local artists and other partners to provide artistic, business, and financial services to Native artists across the Pine Ridge reservation.



We know from the *Establishing a Creative Economy: Art as an Economic Engine in Native Communities* study that Native culture and art represent an important asset with the potential to increase the economic development and social well-being of tribal communities and among the most promising ways to expand the market economy in rural Native communities. We will build the capacity of Native artists by delivering capacity building, entrepreneurship and financial programs. Lakota Funds will offer access to capital through their small business loan fund and Individual Development Account programs. First Peoples Fund artist trainers from the Pine Ridge reservation will provide professional development and artistic trainings. The Oglala Lakota Artspace will leverage the existing outreach and services of the Rolling Rez by extending additional products and services of the space through the mobile arts unit.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

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% of Native peoples are practicing or potential artists. However, even in their own communities, Native artists continue to be overlooked for the critical role they can play in building economics, generating assets, and constructing effective social networks.

In 2011, Artspace, First Peoples Fund, and Colorado State University released the “American Indian Creative Economy Market Study,” which examined household economies, and needs of Native artists within reservation of the Great Plains region. The study estimated that 30% of Native people on the Pine Ridge Reservation are artists of some sort, 51% of Native households depend on a home-based business for income, and 79% of these home-based businesses consist of traditional arts. Yet, the majority of artists live in poverty; 61% have incomes less than \$10,000;



Michael Two Bulls, *Reaching for the Past*

and they lack sufficient access to space, business training, markets, supplies, networks, credit and capital. These barriers prevent Native artists from contributing to their own entrepreneurial and artistic development, participating in community-level economic development, and perpetuates the cycle of poverty on the reservation.

Findings of the study and extensive artist surveys clearly identified six elements that Native artists need to be successful: space, markets, supplies, credit and capital, business knowledge, and informal networks. The artists interviewed indicated that space was their most critical need.

ART AS AN ECONOMIC EDGE

When completed, the Oglala Lakota Artspace facility will give artists access to capacity building programs, opportunities to collaborate with and learn from other artists within their community, and space to explore their artistic expression and their arts-based business opportunities. The Oglala Lakota Artspace mixed-use facility will provide:

- Individual artist studios.
- Shared workspace for group collaboration that can double as a small performance space.
- Recording and sound studio.
- A computer lab and classroom space.
- Commercial space for arts-related businesses
- A Native art gallery and gift shop, including a place to buy art materials and for visitors to shop.

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



The Rolling Rez Arts mobile unit continues to roam the vast landscape, its colorful herd of painted buffalo becoming a recognized sight on the Pine Ridge reservation. The unit embodies what it takes to build a creative economy in an expansive space. The Rolling Rez Arts is a pollinator in growing the ecosystem, seeding the many partnerships of organizations, artists, and individual in a vibrant Indigenous Arts Ecology. The Rolling Rez Arts is a shining example of how moving parts working together can create art and grow businesses. The Oglala Lakota Artspace will provide space to house the Rolling Rez Arts mobile.



PROJECT PARTNERS



Artspace is a non-profit organization that uses the tools of real estate development to create affordable places where artists can live and work. We consistently develop these projects in ways that support stable, healthy communities anchored in existing assets. Because Artspace owns each of the projects it develops, we are able to ensure that they remain affordable and accessible to artists in perpetuity. With 47 projects developed over the last three decades, Artspace has supported artist-led community transformation, representing a \$653 million investment in America's arts infrastructure. While embracing the value the arts bring to individual lives, Artspace has championed the once-radical idea that artists living with financial hardship and chronically underfunded arts organizations can leverage fundamental social change. With headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in Denver, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Seattle and Washington D.C., Artspace is America's leading developer of arts facilities and has served as a consultant to hundreds of communities and arts organizations nationwide.

www.artspace.org



Founded in 1995, First Peoples Fund's mission is to honor and support the Collective Spirit® of First Peoples artists and culture bearers.

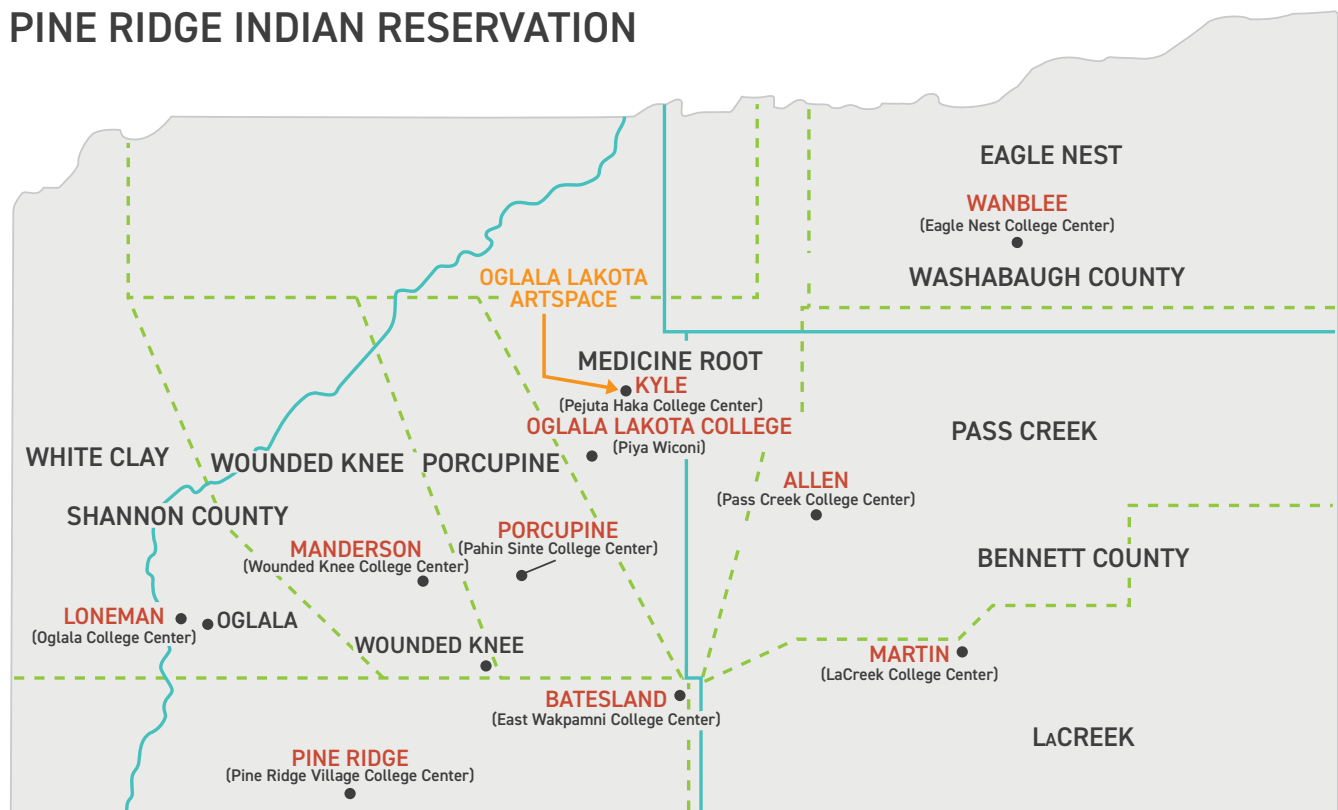
Collective Spirit® is that which moves each of us to stand up and make a difference, to pass on ancestral knowledge and simply extend a hand of generosity. First Peoples Fund recognizes the power of art and culture to bring about positive change in Native communities, beginning with individual artists and their families.

We strive to provide support and voice to creative Indigenous artists who share their inspiration, wisdom, knowledge and gifts with their communities. firstpeoplesfund.org



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.

PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION



RED TOWNS: LOCATION OF COLLEGE CENTER

DISTRICTS & COUNTIES

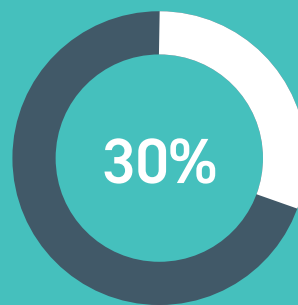
DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

COUNTY LINES

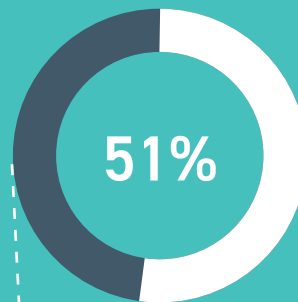


Jaida Grey Eagle, *Native Ophelia*

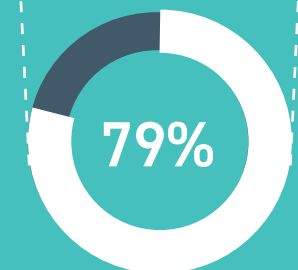
PINE RIDGE ARTS BY THE NUMBERS



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

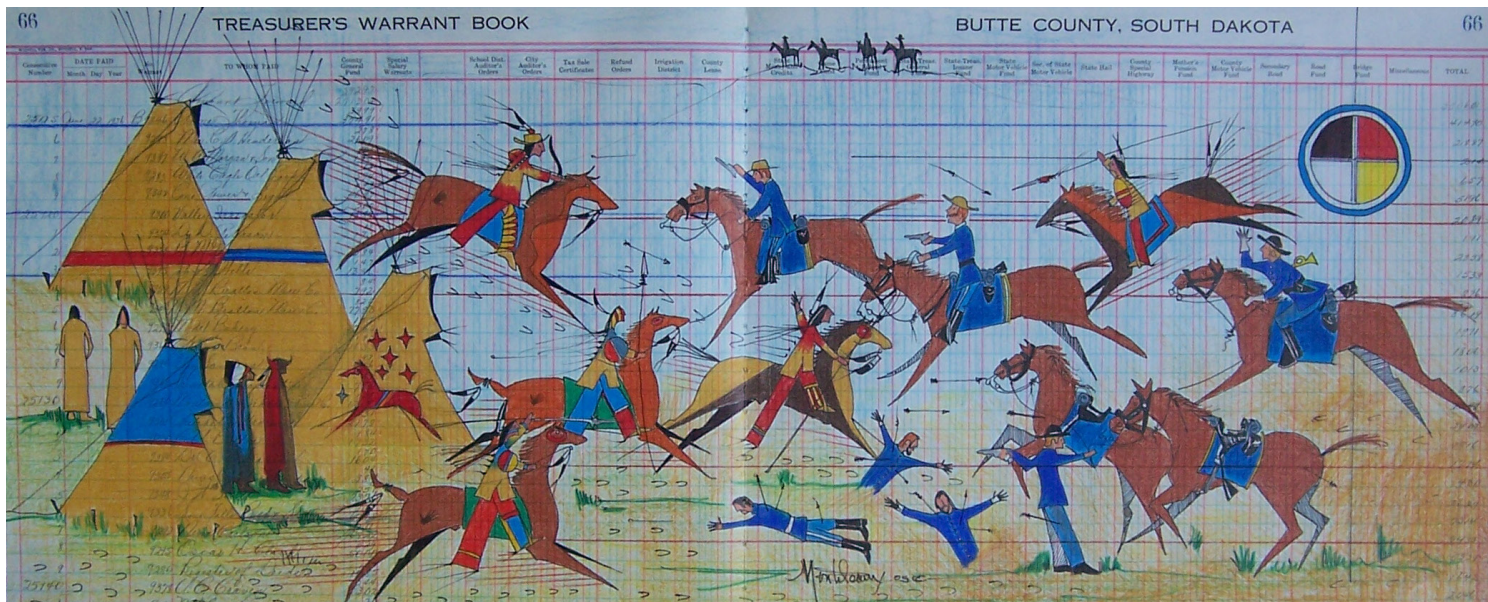


51% of Native households on Pine Ridge depend on home-based enterprises for cash income.



79% 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.



PROJECT CONTACTS

For more information, please visit
artspace.org/pineridge or contact:

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Top: **Donald F. Montileaux**; Middle, left: **Lisa Iron Cloud**;
 Middle, right: **Cecilia Firethunder**, Lemiye;
 Bottom, left: **Molina Park**, Grandma's Garden