



OUR TOWN 2015 GRANTS WITH NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES

These projects join 11 other Our Town projects from previous years that were led or directly involved Native American tribes.

North Dakota Museum of Art
Grand Forks, ND
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **Cankdeska Cikana Community College**

To support the activation of native arts practices in the Spirit Lake Tribe. Activities will include art-making workshops led by established tribal artists, the development of a master art plan, as well as exhibitions, performances, and lectures. North Dakota Museum of Art and Cankdeska Cikana Community College intend to increase public understanding of and participation in the arts, improving tribal community life. Spirit Lake Tribe members are lower income and number around 6,200.

Three Rivers Arts Council
Wahpeton, ND
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **Wahpeton Parks & Recreation**

To support the creation of public art in Chahinkapa Park. The project will include Native American artist residencies, the creation of public art, and related arts engagement and educational activities. Three Rivers Arts Council, Wahpeton Parks and Recreation, Circle of Nations School, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe, and other partners intend to establish the community's connection to and stewardship of its unique environmental habitat of endangered tallgrass prairie. They aim to develop the area's ecology and Native American culture as a community asset. Wahpeton, originally known as Chahinkapa (meaning "end of the woods"), is the nearest population center to the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe's Lake Traverse Reservation, which has 12,300 members.

Catawba Cultural Preservation Project
Rock Hill, SC
\$50,000

Primary Partner: **Catawba Indian Nation**

To support Catawba Cultural Preservation Project. The project will strengthen both the artistic and business capacity of Catawba tribal artisans by providing business training – including financial literacy, ongoing technical assistance, and coaching – and opportunities for new and expanded markets through a series of cultural events and the revival of the Yap Ye Iswa festival. A key component of the project is an overarching marketing and communications strategy that can be used by individual artisans and by the tribe as a whole. The project will utilize First People's Fund Native Artist training and Pratt Institute's Arts Management program, who will work to pass on Catawba cultural traditions from elders to tribal youth, and to share those cultural traditions with a wider metropolitan audience.

Catawba tribal lands, located outside Charlotte, North Carolina, serve approximately 2,600 tribal members, 24.4 percent of whom live below the poverty line and 20 percent of whom are unemployed.

Cheyenne River Youth

Eagle Butte, SD

\$100,000

Primary Partner: **About this Life**

To support Waniyetu Wowapi Art Park. Professional graffiti artists from across the country will be invited to teach a series of arts workshops to the Lakota youth of Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation and assist them in the design of graffiti murals at the Art Park. Under the leadership of Cheyenne River Youth Project, About this Life, and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, the Art Park will become a source of pride for the reservation, providing an alternative to vandalism and an opportunity to engage youth through the arts. Based in rural South Dakota, Cheyenne River Youth Project currently serves more than 1,700 youth and 400 families annually.

Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation

Porcupine, SD

\$75,000

Primary Partner: **Oglala Sioux Tribe**

To support the design of pow wow grounds, studio spaces, and artist live/work space on Pine Ridge Reservation. New cultural facilities will provide much needed space for Oglala Sioux members to exercise their creativity, develop new skills, and establish new artisan businesses. Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation will lead the project activities, in partnership with Oglala Sioux Tribe, First People's Fund, and ArtSpace Projects, Inc. The project will serve the creative community of Pine Ridge Reservation residents, half of whom are under the age of 25. Pine Ridge Reservation is a Promise Zone with a 49 percent poverty rate and a population of 35,000.