

## Whiteclay Arts Makerspace Rotary Global Grant Project News #4



### Where are we today with the Rotary grant project?

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 handling the building and the management of the facility while Rotary is equipping the makerspace with needed equipment and supplies. Candi Red Cloud is the store manager, and recruits the artists.

This project offers Rotarians the opportunity to learn about Oglala Lakota culture and life on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Most importantly, it offers the opportunity to meet the Pine Ridge artists and craftspeople. One of Rotary's superpowers is forging friendships across geographic and cultural boundaries. Face to face and hand to hand is how Rotary and Rotarians build peace. Whiteclay Makerspace offers us that opportunity in our own backyard.



The news media has been helpful in featuring this makerspace.

Follow these links to read the stories:

**SDPB** <https://listen.sdpb.org/post/once-tarnished-town-changing-its-legacy-1>

**RC Journal** [https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/rotary-club-businesses-helping-to-create-a-new-hub-for-lakota-artists-at-whiteclay/article\\_852ff0f7-de17-5b48-bb4d-69d8b4d69dc9.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/rotary-club-businesses-helping-to-create-a-new-hub-for-lakota-artists-at-whiteclay/article_852ff0f7-de17-5b48-bb4d-69d8b4d69dc9.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

**Native News Online** <https://nativenewsonline.net/arts-entertainment/remolding-whiteclay-a-once-bleak-bordertown-becomes-an-oasis-for-oglaala-sioux-artists>

**University of Nebraska/Lincoln** <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/students-innovation-studio-team-up-to-help-whiteclay-makerspace/>

**Nebraska Living Times magazine (PDF)**

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

Rotary clubs have featured the project team as weekly 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.



## What is next?

After almost 8 months from grant approval, we have made good progress, considering we were enduring a pandemic! Rotarians have made 9 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 room is completely furnished. We have had Rotarians volunteering labor on repairing walls, painting, cleaning and assembling our donated equipment. A Dewalt table saw, barn wood framer, and leatherwork sewing machine were recently added. The team is thrilled with the enthusiasm and generosity of the local business community as items are procured!



**The supply store** is approaching opening on May 1, so the beads, painting supplies, and fabric and notions can be offered to locals for sale. A large donation of fabric, notions and tools was sorted, packaged and placed on shelves, by a group of women volunteers from 4 Rotary clubs in the Black Hills. The beads collection is inventoried and displayed on wall boards in the store. The artists can begin creating their art at the sewing machines, quilter, beading tables, and leather working areas. The photography room needs painting, then we need to bring the donated equipment in and set up a studio. Work days for volunteers to setup and install equipment and prepare the space have occurred in September and October 2020, and January thru March 2021. Cleanup day is tentatively scheduled for early May for Rotary youth groups from Rapid City. Plan to volunteer on future workdays, installing the Rotary equipment and supplies, and stocking the store!

## 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! See the list of needed items and check out your shop or garage to see if you have something to donate!

Follow Whiteclay Makerspace on Facebook and the website [www.whiteclayredo.com](http://www.whiteclayredo.com)

Check out the hand made items for sale at <https://whiteclay-makerspace.myshopify.com/collections/all>

### Items needed:

fabric for quilting in yardage lengths

laser cutter or Cricut craft cutter

airbrush tools

beading tools

art canvases, brushes, paints

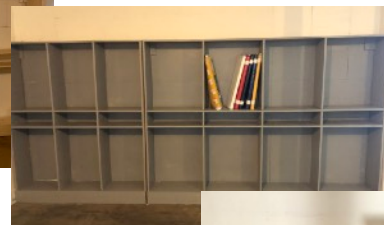
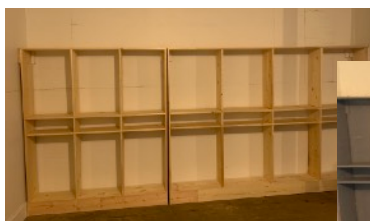
canvas stretcher

wood for frames

wood chisel hand tools set

leather tooling punches, stamps, awls, mallets

carpentry tape measures, angles, saws, misc. hand tools



Donations of cash or in-kind items are welcomed. A donation form is available for download on the [rotary5610.org](http://rotary5610.org) website. Please contact the committee members (listed below) if you have an item to donate.

### PROJECT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ina Winter, Hot Springs Rotary, D5610 PDG 2019-20 [kristine.ina.winter@gmail.com](mailto:kristine.ina.winter@gmail.com)

Linda Peterson, Rushmore Rotary, PDG 2014-15, RPIC 2018-20 [linda4rotary@me.com](mailto:linda4rotary@me.com)

Tom Katus, Rushmore Rotary, Omniciye Committee [tmkatus@gmail.com](mailto:tmkatus@gmail.com)

## **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.

### **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.

### **We should define just what is a makerspace:**

To describe them simply, makerspaces are community centers with tools. Makerspaces combine manufacturing equipment, community, and education for the purposes of enabling community members to design, prototype and create manufactured works that wouldn't be possible to create with the resources available to individuals working alone. These spaces can take the form of loosely-organized individuals sharing space and tools, for-profit companies, non-profit corporations, organizations affiliated with or hosted within schools, universities or libraries, and more. All are united in the purpose of providing access to equipment, community, and education, and all are unique in exactly how they are arranged to fit the purposes of the community they serve.

We think of the Whiteclay Makerspace as a small, volunteer-run community (10-80 active members) that occasionally teaches classes, shares some amount of tools and space, and pays a relatively low membership fee to sustain the approximately 3,000 square foot space. The online marketing venue will also collect a percentage of sales to sustain both the artists and the operating expenses.

### **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 building will include: Quilting & Beading, Painting & Drawing, Photography, Leather and Wood Working, and a Conference room. A Gallery of art will be in the front and supply store areas.

**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. First Peoples Fund is providing two Native trainers to lead business classes. The classes will probably be held in-person next winter.



*Thanks for your generous donation to the project.  
You are helping make the Arts Makerspace a success!*

**Rotary Project Committee: Ina, Linda, Tom  
Makerspace Managers: Jon Ruybalid, Candi Red Cloud**