

OPEN CALL TO ARTISTS



January 2024

Background

Rapid City, South Dakota

While planning the 75th anniversary of the Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities known as “Sioux San” or the Oyate Health Center in Rapid City, community members asked the staff a question for which they had no answer at the time: “What are you going to do about the graves?” It was that question that started the process of researching the history of Sioux San and the land on which it sits. Through independent research, the Rapid City Indian Boarding School Lands Project discovered how the history of the Rapid City Indian School, the Sioux Sanatorium, and Sioux San IHS hospital shaped the community of Rapid City, South Dakota and has had long lasting impacts. Most importantly, we learned that approximately 50 children died while attending the school in the early 20th century. Some were buried on the hill behind West Middle School in Rapid City in unmarked graves, some were buried at Mt. View Cemetery in Rapid City, others went home, some burials are unknown. The documentation of the deaths of children is very spotty and incomplete. The primary goal of our project is to protect, honor, and remember the children who lived and died at the Rapid City Indian School.

The Remembering the Children Memorial is a privately funded project that weaves together art, history, interpretive elements, land repatriation, prayer, ceremony, culturally integrated landscape design, and more. It will be a place for the Rapid City community and visitors from all over to acknowledge Rapid City’s complex history and work together to confront challenging aspects of our collective past in a constructive and healthy way. It will be a place for our community to come together to learn about the boarding school era, the Rapid City Indian Boarding School, and the history of the community and land we all live on and love so much. Of utmost importance, it will be a space for families and descendants to acknowledge, visit, and honor their young relatives who lost their lives at the boarding school. It will be the beginning of a long overdue grieving and healing process for many Indigenous families.

Project Goals

The primary goal of the Remembering the Children Memorial Project is to protect, honor, and remember the children who lived and died at the Rapid City Indian Boarding School during the time of its operation, from 1898-1933. As part of the memorial site, we plan to memorialize the 50+ children who died while attending the school with boulders placed along the path with their names on them. They are not meant to be headstones, as not all children who died are buried there, but in memoriam of a young lives lost and the terrible cost of boarding school policy on Native American people.



Entrance to the site, with an east to west view. Stones can be seen along the path going up the hill.

Current Opportunity

We are seeking an artist to **design** 50 individual stones composed of glacial granite that will be placed along the path of the Memorial site in honor and memorial of the children who lost their lives. We are seeking artists who have a demonstrated commitment in their work to Native American values and life ways and have an understanding of the historical trauma inflicted on Native American people through boarding school policies. We are also seeking an artist who would be willing and able to share their artistic skills and processes with Native American youth and community members in Rapid City, South Dakota during the design, fabrication, and installation process.

Project Details

Details

- Glacial granite is the chosen medium. Artists can be part of the stone selection process.
- Stones are approximately 30x30 inches in size although there might be some variations.
- Fifty stones with the names, tribal affiliations, and date of death at a minimum are required with artistic additions welcomed.
- The stones will have a natural surface, no polished or shiny finish.
- The stones would be placed along the path ascending the hill of the Memorial site and artwork on them should be formatted to adjust.
- Submissions can include any form of art that can be converted to a vector file, including drawings, paintings, etc.
- The Art Commission will provide professional guidance on the conversion of art to vector files that a chosen fabricator can create from the chosen designs.

Budget

Please include a brief budget in the proposal, to include materials, equipment, and artist compensation. We have a \$30,000 budget limit on this part of the project, which includes materials, equipment, and artist compensation.

Timeline

Date	Description
January 12-January 31, 2024	Open Call to Artists announced and open
January 31, 2024- February 2, 2024	Selection process
February 2024	Stone selection according to artist needs Formatting of selected art completed
Spring 2024	Fabrication and installation of stones

Selection Criteria

- Artist quality as exemplified in past work
- Demonstrated ability to work with the material selected by the project
- Demonstrated willingness to express and celebrate Oceti Sakowin culture in artwork
- Demonstrated ability to work in collaboration with various partners, such as construction and architectural partners
- Demonstrated ability to work in collaboration with other artists
- Ability and willingness to provide mentorship opportunities with youth and other community members in Rapid City, SD.
- Artists who can articulate their contribution to the story of this project and the memory of the children who died at the school.
- Artists who have a base historical understanding of federal boarding school policies and the impact on our people and communities.
- Artists whose creative process honors the memory of the children and contributes to the healing philosophy guiding the overall project

Submittal instructions and requirements

- Completed application form
- Resume/ CV
- Design proofs (digital or hardcopy)
- Design description (500 word max)

ARTIST APPLICATION FORM

NAME

PHONE NUMBER

ADDRESS

EMAIL

WEBSITE/FACEBOOK/TWITTER

TRIBAL AFFILIATION (PREFERENCE GIVEN TO ENROLLED MEMBERS OF AN OCETI SAKOWIN TRIBES)

DESIGN DESCRIPTION

(500 WORD MAX)

