
TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION DURING PUBLIC FORUM

My name is Samson Longtin, I am here today to ask for your help in attempting to set up a discussion concerning race relations today and how they have and will continue to affect this town. I want this discussion to be open to the public. Well it would be open to the public, I would like to facilitate it, and also have an agenda to which we could hopefully achieve some understanding. I have been back here since 2011, and have experienced numerous racially motivated disrespectful moments. I do a lot of writing on Facebook, and at home, as I share my writings with others I have gotten a lot of feedback, some giving kudos, and some just misunderstood. I feel like no one is talking about these things at home, as it is not the fun thing to discuss, yet the world continues to grow and change around grand rapids, which was recently voted the 3rd worst place to live in Minnesota. If we do not attempt to involve more people in these tough topics, the town will continue to digress, and only likeminded people will want to live here. This town needs young minds, which respect elders yet have their own views and want to get involved, all the while practicing humanity.

I think an open forum would be the first step in accomplishing such a feat, as we will give folks a voice, and welcome differing opinions. A public forum housing solely likeminded individuals would not promote the change we are seeking, we must attempt to communicate and answer the questions people need answered, as well as hear those who disagree, hence the term open.

My goals are simple, I want awareness first of all, without recognition of an issue we have nothing besides denial and arguments. Once the facts are laid down through numbers of disparity, mixed with plain ole testimony via life experience, I believe this will in the very least open ears and get people thinking.

Second, I want people to see they are pushing away diversity, which is a beautiful thing, in 2000 we had .28% black folks, in 2010 just .6%, and meanwhile the total population grew 40%. I want ideas to be gathered on how we can change this and get people from all walks of life to see the beauty of this town.

I also want people held accountable for their actions, I want it to be known that this town may be small, but it does not tolerate racism or bigotry. I am sorry to say, but as of now, it is well known for both. I am moving in January, but what about those after me, it needs to get better for them. There are children being teased everyday here because they are not white, and schools are allowing this to happen. If children cannot conduct themselves accordingly they need to be dismissed from the learning environment, after, obviously an attempt to mediate and address the underlying issue, which is fear and hate.

When Isaiah Gatimu, 19, took his own life on Aug. 5, he was anxious about an upcoming mediation over a group of students harassing him all year simply because of him being black. Isaiah spoke to counselors and the school's principal several times over those six months, and that the high school never punished any of the kids or stopped the abuse.

Discrimination charges have been filed against the department. The school district acknowledged in the document that Isaiah "was called nigger, and other disgusting racially motivated names" and that it had been reported to school officials. But it also said he "was complicit in the name-calling and his behavior is also the focus of the school district's investigation. The school district forwarded claims of discrimination to the Itasca County attorney's office to determine whether any criminal charges were warranted. The attorney's office told Correen Gatimu, his mother, there was not enough evidence to charge anyone, she said.

Furthermore, the school district's attorney said in his response that the district "believes that this charge is in part motivated as an act of retaliation by charging party because her son had been expelled by school district for 12 months because of drug violations." Correen said that expulsion happened in ninth grade, when Isaiah sold a relative's heart medication, saying it was another drug.

She acknowledges Isaiah had some behavioral problems and spent some time in a group home. But she said he had gone to a juvenile boot camp and "was straightened out. "If they wanted to retaliate against the district, they would not have sent him back to the school and kept Ashley, his sister, in the district, Correen said.

A friend of mine's 14 year old son was walking in Nashwauk when a drunk group of adults called him a nigger, and said they didn't like how he walked, how deep is a hatred when a walk offends you??? When his mother said she is calling the cops they said go ahead trash, we hope they kill you. This was last week, I can go on and on...but why, you get the point.

We have a problem that needs to be addressed before more children die, and the ones that do not kill themselves are becoming inverted and anti-social instead of flourishing and becoming our future as they were created to be.

CP

CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof a regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission was held in Conference Room 2B of City Hall, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

CALL OF ROLL: On a Call of Roll, the following members were present: Commissioners Alice Moren, Frieda Hall, Jackie Dowell, John Schirber, Becky LaPlant, Barb Sanderson, Karen Noyce and Doug Learmont

Absent Commissioners: Mary Jo Wimmer,

Visitors: Sampson Longtin

Staff: Michele Palkki, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by chair Hall.

SETTING AGENDA Additions:

Visitor: Commissioner Sanderson reported that she invited Sampson Longtin to attend tonight's meeting to speak about reporting racial remarks/and discrimination

APPROVAL OF MINUTES July 29, 2015 Regular Meeting.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SANDERSON, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DOWELL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 29, 2015 as presented.
Motion passed by unanimous vote

FINANCIALS

Nothing to report

CIRLCE OF HEALING UPDATE

Commissioner LaPlant reported that the Blandin Foundation grant for \$10,000.00 to bring the Anishinabe Worldview Training to the community this fall has been approved. Dates are yet to be determined.

OLD BUSINESS

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

Commissioner Sanderson reported that the budget is pretty much set for the event. The City will purchase three banners, be responsible for tent rental, rest rooms, bleacher seating, and tables and chairs. The Human Rights Commission will donate the remainder of its 2015 budget toward the event. Water is being donated by Range Water, there will be 1,000 bookmarks to be given away, and MacRostie is putting together an art project with Leah Yellowbird. Deer River and Grand Rapids Honor Guard will be part of the event as well as the Mayor reading the proclamation. KAXE will be doing an interview with Commissioner Sanderson this week and will be available, just go to their website.

The last planning day is scheduled for Monday, September 21 at 4:00 pm in Conference Room 2B for anyone interested in helping plan the event.

VISITOR – SAMPSON LONGTIN

Commissioner Sanderson introduced our guest speaker. Commissioner Sanderson invited Mr. Longtin after he had contacted the City wanting to know how to go about reporting discrimination act(s) and was given Commissioner Sanderson's name. After speaking with Mr. Longtin, Commissioner Sanderson invited him to attend our meeting tonight to speak on discrimination act(s) that have happened to him and in our community.

Mr. Longtin spoke about what he himself has endured and others in the community that either have witnessed or has happened to them. He has experienced numerous racially motivated disrespectful moments and is concerned for the next generation(s). He spoke briefly about Isaiah Gatimu, 19, who took his own life on August 5, 2014 who was harassed almost daily the previous school year and endured both verbal and physical abuse. If something does not change, it will happen again and could happen anywhere. There needs to be accountability and that school districts will not put up with any type of racially motivated acts.

After listening to Mr. Longtin's message, the Commission encouraged him that they would work with him in any way they can. Mr. Longtin was encouraged to sign up for the upcoming events with Bukata Hayes who is a motivational speaker who talks about these

BUKATA HAYES

Commissioner Sanderson reported that Bukata Hayes will be in Grand Rapids on September 17, 2015. The Chamber and the Commission are continuing to work together regarding programs, with the focus on students and business owners. People are reminded to contact the Chamber if they wish to attend the luncheon.

TRACKS IN THE SNOW

Commissioner Learmont reported an update for the Tracks in the Snow exhibit. The display would be held at the Grand Rapids Public Library from January 19 through February 5, 2016. Commissioner Learmont discussed possible sponsors but also indicated he would like to see the Human Rights Commission give some of their budget toward this worthwhile project. The budgets for 2016 have not been set yet but would be open for discussion at a later time.

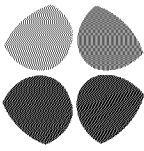
A committee is being set up to work on the exhibit, budget, etc. Commissioner Learmont, Commissioner Moren and Commissioner Hall will begin to work on the exhibit and will report back to the commission once information is set up.

Commissioner Hall reported that she received a phone call from an African American who thought someone had broken into his home, he called the Police but no one came so he called Ms. Hall who in turn told him to call the Police back and to have them come out and check. Ms. Hall did receive a call later that from this individual and said that the Police did come and all was ok with his residence.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2015.

Respectfully submitted, Michele Palkki, Administrative Assistant



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2B, 420 N. POKEGAMA AVE.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, September 30, 2015

TIME: 4:00 P.M.

4:00 CALL TO ORDER:

CALL OF ROLL:

| | Present | Absent |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Commissioner Becky LaPlant | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Jackie Dowell | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Mary Jo Wimmer | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Frieda Hall, Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Doug Learmont | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Barb Sanderson, Vice Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Karen Noyce | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner Alice Moren | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Commissioner John Schirber | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

MEETING PROTOCOL POLICY:

Please be aware that the Council has adopted a Meeting Protocol Policy which informs attendees of the Council's desire to conduct meetings in an orderly manner which welcomes all civil input from citizens and interested parties. If you are unaware of the policy, copies (orange color) are available in the wall file by the Council entrance.

SETTING OF REGULAR AGENDA:

This is an opportunity to approve the regular agenda as presented or add/delete an Agenda item by a majority vote of the Commission members present.

PRESENTATION:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August 26, 2015 Regular Meeting

FINANCIALS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CIRCLE OF HEALING UPDATE:

OLD BUSINESS: Indigenous People's Day
Tracks in the Snow – Establish a Committee
Bukata Hayes

NEW BUSINESS: Big View
New Commissioner Training
Diversity Work in Grand Rapids

REPORTS ON CALLS AND INQUIRIES:

PENDING COMPLAINTS:

OTHER:

ADJOURNMENT:



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Those who attended the August 17 trip to the Vermillion Lake Boarding School were very pleased with the program. There us a document online for those interested, just type in vermillion lake boarding school and it will bring you to a PDF called the Vermillion Lake Indian School – Collections – Minnesota.

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After listening to Mr. Longtin's message, the Commission encouraged him that they would work with him in any way they can. Mr. Longtin was encouraged to sign up for the upcoming events with Bukata Hayes who is a motivational speaker who talks about these very issues. There will be some breakout sessions that he can attend and there will be another presentation at ICC.

Commissioner Sanderson asked Mr. Longtin if he would leave his notes he brought tonight so they could be included with the minutes.

BUKATA HAYES

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When Isaiah Gatimu, 19, took his own life on Aug. 5, he was anxious about an upcoming mediation over a group of students harassing him all year simply because of him being black. Isaiah spoke to counselors and the school's principal several times over those six months, and that the high school never punished any of the kids or stopped the abuse.

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She acknowledges Isaiah had some behavioral problems and spent some time in a group home. But she said he had gone to a juvenile boot camp and "was straightened out. "If they wanted to retaliate against the district, they would not have sent him back to the school and kept Ashley, his sister, in the district, Correen said.

A friend of mine's 14 year old son was walking in Nashwauk when a drunk group of adults called him a nigger, and said they didn't like how he walked, how deep is a hatred when a walk offends you??? When his mother said she is calling the cops they said go ahead trash, we hope they kill you. This was last week, I can go on and on...but why, you get the point.

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longtin. Samson 33@gmail.com

218-398-0505

Indigenous People's Day Program

City of Grand Rapids and Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission

Monday, October 12, 2015, 11:00 A.M. -1 P.M.

Indigenous People's Day Proclamation, Grand Rapids Mayor Dale Adams

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe: Carri Jones, Chairwoman; Archie LaRose, Secretary/Treasurer; Penny DeVault, District I Representative; Steve White, District II Representative; LeRoy Fairbanks, District III Representative

Welcome, Frieda Hall, Grand Rapids Human Rights Commissioner

Pow-wow Celebration:

Invocation, Spiritual Advisor, Marlene Stately, Elder, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Emcee, Pete White, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Arena Director, Gary Charwood, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Grand Entry—Big Red---Grand Entry song

Flag Song—Northland Community Schools

Veteran's Song—Bug-O-Nay-Gee-Shig School

Acknowledge Grand Rapids and Leech Lake Honor Guards and Royalty

Leech Lake Big Red Drum Group—1st Intertribal song

Northland Community Schools Drum and Dance Troupe—2nd Intertribal song

Bug-O-Nay-Gee-Shig Silver Eagle Drum and Dance Group—3rd Intertribal song

Deer River Drum and Dance Group—4th Intertribal song

Cass Lake Bena School Drum and Dance Group---5th Intertribal song

Honor Song, Patty Jo Erven, 318 Indian Education

Closing Song (Traveling Song), Big Red

Manoomin Lunch

Murals with Artist Leah Yellowbird, **Cultural Map Project**, **Library/ Bookstore Displays**

Indigenous Games with 318 Indian Education Students

Sponsors: City of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission, Grand Rapids Public Works Department, Blandin Foundation, Affinity Plus Credit Union, Northland Foundation, 318 Indian Education Program, Itasca Community College, Kootasca Community Action, Range Water, MacRostie Art Center, Cub Foods, Ogle's Market Place Foods, ICTV.

Barb,

I did not know whether Bukata had intended this for a wider audience, but I at least wanted to let you see it as a member of the GR Human Rights Commission. I am sure you have seen rants like this too, but none the less, they are still disturbing.

Have a good weekend...Sally

From: Kathy Jensen
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2015 7:29 AM
To: Bukata Hayes;Kuma Takamura
Subject: Fwd: Website form: Contact Us

Please read this bizarre email from our website. . . .

----- Forwarded message -----

From: GMDC Web site <gmdc@voyageurweb.com<<mailto:gmdc@voyageurweb.com>>>
Date: Thu, Aug 27, 2015 at 10:40 AM
Subject: Website form: Contact Us
To: kjensen@mankatodiversity.org<<mailto:kjensen@mankatodiversity.org>>

Submitted on Thursday, August 27, 2015 - 10:40am
Submitted by anonymous user: [184.21.140.79]
Submitted values are:

First name: Mark
Last name: Berg
E-mail: markberg@reagan.com<<mailto:markberg@reagan.com>>

Comments:

It seems the invading Mohammedans have come to a country that is asleep, has a free press that has done much damage to the country, culture, religion and people in general...We do not need to mix water and oil, or even try,...These Muslims are nothing but trouble, I have a Catholic education with 12 years of protestant British history, and it was accurate. These people follow a terrifying heresy, the worst of the big five, and the one that does not go away...We do not need any of this kind in Itasca county, we have enough trouble here with our own Democrats, and trash on welfare that will not work. This county is a magnet already for welfare. it is the biggest industry in the county. Keep the Muslims out, they are destroying Europe, Scandinavia, and Great Britain, WAKE UP.
Google in the crusades, the church put up with these bastards for 300 years before the first crusade. Google in Lepanto, the battle of..St John of Capistrano, Pope St Pius the fifth,. etc

Winston Churchill 1899

"How dreadful are the curses which Mohammedanism lays on its votaries! Which is as dangerous in a man as hydrophobia in a dog! The effects are apparent in many countries. improvident habits, Slovenly systems of agriculture, sluggish methods of commerce, and insecurity of property exist where ever the followers of the prophet live or rule."

"Individual Muslims may show splendid qualities, but the influence of the religion paralyses the social development of those who follow it. NO STRONGER RETRO GATE FORCE EXISTS IN THE WORLD".

Our rogue and out of control president and congress is bringing this trash into the country by the hundreds of thousands. WAKE

Kathy Jensen
Executive Assistant
Greater Mankato Diversity Council
P.O. Box 166
Mankato, MN 56001
Ph: 507.385.6653
kjensen@mankatodiversity.org<<mailto:kjensen@mankatodiversity.org>>
www.mankatodiversity.org<<http://www.mankatodiversity.org>>

NORTHLAND FOUNDATION

September 22, 2015

Project # 15-16592

Becky LaPlant
Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission
420 N. Pokegama Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Mrs. Becky LaPlant:

I am pleased to inform you that the Northland Foundation has reviewed your proposal for the **City of Grand Rapids Indigenous People's Day** and has approved a grant of **\$1,000.00** for the period (09/01/2015 to 11/30/2015) to **Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission**. If the timeline for your project is different than what is identified above, please notify us and your reporting date will be adjusted.

The Agreement of Grantee is attached for your review. If you agree with the conditions presented, please have it signed by the authorized official.

The Northland Foundation has implemented an Electronic Funds Transfer process (electronic checks) for grant payments. Enclosed is an ACH Credit Authorization Agreement form to be completed with the grantee organization or fiscal agent organization bank account information.

Please return the signed Agreement of Grantee and ACH Credit Authorization forms immediately to the Northland Foundation via email (scanned copies), fax (218-723-4048), or USPS (hard copies) in order for our accounting department to release your payment from Republic Bank.

The Northland Foundation will issue a single payment for this grant. If all of the grant conditions are met, this payment will be distributed in the sum of **\$1,000.00 on 11/01/2015**.

The Northland Foundation will be making public news releases through the regional media regarding all of the grants awarded. Please utilize your community media resources to announce receipt of these funds to your project. The Northland Foundation would appreciate being acknowledged as a source of support in all news releases initiated by you. Please provide us with copies of any press coverage and photographs received by your project, as well as any media releases and program materials you produce. These will be added to your file and may be utilized by the Northland Foundation in our public information efforts.

As you will note, one of the conditions of the Agreement of Grantee is the submission of a final report on the activities, outcomes, and financial expenditures of your project. We will expect this report from you by: **12/31/2015**.

Please provide us sufficient narrative to describe the activities and impact of your project. For your convenience, you may access the report form through the Grantee Portal.

On behalf of the Northland Foundation, I would like to extend sincere congratulations to you and your organization. Please call Carole Saylor, Grants Manager if you have any questions. I look forward to learning about the progress and success of your project.

Sincerely,



Tony Sertich
President

Attachments
cc: Carole Saylor



Building a Strong Foundation for the Future of Our Region
610 Sellwood Building ■ 202 West Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802
p. 218.723.4040 ■ 800.433.4045 ■ f. 218.723.4048 ■ www.northlandfdn.org

NORTHLAND FOUNDATION

BUILDING a STRONG FOUNDATION *for the* FUTURE of our REGION

SMALL GRANT APPLICATION

Introduction to Request

Thank you for your interest in applying for a grant from the Northland Foundation. The Grant Program provides financial and technical resources to tax-exempt nonprofits located in Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis Counties in Minnesota. Support is directed toward specific Areas of Interest to help individuals, families, and communities throughout the region to grow and prosper.

At the Northland Foundation, we view our work with grantees and other partners as an opportunity to learn together. The letter of inquiry is the first step in this learning process, and we look forward to gaining a clearer understanding of your organization's activities and goals.

We have streamlined our application procedure to make it as user-friendly as possible, and request only the information that is most vital to our assessment of your request. Your [feedback](#) is welcome, to help us continue to improve our process. Thank you in advance for completing this application as clearly and fully as possible.

Getting Help

There are circled question marks next to some of the fields in the application. With your mouse, you can hover and click over these for additional information. If you have questions or need further assistance at any time, please contact [Erik Torch, Director of Grantmaking](#) or call the Northland Foundation: 218-723-4040 or 1-800-433-4045.

PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Proposal Details

| | |
|---|--|
| Proposal Title | City of Grand Rapids Indigenous People's Day |
| Total amount requested for this proposal | \$ 1,000.00 |

As you answer these questions, please be as thorough as possible within the allowed amount of text. Lack of the necessary information may delay the approval of your application. The fields have character limits. As a convenience we have estimated these limits in word counts in the hover help, note that these estimates are not always consistent with the character limits, but are intended to help you estimate the amount of narrative you are limited to.

Provide a short summary of your request

In the fall of 2014, the Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission drafted a resolution for the second Monday in October to be recognized and celebrated in the City of Grand Rapids as Indigenous People's Day. The resolution was introduced by then Councilwoman Barb Sanderson and passed unanimously in December 2014 by the Grand Rapids City Council. A committee including Native and non-native members formed in April 2015 to begin planning a community-wide celebration. This request for \$1,000.00 is to cover the cost of purchasing, preparing and serving food for 150 people during the celebration. (Students attending will bring a sack lunch prepared by the schools, which is outside of this grant request; drinking water is being donated).

In detail, describe the need/opportunity that your proposal addresses

Indigenous nations have lived upon this land since time immemorial. Established by the 1855 Treaty, the Leech Lake Indian Reservation has the highest resident population of any reservation in Minnesota. A portion of the reservation sits within the border of Itasca County, and predates the founding of the City of Grand Rapids. Despite this proximity, Native Americans have historically been more imagined than understood in the white dominant culture of Grand Rapids and surrounding communities. This lack of understanding has earned Grand Rapids a reputation as unwelcoming for our Native neighbors. An active group of Native and non-native people have been working for the last several years in partnership with area organizations, including the City of Grand Rapids and the City of Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission, to change this.

Through a resolution passed in December 2014, the City of Grand Rapids was the third of four cities in Minnesota to take a meaningful step towards celebrating the strengths and recognizing the challenges of Indigenous people today. Through the resolution, the City acknowledges that policy and practice changes are needed to better reflect the experiences of the American Indian people and "uplift our country's Indigenous roots, history and contributions".

Creating a base from which meaningful change can happen takes time, especially when the change involves building cross-culture relationships, increasing understanding and awareness about a dark part of our nation's history and looking at systems that were not put in place for the benefit of all.

The resolution and upcoming inaugural Indigenous People's Day celebration builds on the base created by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe flag installations at the Itasca County Courthouse and Chamber of Commerce, and the Why Treaties Matter exhibition that, through the assistance of the Northland Foundation, is circulating in the greater Itasca area for its second year. And the timing of this first Indigenous People's Day celebration coincides with efforts led by the Grand Rapids Police Department to bring Anishinaabe Worldview Training to over 100 staff from 13 organizations in the Grand Rapids area. Like never before, Grand Rapids is brushing up against the reality that to survive and thrive means being a more inclusive community.

Like an iceberg, the majority of a people's culture is below the surface. Surface culture includes food, dress, music, visual arts, dance, language, celebrations, crafts and games. Celebrating the first Indigenous People's Day in Grand Rapids with a mini-powwow makes accessible to the community the surface culture of the Ojibwe people, paving the way for deeper cultural understanding.

The goals of the Indigenous People's Day celebration include:

- Build broad-based community awareness about the Indigenous People's Day resolution and what it means for our community
 - Use the celebration of Indigenous People's Day to make accessible Ojibwe surface culture that can pave the way for deeper understanding
 - Build on a growing community dialogue to answer the question, "What does it mean for Grand Rapids to be a welcoming community?"
- The celebration will be held Monday, October 12, from 11 am – 1 pm in the old Kremer's parking lot downtown Grand Rapids. It will begin with a reading of the resolution by Mayor Adams, a blessing, grand entry including both the honor guards from Grand Rapids and Leech Lake and a mini-powwow. Food and art will round out the celebration. Drum groups and dancers from Northland Community Schools, King Elementary in Deer River and the Bug O'Nay Ge Shig School are confirmed, along with the Big Red Drum, an adult

Describe the goals and key activities you will undertake to address this need/opportunity

group from Leech Lake. Gary Charwood, who works for the Leech Lake Youth Division has agreed to be the Arena Director. Joan Bibeau, ISD 318 Indian Education is working with the fourth grade teachers to prep their students to attend, including a lesson plan to build their background knowledge prior to the day. Other members of the committee are developing a map that includes the Ojibwe names of places around our area and working with the MacRostie Art Center on the art portion of the celebration – which will be exhibited at MacRostie in November in conjunction with Why Treaties Matter. The City of Grand Rapids just brought up an Indigenous People's Day page on their web site that will become a place to access information year round, and is taking a lead role in planning and supporting the celebration. <http://www.cityofgrandrapidsmn.com/9-articles/554-indigenous-people-s-day-celebration>

Describe the anticipated impact of your proposed activities

Our desire is to lay the ground work in a good way for the first Indigenous People's Day celebration and for the celebrations that will follow. We hope to build awareness in our community about the importance of the resolution, and that it signals a deepening of our community in its commitment to being a welcoming, inclusive place for all people. The celebration will continue the momentum that's been building in our area bringing opportunities to build cultural awareness to the forefront and as a base from which future activity, including the implementation of the GRMN Creates Arts and Culture Roadmap. Outside of school participation, we hope to attract 150 community members to the celebration and reach far more through media coverage. See our definition of success below for more about impact.

How will you know you've been successful

A good turnout for the day and wide-spread media coverage is one measure. Beyond that the biggest measure of success will be increased comfort and ease among the Ojibwe people who live, work, shop and attend school in the Grand Rapids area. And with time and continued encouragement and awareness building, success will ultimately look like government entities, organizations and other public institutions reviewing their policies and practices to better reflect the experiences of American Indian people. Ambitious, we know. We're talking about system change here but believe systems within the community are at/are reaching a place of readiness to do this work.

Proposed Project Start Date 10/12/2015

Proposed Project End Date 10/12/2015

Counties this Project will serve Itasca

List the communities you expect to serve Grand Rapids, Remer, Deer River, Hill City, Bigfork, Coleraine, Bovey, Leech Lake communities of Inger, Ball Club, S Lake, Bena and perhaps Cass Lake.

BUDGET INFORMATION

Annual Operating Budget \$ 3,000.00

Proposed Project Budget \$ 16,454.00

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Your Organization information will automatically populate once you save your application for the first time. If the information below is not correct, FIRST Click on the Save button, then go to [your Organization Profile](#) and click on the Edit button. Make the necessary changes and 'Save'. Then click on the 'My Submissions' link to get back to the application area.

Legal Name of Organization Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission

Popular Name of Organization or Also Known As

Organization Address 420 N. Pokegama Ave., Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Organization Main Phone Number 218-244-9948

Organization Web Address

Is your organization a 501(c)(3) or unit of government? Yes

Federal Tax ID Number (EIN) 41-6005201

FISCAL AGENT INFORMATION (Leave blank if no Fiscal Agent is needed)

Fiscal Agent Legal Name

Fiscal Agent Federal Tax ID Number

Fiscal Agent Street Address

Fiscal Agent City

Fiscal Agent State

Fiscal Agent Zip

AUTHORIZATION SECTION

By submitting this application to the Northland Foundation, you confirm that your Organization's CEO, President, Executive Director, or School Principal has approved this submission.

Submission Approved Yes

Proposal Due Date 9/15/2015

Contact Role

| Contact Name | Organization Name | Role | Is Primary | Action |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Becky LaPlant | Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission | Primary Organization Contact | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| Michele Palkki | Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission | Payment Contact | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Tom Pagel | Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

List of Sources - Request

| Source | Requested Amount | Date Request Was (or Will Be) Submitted | Amount Committed to Date | Date Committed or Anticipated Notification | Action |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|--------------------------|---|--------|
| City of Grand Rapids | 7,750.00 | 07/20/2015 | 7,750.00 | 08/24/2015 | |
| Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission | 1,300.00 | 02/25/2015 | 1,300.00 | 02/24/2015 | |
| Blandin Foundation | 5,000.00 | 08/27/2015 | 5,000.00 | 09/03/2015 | |
| Itasca Community College | 300.00 | | 300.00 | | |
| ISD 318 Indian Education | 1,000.00 | | 1,000.00 | | |
| Private Donations | 3,000.00 | | 1,500.00 | | |
| MacRostie/MN Arts | 2,000.00 | | | | |
| Affinity Credit Union | 500.00 | | | | |

Payments

| Scheduled Payment Date | Payment Amount | Status | Action |
|------------------------|----------------|--------|--------|
|------------------------|----------------|--------|--------|

Attachments

[1 Request - Small Grants Project Budget.doc](#)

[2 Request - Small Grants Board Roster.pdf](#)

[5 Request - Optional Attachment 1.pdf](#)





ACH Credit Authorization Agreement for automatic deposits

GRANT # 15-16592

Please complete and return to the Northland Foundation

Contact Name

Contact email address

Organization Name (Grantee)

Contact Phone Number

Fiscal Agent Name/Contact Name/Phone Number (if acting as fiscal agent for Grantee)

Financial Institution

Account Name

Financial Institution - Street Address

Financial Institution - City/State/Zip

Bank Routing Number

Account Number at Financial Institution

Savings Account

Checking Account

I authorize Northland Foundation and the financial institution listed above to initiate electronic monthly payment credit entries, and if necessary, debit entries for adjustments to any credit entries in error to above named account. We will contact you before any adjusting entries are made. This authority will remain in effect until I have cancelled it in writing or for the duration of the Grant.

Authorized Signature / Title

Date

Please attach voided check here:

Northland Foundation
202 W. Superior St. #610
Duluth, MN 55802
(218)723-4040
Fax: (218)723-4048
1-800-433-4045
www.northlandfdn.org





AGREEMENT OF GRANTEE

As a condition of a total grant of **\$1,000.00** from the Northland Foundation to **Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission** in support of the **City of Grand Rapids Indigenous People's Day request**, the undersigned agrees:

1. To use the funds only for the designated purpose as described in the grant notification letter dated 09/21/2015 and to notify the Northland Foundation of and obtain its consent to any substantial deviations from said grant application.
2. To maintain its books and records to show, and separately account for, the funds received under this grant, and to maintain records of expenditures adequate to identify the purposes for which grant funds have been expended.
3. To permit the Northland Foundation, at its request, to have complete access to the grantee's files and records for the purpose of making such financial audits, verifications, and investigations as it deems necessary concerning the grant, and to maintain such files and records for a period of at least four years after completion or termination of the project.
4. To repay to the Northland Foundation any portion of the grant which is not used for the purposes specified herein or in the grant application.
5. To not use the funds for any purpose prohibited by law, and to immediately notify the Northland Foundation of any lawsuit or any proceedings before any federal, state, or local administrative agency, which may be initiated against it.
6. To submit progress reports to the Northland Foundation, detailing activities and progress in accomplishing the objectives of the project, as well as all expenditures made in administration of the grant, as requested by the Northland Foundation staff.
7. Upon completion of the period for which funds were granted, to submit a detailed final report of the activities carried out under the grant, a final expenditures report, and an evaluation of what has been accomplished by the project.
8. That the total amount of this grant, or any payment thereof, may be discontinued, modified or withheld at any time when, in the judgment of the Northland Foundation, such action is necessary to comply with requirements of the law.

Name of Organization or Fiscal Agent

Authorized by Organization
(Administrator, Officer, Board Chair, Superintendent)

Date

Project # 15-16592



Building a Strong Foundation for the Future of Our Region
610 Sellwood Building ■ 202 West Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802
p. 218.723.4040 ■ 800.433.4045 ■ f. 218.723.4048 ■ www.northlandfdn.org

Tracks in the Snow Committee

The first meeting of the joint Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission / Grand Rapids Library Program Committee working group was held at the Grand Rapids public library at 4:00 PM on Thursday, September 24. Committee members are Freida Hall, Alice Moren, Ann Clark, Teresa Alto, John Schirber, and Doug Learmont. All except Frieda, who had a prior commitment, were able to attend this first meeting.

Following introductions, there was brief discussion of the exhibit and its origins, background relating to the decision to conduct the exhibit, and steps and reasons leading to formation of the committee. Copies of a summary of the current state of project components and their status were distributed, as was a copy of some of the descriptive information from IRG (the Islamic Resource Group, which produced the exhibit materials and can make speakers available). Committee members then began discussion of how to proceed, major items that need to be addressed, responsibility for various tasks, schedules, funding, and other aspects. The discussion is wrapped below into the informational sheet that has been used up to this date:

Description of Exhibit: The exhibit consists of 25 panels, each 24 inches wide x 36 inches high. Each panel has a photograph/portrait of an individual and an excerpt from their interview underneath; they can be wall mounted or placed on easels. There are also 5 retractable banners, 32 x 80 inches, to introduce five different themes placed in between the easels with the canvasses, and one title banner roughly the same size as the theme banners. A list of locations where the exhibit has already been displayed (all except one of them has been in the Twin Cities or further south) along with information about some related activities done at the time of the exhibit and some pictorial information about the exhibit, can be accessed at <http://irgmn.org/muslimexperience/exhibit/>.

Display exhibit at GR Library - there is some concern about the ability to place the exhibit totally within the library hung on walls; overflow into the hallway area is a possibility as is placement of some of the exhibit on easels inside the library. **This will require more consideration and also discussion with the library director.**

Timing: Jan 19 - February 5, 2016: **Doug** has already confirmed these dates with IRG and will re-confirm. January 20 and February 6 are both public holidays; the specific opening and closing dates will need to be coordinated and refined to take into account access to the building for setting up and taking down the exhibit, which will also depend upon decisions as to who will be responsible for physical set-up and take-down plus the involvement of IRG and the format for formal opening of the exhibit **These dates are, therefore, still subject to minor modification.**

Possible related activities:

- Formal opening with speech by chair of Human Rights Commission and/or library committee, representative of Islamic Resource Group (IRG), possibly also the mayor

or a city council member. Some showings have also been accompanied by a dinner or other event. Doug was requested to get information from IRG about the content of their normal opening presentation, written or video, for review and discussion by the committee to use in shaping the opening details.

- Mid-day or evening community programs/presentations during the three weeks of the exhibit could be done at various places; committee members volunteered to make contacts at some of the possible presentation sites as follows to determine interest, time compatibility, and subject areas (a list of available subject areas is shown on the next page):

Library - Library program committee

High school or middle school classes or assembly - Ann, Frieda

ICC - Teresa

Churches - unassigned

Chamber of Commerce and its members - unassigned

Others? Additional ideas welcome from all committee members

Estimated Costs:

- \$500 (after waiving half of normal full \$1000 charge)
- \$75 for easels if easel rental is desired - the committee will discuss positioning with the library director, committee member thinking was to get easels so they would be available for use if needed
- Honorarium for speakers (the understanding is that an Islamic Resource Group person would be present for the opening ceremony, the cost for which is, I believe, included in the \$500, however an honorarium would probably also be appropriate for speakers after the opening, so budget an additional \$750 for honoraria and travel expense)
- IRG assumes that local personnel (paid or volunteer) would be responsible for setting up the display, although they indicated willingness to assist
- The amounts shown above bring the cost to \$1,325; numbers could be higher depending upon amounts needed to pay for expenses/fees/honoraria beyond the opening ceremony. Budget amounts up to \$5,000 were discussed.

Potential Sponsors/Co-sponsors:

- The GR HRC has already discussed allocating some of its 2016 budget to this exhibit and program but does not yet have a 2016 budget and has not voted on a specific amount. An HRC budget commitment needs to be brought up at the September 30 HRC meeting, perhaps up to \$1,000 - Doug/Alice/John.
- The Library program committee may be able to contribute funds but limits and commitments also need to be determined, something up to \$500 was mentioned - Ann, Teresa
- The Blandin Foundation was identified as possibly having interest and being able to assist financially, in part because this exhibit could be seen as part of its diversification direction, preparing and submitting an application could be brought up at the September 30 HRC meeting - Doug/John
- Chamber of Commerce, based on the activity being an extension of the Chamber's diversity interest, no dollar amount discussed yet - John

September 30, 2015

- ICC or others?

Speaker topics for presentations could include:

- What You Always Wanted to Know About Islam and Muslims (HRC preference)
- Minnesota Muslims Up Close (HRC preference)
 - *An Introduction Islam and Muslims (usually used in schools)
 - *Islam and Christianity
 - *Women in Islam
 - *Prophet Muhammed: His Life and Legacy
 - *Islamic Contributions to Civilization
 - *Roots of Islam in America
 - *Islam and Muslims for Educators (workshop)
 - *Culturally Appropriate Care for Muslim Patients (workshop)

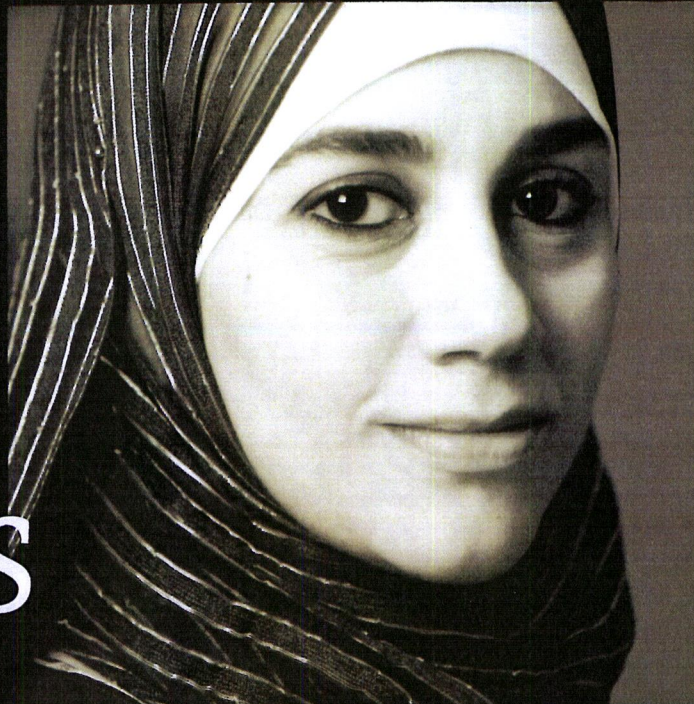
Other topics and arrangements to be discussed:

- Publicity/promotion: **John** felt that ICTV would be interested in recording some of the presentations and would also be willing to do some pre-event promotion in the two weeks leading up to the opening, he will speak with ICTV.
- Others?

Committee members agreed on 4:00, October 21, at the library for the next meeting. Members also agreed to circulate among themselves these meeting notes for additions or corrections and for updating for the group as key information becomes available prior to the next committee meeting. Copies of promotional posters from exhibits recently done in other venues are attached for your information.

Exhibition on View
Sept. 6–27, 2015
Owatonna Arts Center

Community Reception
Sunday, Sept. 13,
1–4 pm
Free and open to the public



TRACKS



IN THE SNOW

The Minnesota Muslim Experience since 1880

It's not often that we get to learn about the journeys of people from diverse backgrounds. It's not often that we get to walk in the shoes of our neighbors, and reflect about the growth of our community in a meaningful way.

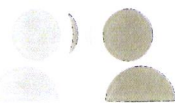
Tracks in the Snow provides a glimpse into the lives of one of the least known and rapidly expanding populations in America and in Minnesota – the Muslim community. Join us to gain a deeper insight into the true lives of Minnesota Muslims as narrated by themselves.

Take a walk in the footsteps figuratively referenced in the title of this show organized by the Islamic Resource Group (IRG). The stories of 25 individuals featured in these portraits encapsulate the variety of backgrounds and experiences that have led so many Muslims to make Minnesota their home for more than a century.

Tracks in the Snow appeared at the Walker Art Center, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and the State Capitol before coming to Owatonna.

This event is made possible in part by the Owatonna Human Rights Commission and the Steele County Immigrant Recourse Center.

IRG
Islamic Resource Group



www.irgmn.org
612-460-0165

Islamic Resource Group (IRG)
3055 Old Hwy 8, #101G
Saint Anthony, MN 55418

Portrait of Hoda Badawi from Tracks in the Snow: The Minnesota Muslim Experience since 1880 Photo: John Noltner, Courtesy IRG.

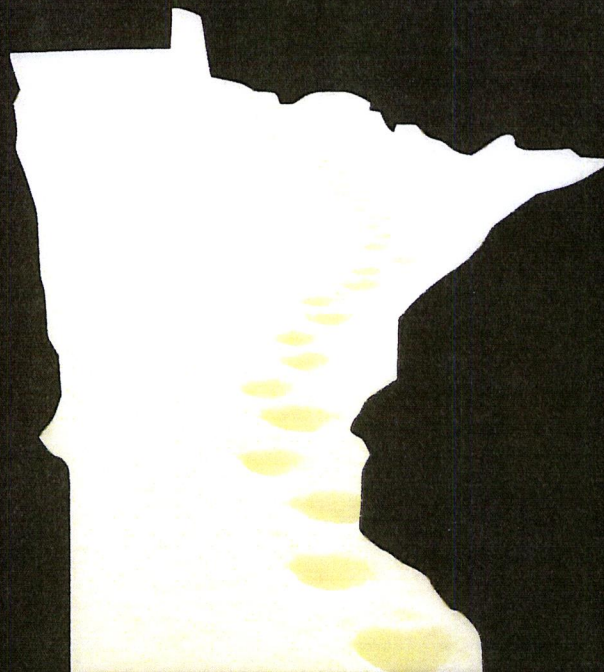
PHOTO & ORAL HISTORY EXHIBIT

Tracks in the Snow

The Minnesota Muslim Experience
since 1880

WWW.IRGMN.ORG / MUSLIM EXPERIENCE

Tracks in the The Minnesota Muslim Experience Snow since 1880



Get an exclusive insight into the true lives of Minnesota Muslims as authentically narrated by themselves.

WHEN

Apr 6 – 24, 2015

WHERE

Zeitgeist Art Center

For the exhibit tour itinerary, visit
<http://irgmn.org/muslimexperience/exhibit/>



**BLANDIN FOUNDATION
GRANT APPLICATION
(for Grant Requests over \$1,000 to \$10,000)**

You may submit your grant application one of three different ways: 1) Regular U.S. mail to 100 N. Pokegama Ave., Grand Rapids, MN 55744; or 2) email to grants@blandinfoundation.org; or 3) on-line at grants.blandinfoundation.org/apply. Additional supporting information can be mailed separately or scanned and sent as attachments. **If you do not hear from us directly, acknowledging receipt of your application within 72 hours of submission, please call us at 218-326-0523.**

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Organization Information

Submittal Date: _____

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Name of organization</i> | | <i>Legal name, if different</i> | |
| Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission | | In collaboration with Grand Rapids Public Library | |
| <i>Address</i> | <i>City, State, Zip</i> | <i>Employer Identification Number (EIN)</i> | |
| 420 Pokegama Avenue North | Grand Rapids, MN 55744 | | |
| <i>Phone</i> | <i>Fax</i> | <i>Web site</i> | |
| 1-218-326-7600 | 1-218-326-7608 | www.cityofgrandrapidsmn.com | |
| <i>Name of CEO/Exec. Dir.</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Phone</i> | <i>E-mail</i> |
| Tom Pagel | Administrator | 1-218-326-7600 | tpagel@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us |
| <i>Name of contact person regarding this application</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Phone</i> | <i>E-mail</i> |
| Tom Pagel | Administrator | 1-218-326-7600 | tpagel@ci.grand-rapids.mn.us |

Is your organization an IRS 501(c)(3) nonprofit? Yes No

If no, is your organization a public agency/unit of government? Yes No

If no, list name and address of fiscal agent:

City of Grand Rapids, 420 North Pokegama Avenue,
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Fiscal agent's EIN

Proposal Overview

Duration of grant request: 10/2015 to 3/2016
Month Year Month Year

Please give a 2-3 sentence summary of request:

The "Tracks in the Snow" exhibit and associated programs and presentations during January and February 2016 are intended to be part of informing and educating members of the Grand Rapids community regarding the cultural, economic, faith, skin color, gender, and other aspects of diversity, human rights, and the need for understanding, tolerance, and respect within and around the Grand Rapids and Itasca County community. The exhibit and presentations are consistent and in keeping with laws regarding human rights and with developing a healthy Grand Rapids and Itasca County community. It is being done in collaboration with the Grand Rapids Area Public Library; the exhibit will be displayed at the library and some of the planned presentations will be done at the library.

Please give a 1-2 sentence summary of the geographic area your proposal will serve:

The planned activities will serve primarily Grand Rapids but will be open to the general public including the surrounding Itasca County area. Planning envisions including community outreach and some presentations to educational, faith, community, and/or business entities which express interest.

Please give a short summary of diversity on your board and staff:

The Grand Rapids Human Rights Commission is formally established within the City of Grand Rapids. Its volunteer/non-paid members, appointed by the City, comprise nine citizens with backgrounds and experience that are diverse in terms of economic background, educational level, professional/career specialties, gender, faith, areas of interest and experience, and age. These Commissioners, together with Library Board members who are collaborating in the activity, also understand and strive to improve diversity, and the understanding of diversity, as components of creating a healthy community.

Draft

Draft

Draft

Budget Summary

Fiscal Year of Organization: 1 to 12

Month Month

Total project budget: \$ not to exceed \$5,000.00

Total dollar amount requested of Blandin Foundation: \$ not to exceed \$

Total annual organization budget: \$ 3,000 (tentative, pending city budget approval)

Authorization

Name of CEO/Exec. Director or Board Chair: Freida Hall, Chair

Signature (scanned/electronic signature acceptable) _____

If using a fiscal agent, please provide the name of the CEO/Executive Director or Board Chair: Tom Pagel, City Administrator

Signature (scanned/electronic signature acceptable) _____

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

1. Explain the project

The planned project consists of display of 25 panels, each 24 inches wide x 36 inches high. Each panel has a photograph/portrait of an individual and an excerpt from their interview underneath; they can be wall mounted or placed on easels. There are also 5 retractable banners, 32 x 80 inches, to introduce five different themes placed in between the easels with the canvasses, and one title banner roughly the same size as the theme banners. The exhibit materials were developed by the Islamic Resource Group (IRG) of Minneapolis. Over the past 1 1/2 years the exhibit has been displayed in several locations in Minnesota, all except one of them has been in the Twin Cities or further south, beginning with the Walker Art Center. In most cases display of the exhibit has included one or more educational presentations to groups in the city where the exhibit was displayed. To use words from IRG:

"It's not often that we get to learn about the journeys of people from diverse backgrounds. It's not often that we get to walk in the shoes of our neighbors,, and reflect about the growth of our community in a meaningful way.

"Tracks in the Snow provides a glimpse into the lives of one of the least known and rapidly growing populations in America and in Minnesota - the Muslim community. Join us to gain a deeper insight into the true lives of Minnesota Muslims as narrated by themselves.

"Take a walk in the footsteps figuratively referenced in the title of this show . . .the stories of 25 individuals featured in these portraits encapsulate the variety of backgrounds and experiences that have led so many Muslims to make Minnesota their home for more than a century."

Planning for the exhibit, in addition to the portrait display, includes providing opportunities for presentations made on related topics to the Grand Rapids area community at the library at various other local venues.

2. Project goals

Ours is a diverse community, and over time has been, and is expected to continue to be, increasingly diverse in terms of national origin, gender, faith, color, and other aspects. Successful community development happens when a diverse population has knowledge, respect, and understanding of other members of the community. This has been recognized through a series of events and activities in Grand Rapids, including most recently activities such as Indigenous People's Day celebrations, appearances by Mr Bukata Hayes, and others. The Tracks in the Snow exhibit and related presentations is intended to further advance the basis for creating and improving the Grand Rapids and the area community by informing and

Draft

Draft

Draft

educating the community regarding groups within civil society about which they may have little knowledge or understanding, people which may actually be their neighbors, classmates, or business customers.

3. Project budget – may be provided here or as an attachment

Under development - Human Rights Commission guidance needed

4. Optional attachments (if not provided above):

Please don't feel obligated to provide any attachments. If you can provide the project budget detail in the field in question #3 above, please feel free to do so. A staff member will contact you if additional information is needed to make an informed decision.

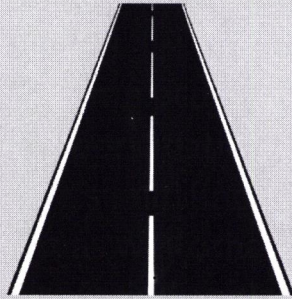
Big View Community Engagement

Hosted by Circles of Support

Wednesday, October 7th, 2015

TRANSPORTATION

Navigating life without reliable transportation



Many low-income people
reliable transportation.
identified as a significant
employment as well as
of life factors including

in Itasca County struggle to find
Transportation is frequently
barrier to finding and maintaining
accessing other significant qualify
school, medical appointments,

child care, emergencies, family connections, recreation, food access,
social inclusion, and community participation.

The result is an inability to engage in opportunities towards well-being and upward mobility.

What transportation options are available and what are the needs?

Sandy Wheelcor
Arrowhead Transit, AEOA

Diane Gilmore
Rural Rides, AEOA

Alice Moren
Wheels to Work, KOOTASCA

Cindy Suhl
Circles of Support & Grand Rapids Area Bus Rider

Monica Monnie
Grand Rapids Area Bus Rider



STRESS

Grand Rapids Library
140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
11:00 – 1:00 PM

HOPELESSNESS

Lunch provided Presentation begins at 11:15

RSVP: brianaa@kootasca.org or call 999-5883



Blandin Foundation™
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

Circles of Support is a program of KOOTASCA Community Action

Any issue that has the potential to adversely impact people in poverty may become the subject of a Big View Community Engagement meeting. Community members from all income levels are welcome to attend and encouraged to engage in respectful dialogue around meeting topics.

It is our position at Circles of Support to uphold the voice and dignity of the poor.

This meeting is
free and open to
the public.



Circles of Support is a program of KOOTASCA Community Action

Big View Community Engagement

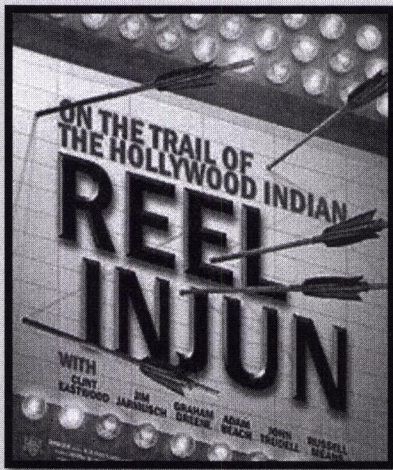
Hosted by Circles of Support

Monday, October 12th, 2015

REEL INJUN:

On the trail of the Hollywood Indian

"*Reel Injun* is an entertaining and insightful look at the Hollywood Indian, exploring the portrayal of North American Natives through a century of cinema.



Travelling through the heartland of America and into the Canadian North, Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond looks at how the myth of "the Injun" has influenced the world's understanding – and misunderstanding – of Natives. With clips from hundreds of classic and recent films, and candid interviews with celebrated Native and non-Native directors, writers, actors, and activists including Clint Eastwood, Robbie Robertson, Graham Greene, Adam Beach, and Zacharias Kunuk, *Reel Injun* traces the evolution of cinema's depiction of Native

people from the silent film era to present day. <http://www.reelinjunthemovie.com/site/>

"WHEN YOU'RE KIDS AND YOU'RE TRYING TO PLAY COWBOYS AND INDIANS, AND IF YOU'RE AN INDIAN KID – WELL, DOESN'T THAT MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE ALL THE TIME?"

JESSE WENTE, FILM CRITIC FOR CBC RADIO

Grand Rapids Library

140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Audience input & discussion follows film

Pizza & Popcorn served Presentation begins at 6:00

RSVP: brianaa@kootasca.org or call 999-5883



Circles of Support is a program of KOOTASCA Community Action

Recently, I viewed a documentary titled 'Reel Injun' a production by Cree film maker, Neil Diamond, who is originally from Waskaganish, Quebec on the James Bay coast. This was one of the most informative documentaries on First Nation people I have ever watched concerning myths about Natives. I have always been confused about my background in terms of image and promotion produced in the media in general. I never understood or identified with the ideas, myths and stereotypes the world has about Native North Americans. 'Reel Injun' really gave me the facts about how all these strange perceptions of Native people evolved.

Xavier Kataquapit

Any issue that has the potential to adversely impact people in poverty may become the subject of a Big View Community Engagement meeting. Community members from all income levels are welcome to attend and encouraged to engage in respectful dialogue around meeting topics.

It is our position at Circles of Support to uphold the voice and dignity of the poor.

This meeting is
free and open to
the public.



Circles of Support is a program of KOOTASCA Community Action

Big View Community Engagement

Hosted by Circles of Support

Thursday, October 15th, 2015

OUR SPIRITS DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH: INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOL



"Our Spirits Don't Speak English: Indian Boarding School" is a Native American perspective on Indian Boarding Schools. This film uncovers the dark history of U.S. Government policy which took

Indian children from their homes, forced them into boarding schools and enacted a policy of educating them in the ways of Western Society. This film gives a voice to the countless Indian children forced through a system designed to strip them of their Native American culture, heritage and traditions. <http://richheape.com/boarding-school.htm>

OUR SPIRITS DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH IS AN IMPORTANT FILM THAT REVEALS A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD BEFORE THIS GENERATION OF NATIVE AMERICANS CAN NO LONGER TELL IT. THE FILM IS A STRAIGHTFORWARD EDUCATIONAL DOCUMENTARY TELLING THE TALE OF GOVERNMENT AND CHURCH FINANCED BOARDING SCHOOLS WHOSE GOAL WAS TO REFORM NATIVE AMERICANS. TO MAKE THEM MORE LIKE THEIR WHITE NEIGHBORS. THE FACTS ARE HARROWING. IN SHORT, CHILDREN WERE TAKEN FROM THEIR HOMES INTO THE SCHOOLS WHERE THEIR HAIR WAS CUT. THEY WERE FORCED TO SPEAK ENGLISH. AND SLOWLY THE DESTRUCTION OF A CULTURE SET IN FOR GENERATIONS TO COME. I WOULD RECOMMEND SHOWING THIS FILM IN SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WE NEED TO KNOW THE EXTENT OF OUR MISDEEDS AS A NATION, AND

OUR SPIRITS DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH EXPOSES A GREAT DEAL.

Excerpts from The Candler Blog

Grand Rapids Library

140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids

11:00 – 1:00 PM

Audience input & discussion follows film

Pizza & Popcorn served Presentation begins at 11:00

RSVP: brianaa@kootasca.org or call 999-5883



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