

Outstanding Support of the Arts by an  
Organization or Business

**The Heritage Center at  
Red Cloud Indian School, Pine Ridge**

Started in 1969 as an art show, The Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has become a unique cultural destination. The Center evolved into a source of inspiration for the Lakota people and visitors from all around the globe who wish to honor and celebrate the Lakota culture and Native art. The Heritage Center showcases the rich and storied traditions of North America's Native community and the skill and creativity that remain mainstays of Lakota and other Native American cultures.



The Red Cloud Indian Art Show was founded to demonstrate the talent and skills of local Native American artists and to afford them an entrance into the art world. As a result of purchasing award-winning artwork each year from the art show, an extensive collection of paintings, drawings and sculptures representing a variety of Native American tribal traditions was amassed. Donations of historical Lakota artwork from around the country created the need for a space to exhibit these works.

The Heritage Center, Inc. opened its doors in 1982 in an historic brick school building on the Red Cloud campus. Today, the Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian School provides authentic Native-made works for the purposes of audience appreciation and education and is one of the few sources of economic growth for residents of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The Center's gift shop annually purchases and resells over \$100,000 worth of locally made Lakota tribal arts and fine arts, both contemporary and traditional.

For over five decades, the Red Cloud Indian Art Show has celebrated the continuum of Native art and honored the artists who create it. The Heritage Center's permanent collection has grown to include nearly 10,000 pieces of Native American contemporary and historical Lakota art including paintings, textiles, traditional art, historical items, pottery and sculpture, as well as a library and historical archives.

As one of the earliest and most successful cultural centers and museums located on a reservation, The Heritage Center continues to be a model and source of inspiration for others due to its efforts to support a diverse number of audiences and stakeholders through an extraordinary focus on Native artists.

*Pictured L to R: Mary Maxon, Director; Ashley Pourier, Curator; Audrey Jacobs, Museum Educator; Carmen Little Iron, Gift Shop Manager/Buyer*