



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Art Commission for the Remembering the Children Memorial

DUE: **January 27, 2023 4pm MST**

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 Native history of Rapid City, South Dakota. Most importantly, we learned that over 50 children died while attending the school in the early 20th century. Many were buried on the hill behind West Middle School in Rapid City in unmarked graves. 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 community. 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.



INVITATION

The Remembering the Children Memorial Project invites interested parties to submit RFPs to serve on an Art Commission that will receive, review, and recommend Artist RFPs for installation on a mixed-use memorial project in Rapid City, South Dakota. The project will be built on trust land, and on the grounds of the former Rapid City Indian Boarding school, and the project team encourages individuals that represent Native American communities to apply.

1. PROJECT GOAL

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 1898-1939. Secondarily, telling the story through art, film, curriculum development, and oral histories, is very important. We envision each component listed below contributing to the story of the Rapid City Indian School and its effect on the children, their families, and our communities.

2. BACKGROUND

During the planning of the memorial it was determined to incorporate several different artistic/interpretive elements including, but not limited to:

- 50 boulders inscribed with the names of the children who lived and died at the school
- Interpretive scaffolds to stand at the top of the hill
- Memorial Wall near the plaza at the entrance to the Memorial site
- Four pedestrian benches along the path up the hill
- Storyboards in the plaza
- West entrance gate
- Food preparation/meal area
- Art installation in the round-about area



3. CURRENT ART OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking artists and culture bearers for an Art Commission to assist in the selection of proposals for each component. This group will receive all the RFPs for each component, meet and discuss, and recommend the proposal that best suits the needs of the project. This is a paid service through the Remembering the Children Memorial project.

4. PAYMENT PROCESS

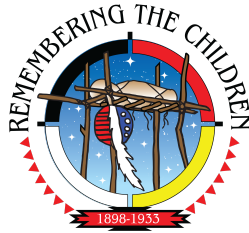
The plan is to bring the commission together 5 times over the next year and a half to review RFPs before they go out, collect and review completed RFPs for different components, and recommend RFPs for installation on the site. We will compensate each committee member with an honorarium and expenses related to travel.

5. PROCESS

The selected commission members will be expected to work in close collaboration with the other artists, the Remembering the Children Memorial Team, Elder Advisory committee, and the Executive Director in the selection and implementation of chosen proposals. The Remembering the Children Memorial Project team will do their best to make selections that create a balance of the various criteria listed below as well as a diversity of **artistic mediums, educational backgrounds, gender identities, and ages**. All applicants will be expected to submit a conflict of interest statement regarding their intention of possibly submitting RFPs for any of the art components.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Federally recognized tribal members
- Individuals with a family connection to the Rapid City Indian School. *please share connection
- Boarding school survivors
- Artists with a demonstrated ability to work in collaboration with other artists on a healthy and constructive basis
- Location near or in Rapid City, SD to be able to meet with other artists on a regular basis and ability to visit the site to best choose proposals that fit



- Demonstrated ability to work in collaboration with various partners, such as construction and architectural partners

6. TIMELINE

January 5, 2023	Artist Committee Request for Proposal announced
January 27, 2023	All RFPs due: selection process begins
February 3, 2023	Selected artists announced
February 6, 2023 10am Location: Racing Magpie (please save this date)	In person meeting of selected artists in Rapid City, SD for introductions, calendar planning for the project, and review of first RFP. (stone inscription)
February 8, 2023	Stone Inscription RFP to go public
March 1, 2023	Stone Inscription RFP closes
March 3, 2023	Artist Committee selects first artist RFP

7. SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Interested parties should complete the application and submit attachments.

Application: <https://tinyurl.com/n9wpxhnf>.

Please email amy@rememberingthechildren.org with any questions. The application and attachments must be submitted no later than **January 27, 2023 by 4:00 pm MST.**