

# **Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission 2012 Grant Indigenous Youth Dance Troupe Four Winds Native Center Project Narrative (3 pages)**

## **Organization History**

The mission of the Four Winds Native Center is to strengthen Native/Indigenous communities in Lawrence, KS, in a traditional and holistic way by offering family-based services and culturally integrated educational programs.

The Lawrence Indian Center began as an organization in 1970 in Lawrence, KS. At that time, the organization helped Haskell students with housing and community services and was run by volunteers. They helped students in times of trouble, provided clothing, and helped place students in area homes for holidays. In 1971, it formally became a non-profit tax exempt organization. Its mission was to promote the educational, economic, and social self-sufficiency of the Indian population. The board changed the name to the Four Winds Native Center in 2007, and with help from the Native community developed a clear vision and goals.

- ❖ To provide educational nutrition and wellness courses to Native and non-Native low-income residents of the Lawrence community.
- ❖ To actively garner community involvement within our local Native/Indigenous community and non-Native community members.
- ❖ To provide family-oriented services and programs for Native families.
- ❖ To provide traditional and contemporary culturally integrated educational programs for the entire family.
- ❖ To provide youth mentorship and community service learning.

Four Winds Native Center currently operates a large community garden and offers classes in both wellness and traditional arts such as beading, shawl making, moccasin making and drumming and singing. It is also home to a Native Youth Mentoring program.

One priority expressed by the community was the preservation of Native stories and dances by the creation of a children's traditional dance group. Because the Native families living in Lawrence are not able to learn from the elders of the 150 tribes represented by the students and staff at Haskell Indian Nations University, there is a need for Four Winds to provide this by hiring experienced teachers to teach these stories and dances. This project involves several generations of Native people learning from each other, which is a traditional way of providing lessons to Native youth.



## **Project Proposal: Indigenous Youth Dance Troupe**

The story of the Native people who are the original inhabitants of Kansas is an important part of the celebration of Kansas Statehood. There have historically been over 30 tribes who lived in Kansas at one time, although there are only four tribes who now have reservation land here. The descendants of people from these 30 tribes now attend Haskell Indian Nations University and the preservation of their cultures is an ongoing struggle.

This project proposes to research and preserve the traditional dances of these Kansas tribes and teach them to the younger generation of Native children in Kansas, as well as share these stories and dances with the public and with public schools. This project will document and preserve the contributions of the tribes who used to live in Kansas and the surrounding states as well as the many tribes now represented at Haskell Indian Nations University. The Four Winds Native Center will work with the Haskell Intertribal Club to hire two Haskell students as instructors to conduct research, organize, teach, and document traditional Native dances for children. These classes will be held at the Four Winds Native Center building.

The instructors will research the stories and traditions of each tribe and create teacher guides for teachers to share this information with schools. They will recruit families to participate in the classes and develop curriculum materials to teach the children. Instructors will also teach children to construct the traditional regalia worn during their dances.

Traditional Native musicians and drummers will rehearse with the children as well as accompany them as they share their traditional dances with the public and in public schools.

Instructors will document the classes and public exhibitions in video format for preservation of the stories and dances. They will work with two cultural consultants: James Jones (Oklahoma Seminole), librarian at Haskell Indian Nations University and one of the co-sponsors of the Haskell Intertribal Club and Rhonda LeValdo (Acoma Pueblo), media instructor at Haskell Indian Nations University and the other co-sponsor of the Haskell Intertribal Club.

Sharing the stories and dances of the many tribes of Kansas and beyond is one way to preserve this important history. Documenting these stories and teaching children traditional Native dancing is a very important part of cultural preservation.

As expressed by Charlotte Heth in the book [Native American Dance: Ceremonies and Social Traditions](#): “American Indian dance exists everywhere in America and in every venue, from the most traditional and private spaces to those most public and accessible. Thousands of dancers perform every day in out-of-the-way places—not to satisfy paying audiences or patrons, but to assure the continuation of ancient lifeway’s, to honor deities and each other, to associate with friends and kin, and to



affirm their Indian identities. Because many dances and songs have spiritual and supernatural sources, they retain their original significance and value. These traditional dances, often tied to seasonal or life-cycle events, are regionally or tribally specific; the singers usually perform in native languages and the ceremonies unfold according to ancient calendars and belief systems. In addition to public dances, there are private and semi-public dances for curing, prayer, initiation, storytelling, performing magic, playing games, courting, hunting, and influencing nature. ***In performing these songs, dances, and rituals, the Indians of today reaffirm their ties to a living culture.***”

#### **How will the community benefit from this sponsorship?**

Lawrence’s Native American population consists of 25% of the total permanent population, according to Census data. Lawrence’s Native population represents over 150 tribes from across the country, thanks to the presence of Haskell Indian Nations University. **Although the University provides a wealth of artistic and cultural resources, Native American artists are typically underrepresented in the community. This project will create opportunities for these artists not only to practice and share their traditional craft, but to be compensated as well. These artists, musicians, and storytellers will work with Native families (and approximately twenty children) to preserve, explore, and share their traditions. In addition to the large Native population in Lawrence, this project will impact thousands of children in public schools, as well as Lawrence residents attending exhibitions in town.** One goal of this project is to preserve the rich and complex histories of the many people who came before us.

Native youth will benefit from working with professional artists and dancers to learn dances and create regalia, which is an opportunity new to the Lawrence community. Artists, dancers, and cultural consultants will benefit from being compensated for their time and skill. **In addition to teaching entrepreneurial skills, this dance program teaches the importance of preserving history, forming intergenerational relationships, and preventing cultural erosion.**

#### **Why should the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission fund this request?**

Sharing the stories and dances of the many tribes of Kansas and beyond is one way to preserve our important collective history. Documenting these stories and teaching children traditional Native dancing is a very important part of cultural preservation. Funding has been secured by the Kansas Humanities Council for instructor fees, and we have secured additional funding from the Potawatomie Prairie Band in order to offer classes in additional media which would enhance the project and its benefits to participants in the community. Partnerships have also been formed with USD 497 Native American Student Services, who will assist in the recruitment of Native youth for the program, and the Haskell Intertribal Cultural Club. Arts Commission funding is vital to not only preserving the culture of Kansas’ indigenous tribes, but also to sharing it with the Lawrence community and schools. **The funding from the Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission would provide for the construction and preservation of traditional dance regalia and travel expenses to give exhibitions of the dances at Lawrence area elementary schools.**



**Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission 2012 Grant  
Indigenous Youth Dance Troupe  
Four Winds Native Center  
Artist Bios (2 pages)**

**James Jones (Cultural Consultant)**

James Jones is Oklahoma Seminole and is from Seminole, Oklahoma. He studied at the University of Arizona and Haskell Indian Nations University. He currently works as a librarian at Haskell Indian Nations University. He served as a co-sponsor for the Haskell Intertribal Cultural Club for several years. He has many years of experience dancing the dances of his own tribe for ceremonies and powwows and is active in researching and preserving Native American culture. James Jones possesses not only the knowledge of his tribe and culture but the knowledge of many other tribes throughout the country.

**Rhonda LaValdo (Cultural Consultant)**

Rhonda LaValdo is Acoma Pueblo and received a degree from Haskell Indian Nations University and later received a degree for her graduate education from the University of Kansas. She currently works for the Media Communications Department at Haskell Indian Nations University and serves as a media instructor there. She also serves as an advisor for the Haskell Indian Leader Newspaper. She is active in UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc., Native American Journalists Association and Haskell Environmental Research Studies. She also has a radio show on 90.1 FM in Kansas City every Sunday where she has the opportunity to further promote Native American culture, history and current events. She currently serves as a sponsor for the Haskell Intertribal Cultural Club. She has many years of experience dancing the dances of his own tribe for ceremonies and powwows and is active in researching and preserving Native American Culture. Rhonda has knowledge of her own tribe and culture but also has knowledge of the history and culture of other tribes through the country.

**Nicole Bennett (Beading Instructor)**

My name is Nicole Bennett and I will be teaching beading. The type of beadwork that I will be teaching is the gourd or peyote stitch style. We will be beading around a pen which is a simple way to learn. With this style of beadwork you can bead around pretty much anything. I've done pens, bottles, lanyards, and a number of other things.

I am a part of the Washoe Tribe from Woodfords, California. I've been beading for close to 10 years now. I am currently a student at Haskell Indian Nations University. I will be graduating with my Bachelor in Business in the Fall of 2012.

**Victoria Wilson (Moccasin Making Instructor)**

My name is Victoria Lee Wilson. I am a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe located in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. I am currently attending Haskell Indian Nations University and am in the school of business. I plan on graduating in 2013 with my



Bachelor's Degree. I am a single parent of three children. I have been participating in the powwow circle through my entire life. My children and I dance regularly at most powwow's here in Lawrence. I have made most of their dance regalia and learned to improvise along with their growth. I am a dedicated parent in teaching them the Lakota culture and will be happy to share my knowledge with those who want to learn how to make dance regalia moccasins. The moccasins will be more of a powwow style.

### **Charley Lewis (Drumming Instructor)**

I am Paiute and Navajo from Benton California. I have been singing and dancing for over 15 years now and have traveled throughout the US for powwows and also song and dance performances. I have also been to Europe (Italy) multiple times to perform both singing and dancing. I have sang with numerous drums throughout the years (both northern and southern styles) and continue to look forward to each powwow season to travel, sing, and dance.

### **Ron Brave (Drumming and Singing Instructor)**

My name is Ron Brave and I'm from the Oglala Sioux Nation in Western South Dakota. I was born on the Southern edge of the Sacred Black Hill. I have been singing since 1979 and have been very fortunate to sit next to some very talented singers. I learned by observing and listening to the elders talk about the song they are about to sing. It wasn't about just singing it was about what it meant to sing a certain song at certain time, that's what amazed me. I'm still learning today and I will still seek out the old songs from yesteryear.



**Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission 2012 Grant  
Indigenous Youth Dance Troupe  
Four Winds Native Center  
Project Timeline**

Notification by Lawrence Arts Commission	May 2012
Instructors hired	May 2012
Conducting research	May 2012
Recruiting children for classes	May-August 2012
Classes offered	May-December 2012
Documenting/preserving	May-December 2012
Evaluation, reporting	August 2013



**Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission 2012 Grant  
Indigenous Youth Dance Troupe  
Four Winds Native Center  
Letter of Support (1 page)**



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION  
HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY  
Lawrence, Kansas 66046-4800



"Building our future...preserving our traditions...through academic excellence"

James Jones  
Haskell Academic Support Center  
Haskell Indian Nations University

26 March 2012

To Whom It May Concern,

As an affiliate and consultant to the Haskell Intertribal Cultural Club my role is to advise when applicable which includes referrals to many various venues that the club would be an active participant.

Traditional values are one of the most important traits that I emphasize that must be practiced and maintained to identify Natives as Natives. Our belief is that Our Creator gave our people this "gift" of dance. Many possess this gift but do not practice this and it is my role as an elder with traditional beliefs to teach Native youth, as well as Non-Natives in the Lawrence Community, the importance of this value: We dance for Our People and to Honor Our Ancestors.

The gift of dance is one of the many aspects to identify our culture and our Native Peoples, therefore, I continue to stress the importance to our youth and to gain knowledge of our Culture and Heritage.

Respectfully,

James Jones  
Miccosukee





LAWRENCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT APPLICATION FORM

**Applicant Information:**

Name of Organization Four Winds Native Center

Address 1423 Haskell Avenue

City, State, Zip Code Lawrence, KS 66044

Telephone 785.832.8111 Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail 4.winds.nc@gmail.com

**Project Information:**

Project Director Cameron Whitaker

Project Director's Title Project Director and Board Member, Four Winds Native Center

Project Title Indigenous Youth Dance Troupe

Start Date May 2012 End Date n/a

This project is most closely related to:  Visual Arts  Performing Arts  Literature  Media  
 Other, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission Request \$ 1,700 Total Project Expenses \$ 16,176

Check should be made out to: Four Winds Native Center

EIN or SSN\* 48-0811876

**Authorizing Signatures:** By my signature below, I certify that the information contained in this application packet is true, to the best of my knowledge.

Project Director's Signature Cameron Whitaker Date 03.26.2012

Printed Name Cameron Whitaker Title Project Director

Fiscal Agent's Signature Sonya Ortiz Date 03.26.2012

Printed Name Sonya Ortiz Title Board President

\*Please provide Employer Identification Number if an organization or Social Security Number if an individual. This will be required in the event of an award. If concerned about confidentiality, leave blank and then, immediately upon notification of an award, call Diane Stoddard at (785) 832-3413 to provide the information. Checks cannot be processed without the EIN or SSN.



**LAWRENCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT BUDGET FORM**

Budget Categories	LCAC Grant Request	Requestor's Contribution	3 <sup>rd</sup> -Party Cash Match	3 <sup>rd</sup> -Party In-Kind Match	Total
<b>1. Personnel</b>	0.00	2,640.00	3,900.00	0.00	<b>6,540.00</b>
<b>2. Fees and Services</b>	0.00		0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>3. Rental Fees</b>		4,200.00	2,000.00	0.00	<b>6,200.00</b>
<b>4. Travel</b>	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>200.00</b>
<b>5. Marketing</b>	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	<b>200.00</b>
<b>6. Operating Expenses</b>	1,500.00	336.00	1,000.00	200.00	<b>3,036.00</b>
<b>7. Capital Expenditures</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>	<b>1,700.00</b>	<b>7,376.00</b>	<b>6,900.00</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>16,176.00</b>

**Note:** As you write your budget justification, be sure to address the amount of your matching support, its source(s), and how the match reflects community interest. Your budget should correspond with the plan laid-out in your project narrative.

**BUDGET JUSTIFICATION**

**1. Personnel**

Cultural consultants (\$500, KHC) Haskell student instructors (\$2400, KHC) Haskell student musicians, drummers (\$1,000, Potawatomie) Cameron Whitaker, project director (\$1440, Four Winds, In Kind) VISTA Volunteers (\$1200, Four Winds, In Kind)

**2. Fees and Services**

n/a

**3. Rental Fees**

-Building rental, 1423 Haskell: \$4200 (Four Winds, In Kind)  
-Van rental: \$2,000 (Potawatomie, Requested)

**4. Travel**

-Gas: \$200 (LCAC, Requested)

**5. Marketing**

-Postage, Printing costs, Marketing: \$200 (Four Winds, In Kind)

**6. Operating Expenses**

Phone (\$336 Four Winds, In Kind) Educational materials for project students (\$400, KHC) Teaching guides and materials for public schools (\$200, KHC) CD Player, recorded traditional music (\$150, Potawatomie) Snacks for children (\$200 Natural Grocers, In Kind) Regalia supplies (bells, leather, be

**7. Capital Expenditures**

n/a

OPERATING EXPENSES, CON'TD: beads, canvas, sinew, thread, beading needles, loom, material, yarn) (\$1500 (LCAC, Requested) Digital video camera (\$250, Potawatomie)





**LAWRENCE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION  
COMMUNITY ARTS GRANT FINAL REPORT**

**Final reports are due no later than August 1, 2013.** Please fill out this form, attach final budget and documentation such as photographs, programs, reviews, or surveys, and submit it to:

Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission  
City Manager's Office  
Diane Stoddard, Assistant City Manager  
P.O. Box 708  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Questions? Contact Diane at [dstoddard@lawrenceks.org](mailto:dstoddard@lawrenceks.org) or (785) 832-3413

**Name of Organization** Four Winds Native Center

**Address** 1423 Haskell Avenue

**City, State, Zip Code** Lawrence, KS 66044

**Telephone** 785.832.8111 **Fax** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail** 4.winds.nc@gmail.com

**Project Director** Cameron Whitaker

**Project Title** Indigenous Youth Dance Troupe

**LCAC Grant Amount \$** 1,700 **Start Date** May 2012 **End Date** n/a

*The following questions may be answered on this form or attached to the form as a separate document.*

- 1) Describe the outcome of this project
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Did this project change substantially from how you described it in your grant proposal?  yes  no  
If yes, please describe why and how it changed and the impact of this change on the outcome.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Estimate how many people benefited from this project: \_\_\_\_\_ adults \_\_\_\_\_ children  
How did you collect these numbers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) Describe what the LCAC grant enabled you to accomplish in regards to this project.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) Attach final project budget indicating specifically how the LCAC grant was expended.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) Documentation of the project attached here includes (please itemize):



Lawrence Cultural Arts Commission 2012 Grant  
Indigenous Youth Dance Troupe  
Four Winds Native Center  
Support Materials (5 pages)



**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
12.14.11

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Patty Battese, Board President  
Four Winds Native Center  
1423 Haskell Ave  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
785.832.8111  
4.winds.nc@gmail.com

OR

Tracy Quillin, Director of Communications  
Kansas Humanities Council  
785/357-0359 [tracy@kansashumanities.org](mailto:tracy@kansashumanities.org)

### **Four Winds Native Center Receives Grant From the Kansas Humanities Council**

TOPEKA – The Kansas Humanities Council (KHC) recently awarded the Four Winds Native Center of Lawrence a \$3,500 grant for a “Kansas Indigenous Children’s Dance Troupe” project. Patty Battese, board president of Four Winds, serves as the project director.

This project proposes to research and preserve the traditional dances of more than thirty regional and Kansas indigenous tribes and teach these dances to the younger generation of Native children in Kansas, as well as share these stories and dances with the public and with public schools.

Instructors, students, and cultural consultants will document and preserve the contributions of the tribes who used to live in Kansas and the surrounding states



as well as the many tribes now represented at Haskell Indian Nations University. Four Winds Native Center will work with the Haskell Intertribal Club to hire two Haskell students as instructors to conduct research, organize, teach, and document traditional Native dances for children. These classes will be held at the Four Winds Native Center building.

Instructors will also teach children to construct the traditional regalia worn during their dances. Traditional Native musicians and drummers will rehearse with the children as well as accompany them as they share their traditional dances with the public and in public schools.

Sharing the stories and dances of the many tribes of Kansas and beyond is one way to preserve our important and rich shared history.

“KHC Heritage grants encourage the preservation of local cultural resources,” said Julie Mulvihill, executive director of the Kansas Humanities Council. “This project will share the cultural traditions of Kansas with a new generation.”

The Kansas Humanities Council conducts and supports community-based humanities programs, serves as a financial resource through an active grant-making program, and encourages Kansans to participate in their communities. For more information contact the Kansas Humanities Council at 785/357-0359 or [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).

For more information about or to participate in the Indigenous Youth Dance Program, please contact Four Winds Native Center at 785.732.8111.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
12.14.11

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###





# City of Lawrence KANSAS

DAVID L. CORLISS  
CITY MANAGER

City Offices  
Box 708 66044-0708  
TDD 785-832-3205

6 East 6<sup>th</sup>  
785-832-3000  
FAX 785-832-3405  
[www.lawrenceks.org](http://www.lawrenceks.org)

**CITY COMMISSION**

**MAYOR**  
ARON E. CROMWELL

**COMMISSIONERS**  
ROBERT J. SCHUMM  
MICHAEL DEVER  
HUGH CARTER  
MIKE AMYX

January 10, 2012

Patty Battese  
Board President, Four Winds Native Center  
1423 Haskell Avenue  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Ms. Battese:

Thank you for your letter regarding the recent Four Winds Native Center project – the Indigenous Youth Dance Troupe. The project sounds very exciting and will be well-received in Lawrence as well as the larger Kansas community. Dance, and the numerous traditions surrounding Native American dance, are essential to the preservation of culture and ability to tell stories with larger historical perspectives.

Thank you for sharing this new project with the City Commission and I look forward to seeing the participants at local events. Their knowledge and ability to share customs and traditions with the local community will be another benefit of the Four Winds Native Center's presence in Lawrence.

Sincerely,

Aron E. Cromwell  
Mayor



We are committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence Community

