
PUEBLO DE COCHITI HOUSING AUTHORITY



Project Title: Social Enterprise Adobe Making Business
Award Amount: \$717,299
Type of Grant: Social and Economic Development Strategies
Project Period: 7/1/2003 – 6/30/2006
Grantee Type: Tribe

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 3 jobs created
- 1 business created
- 2 Native American consultants hired
- 26 elders involved
- 4 youth involved
- \$1,032 in resources leveraged
- 5 people trained
- 3 partnerships formed
- 2 products developed

BACKGROUND

The Pueblo de Cochiti Housing Authority is located in Cochiti Pueblo, New Mexico. Cochiti is located between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. It has an estimated population of 1,502. The Pueblo de Cochiti Tribe governs 50,681 acres of land and has a total labor force of 290 people. The per capita income for tribal members is \$5,828.

The Pueblo de Cochiti Plaza is the heart of the village cluster and is a federally designated historic site. Preserving these buildings was of great concern to the Pueblo community. The community wanted to preserve its traditional dwelling style. Plus many of the buildings were part of the

central plaza where feasts, dances, religious activities and other cultural events occur. The restoration of the plaza by outside historical preservation companies was unaffordable, so the Tribe developed a plan to train tribal members in the making of adobe bricks and in basic earth-build construction techniques.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Social Enterprise Adobe Making Business (Project) would address the cultural need for the restoration and upkeep of the traditional buildings in the plaza area, and meet the needs of future traditional housing and building projects. By creating its own skilled work force, the Pueblo would then be able to afford the maintenance of one component of its cultural heritage and create an economic venture that would provide jobs and education to tribal members, helping to create long term self-sufficiency.

The objectives for the Project's first year included hiring a production manager, establishing an appropriate facility to train brick-makers, hiring and training the workers, creating an efficient system for gathering the natural resources for brick production and selling the manufactured adobe bricks into the local construction

market. All of the activities proposed to reach this objective were effectively completed.

In the second year, the Project planned to increase brick production and sales, develop a brick-maker training curriculum, conduct community training sessions in adobe use and lead community construction projects. For the third year, the Project planned to implement public relations and community education programs, develop quality control measures for adobe production and create a small-build construction team.

Unfortunately, the Project was plagued by a variety of challenges. The Project purchased some equipment and hired and trained some workers in accordance with the Project's first objective. However, one piece of equipment did not meet their needs and the Project was unable to replace it by the Project's conclusion. In addition, the grantee was unable to recruit volunteers as originally proposed due to insurance liability issues.

Nonetheless, the Project successfully produced and started marketing its adobe bricks. Since many objectives were contingent upon purchasing brick-making equipment and resolving liability insurance-related issues for volunteers, the related activities were incomplete.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

The residents report many positive stories about the Project. The utilization of the adobe bricks in the village in the construction of traditional beehive ovens, the restoration of old buildings in the plaza and the construction of a new home serves as evidence of the Project impact on the community. Tangible progress is apparent in the village.

Demand exists for these traditional bricks to fill a market that has just begun its rebirth in

the community. The Project has led to an increase in interest in adobe brick construction as a viable form of local economic development. It has also given the community a locally-led business model to follow for future economic development initiatives.

The overall sentiment was that the Project had a positive influence in the community. One of the community members shared that this Project has brought life back into the community. One staff member has explained, "The elders are praising it; we don't have an avenue for failure." Elders encourage workers and the Project to continue; they praise the Project and relate it to their tribal traditions, explaining that the Adobe Project is reaching into the past to proceed into the future.

PUEBLO OF ACOMA



Project Title: Haak'u – a Plan to Prepare: The Sky City Cultural Center and Museum Initiative

Award Amount: \$363,706

Type of Grant: Social and Economic Development Strategies

Project Period: 9/30/2004 – 2/29/2006

Grantee Type: Tribe

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 40 elders involved
- 600 youth involved
- \$317,000 in resources leveraged
- 6 people trained
- 12 partnerships formed
- 5 products developed
- 2 ordinances developed and implemented

BACKGROUND

The Pueblo of Acoma is located in the northwest corner of Cibola County, New Mexico. The Pueblo is 120 miles from Santa Fe, 56 miles west of Albuquerque and 15 miles from Grants, New Mexico. The Pueblo of Acoma is unique in that it contains the oldest continuously inhabited village in the United States – Sky City. The homes at Sky City have been inhabited since about 1150 A.D. when the Acoma people migrated to “Haak'u” – the spiritual homeland prepared for their eternal occupancy. The Acoma people thus fulfilled their inherent responsibility to locate and settle this spiritual place.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

This Project was developed to assist the Pueblo achieve its long-term goal to preserve all aspects of its cultural heritage. This goal included the preservation of traditional pottery and arts skills, the repatriation of cultural objects as well as the education of Tribal members about the importance of their cultural traditions and the need to protect them for future generations. In May 2000, a fire destroyed the Pueblo's Tourist Visitors' Center and ruined several pieces of culturally significant pottery and artwork. The Pueblo determined that any newly constructed facility would include a place to showcase the history and culture of Acoma. This was how the initial vision for the Haak'u Museum arose.

The Acoma Tribal Council passed a resolution to construct a new center that would incorporate a tourist center, museum and research archives dedicated to Acoma's cultural artifacts, art and pottery. There would also be a library to house historic research materials and a large space for the conservation of the Tribe's repatriated objects. It was planned that this two-year

Project would be implemented in the Haak'u Museum.

The main obstacle for this Project was the Center's one-year construction delay. Completion of many Project activities was contingent upon the Center's completion. Much of the Project's non-federal matching funds came from the use of the museum and office space within the Center. Staff was worried that the Project might fall short of matching funds. This worry was removed when the grantee secured over \$300,000 in leveraged resources during the Project's life.

The Project's first year of implementation was dedicated to the completion of four objectives: the development of a permanent museum exhibit, adoption of a Tribal Repatriation Policy, development of a Collections Management Policy and the implementation of a community educational and outreach component. The objectives of the Project's second year were designed to build on the progress achieved during the first year. Second year objectives included the development of a five-year calendar for short-term exhibits at the museum's revolving galleries, initiation of a public-oriented educational and interpretive program, implementation of the adopted Tribal Repatriation Policy and the creation of a policy aimed at protecting the traditional Acoma artistic designs.

The delay in construction was a hindrance to the completion of planned activities; however, Project staff was able to successfully complete the majority of the activities. By July 2006, Project staff had hired and trained museum staff; implemented a Tribal Repatriation Policy; developed the museum's first permanent exhibits (as well as concepts for the implementation of revolving exhibits); implemented a Collections Management Policy; and begun to develop a community-based educational program. The outcomes

for this project exceeded expectations and had significant economic and social impacts.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

Project workshops and classes on traditional arts have helped the Pueblo revive its traditional weaving and pottery making. Community activities implemented in the Haak'u Museum during the Project's life have reinforced a cultural sense of belonging for Tribal community members.

The Tribe's youth and elders mutually benefited through their involvement in the Project. Forty community elders and approximately 600 youth participated in the Project either as docents, teachers, interns or students. The elders had opportunities to share their knowledge and reinforce their traditional role in the community. The community's youth benefited through their intergenerational exposure to the elder mentors and through internship opportunities available during the Project.

Of community members that participated in the Project, the overall sentiment was one of excitement at having a communal place to gather, hold classes and safely store the Tribe's culturally significant objects. The Center is appreciated by many community members as a place where visitors from outside the Pueblo can increase their awareness of the people and culture of Acoma. One Tribal member shared that the Center is "An important place for the Acoma people to reconnect with their heritage as well as a place to share their culture with those outside of the community."

SANTA CLARA PUEBLO



Project Title: Santa Clara Pueblo Tewa Language Revitalization Program

Award Amount: \$450,000

Type of Grant: Language

Project Period: 9/30/2003 – 9/29/2006

Grantee Type: Tribe

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 2 jobs created
- 7 Native American consultants hired
- 20 elders involved
- 650 youth involved
- \$96,111 in resources leveraged
- 31 people trained
- 16 partnerships formed
- 5 products developed
- 5 language surveys developed
- 245 completed language surveys
- 8 language teachers trained
- 650 youth (0-18) have increased their ability to speak a Native language
- 75 Adults (18+) have increased their ability to speak a Native language
- 8 people have achieved fluency in a Native language

BACKGROUND

The federally-recognized Santa Clara Pueblo governs a reservation of nearly 46,000 acres 20 miles north of Santa Fe. The main village is located 2 miles south of the city of Española.

As part of a previously-awarded ANA Language Planning Grant, the Santa Clara Pueblo conducted language surveys to determine the proficiency of Tewa language speakers within the community. The survey found that only 39 percent of the community's adults spoke Tewa fluently. The rate dropped dramatically among the community's youth, with only 3 percent of all youth within the Pueblo able to speak Tewa fluently. The research also revealed that, despite the low number of currently fluent Tewa speakers, 92 percent of the community's youth were interested in learning more about the Tewa language.

PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Santa Clara Pueblo Tewa Language Revitalization Program (Project) was to preserve and revive the Tewa language. Consistent with its planned objectives, the Project successfully provided weekly Tewa language training to schoolchildren from Head Start through sixth grade, implemented a two-week Tewa language Immersion Camp with at least eight hours per day of activities and instruction for the community's youth and conducted 24 weeks of evening Tewa language classes to all community tribal members.

The project encountered some challenges related to their meeting space for classes. Due to the popularity of the language program, the classes outgrew the library and scheduling often conflicted with the library's other uses. In addition, the library had structural problems, such as heating, plumbing, air conditioning and a leaking roof. The Project could not find alternative space and despite these problems the language classes continued at the library.

The Project also encountered difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified Tewa teachers. This was due, in part, to the lack of qualified trainers. The Project was persistent and eventually overcame this challenge, finding and hiring qualified teachers.

The Tribe opposed recording Tewa in a written or recorded format, since the language has been traditionally passed down orally. As a result, Project staff found effective language teaching methods without relying solely on standard modern language learning systems. Teachers used a combination of some short written exercise materials for home practice and a teacher training video and teaching materials.

Approximately 650 of the community's youth and 75 adults received Tewa language training. In addition, eight community members achieved fluency in Tewa, and eight community members were trained as Tewa language instructors. More than 20 elders were involved and 245 language surveys were completed.

The final objective planned to ensure the language program would be sustainable. Due to the Project's widespread approval, the Tribe committed to continue the program at the Project's completion.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

In addition to the positive impact on Tewa language proficiency, the Project improved the cultural and educational importance of the language. The language has taken on a heightened level of importance within the community as the sense of pride that many community members feel for their native language. Also, since the Tewa language fulfills school language curriculum requirements, the mainstream education system has reinforced the importance of the Tewa language.

Also important for the community has been the Tribal Council's support for the program and the community's determination to continue Tewa language instruction after the Project's conclusion. With the Council's support, this language program should become an institutional piece of the Tribe's cultural preservation well into the future.

This Project created a great deal of excitement in the community. One community member noted that this Project "helped to bring back the importance of the Native language and pride for the people." The parent of one child in the program shared, "It makes us happy to see our children speak our language." In spite of the challenges faced by this Project, the process of reviving and preserving the Tewa language on the Santa Clara Pueblo is well under way.

"The revitalization of our language is a long process which won't happen over night."

Tribal Representative
