

Rapid City, S.D. Indian Cultural Center Plans on Way

Preliminary plans are under way for developing a Sioux Indian Cultural Center in Rapid City,

S.D., as a cooperative venture of the Interior Department's Indian Arts and Crafts Board and a non-profit Indian organization chartered in South Dakota.

The Bicentennial Year 1976 is the target date for construction of a new museum to house the historic and contemporary Sioux Indian art collections presently occupying a city-owned building in Rapid City.

The collection is under the aegis of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board. A cultural park and art institute are also proposed for subsequent development.

Surplus Federal land, in two parcels total 117 acres, has been acquired for the undertaking.

The concept came into being when the City of Rapid City requested the Indian Arts and Crafts Board to seek a new location for the Board's Sioux Indian Museum program because the present museum building in Halley Park was needed for other municipal purposes.

A city resolution adopted in 1973 provides that the Sioux Indian Museum may remain in the city-owned Halley Park building until a new facility is ready, promises city support in obtaining a new facility, and recommends that the new museum building be maintained under Federal jurisdiction.

Funds are now being sought from private and other sources through the efforts of the Winona Club Incorporated, chartered in 1973 expressly to help relocate the Sioux Indian Museum.

Winona Club Incorporated is a spin-off of the Winona Club of Rapid City, which is a member of the South Dakota Federation of Women's Clubs and has been several times honored by FWC for its community service record.

The contribution of the Indian Arts and Crafts Board to the proposed undertaking would be three-fold: It has already secured the surplus Federal property for the site, with help from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It will allocate to the new museum the annual support money it provides to maintain the existing Sioux Indian Museum.

It has projected preliminary plans for the proposed new facilities, through technical assistance from the Bureau of

Indian Affairs.

Priority is being given to creation of a new museum building, which estimatedly will cost in excess of \$3 million. The Board's objective is to develop a facility that will have adequate viewing galleries for the world-famous Sioux art collections, an auditorium for film and other educational programs, and an arts and crafts sales shop.

The longer range concept of a Sioux Indian Cultural Park — spelled out in a prospectus available through the Winona Club Incorporated — calls for a Sioux village "outdoor museum" and nature trail, an Indian ceremonial arena for tribal occasions, and an amphitheater for pageantry.

In addition, present plans call for a facility to house an arts institute (to be called the Dakota Arts Development Institute) which would offer workshops and related crafts training, special classes for children, and training of para-professionals in arts fields.

The Institute would serve Indians primarily.

The Winona Club Incorporated is working with both public and private groups Rapid City and throughout the State to obtain financial commitments that will enable the first phase of the project — the museum building — to become a reality in 1976.

The Winona Club Incorporated will also function as an umbrella organization in eliciting operational support of the cultural park from other Indian groups.

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