

Mission

He Sapa Otipi builds self-determination, hope, and healing of mind, body, and spirit by reclaiming Indigenous traditions and values.

Background

He Sapa Otipi was created in 2016 as a result of monthly Rapid City Community Conversations, where local community members highlighted the intergenerational need for an Indigenous-hosted community center in Mniluzahan Otunwahe (Rapid City, SD). We acknowledge for decades, the Indigenous community in Rapid City has sought the creation of a community center in Rapid City, including requests from the Winona Club, Sioux Addition Civic Association, and many other community groups. He Sapa Otipi looks to build upon the hard work of our Ancestors and Elders and carry forward our community's intergenerational dream into reality in partnership with other local and regional organizations.

He Sapa Otipi looks to fill a social infrastructure gap for Indigenous peoples in the City by reclaiming place in our Ancestral homelands for gathering and healing rooted in Lakota culture and values. The future Community Center will increase access to Indigenous-led resources and services that will meet basic community needs, provide space for intergenerational healing, and reclaim place for cultural, communal, and ceremonial gatherings. HSO will connect 60+ Native Nations whose citizens live or visit Mniluzahan area with a space to work, gather, and support one another.



Contact Us


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Learn More

 www.hesapaotipi.org

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He Sapa Otipi

Community Center for the
People of the Black Hills

We are a 501(c)3
non-profit organization
actively working towards
bringing an Indigenous hosted
community center to
Mniluzahan Otunwahe
(Rapid City, SD).



Visioning Survey

“

“... a place where our community can heal together. Where our current and future generations can dream a better future together ... a place where we can organize and make change happen in our community...”

“I hope the youth are at the center and focus of our community center as this space can be healing, safe, and welcoming for our youth -- something they so desperately need.”

“Pride. A place for us to use for culture and for our beliefs, somewhere we can be understood and heard, a hub to help find our community/people and resources that can help us network and work with the city and vice versa”



Project Timeline

Phase 0 Building Capacity

ongoing effort

hire full-time staff, develop nonprofit and organizational infrastructure, strategic planning, establish partnerships, etc.

Phase 1 Schematic Design

~ 9 months

community workshops to establish vision, goals and determine building program, hire Architect, complete schematic building design

Phase 2 Capital Campaign

~ 12 months

utilize launch capital campaign for building construction dollars and fundraising efforts locally and nationally

Phase 3 Building Construction

~ 24 months

complete design and construction documents, ground breaking ceremony and building construction



Phase 4 Move In!

Tanyan Yahi! Welcome!

We look forward to working with our community. We welcome all voices to join us. We have many events to come, this is only the beginning!

Current Events



community visioning survey

Please take our short 2 question survey. Your voice is valuable!



Beginning in April

Community Input Sessions

Check our social media and website for upcoming events and workshops!

Community Advisory Boards

We will be looking for participants to join:

- Building Committee
- Cultural Committee
- Capital Campaign Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

“We are continuing the work of our Grandmothers and Grandfathers...”