Indigenous People’s Task Force

Awards and Recognitions:

2013  Executive Director received Aiston Bannerman Award for Activists of Color
2009  IPTF Executive Director honored by NGLTF for her work with women and HIV
1998  National Native American AIDS Prevention Resource Center special recognition for IPTF’s commitment to preventing HIV among Native youth
1996/1997  IPTF staff participated in White House health conferences
1995  Health Care Financing Administration Administrator’s Achievement Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
1994  U.S. Surgeon General’s Award for Excellence Office for its work in youth HIV/AIDS prevention and health education

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Current programs include:

- Preventative health education in the areas of childhood diabetes and obesity, substance abuse (including commercial tobacco), teen pregnancy, and HIV
- Health related services such as testing and case management for persons with HIV
- Supportive housing for homeless families and individuals with medical disabilities
- Environmental justice organizing and advocacy in water quality and indoor air quality

Mikwanedun Audisookon
A center for art and wellness
An urban sanctuary where body, mind and spirit become whole through indigenous culture and practice

If you would like to learn more about the Mikwanedun Audisookon, make a contribution to the capital campaign, or otherwise help to make this dream a reality, please contact Sharon Day at (612) 870-1723. Thank you.

Remembering our teachings

Mikwanedun Audisookon
Capital Campaign Committee:

Susan Allen  Denise Mayotte
Karen Clark  Peter McLaughlin
Don Crofut  Antony Stately
Kelly Drummer  Ann Vitala
Ann Manning  Barbara Wiener

Special Advisors:

Suzanne Koeppinger
Robert Lillgen

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Mikwanedun Audisookon
A center for art and wellness

Mik-wane-dun Aud-i-soo-kan means “remember our teachings” in Ojibwe

The Mikwanedun Audisookon for Art and Wellness will continue the healing traditions that have been passed down through the generations, providing an urban sanctuary where body, mind, and spirit can become whole through time-honored indigenous culture and practice. The spacious new center will allow all of IPTF’s programming to be expanded and its art and theater programming to be brought under one roof.

Use of indigenous-based building materials and renewable energy systems will result in significantly lower energy and operational costs and reduced environmental impact. Using green building technologies will also create job opportunities and model environmentally responsible choices that respect the health of our earth, air and water. Mikwanedun Audisookon will represent a multi-million dollar capital investment in the Phillips area, with ongoing program and job training investments of approximately $360,000 annually – a significant and long-term contribution toward the health, cultural vitality, and economic growth and stability of the Native American and South Minneapolis communities.

A March 2017 groundbreaking is planned with construction completed April 2018.

Projected Impacts

Increased access to culturally based holistic health education and services:
The center will provide the office and community space IPTF needs to efficiently integrate its health and environmental education, art and theater opportunities, case management services, and housing and traditional healing activities for Native youth and adults.

Training in green building technologies:
Training in green building technologies – largely inaccessible for Indigenous peoples, people of color and low-income people living in Minneapolis – will be provided.

Use of compressed earth block (“CEB”), photo voltaic and geothermal energy, along with water quality best management practices, will provide a “learning laboratory” for vocational trainings in green construction, renewable energy and ecological landscaping. Certified training and informal workshops in CEB will take place both during and after construction. Certified participants will then receive training as community educators expanding the positive impacts beyond the center.

Increased arts and cultural programming:
The center will house a workshop, studio, gallery and small theater, allowing IPTF to offer hands-on creative opportunities for both youth and adults. IPTF will also expand its popular Ikidown Program, which uses theater arts to address the issue of teen pregnancy in a peer-to-peer setting.

Improved community safety, economic stability and relationship building:

Indigenous youth-focused health education programs and direct services for Native Americans.
– IPTF culturally-based, experiential approach has been recognized regionally and nationally for its positive impact on the lives of Native people.
– IPTF attracts and manages $1 million in federal grant dollars annually.
– In 1997 IPTF successfully managed the design, capital campaign and construction of $2.1 million Manidoowaydak Odyssey housing community for Native Americans living with HIV.
– This project won the MFHA Housing Design of the Year Award and is a community which still thrives today.

More than 1,500 youth and adults receive testing, attend educational events, or are otherwise engaged by IPTF programming each year.

Our Mission

Strengthen the health and education of Native peoples.