

Wyandotte Nation – “Talking is Teaching Across a Community”
NA Library Enhancement, CFDA #45.311

ABSTRACT

Applicant: Wyandotte Nation

Project Title: “Talking is Teaching Across a Community”

Project Period: October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2019

Project Objective:

Wyandotte Nation has 6,131 enrolled tribal citizens, of which 380 live within a 10 mile radius. Because it is not a reservation tribe, the Wyandotte Nation defines its community as the entire population of historic jurisdiction, as well as the Wyandotte Public School District. According to ProximityOne Demographic-Economic Statistical System, this district is a very rural area with 110 square miles and a population of 4,121. The Wyandotte Public Schools have 785 students and 100 faculty. These numbers reflect Wyandotte tribal citizens, other natives, and non-natives.

The geography of the rural Wyandotte community hinders many community members from advancing their literacy in areas of technology, print and culture. Also, the current function of the library is not meeting the needs of a large portion of the community; specifically the students of the Wyandotte Public Schools. The purpose of this project is to transform the current role of the library, which is reactive to member needs, into a more proactive role in the community through the project, “Talking is Teaching Across a Community”.

What community needs will the project address?

Surveys were completed by library patrons and members of the Wyandotte Community. The survey results revealed the following needs within the community: accessibility to, and awareness of the library needs improvement, training for basic computer classes and distance learning classes available.

What will be the specific project activities, results and tangible products?

During “Talking is Teaching Across a Community”, a Librarian will continue to be staffed full time, allowing the Wyandotte Nation Library to continue extended hours of operation in the evenings and Saturdays. The students, as well as other community members with conflicting schedules, will be able to utilize the library services.

The Wyandotte Nation Library will join in partnerships with other Wyandotte Nation Departments, the Wyandotte Public School, local tribes and other community members. This will allow the library to provide basic computer classes, focus groups and other learning opportunities. These will enhance the literacy of the community in the areas of technology, print and culture.

My Talking Toddler Curriculum will be purchased for the new toddler program. This will begin an interaction at an early age.

What are the intended outcomes for audience members in terms of measureable changes in knowledge, skills, attitudes, or behavior?

Patron numbers are expected to increase significantly due to increased awareness of the library, and continuation of the extended hours. Community members will have the opportunity to increase their job skills, other basic computer skills, reading skills and distance learning classes provided during “Talking is Teaching Across a Community”. Confidence will increase with the additional skills attained.

Wyandotte Nation Narrative

Introduction and Statement of Need

Community:

The Wyandotte Nation is an Indian entity recognized and eligible to receive services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) by virtue of the Nation’s status as an Indian Tribe. This status is verified in the Federal Register. Vol. 82, No. 10 /Tuesday, January 17, 2017 The Wyandotte Nation is governed by a six member Board of Directors as established by the 1999 Constitution. The Board is composed of a Chief, Second Chief and four Board Members. Wyandotte Nation is a Self-Governance Tribe in both BIA and Indian Health Service.

Wyandotte Nation has 6,131 enrolled tribal citizens, of which 380 live within a 10 mile radius. Because it is not a reservation tribe, the Wyandotte Nation defines its community as the entire population of historic jurisdiction, as well as the Wyandotte Public School District. According to ProximityOne Demographic-Economic Statistical System, this district is a very rural area with 110 square miles and a population of 4,121. The Wyandotte Public Schools have 785 students and 100 faculty. These numbers reflect Wyandotte tribal citizens, other natives, and non-natives.

According to US Census, the town of Wyandotte shows significantly low statistics for income and education levels. The estimated median household income in 2015 was \$40,794 (considerably less than Oklahoma’s median household income of \$48,568). The March 2016 cost of living index in Wyandotte is 78.4 (low, US average is 100-see *city-data.com*). For the population in Wyandotte, 79.6% have a high school or higher education, an only 10.6% have a Bachelor’s degree.

Located in the very far Northeast corner of Oklahoma, there are 9 Native American Tribal Headquarters within a 20 mile radius. According to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) website <http://www.ims.gov/recipients/grantsearch.aspx>, 8 of those tribes receive either basic or basic with education grants. Two of those tribes do not operate a library, 1 has a library open to only tribal members, 1 is open to the public only one day a week, and 4 are open to the public during regular hours.

Current Role of the Library:

The Wyandotte Nation Library was established as an educational resource for the Wyandotte Community in the mid-1980s and received increased funding from the Department of Education in 1994. The computer lab was built in 1999. Currently, the computer lab provides 8 computers for the community with high speed internet connection. The Wyandotte Nation Library is one of two libraries open to the public in the Wyandotte Community. The Eastern Shawnee Tribe provides the other library within the community but is 8 miles from the Wyandotte Public Schools, being closer to Seneca, Missouri.

Current hours of operation for the library and computer lab are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday and Wednesday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm, Fridays 8:00-3:30. There are 578 registered patrons, this is an increase from 531 last year. Currently, there are 13,263 items in the collection.

The additions to the library are based mostly on patron requests. The current Wyandotte Nation Library staff includes 1 full-time Librarian, and 1 full-time employee, who is primarily the Building Receptionist.

In 2014, Wyandotte Nation was awarded a Library Enhancement Grant that allowed the Nation to hire a Librarian full-time, extend the library hours of operation and computer lab availability, and provided the funding to make available culture based classes such as language, crafts, traditional attire and storytelling.

Purpose:

The geography of the rural Wyandotte Community hinders many community members from advancing their literacy in areas of technology, print and culture. Also, the function of the library was not meeting the needs of a large portion of the community - specifically the students and faculty of the Wyandotte Public Schools, before the Librarian was hired and hours were extended. The purpose of this project is to continue the current role of the Library, which is more proactive to member needs, than before.

Assessment results:

The Wyandotte Nation Strategic Planning Team consists of the Second Chief, Chief of Staff, Grant Writer and Accounting Director. The Team is perpetually striving to implement the Wyandotte Nation Mission – to improve the quality of life for all tribal citizens. The Team meets periodically to review recommendations for improvement with a goal of collaboration throughout all Wyandotte Nation departments. The Wyandotte Nation Education Director expressed concern that the library needs to be updated and enhanced in order to more effectively serve the current patrons and to serve more community members. The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Heritage Director conveyed that the Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee would like to continue holding periodic culture activities and provide related research materials to tribal citizens. The Youth Program Director communicated the need for a computer lab for the students in the after-school program and the desire for cultural classes with the students. The Human Resource Director demonstrated that many employees need basic and intermediate computer classes.

In order to measure the community’s library needs, the Strategic Planning Team created a survey to assess the needs of the community. Forty-one community members completed the survey (*see attached survey and results*). There is a need for basic computer classes, as well as access to the computer lab for distance learning. The 2014 Library Enhancement Grant provided funding for a Librarian, and extending library hours. This has proven beneficial to those continuing their education, to have access to the computer lab as well as the Wi-Fi.

The Strategic Planning Team concluded that the library, the Tribal Heritage Department, the Youth Program, and the Human Resources Department should pool resources in order to be more effective for the entire community. The Librarian will create, implement, teach and facilitate programs developed with assistance with the team.

Project Goals and Expected Results

Goal 1: Continued Access to the Wyandotte Nation Library

The results from surveys prior, revealed that Wyandotte Nation is not being effective in communicating its services, with only a little over 55% aware there is a library. Additionally, extended hours were requested, and are necessary, in order to allow the community access. During “Talking is Teaching Across a Community”, the Wyandotte Nation Library extended the hours of operation and worked with other Wyandotte Nation Departments, in order to increase awareness of the library in the community. The increased awareness, extended hours, culture based classes and hiring a Librarian, increased patron counts from 531 in 2016, to 578 registered patrons in 2017.

Expected Results – Community members will:

- Continue to use the Wyandotte Nation Library after work or school.
- Have access to a full-time Librarian.
- Be aware of classes and events offered through the Wyandotte Nation Library and other community events due to collaboration between the Library and other Wyandotte Nation Departments.

Goal 2: Literacy begins as a toddler

An evidence-based curriculum (My Talking Toddler) will be taught in the new toddler program. There will be 100 books at \$35 each, purchased in the 2-year grant cycle.

Expected results – Toddlers will:

- Have a jump start when beginning preschool.
- Will keep their minds busy.
- Continued interaction.

Goal 3: Enhance the Literacy of the Wyandotte Community in Technology

In the Wyandotte Community, the Wyandotte Nation Library is the only library that provides free Wi-Fi to the public. During implementation of the project, “Talking is Teaching Across a Community”, the Wyandotte Nation Library will offer computer enhancement classes and free Wi-Fi access to the public.

Expected Results – Community members will:

- Enhance job skills through basic computer classes.
- Provide for Distance Learning with colleges and universities. Northeastern Oklahoma (NEO), has partnered with Wyandotte Nation library to provide computers to aid in Distance Learning.

- Learn how to use e-mail and social networking with responsibility in order to connect and reconnect with others outside of the community.
- Learn how to use the unlimited resources of the Internet for research, learning and entertainment.
- Be able to connect to the world through free public Wi-Fi.

Goal 4: Enhance the Literacy of the Wyandotte Community in Print

Many facts and statistics regarding students and adults in poverty are directly tied to literacy skills. According to education data at read smart, “more than 20 percent of adults read at or below a fifth-grade level - far below the level needed to earn a living wage.” The results from read smart also indicate that “children who have not developed some basic literacy skills by the time they enter school are 3 - 4 times more likely to drop out in later years.” The Wyandotte Nation Library desires to improve those statistics for the Wyandotte Community.

Expected Results – Community members will:

- Be encouraged to read more through reading groups.
- Increase their self-confidence, while increasing their reading skills.

Goal 5: Enhance the Literacy of the Wyandotte Community in Culture

The Wyandotte Community is rural in location but rich in Native American culture. Within a 20 mile radius, there are 9 federally recognized Native American Tribal Headquarters, which presents numerous cultural opportunities. Of those, currently 3 tribes have agreed to collaborate with Wyandotte Nation to provide cultural programs, events and genealogy classes. The Tribal Heritage Director will continue to coordinate with the Librarian to assess the Wyandotte Community in what cultural activities and genealogy classes, they would like to participate.

Expected Results – Community members will:

- Learn the history and traditions of the Wyandottes and other local tribes.
- Learn and participate in the ceremonies of the Wyandottes and other local tribes.
- Learn the culture of the Wyandottes and other local tribes.

Project Design and Required Resources

The “Team” has been established to provide input to the library staff and ensure the project “Talking is Teaching Across a Community”, is implemented according to the grant regulations and Wyandotte Nation Policies. The Team members include: the Chief of Staff, Education Director, Accounting Director, Human Resource Director, Librarian and the current library staff. The Schedule of Completion of each activity is attached.

Goal 1: Continued Access to the Wyandotte Nation Library

The initial stage of “Talking is Teaching Across a Community” will begin with the Librarian preparing a schedule of upcoming events and scheduled book discussion groups. The youth will also have access to do research for school and extra-curricular projects.

The Librarian will maintain relationships with other program directors within Wyandotte Nation and Wyandotte Public Schools with the purpose of collaboration on several projects. The Librarian has created a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) consisting of six responsible youth and one sponsor within the community. They

currently meet once a month. The Librarian facilitates meetings with the YAC in order to determine the best ways to positively influence the youth in the community, encourage the youth to effectively use the library resources and to distribute information in the community about the library and other services provided by the

Wyandotte Nation (i.e. a periodical). The result not only increases the effectiveness of the Wyandotte Nation Library but also allows the youth on the YAC to learn many skill sets not available through the Wyandotte Public Schools. The Librarian is also responsible for: submitting articles concerning the Library, included in the *Turtle Talk*, the quarterly newsletter for tribal citizens, creating and maintaining a social media account for the Library, and searching and using other forms of communication with the Wyandotte Community.

During “Talking is Teaching Across a Community”, The Librarian will be retained, hours of operation for the library will remain extended and basic computer classes, as well as, distance learning classes will be coordinated. Also, the Librarian will attend required IMLS meetings twice during the two year project, once each project year.

Goal 2: Literacy begins as a toddler

An evidence-based curriculum (My Talking Toddler) will be taught in the new toddler program. My Talking toddler is an evidence based curriculum that develops early communication development. The talking kit will be used with, reading books, scholastic books and books produced internally to promote literacy.

Goal 3: Enhance the Literacy of the Wyandotte Community in Technology

“Talking is Teaching Across a Community” will use IMLS Enhancement Grant funding to provide technology classes to the community, as well as Wyandotte Nation employees. Northeastern Oklahoma (NEO) has partnered with Wyandotte Nation library, and provided computers for the computer lab, to aid in Distance Learning. The Librarian will continue to work with Bearskin Services (a Wyandotte Nation Economic Development Company which provides IT services) in order to continue to provide free Wi-Fi to Library patrons. This is provided at no cost to the project. This will allow the Library to provide hands-on training to enhance job skills, increase basic computer skills in areas such as; Word, Excel, e-mail and social media, and provide free Wi-Fi to members of the community.

The Team, along with the Librarian, will develop a pre- and post-assessment tool to determine the patrons’ current computer skills along with the desired areas of improvement. This will allow the Librarian to set up hands-on trainings based on skills allowing them to learn at a comfortable pace. Courses will be repeated for like topics and delivered on an age appropriate level. Courses to be provided will include (but not limited to): Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Outlook, Internet-based e-mail and social networking.

The Librarian will also work with Wyandotte Nation Department Heads in order to assess employees’ computer training needs. The Librarian will work with Human Resources to coordinate on-site trainings in order to keep

costs down for all departments by eliminating travel costs. The costs for training will be incurred by the departments.

When possible, the Librarian will teach these computer enhancing classes. However, there will be times a professional instructor will be needed to facilitate the classes. The Basic Library Grant through IMLS has provided for the eBook Network participation. Through “Talking is Teaching Across a Community”, the technology classes will be available to learn the software applications. Over the 2 year period, technology

classes will be taught by the Librarian and IT. This will improve software application knowledge to employees, the community and Tribal citizens.

Goal 4: Enhance the Literacy of the Wyandotte Community in Print

The Librarian is a member of the Oklahoma Library Association. This allows the Wyandotte Nation Library to network with seasoned library professionals. The Librarian will survey patrons on genres of reading they enjoy and encourage patrons to form reading or focus groups. The Librarian will prepare guidelines for these groups, facilitate the meetings and encourage

patrons to discuss the material. The Librarian will formulate a calendar of events to distribute for the library patrons to allow them to schedule visits based on the group of participation schedule.

Regular reading groups and story times for children will continue, in order to promote reading and give the children confidence with their reading skills. The Librarian will recruit volunteers for a reading mentor program with early childhood students. This program will include children ages 2 - 6 years and incorporate arts and crafts and activities that are directly linked to early childhood literature.

Instructors from the Wyandotte Public Schools have expressed a need for students to have after-school time access to printed materials, additional help with reading and comprehending materials and to prepare for school work. The collaborative agreement between the Wyandotte Nation and the Wyandotte Public School will meet those needs and allow for better student outcomes. Community members with proven specified knowledge may be available for one-on-one student assistance.

Goal 5: Enhance the Literacy of the Wyandotte Community in Culture

Each year, the Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee hosts “The Gathering”. This event lasts 3 to 4 days and leads up to the annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow. During this time, tribal members participate in classes to learn more of the history of the Wyandotte people, Wyandotte language classes and traditional crafts. Additionally, the Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee hosts “The Gathering of Little Turtles”, which is similar to “The Gathering”, but geared towards children ages 5-17. The crafts classes prove to be the most popular classes during both events. Our people are very interested in learning more of traditional crafts and would like to learn how to integrate it into their daily lives.

The Librarian and Tribal Heritage Director work together to create relationships with the local tribes in order to collaborate cultural classes and events for the community. An area for display will be designated so Wyandotte Community members will have the opportunity to learn more of local artists and tribes. Local artisans are encouraged to showcase their work and local tribes are encouraged to showcase their history, stories and crafts. According to tradition, (traditional Wyandotte stories are only to be told in the winter months).

Performance Goals

Evaluation: Learning Outcomes

Success in the area of accessibility will be measured by the increase of new patrons to the Wyandotte Nation Library and an increase in daily usage. The Team has seen an increase in new patrons, from, 531 in 2015, to 578 in 2016. The number of patrons using the Library during the extended hours will be tracked, as well the number of students and faculty of the Wyandotte Public Schools. During Story time week, over 100 children and adults visit the library.

The surveys conducted with the Wyandotte Public Schools and the community will be used as a baseline for public awareness and effectiveness of the Wyandotte Nation Library. At the end of each project year, a survey will be conducted with the Wyandotte Public Schools and the Wyandotte Community in order to determine the awareness of the Wyandotte Nation Library. Percentages will be compared and a significant increase will be expected.

An Annual Performance Review, based on the job description, will be conducted on the performance of the Librarian by the Education Director. This review will allow the Librarian to realize the strengths and

weaknesses in the implementation of “Talking is Teaching Across a Community” and allow for areas of improvement. During the Annual Performance Review, the Librarian will be able to express any concerns or weaknesses realized during the project and a plan of improvement will be developed.

Evaluation: Technology, Print and Culture

Success in technology will be measured by an increase in class participants. The Preservation Team expects to see a significant increase in class participation by 20%. Success will be measured in the area of print by an increased number of checkouts. The Team expects to see a 20% increase in items checked out. Success will be measured in the area of culture, by an increase in number of participants. Because of the increase of patrons each year, this is a very realistic goal.

The Team will assist the Librarian in developing a pre-survey to determine the knowledge skills, desired skills, attitudes and behaviors of the patrons. The baseline information gathered will include: age of participant, number of children in the family, education level, current computer skill level and utilization, desired computer skill level, reading patterns and levels, accessibility to internet, accessibility to printed materials and desired opportunities for learning.

Based on the results of the pre-surveys, classes, focus groups and other events will be organized by the Librarian to meet the needs of the patrons. At the end of each class, a survey will be given to all participants to measure the following: job skills attained, computer skills learned, effectiveness of the instructor, self-confidence level and other measurements to be determined by the Team and Librarian. The results from these surveys will allow continuous development of the classes throughout the entire “Talking is Teaching Across a Community” project in order to meet the needs of the patrons.

The Team and the Librarian will develop surveys for the other tribes in the area and for the Wyandotte Community. These surveys will gauge the interests and will be used to develop curriculum for cultural events. Participants will be asked to complete evaluations of the events in order to determine the strengths and weaknesses in order to improve the events.

Periodic interviews, surveys, checklists, registration information and self-report measures will be conducted with participants throughout the project to obtain ongoing feedback to facilitate continuous improvement to the project. The post-survey will measure level of skill attainment, course satisfaction and further training recommendations.

The required periodic progress reporting will be completed by the Librarian and the Education Director. The required periodic financial reporting will be completed by the Accounting Director.

Communication Plan

The Wyandotte Nation Strategic Planning Team has made the awareness of services provided to the community a main priority. The collaboration between the Wyandotte Nation Library, Wyandotte Nation departments and the YAC will become a highly effective partnership for all involved. The periodical that will be created by the YAC will teach the students the importance of effective communication. The library and other departments will benefit greatly from this by having all of their activities, classes and events published in a periodical that will be distributed in the Wyandotte Public Schools and the Wyandotte Community.

Other avenues of communication will be through the Wyandotte Nation website – www.wyandotte-nation.org, the Wyandotte Nation quarterly newsletter – the *Turtle Talk*, Wyandotte Public Schools. These methods will allow the library to encourage tribal citizens nationwide to be more involved and committed to the library and to the advancement of literacy in technology, print and culture.

Sustainability

The Librarian is involved with the Oklahoma Library Association, as well as, IMLS. In order to continue funding, the Librarian will use these as resources to gain input and share outcomes. Information on other revenue resources will be sought through contacts made in this Association. The Team will use the Wyandotte Nation Strategic Planning Process in order to seek out revenue sources to sustain the Wyandotte Nation Library program.

Because of the priority placed on providing quality service to the Wyandotte Community, the Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors has pledged to fund this project beyond the grant period if no other funding is available. The Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors Letter of Support is attached.

ACTIVITIES- Year 1	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
Collaborative Agreement between Wyandotte Nation and Wyandotte Public School		X										
Collaborate with public school librarian for guidance on assisting students in our facility		X	X									
Purchase toddler reading kits	X											
Librarian will prepare classes based on survey results			X	X	X	X						
Classes on available resources will be taught by the Librarian												
Distribute information about library educational opportunities		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Recruit volunteers to assist with early childhood literacy activities		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
The Library Project Team, along with the Librarian, will develop a pre- and post-assessment tool			X	X								
Formulate a periodical with a calendar of events to distribute for library patrons to allow them to schedule visits based on the group of participation schedule		X	X									
Librarian will attend required IMLS meeting											X	
Librarian to prepare schedule for book discussion groups and events to increase patron participation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Allow the youth time to do research for school and extra-curricular projects	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Implementation of technology classes					X		X		X		X	
Contact all local tribal cultural offices, schedule respective tribal to be showcase at Library											X	
Schedule Presentations utilizing the information gathered in tribal meetings				X			X			X		
Collect appropriate Data on project activities		X			X			X			X	
Report Activities to funding agency				X			X			X		
Project Evaluation	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

ACTIVITIES - Year 2	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP
Purchase toddler reading kits	x											
Classes on available resources will be taught by the Librarian	x		x		x		x		x		x	
Distribute information about library educational opportunities		x		x		x		x		x		x
Recruit volunteers to assist with early childhood literacy activities	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Implementation of technology classes			x				x				x	
Formulate a periodical with a calendar of events to distribute for library patrons to allow them to schedule visits based on the group of participation schedule		x	x									
Distribute information on upcoming cultural events	x			x			x			x		
Devise a schedule to have craftsmen showcase their wares												
Librarian will attend required IMLS meeting twice during the two-year project											x	
Contact all local tribal cultural offices, schedule respective tribal to be showcase at Library											x	
Schedule Presentations utilizing the information gathered in tribal meetings	x			x			x			x		
Allow the youth time to do research for school and extra-curricular projects	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Collect appropriate Data on project activities		x			x			x			x	
Report Activities to funding agency	x			x			x			x		
Project Evaluation	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Final Reporting and Closeout (Extended beyond Grant period)											x	x