

## CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

### PROJECT NARRATIVE

#### **Project Justification**

The creation and dissemination of children's books that reflect the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon culture, history, and language project ("the Project") will meet the Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant Goal 3, to enhance the preservation and revitalization of Native American cultures and languages. Specifically, the Project will further objectives 3.2 and 3.3 to support the preservation of content of unique and specific value to Native communities and support the sharing of content within and/or beyond Native communities.

The Project will be led by the Tribe's Education Department. The Education Department consists of a Tribal Library as well as the five programs that support educational services for the membership and Tribal community. The Department's programs consist of Early Childhood Education, Chinuk Wawa Education, Youth Education, Youth Enrichment, and Higher Education. The Project will be a collaborative project between the Tribe's Library, Youth Education Program, Chinuk Wawa Education Program, and various Tribal elders and language speakers.

The result of this collaborative effort will be the authoring, illustrating, publishing, and disseminating of 10 children's books that reflect the Tribe's history, culture, and language. The intended topics to be covered in the books include at a minimum: Tribal foods, important leaders, and figures within the Tribal membership, celebrations and traditions, plants and animals, and items of cultural significance. The books will be authored by Tribal members and written in both English and Chinuk. Each book will be read by Tribal elders and language speakers in both English and Chinuk. The books will contain a QR Code that will allow others to access the digital recordings on a smart phone or device.

The Tribe's story is one fraught with the effects of Federal Indian Policy. The details of this story, as told on the Tribe's website, is one of removal, assimilation via allotment, and termination. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon includes over 30 tribes and bands from western Oregon, northern California, and southwest Washington. Since time immemorial the people of the Grand Ronde Tribes have relied on these traditional landscapes for their livelihood. This way of life changed with western expansion. Ratified and unratified treaties between the Tribes and the United States Government from 1853 through 1855 resulted in the forced removal of tribal members from their ancestral homelands. Despite this removal, tribal members maintained their connection to their homelands.

The Grand Ronde Tribe's federal recognition ended on August 13, 1954, when the United States Congress passed the Western Oregon Termination Act. This legislation stripped the Tribe of its federal status and severed the trust relationship with the federal government. Between 1954 and 1983, Grand Ronde Tribal members were a landless people in their own land. The termination policy robbed the Tribe of its social, economic, and political fabric, leaving a scattered population and poverty. Despite this, Grand Ronde remained a community interconnected by families. Tribal leaders began working in the early 1970s to restore the Tribe's federal status. They began the arduous task of reestablishing the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon. The Tribe was restored on November 22, 1983, and began the work of

# CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

## PROJECT NARRATIVE

rebuilding the Tribal Nation and revitalizing its culture. The Tribe's current enrollment is 5616. Much of the Tribe's membership resides in Polk and Yamhill Counties, the Reservation lies within the borders of these two counties. Since Restoration, the Tribe has built housing developments and expanded services to the membership resulting in an increase in Tribal Membership living in the Grand Ronde area. When the Tribe was restored, we had no housing on the Reservation, and therefore no members residing on the Reservation. Today we have 516 residents living in Tribal Housing, which includes, low income and market rate housing, elder housing, adult foster care, and manufactured home park.

Years of systemic oppression of our history, language and culture have resulted in missing information for our membership and a loss of cultural connections for our families. This huge loss impacts the wellness of our Tribal community. During termination and because of relocation efforts, the Tribe's membership was disbursed and as a result information about our Tribe, its cultural practices, and its people were lost, as were speakers of our language. The Tribe is invested in bringing back those stories and the language as well as teaching our children about important aspects of our culture that have been lost and forgotten.

The Project will address the following needs:

1. Provide its children with books that reflect their culture and history. Absent the 8 books previously created by the Tribe, there are no such books available. The Tribe's children will be able to learn about its people, its food, seasonal rounds, traditions, language, celebrations, and more. In addition, the voices of elders reading the books will be forever captured via digital stories.
2. Dissemination of books that are specific to the Tribe's culture and history to school districts in Oregon that are implementing the Tribe's curriculum. Tribal Nations are often categorized together in curriculum materials, and these books will allow the Tribe to share specific information as it relates to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.
3. Expansion and enhancement of our Chinuk language learners. The Tribe has very few language speakers of Chinuk and these materials in both written and digital form will serve to educate and cultivate new language speakers.

The Tribe's Education Department in 2021, announced a literacy initiative within its department to address literacy challenges for Tribal families. A work group was formed with a representative from the library as well as all five programs within the department. The need for additional Tribal specific books was identified by this work group. The books from the Project will be utilized to further the work group's goals of breaking down barriers to literacy within Tribal families.

The Tribe's library serves as a central location for information on the Tribe's story as well as historical documents, however most are adult level materials. In addition, the library collection includes eight children's books that have been authored over the past approximately five years that reflect in some way, the Tribe's stories and/or some aspect of Tribal culture. One of the most recent books, *Camas*, was authored by our librarian, and illustrated by a Tribal member college student. A PDF version is attached to this application. The Tribe's current librarian is a Tribal member, language speaker, and former Chinuk Immersion teacher. She has a passion for adding to the Tribe's collection of books on Tribal history, culture, and language. In her work as

# CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

## PROJECT NARRATIVE

a former teacher and currently as the Librarian and Tribal member who is invested in the preservation of our history, culture and language, she expresses this need and her desire to be an author for five of these books in the Project.

The Tribe's Education Department operates several programs aimed at teaching children about the culture, history, and language of the Tribe. The Chinuk Wawa Education Program operates an early language nest classroom for preschoolers, an immersion program for students K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade as well as middle school and high school level courses. The Chinuk Wawa Education Program also offers adult education classes to the community. A new language building will be breaking ground in the summer of 2022 which will allow for two language nest classrooms as well as an expansion of immersion classes to serve K-6<sup>th</sup> grade. The services offered by this program have increased the amount of language that is being spoken by our youth with the hope of creating additional language speakers. However, the teachers and Chinuk Language Education Program Manager have identified a need for Tribal specific material to support this classroom instruction and curriculum. The books developed as part of the Project will be classroom materials for the Chinuk students and will be utilized by teachers in lesson planning.

The Tribe's Education Department also operates a Youth Education Program with a Curriculum Specialist who is tasked with the development of Tribal specific curriculum to be taught in schools throughout the State of Oregon. The curriculum specialist is a Tribal Member with a Master's in Education focused on curriculum development. She also identified the need to have more children's books that are specific to the Tribe's culture and intends to utilize the books to develop lessons to be taught throughout the State of Oregon.

The Tribe's Early Childhood Education Program has also identified the need to have access to Tribal Specific books for the nearly 90 children receiving their services. The books developed from the Project will be placed in the five classrooms the program operates as well as offered to home visitors to share with Tribal families during visits with infants and toddlers. The Tribal Council has expressed unanimous support for the Project and demonstrated such support with the passage of a Resolution in support of this application.

The target group for this project is youth between the ages of birth and age 10. As these children are often too young to engage in this process, we are relying on those who work with these age groups such as the Tribe's librarian, classroom teachers, and the curriculum specialist to identify the needs and design the books to meet those needs. We are also relying on the voice of our leadership and elders who have expressed support for the Project. The Tribe serves approximately 200 children with on-site services and several hundred Tribal Member youth out of the local area with virtual and remote services. These books will be utilized for both on-site as well as remote and virtual services.

The content for these books will also serve as resources to support youth grades 6-12 in conducting research projects or simply learning about their history. The Tribe has approximately 1,800 school aged youth who will directly benefit from this project. Overall, this project will benefit all students in Oregon who will have access to these books and gain pieces of knowledge that have been absent from instruction or inaccurately portrayed throughout the history of public education.

# CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

## PROJECT NARRATIVE

The Tribal Nation as a whole will benefit from the Project as it will serve to preserve and teach about Tribal history, culture and language. For a Tribal Nation that has been working to revitalize culture and language, the Project and these books will serve as a tool to impact current children and youth as well as future generations. The Project will also provide a foundation to continue to expand the series of books created after the completion of the project. Those benefiting the most will be the children who are able to pick up a book and see not only themselves, but their history, culture and language reflected. The child who can share these with fellow classmates will have a sense of pride and enhanced self-identity.

### **Project Work Plan**

The Education Department Manager and Education Services Coordinator will create a grant project work group that will be tasked with implementing the schedule of completion. The schedule shall address the following activities:

The Tribe's Librarian will author five of the 10 books and the Tribe's Youth Education Program manager and the Tribe's curriculum specialist will co-author the remaining five books. The Tribe will contract with illustrators and/or graphic designers to provide graphics and illustrations. The authors will assemble the books into PDF formats. The books will then be translated by the Tribe's Language Education Program. Tribal elders and Chinuk language speakers will be identified to read the books for the digital recordings in both English and Chinuk. The authors will process applications for International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and submit the books for publication. After publication, the books will be added to the Tribe's library collection, distributed to the Tribe's immersion classrooms, distributed to the Tribe's Early Childhood Education Classrooms, and available for distribution to any Oregon teachers using the adjoining curriculum to these titles within their classrooms. Remaining copies will be given as gifts to Tribal families at various Tribal functions and events. The library will host a book launch event for each book that will spotlight the author(s), illustrator(s) and book readers as well as serve to bring the public to the library. The project timeline will involve the publication of five books in year one and five books in year two. To give each book the attention it deserves the books will be authored, illustrated, published, and disseminated individually.

Some of the challenges or risks to the Project include time management to complete the project. The authoring of the books will be done in house and the tasks will need to be completed in addition to current workload. The illustration/graphic design will need to be contracted and we will need time to advertise and select such professionals. The Tribe has utilized a publisher in the past but will conduct a search and collect bids as part of the procurement process which will also take time to accomplish.

To mitigate these risks, a project work group will be formed that will set forth a grant management plan to help keep all persons and activities on track for completion. The Project will be managed by the Education Department Manager and Education Services Coordinator. The Education Department Manager will create the grant management team that will consist of the Librarian, Youth Education Program Manager, Curriculum Specialist, and Chinuk Wawa

# CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON

## PROJECT NARRATIVE

Education Program Manager and such other persons that are identified as key contributors to the Project.

The grant management team will develop the grant management plan. It is anticipated the project will take two years to complete from the start of the grant period on September 1, 2022. The general findings and lessons learned will be shared with the Tribe's General Manager, Tribal leadership as well as other departments within the Tribe who may be engaged in similar work.

### **Project Results**

The intent of this project is to expand the Tribe's library collection of books that include information on Tribal history and culture, and to develop placed based curriculum featuring these books and disseminate them to school districts around the State of Oregon. By expanding the collection and disseminating the books, the Tribe will be providing access to tools and resources for not only the Tribal membership but all in the state-wide community to better understand the Tribal Nation and its people.

The Project will produce 10 books that will be written by Tribal authors, illustrated with culturally appropriate art and graphics, and provide language interpretations in both written and oral form. This project will serve as the foundation for the continued expansion of similar books. The grant project work group will transition to a committee of Tribal employees who will continue to set forth the creation of such books for many years past the termination of the grant.

Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon  
 IMLS Enhancement Grant: Schedule of Completion  
 September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>
Convene Work Group and set up regular meeting schedule	X		X		X		X		X		X	
Finalize 6 book topics/assign to authors	X											
Author first 6 books		X	X	X	X							
Research and Solicit Illustrators/Graphic Designers			X	X	X	X						
Contract with Illustrators/Graphic Designers			X	X	X	X	X					
Translation of books			X	X	X	X	X					
Determine English and Chinuk Readers			X	X	X	X						
Recording of English & Chinuk versions			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Obtain ISBN for each book		X										
Publish books					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Book Launch Events					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Distribute to Classrooms												X
Distribute to School Districts												X
Solicit Feedback from Community & Teachers							X	X	X	X	X	X

Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon  
 IMLS Enhancement Grant: Schedule of Completion  
 September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2024

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>
Convene Work Group and set up regular meeting schedule	X		X		X		X		X		X	
Finalize 6 book topics/assign to authors	X											
Author first 6 books		X	X	X	X							
Research and Solicit Illustrators/Graphic Designers			X	X	X	X						
Contract with Illustrators/Graphic Designers			X	X	X	X	X					
Translation of books			X	X	X	X	X					
Determine English and Chinuk Readers			X	X	X	X						
Recording of English & Chinuk versions			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Obtain ISBN for each book		X										
Publish books					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Book Launch Events					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Distribute to Classrooms												X
Distribute to School Districts												X
Solicit Feedback from Community & Teachers							X	X	X	X	X	X

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE GRAND RONDE COMMUNITY OF OREGON  
DIGITAL PLAN

The type of digital content will be audio recordings of the books as they are read.

We will be utilizing a sound booth and digital camera and/or ipad.

The audio recordings will be held on the Tribe's Youtube page with other Tribal Audio recordings. The recordings will be available to all as QR codes that will direct to the Youtube website.