

2014 Woodland Indian Arts Initiative Research Results
Wisconsin Arts Board & Wisconsin Indian Education Association

St. Croix and Bad River communities researched by Paula Maday (Ashland)

89 artists identified

Genres include filmmaking, digital music, drawing, quilt making, sewing, regalia making, basketry, woodwork, beading, drumming, writing, canoe making

Ho Chunk communities: Wisconsin Dells, Wittenberg, Black River Falls researched by Karen Ann Hoffman (Stevens Point)

65 artists identified

Genres include quillwork, dream catchers, beadwork, silverwork, photography, pottery, watercolors, dressmaking, black ash basketry, Hip Hop dance, music, writing, drumming, drawing, performance art

General Findings

There is no shortage of talent in Wisconsin's Native arts communities.

Kinship ties and mobility connect these communities outside of geographic and tribal boundaries.

Many Native artists do not separate their work from their lives.

There is a wide range of goals among Wisconsin's Woodland artists.

None of the tribes except Oneida has an established arts program.

Existing Assets

Some sales opportunities are available to artists through the Wisconsin Dells casino but could be improved through a cooperatively run gift shop.

Documentation of traditional ways such as a video on white ash basket making (Wittenberg) and a video of interviews of spirit leaders (St. Croix)

Classes offered by tribal organizations, arts non-profits, and individual artists.

Small business grants offered by the tribes.

Existing writers support and literary journal.

Artist networks like Woodland Tribal Artists Association

Specific Recommendations

Artistic and cultural activities can be strengthened through:

Professional Development:

- Business training for artists

- Skill development in website design and computer use

- Marketing skills

- Tuition and travel support for professional development

- How to legally protect creative product

- Mentoring by a business manager

- Scholarships to attend conferences

Direct artistic support:

- Writer's fellowship

- Writer's residency

- Music CD production
- Opportunities to experience a wide range of art forms and styles
- Support for expenses:
 - Equipment purchase
 - Equipment upgrades
 - Supplies and materials
 - Tribal libraries with books by Native American authors
 - Equipment and space to run a film series
 - Licensing fees
 - Jury fees
 - Bringing in artists for presentations and workshops
 - Travel expenses to events
 - Framing costs
- Access to work space:
 - A commercial kitchen
 - Humidity-controlled shop/studio
 - Cooperative woodworking shop
- Support to Native arts organizations:
 - Start-up costs
 - Programming costs
- Networking:
 - Connecting small town and rural artists to larger markets for sales
 - Cooperative artists gallery
 - An arts camp for artists to gather at and share their work
 - Work together on a sales website
 - Use social media to connect Wisconsin artists
- Exhibition opportunities
 - Have an exhibit of all the artists identified in this fieldwork project
 - A central gallery for Native artists
- Preserving knowledge
 - Document traditions through recording interviews with elders
 - Pay elders to teach the young
- Youth programming in the arts
 - Support for bringing in artists to lead workshops
 - Culture classes in K-12 schools
 - Culture camp
- Advocacy
 - Increase the amount of funds given to arts in the gaming compacts