



Wakpá Wašté Tǎ́č'a Okǎ́lakičhiye
Cheyenne River Youth Project®

lakotayouth.org

Artist in Residence

Position Title:	Artist in Residence
Department:	Waniyetu Wowapi Institute & Art Park
Terms of Employment:	Part-time, 6-12 months, non-Benefitted
Supervisor:	Arts and Culture Manager
Compensation:	DOE

ABOUT CHEYENNE RIVER YOUTH PROJECT

The Cheyenne River Youth Project has been dedicated to serving the youth of our community since 1988. We are looking for passionate individuals with a variety of experiences and skill sets to join our team. Whether you come from a background in youth development, social services, agriculture, the arts, or another field entirely, what matters most is your commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people.

All candidates must be substance-use free. We are committed to investing in our staff—if you are willing to learn, we are willing to teach the skills you need to succeed.

Our Mission

The Cheyenne River Youth Project is dedicated to giving our Lakota youth and families access to the culturally relevant, enriching, and enduring opportunities we need to build stronger, healthier communities and a more vibrant future together.

Our History

The Cheyenne River Youth Project was founded in January 1988 to address the community's need for more services that support struggling children and their families. Originally housed in a defunct bar on Eagle Butte's Main Street, the organization created a safe place for children to come after school—offering activities such as arts and crafts, intramural sports and volunteer mentorship, and providing a healthy meal and snack each day. The volunteer-run youth center, known affectionately as "The Main," quickly became a vital part of the Cheyenne River community. Despite its small size and few resources for programming, the center was filled to capacity each day.

The grassroots, nonprofit youth project has come a long way since that modest beginning. In 1997, CRYP built a new youth center to support continued growth. The new Main Youth Center opened its doors in May 1999, featuring a recreation room, library, family room, commercial-grade kitchen, office space, and residential quarters for long-term volunteers.

CRYP continued to expand. In 2004, with input from Cheyenne River's young people, it began work on a dedicated facility for ages 13–18. Cokata Wiconi (Center of Life) opened in 2006 and

Living Wólakǎ́hota, our relatives thrive.

represents a tremendous achievement for CRYP, with more than 25,000 square feet of space and many exciting new opportunities. The teen center has a full-size gymnasium, computer lab, dance and art studios, library, and private apartment for long-term volunteers. It is also home to the Keya (Turtle) Café and Keya Gift Shop, as well as the Family Services program, the innovative Teen Internship and Youth Employment Initiative program, and the Waniyetu Wowapi (Winter Count) Lakota Arts Institute. CRYP also owns a 40 acre piece of property adjacent to our sacred site Bear Butte.

We invite you to become part of our story.

JOB SUMMARY

The Artist in Residence supports the Waniyetu Wowapi Institute & Art Park by creating art, teaching youth, and contributing to CRYP's mission of reconnecting youth and community to traditions and culture through artistic expression. This position works closely with the Arts and Culture Director to deliver hands-on arts programming and serve as a mentor to young artists.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

- Create original artwork that reflects and celebrates Lakota culture and traditions
- Teach and mentor youth in artistic techniques and creative expression
- Develop and deliver age-appropriate arts curriculum and workshops
- Lead hands-on art activities for youth at the Waniyetu Wowapi Institute & Art Park
- Support afterschool arts programming
- Assist with community art events and exhibitions
- Collaborate with other teaching artists and staff on program delivery
- Serve as a positive role model and mentor to youth participants
- Maintain art supplies and studio spaces
- Document youth artwork and program activities
- Assist with participant recruitment and community outreach
- Contribute to a welcoming and creative environment for all participants
- Other duties as assigned

SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS

- Demonstrated artistic practice and portfolio of work
- Experience teaching or mentoring youth in an arts setting preferred
- Knowledge of Lakota art forms and cultural traditions preferred
- Ability to work with youth of varying ages and skill levels
- At least 21 years of age

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong critical thinking, verbal, written, and organizational skills
- Familiarity with computers, typing, and other basic office skills
- Able and willing to serve as a positive role model to area youth and community
- Willingness to learn and receive training, which sometimes involves travel
- Prior experience serving in a youth organization preferred

- Knowledge of and experience with American Indian communities preferred
- Have or able to obtain a South Dakota driver's license
- First Aid and Safety Training preferred, or willingness to be trained
- Must have home or mobile phone
- Must pass criminal history background check and drug test

STANDARD CRYP EXPECTATIONS

- Collaborate and build healthy working relationships with coworkers
- Participate in meetings and help organize community events such as job fairs, panels, conferences, and public events
- Demonstrate energy, commitment, and flexibility
- Interest in and appreciation of Lakota culture
- Support organizational fundraising activities
- Operate with excellence in mind and value problem-solving
- Exercise tact, diplomacy, and good humor
- Bring spark, imagination, and creativity to the work

WORKING CONDITIONS

- The position is located in Eagle Butte, South Dakota at the Waniyetu Wowapi Institute & Art Park
- Housing may be provided depending on residency arrangement
- Evening or weekend work may be required for events and programming

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

Dependent on Experience
No Benefits

THIS JOB IS

- Open to applicants who do not have a college diploma
- Would consider a long-term volunteer in the position with an arts and mentoring background
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TO APPLY

Please send your resume, cover letter, and portfolio or work samples to julie.cryp@gmail.com. Please indicate Artist in Residence in the subject line of the email.

Cheyenne River Youth Project
P.O. Box 410
702 4th Street
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Deadline: Open Until Filled

3.17.2026