

#8. Soup Ottawa Project Application

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Project Title: Indigenous Walking Tour

Describe your project (max. 200 words):

The idea is to have an Indigenous Walking Tours pilot project in Ottawa ON to be launched for the spring of 2014. The Walking Tour is similar to historic or haunted walks that many cities have however, this will create an exciting way to learn about the local Indigenous landscape through arts, culture and history. The walk is a way to keep physically active and intellectually stimulated at the same time. I will use existing structures, buildings and landmarks as stops during the walking tour to talk about significant events, people and things such as artwork or monuments. On special walks, I will have knowledge keepers, story tellers or Elders meet up with us at a particular stop to share a story or two of their own.

Tell us this project's story (max. 100 words):

As a Cree/Metis woman with a rich cultural upbringing, I would often see a lack of Indigenous perspectives available to the public in the public. As a mother, it was important that my children see themselves in the city they live in within the Aboriginal community and out of it. In addition, through my experience as an Educator at the National Gallery of Canada during the Sakahan: International Indigenous Art exhibition (summer 2013), I had the pleasure of giving tours mostly to Aboriginal youth about art pieces but I noticed that members of the public would often tag along because I was giving my tours from the unique perspective as an Indigenous person which they had never heard before.

Each project needs to be connected to this events' theme - "Giving Voice" (max. 100 words):

With events like Idle No More or the name change for the Nepean Redskins Football Team, it became obvious that there was a need for an opportunity for the public to learn more about Indigenous peoples and issues. This tour will quite literally "Give Voice" and provide a consistent learning option for the public. Many Aboriginal organizations cater only to the FN/M/I population and many non-Indigenous institutions like museums and galleries in Ottawa do not usually have consistent opportunities for Indigenous learning. The tour will be for school trips, recreational options for business meetings, group tour activities, professional or personal development.

How will you use Soup Ottawa money for this particular project? (be specific - people will ask) (max. 100 words):

The money will specifically go to the design and printing costs of a poster and a pamphlet to be done before the spring launch. This is a resource for people who take the tour, to walk away with contacts within the community such as names of local organizations and resources and even some short published stories.

What non-monetary needs does your project have (ie. volunteers, tech support, etc.)? (max. 100 words):

Stories are the most important part of this project. Although I have many collected, I want the Walking Tour to be something that is always gaining value through it's collection and diversity of stories about First Nations, Inuit and Metis people in Ottawa. In addition, volunteers who are interested in training with me for the tours are valuable resources as well (volunteers at first, hopefully paid once money is generated). Website support and advertising through social media or word of mouth are also two important aspects to this project. Eventually, I would like to make a web application so advice in this area would be welcomed too.