



# Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center

an outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School



## NATIONALLY RENOWNED CENTER OF NATIVE AMERICAN ART

The Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center is the only American Indian center of its kind. The facility is more than a traditional museum because it tells the significant story of the lives of the Northern Plains Indian peoples, their cultures, traditions, values, and history.

The cultural center opened in 1991 on the campus of St. Joseph's Indian School. The words Aktá Lakota meaning to honor the people, were chosen because the museum is truly intended to honor and preserve the rich Lakota culture for the students at St. Joseph's Indian School and for the thousands that visit each year.

The museum's collection features contemporary art, historical artifacts and educational displays depicting the proud heritage of the Lakota people. Their story is told through interactive displays, English-Lakota descriptions, and continues in the Gift Shop which provides local artists a venue to market their work.

Much of the museum's original collection came from gifts given to St. Joseph's by alumni and friends since the school opened in 1927. Since the museum opened in May 1991, many new pieces have been acquired. Each year we continue to add relevant pieces to the collection. In addition, the outside walls show case historical drawings of ten influential Lakota and Dakota chiefs.

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

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*Your museum helped me develop a lesson plan for students learning about the indigenous cultures who inhabited the country.*

— Morgan, Minnesota

*The museum proper appears deceptively small but is filled with a wonderfully told history and descriptions of the Lakota people. I was amazed at the amount of knowledge displayed in a naturally flowing, uncluttered, well-organized way.*

— Stephanie G., Virginia

*Your museum is remarkable! The displays are beautiful, the art is amazing, and the gift shop is spectacular. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.*

— Barbara G., Colorado

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## CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

The Aktá Lakota Museum, an outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School will celebrate 30-years of persevering the culture of the American Indian people through its preservation efforts in May.

The museum has one of the most comprehensive collections of American Indian art and historical artifacts in South Dakota. Much of the collection was acquired from once emerging and now renowned artists like Oscar Howe, Bobby Penn, Arthur Amiotte, Robert Freeman and others and continues to serve as a platform for the young emerging artist just beginning their careers.

Over the decades, the museum's collective memory has provided exceptional research, exhibit and educational services to the students of St. Joseph's Indian Scholl and all those interested in learning more about the rich culture and heritage of the Northern Plains Indian people. To commemorate the milestone anniversary the museum will be hosting a variety of events including the opening of The Gift, an exhibit based on the Seven Sacred Rites of the Lakota, Family focused Museum Mondays, virtual events and more. *Stay tuned!*



## LAKOTA MOON CALENDAR

The traditional calendar for the Lakota was based on the moons cycles. A year was divided into 13 moons with each moon-cycle being 28 days long. Though calendar types vary from tribe to tribe, nearly all tribal calendars begin in the spring; to Native people, spring symbolizes the start of a new year through the birth of new plant and animal life.

Some months in the American Indian calendar have multiple names for moons depending on beliefs of individual tribes, different translations of the same name or the overlapping of more than one moon in the same calendar month.

**Wetú:** Moons of Renewal and Growth (Spring)  
Each spring, the camp circle moved to higher ground. Men fixed and created weapons and resumed hunting. Women gathered early berries and roots and repaired the tipis. Children enjoyed the warm weather after the confines of winter. *Learn More!*



**Wetú:**

### *The Moons of Renewal and Growth (Spring)*

*Maǵáksicaagli Wi* Moon When Ducks Come Back

*Wihákata Cépapi Wi* Moon of Making Fat

*Wójupi Wi* When the Leaves are Green

The Lakóta year is divided into 13 moons. Each moon is 28 days long, and every day represents something sacred:

- Two days for the Great Spirit
- Two days for the Mother Earth
- Four days for the Four Winds
- One day for the Spotted Eagle
- One day for the Sun
- One day for the Moon
- One day for the Morning Star
- Four days for the Four Ages
- Seven days for the Seven Rites of the Sacred Pipe
- One day for the Buffalo
- One day for the Fire
- One day for the Water
- One day for the Rock
- One day for the Two-legged People



# MUSEUM RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR GREAT CUSTOMER SERVICE

## GREAT PLACES!

The Aktá Lakota Museum was one of 47 businesses in 22 communities in South Dakota recognized for outstanding hospitality and customer service. We earned the status of “South Dakota Great Place” designation.

The program is sponsored by the SD Department of Tourism and is a designation for businesses that put hospitality at the forefront of all they do as a company by providing guests with exceptional service.



## GREAT FACES!

Wanda Bunker and Kyndra Hosek were recognized in March by the South Dakota Department of Tourism for their efforts in providing outstanding customer service. For their outstanding efforts, Kyndra and Wanda received a letter from the Governor and a Great Face certificate.

As a **South Dakota Great Face**, these individuals took significant actions to maintain a top level of customer service for South Dakota and the museum. The award is given to individuals who have shown outstanding performance in hospitality and customer service beyond the expectations of their job description.

To receive this award an employee must be nominated, have received three or more positive comments from customers, a testimonial from their manager, and completed the Department of Tourism’s Hospitality Training program.



*Congratulations  
Kyndra + Wanda!*

## NEW ACQUISITIONS



**Untitled**, ca. 1971  
Casein on paper

The Aktá Lakota Museum is excited to announce the acquisition of two major pieces to our collection by renowned artist, Oscar Howe, Yanktoni Dakota (1915-1983).



**Dance of the Tree Dweller**, ca. 1950s  
Casein on paper

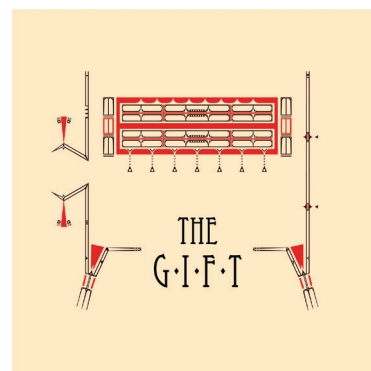
Howe is known for his contemporary expression of the color, rhythm, and imagery of a traditional Dakota ritual. He was the first Indian artist to interpret the techniques of European modern art as artistically and philosophically compatible with the traditions and conventions of Indian art. As both teacher and artist, Howe found a personal interpretation of cubism and surrealism the most effective means of expressing the power, complexity, and mystery of Indian ceremonial life.

These pieces join our collection of significant acquisitions and reinforces our mission and commitment to educate, challenge and enlighten the students of St. Joseph while preserving and promoting the contemporary and traditional ideals that relate to the Sioux and adjacent Plains Indian tribes in an educational atmosphere.

The objects were purchased from a private collector who bought them from the artist; the pieces have never been publicly exhibited.

## NEW EXHIBIT: THE GIFT (MAY - OCTOBER)

This year's educational art exhibit developed by the Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies (CAIRNS) — The Gift is based on a traditional Lakota narrative of the gift of the sacred pipe to the Lakota by White Buffalo Woman. The exhibit centers on the seven sacred Lakota ceremonies – 'gifts' that Black Elk says were foretold by the White Buffalo Woman. Each gift is interpreted by an artwork, a poem and a song created by Lakota artists, poets and musicians and presented alongside the text of each 'gift'.





## FUN FIELD TRIPS

The Aktá Lakota M Museum promotes learning for children of all ages and abilities through interactive, informal, hands-on exhibits and programming.

The museum is a welcoming, fun and enjoyable environment that honors the rich, beautiful history of the Lakota people. Exhibits, both inside and outside, are designed to include subjects in art, literature, culture, and history. The Aktá Lakota Museum is a place that provides children and adults a living lesson on the American Indian way of life — both past and present.

*Plan your visit today!*





## CAMPUS TOURS

The Aktá Lakota Museum welcomes visitors and group tours. We are open from 8 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CDT Monday through Saturday and Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free!

Would you like a tour of St. Joseph's campus or the Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center? Campus tours are available in a variety of ways



- Self-guided audio tours: Drive or walk; for those who like to explore on their own, an audio tour is available anytime by dialing 1-877-342-0829. Campus maps are available at the front entrance of the museum.
- Guided walking tours: Approximately a mile walk, transportation is available. Please e-mail or call ahead to reserve. Tours depart from the museum and are available May – October at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Monday - Saturday.
- Private tours: Year round, by appointment only.

To schedule an appointment for a guided tour or request transportation for a tour, e-mail [aktalakota@stjo.org](mailto:aktalakota@stjo.org) or call 1-800-798-3452.

## GENERAL MUSEUM INFORMATION

### Aktá Lakota Museum & Cultural Center

St. Joseph's Indian School

1301 North Main Street

Chamberlain, SD 57325

Phone: 1-605-234-3452

Toll Free: 1-800-798-3452

E-Mail: [aktalakota@stjo.org](mailto:aktalakota@stjo.org)

Online: [www.aktalakota.org](http://www.aktalakota.org)



### Memberships and Affiliations

ABA – American Bus Association

NTA – National Tour Association

ASDM – Association of South Dakota Museums

SDSHS – South Dakota State Historical Society

AAM – American Association of Museums

IACA – Indian Arts & Crafts Association

MPMA – Mountain Plains Museum Association

AASLH – American Assoc. for State &

Local History

### Summer Hours

May – October

8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Monday - Saturday

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday

### Winter Hours

November – April

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; Monday - Friday

Closed weekends and National Holidays

- Interactive Displays
- Medicine Wheel Garden
- After Hours Tours by Appointment
- Bus/RV Parking
- Handicap-Accessible
- Guided Tours Available Upon Request

### FREE ADMISSION

Donations Welcome