



AKTÁ LAKOTA

Museum & Cultural Center

- an outreach of St. Joseph's Indian School -



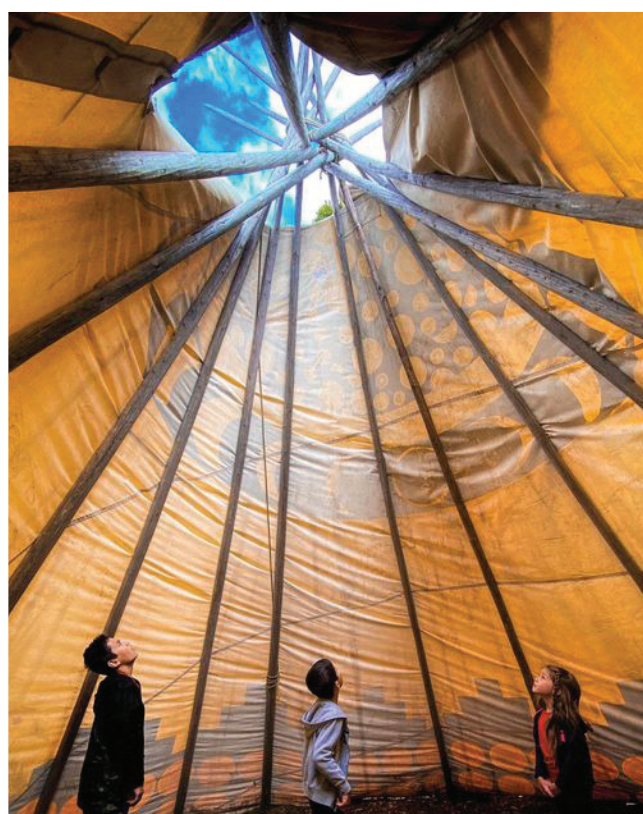
NATIONALLY RENOWNED CENTER OF AMERICAN INDIAN ART

EXPERIENCE LAKOTA CULTURE

Aktá Lakota—means “to honor the people.” That is precisely the mission of the Aktá Lakota Museum. However, we are so much more than a traditional museum we are an experience, a living lesson on the past and present of Native American ways of life.

Our octagon-shaped building features 14,000 square feet of display space that features rare art, artifacts, and educational displays. Our museum's style gives attention to detail that has attracted and amazed visitors from across the world, earning the Aktá Lakota the TripAdvisor Traveler's Choice Award in 2022. One visit is all it will take to see why this is no ordinary museum.

[Plan your visit!](#)



LAKOTA MOON CALENDAR - WÍYAWAPI WÓWAPI HANWÍ

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)

Majáksicaagli 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 HAPPENINGS

MUSEUM WELCOMES LINNEA WRIGHT

The Aktá Lakota Museum is excited to share that Linnea Wright joined our team in March as our new Museum Store Manager.

A native of the Chamberlain area Linnea holds a degree from the University of Minnesota in Art, Psychology, and Social Work. She worked for South Dakota DSS in Chamberlain for about 15 years before moving West River where she worked for USDA Farm Service out of Lyman County. She is excited her new career brings her back to the Chamberlain community and is looking forward to bringing her creative talents to the organization.



"We are so excited to have Linnea join our Museum team. She brings a record of professionalism and creativity that will be of enormous benefit to the museum. I think our vendors and visitors will love her friendly personality and the innovation she brings to the museum Store." —D. Thompson, Museum Director

In addition to buying products for our museum store, Linnea will also focus on offering visitors a pleasant shopping experience and improving the museum's online store presence.

GIFT SHOP REMODEL IN PROGRESS

Pardon our dust! We began work on the renovation of our main Gift Shop early this spring, making it more accessible and welcoming to all. Although we are a bit behind on our completion date, construction is moving forward and we hope to have it completed in early June filled with all sorts of exciting and new products!

[Shop Now!](#)



PARDON OUR MESS!

Work on the expansion and renovation project of our Recreational Center began in April. The first phase of construction displaces our shared parking lot. RVs, campers, and trailered vehicles are encouraged to park on the west side of the museum near the river.

We have installed an access ramp for the entrance to the building from the west side. The individual motorist can park in our fleet parking area in front of the Vehicle Maintenance Shop on St. Joseph's Drive and enter the museum through the main entrance door. In addition, there will be parking around the Wisdom Circle area also located right off St. Joseph's Drive with access to the museum through our main entrance door. Directional signs will direct you to areas of parking.



We intend to remain open throughout construction and are committed to keeping visitors informed about road closures and other impacts on visitation. You can find [updates](#) on the project at the museum website.

*Thank you for your
patience and support!*



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MUST-SEE EXHIBITS

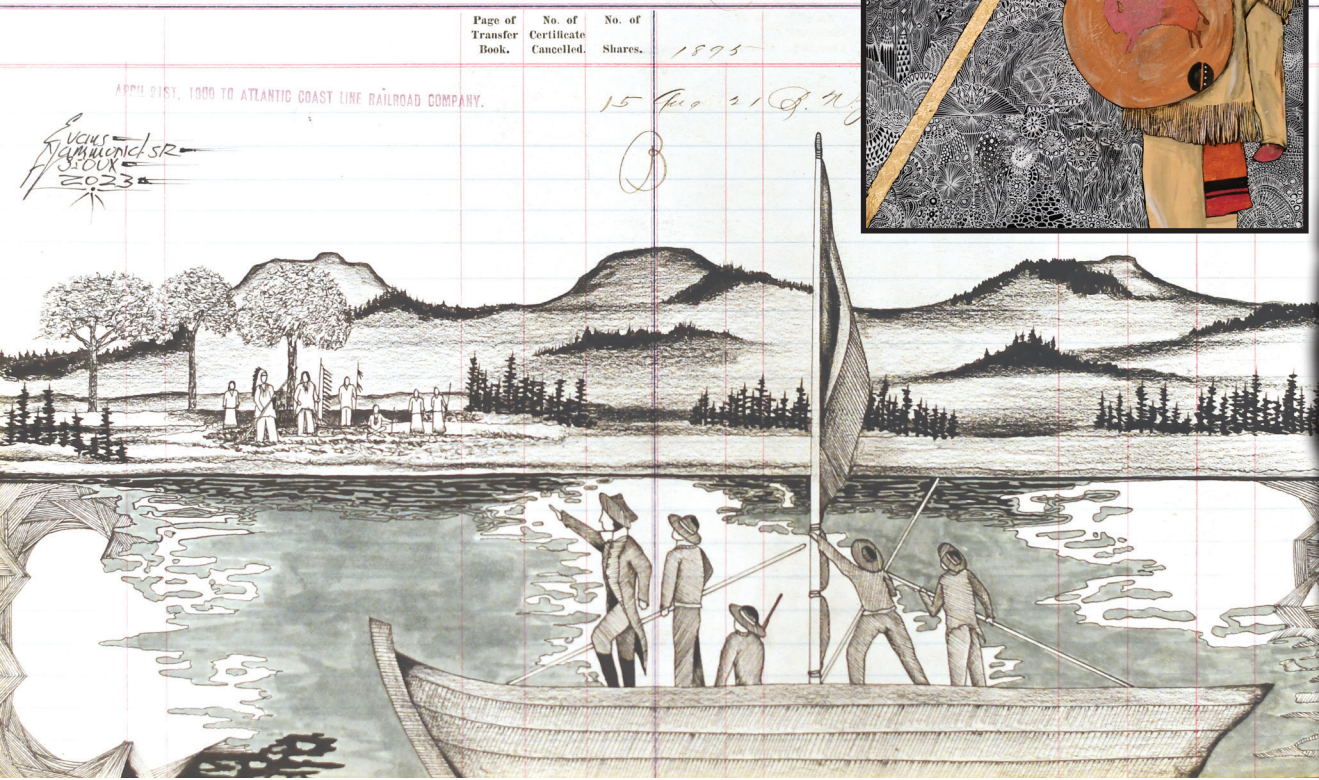
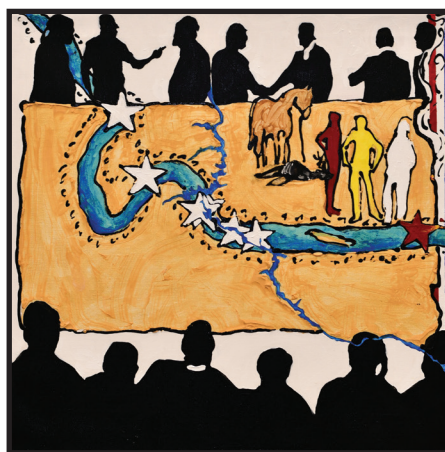
OPENING IN JUNE

Navigating Narratives The Corps of Discovery in Teton Territory

Navigating Narratives is the newest exhibition by the Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies (CAIRNS). The exhibit focuses on the eight days in September of 1804 when the Corps of Discovery traveled up the Missouri River through the land of the Teton people. It closely examines the published journals of William Clark, Patrick Gass, John Ordway, and Joseph Whitehouse through the amazing artworks of sounds, words, and imagery by over sixty creatives, half of them Lakotan citizens and the other half South Dakotan residents.

The exhibit opens at the Aktá Lakota Museum on June 19 and runs through October; with an artist reception and exhibit presentation on Saturday, June 24, 2023.

[Learn More!](#)



BUILDING OUR COLLECTION

For those who love American Indian art, discovering The Aktá Lakota Museum is like discovering a hidden gem. The Aktá Lakota holds one of the largest Northern Plains Indian collections of historic and contemporary American Indian art in the state. Now at nearly 3,000 pieces, the permanent collection continues to grow year by year.

Honoring American Indian artists who are working today—and creating opportunities for their evolving work to be seen by new audiences—is a major part of the museum's mission.

When the museum's Collections staff and Advisory Committee select new pieces, they focus on new work by emerging contemporary Native artists who are not yet represented in the collection or finding work that reflects the creative development of those artists who are part of the collection. Ultimately, the goal is to grow the collection in a way that exhibits the talent of American Indian artists through the diversity of their skills and perspective.

Pieces recently added include works by Renelle White Buffalo, Nathaniel Ruleaux, and Gerald Cournoyer Sr.



My Children Cannot Speak A Word Of Indian, 2020

Mixed Medium on Canvas Paint
Nathaniel Ruleaux, Oglala Lakota



Fancy, 2023

Acrylic Paint/Graphite/Collage on Canvas
[Renelle White Buffalo](#), Sicangu Lakota



Elk Tooth Women, 2023

Acrylic on Canvas
[Gerald Cournoyer Sr.](#), Oglala Lakota

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

FIELD TRIPS WELCOME!

The Aktá Lakota 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. **Admission is Free!**

[Plan your visit today!](#)

STORY TIME WITH UNČÍ & LALÁ

Story Time with Unčí and Lalá is a free public program that brings American Indian history to life through Native American literature. The program is primarily for children, but all are welcome.

Readings are held every week in June and July on Tuesdays in the museum bookstore from 10:30-11:30 AM with stories and activities every week.

[Learn More!](#)



CAMPUS TOURS

STOP BY AND SEE US!

The St. Joseph's Indian School welcomes visitors and group tours. Campus tours are available in a variety of ways:

- Guided walking tours:
Approximately a mile walk, transportation is available. Please email or call ahead to reserve.
- Private tours: Year-round, by appointment only.



To schedule an appointment for a guided tour or request transportation for a tour email aktalakota@stjo.org.

MUSEUM SUMMER HOURS START MAY 1ST



AKTÁ LAKOTA

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NOW OPEN
7 days a week starting
MAY 1ST!

MUSEUM HOURS:

Monday - Saturday, 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Sunday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

After hours by appointment

- Free Admission
- Interactive Displays
- Historical Center
- I-90 Chamberlain, Exit 263
- Open Year Round
- Gift Shop
- Medicine Wheel Garden



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1301 North Main Street
Chamberlain, SD 57325

aktalakota.org • 800-798-3452



(800) 798-3452 aktalakota@stjo.org

About News Giving Contact



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At Chamberlain of St. Joseph Indian School

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Aktá Lakota



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PAUL SZAR
SICANGU LAKOTA

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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

Online: 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



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