

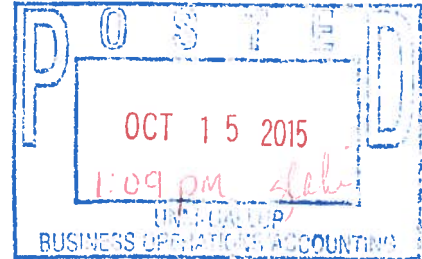
University of New Mexico-Gallup Campus
Staff and Faculty Mini-Grant Application Form
For 2015 - 2016 Fiscal Year

Division: Arts & Sciences

Project Title: Sing Our Rivers Red

New Project: Yes No

Have you received funding this fiscal year? Yes No



1. Description of the project:

Sing Our Rivers Red (SORR) is a series of events that aim to bring awareness to the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women and colonial-based violence in the United States and Canada. The events strive to raise consciousness, unite ideas, and demand action for Indigenous women, girls, Two Spirit, and LGBTQQIA people who have been murdered or gone missing, tortured, raped, trafficked, and assaulted, who have not had the proper attention or justice. SORR events are being planned in solidarity and with collaborative spirit, meant to support the efforts built in Canada, as well as highlight the need for awareness and action to address colonial gender violence in the United States. SORR events recognize that each of us has a voice to not only speak out about the injustice against our sisters but also use the strength of those voices to sing for healing.

At UNM-G, this initiative would include four events in March, which is National Women's History Month. These events include the traveling earring exhibit, a reading by poet and activist Tanaya Winder, a student/community creative writing and art presentation, and a candlelight vigil. All events are explained below in further detail.

With funding from this mini-grant, I would like to assemble a committee of students to help plan these events. While I would like to introduce this initiative on campus, I feel that it is important that the main stakeholders (the students) participate to the fullest extent, which includes the planning aspect.

2. Rationale for how the project will benefit the faculty, staff, students, UNM-G, or the communities at large:

UNM-Gallup is a unique institution of higher education in that nearly 79% of our students identify as Indigenous. This series of events brings attention to an issue that affects not only our students but also our greater Gallup community. Because there is not a comprehensive estimate of Indigenous women who have been murdered or gone missing in the United States (Denver Proclamation 2015), there are many factors that contribute to this epidemic. These events will aim to address the fear, stigma, racism,

sexism, and legal barriers that affect Indigenous women when it comes to these atrocities. The U.S. Department of Justice states that Native American women are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault crimes compared to all other races and that 1 in 3 will be raped in their lifetime, and on some reservations, women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average (futureswithoutviolence.org). Not only will these events raise awareness about these issues, but also they will help open up a healing space at the institution. These events will be open to the public, and they will engage the values of the *Sing Our Rivers Red* initiative: humility, empowerment, accessibility, love & compassion, unity, and support & mentorship.

3. Expected outcomes or products of this project:

I anticipate that this project will succeed in various ways. It will:

- Engage the UNM-G campus community in a bi-national project that is receiving global recognition for raising awareness on violence against Indigenous women and girls;
- Open a dialogue on campus about issues related to violence against Indigenous women and girls;
- Create a space for students and community members to share their stories via spoken word and various types of media;
- Allow individuals and communities to begin or continue her/his/their healing process(es); and
- Introduce the UNM-G community to scholar/activist/poet Tanaya Winder and her groundbreaking work as the co-founder of this project and an emerging poet.

4. Describe the timeline for the project, resources needed, and the person responsible for each action step.

When: March 7-10, 2016

Action Step:

- Earring Exhibit: This exhibit holds over 3406 different earrings that have been donated by individuals and groups across 45 states in the U.S., six (6) provinces in Canada, Scotland, and the UK. The earrings represent women who have been murdered or gone missing and/or have been donated in solidarity with the women and girls who have been murdered or gone missing. The exhibit is a travelling exhibit and has been displayed at places like The University of Colorado at Denver; Missoula, Montana; Fort Peck, Montana; New Town, North Dakota; and Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Tanaya Winder is from the Southern Ute, Duckwater Shoshone, and Pyramid Lake Paiute Nations. As a poet, writer, artist, and educator she writes and teaches about different expressions of love. A winner of the 2010 A Room of Her Own Foundation's Orlando prize in poetry, her work has appeared or is

forthcoming in Cutthroat magazine, Adobe Walls, Superstition Review, Drunkenboat, and Kweli, among others. Her poetry collection, *Words Like Love*, was published in 2015 by West End Press.

- The reading and presentation of work by UNM-G students will be an event of UNM-G students to share their writing and/or other art that reflects how the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women affects them as individuals or members of a community. A student committee of UNM-G students will be formed to help plan this event. It should also be open to the public.
- The candlelight vigil will be a ceremony in remembrance of the missing and murdered Indigenous women from the U.S. and Canada. It will take place following a reading and presentation of work by UNM-G students. The vigil should take place in the Northeast courtyard outside of Gurley Hall.

Resources Needed:

- Space to display the earring exhibit. Kristi Wilson has agreed to dedicate the display space in Gurley Hall for the earring exhibit;
- Space for Tanaya Winder's reading;
- Candles, posterboards, markers, etc. for candlelight vigil;
- Space for community/student reading/art presentation;
- Light refreshments for both evenings.

Responsible Person:

- Myrriah Gómez, Assistant Professor of English, Division of Arts & Sciences, The University of New Mexico-Gallup, myrriahg@unm.edu.

5. Estimated budget with justifications:

- Earring Exhibit: Cost of shipping from Denver to Gallup (approximately \$300.00)
- Honorarium (Tanaya Winder): \$500.00
- Materials for Candlelight Vigil: \$200
- Light refreshments for both evenings: \$200

Total anticipated budget: \$1200.00

6. What other funding sources have you explored? Give details. (Note: funds for this mini-grant must be expended by June 30, 2016)

At this point I have not explored other funding opportunities. As an instructor at UNM Main, I co-facilitated SORR events and we had the support of various offices on campus. I feel that because of our significant Indigenous population at UNM-G, this should be a series of events that the university sponsors. This series of events


would engage our UNM-G values of, in particular, integrity, diversity, freedom, and sustainability.

7. If application is approved, the applicant must electronically submit the written final report as a pdf file to the Committee Chair, Dr. Yi-Wen Huang, at yhuang75@unm.edu, within two weeks upon the completion of the project.

Prepared by (please type or print): Myrriah Gómez, Ph.D.

Date: 10/13/2015

Approval or Denial (please circle one):



Division Chair or Supervisor

10/15/15

Date

Approval or Denial (please circle one)



Chair, Mini-Grant Committee

10/28/15

Date

Approval or Denial (please circle one)



Director of Business Operation

11-10-15

Date

Reason(s) for denial. (Applicant may resubmit proposal for 2016-17):

Please submit your mini-grant application to Ms. Geralene Lahi, Accountant I, Business Office (SSTC 286, extension 7577), after you obtain your division head's or supervisor's signature.

Due to Mini-Grant Committee by 10/16/2015
Decisions will be announced by no later than 11/06/2015