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SHOW US *YOUR* NORTH WEBSITE PROJECT INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR TEACHERS/SCHOOLS

Show us *Your North* is administered by the Saskatchewan Arts Board and funded through a partnership with the Ministry of Education, SaskCulture and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

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**Contact the Program Consultant
if you have any questions and to discuss your project:**

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Website Project Description

In October of 2009, the community of Beauval hosted the Northern Saskatchewan Games and Cultural Festival (NSGCF). Show Us *Your North* was conceived as a way to include northern schools in the celebration of arts and culture. The Show Us *Your North* website design was launched at the Festival. Show Us *Your North* projects will take place in schools during the 2009-2010 year. Content from participating schools will be added to the website as it is received by the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

The objectives of the Show Us *Your North* website project are to:

- showcase arts and culture in the north, perhaps Saskatchewan's least understood geographical and cultural region
- connect knowledge of the students' own artists, communities and cultural resources with curriculum content in arts education and social studies
- build pride in northern students and their communities for their own cultural traditions and resources
- build awareness among northern educators, artists and communities about the resources that may be available to them through the Saskatchewan Arts Board and SaskCulture.

Who are the People?

Show Us *Your North* is an invitation to schools to identify and welcome into the school cultural people in their community: dancers, storytellers, musicians, craftspeople, visual artists, filmmakers, carvers, quilters... people who participate in creative activity in the community. The actual event in the school can be of their own design, although they will be provided with suggestions. The goal of this part of the program is to encourage schools to build relationships with artistic people in their community and introduce students to the idea that the arts and culture are in all communities. The Saskatchewan Arts Board will provide \$500 to schools to pay honoraria to artists.

Our North

The program also invites schools to undertake a cultural investigation of their community, show the results of their investigation in a unique way through the arts, and document their investigation for show-casing on the web-based dynamic map. The intention is that teachers integrate the activity with curriculum requirements in arts education and/or social studies. Students might interview artists, tell or write stories, take photographs or video, write and perform songs, look into the history of an art form in their community, look into the history of a building in their community that has hosted arts and cultural events over the years....the list of possibilities is endless. Participating sites will receive a digital camera to help them document their project for the Show Us *Your North* website.

Show Us *Your North* Website

The website will include an interactive map of northern Saskatchewan. The documentation of the students' projects will be uploaded and linked to the students' community on the map. **Visit the website at <http://suyn.artsboard.sk.ca>.**

Suggestions for Student Activities

Who are the People?

- 1) Invite artists from the community – traditional or contemporary, professional or nonprofessional – into the school for an “Arts and Culture Tea”. This gives students a chance to connect with people in their own community who contribute to the arts and cultural life of the community. A beader, a painter, a singer, someone who makes snowshoes, a filmmaker, a storyteller, a poet.... whoever the teacher and students choose to invite. Have the students honour the artists in their own community...and provide them with an honorarium for their time.
- 2) Host a panel discussion at the school about the arts and culture in the community. Invite Elders to talk about how stories and pictures and dance teach and entertain. Have the students design the format and come up with questions... things that they are curious about.
- 3) Have an afternoon of “how to” workshops featuring people from the community... learn a particular dance, learn how to tell a story or write a song, learn to bead or make snowshoes. Base the topics on the skills of the people in your community.
- 4) Come up with your own way of having students meet the artists and cultural workers in your community.

Remember:

- The purpose is for students and schools to learn about and celebrate the people in their own community who participate in arts and culture.
- Activities should connect to arts education and/or other curriculum outcomes, such as social studies. We leave this for teachers to plan.
- Follow protocol and pay artists and elders an honorarium. This is what the \$500 fee from the Arts Board is intended to help with.

Our North

- 1) Create a news magazine or a book or a CD/DVD that features stories and interviews with artists and cultural workers in the community. Have students design interview questions and conduct the interviews. Have a book launch or CD/DVD release party at the school to celebrate the work of these creative people in the community.

For the website: Ask students to title their project. Send us a copy of the news magazine, book, etc. along with students' comments about what they learned about the arts and culture in their community. In addition, send photos of the students working on their projects.

- 2) Design a photojournalism project around the arts and culture in the community. Discuss what photojournalism is (communicating news in photographs) and have students work individually or in groups to investigate news stories related to arts and culture in their community. They can focus on people, places of cultural significance, traditional and contemporary arts in the community, a topic such as the arts and northern life...however the students choose to investigate and document the significance and role of the arts in their community.

For the website: Ask students to title their project. Send us the students' photographs and any commentary (written or audio files) they would like to add about the photos or the project.

- 3) Design a “soundscape” project that will allow the students to investigate and explore their ideas about their own community through sound. (The Saskatchewan Arts Education curriculum [music] contains information on soundscapes.) Students might work individually or in small groups to create their soundscapes. What are the unique sounds of their northern community? How can they capture these sounds and put them together in an artistic way to create a soundscape?

For the website: Ask students to title their project. Send us digital files of the students’ soundscapes, along with documentary photographs and student writing about their projects. (The Arts Board has a digital recorder we can send out on loan.)

- 4) Have the students develop a series of “tableaux” about life in their northern community and photograph the tableaux. The Saskatchewan Arts Education curriculum (drama) contains information on tableaux, which is a frozen “scene” created by the actor-students. Students could work in small groups to plan the scenes they would like to portray. They should be encouraged to experiment with composition and subject matter, and create and re-create their tableaux to perfect them before settling on a final photographic representation.

For the website: Ask students to title their project. Send us photographs of the students’ tableaux.

- 5) Or, design your own project and means for students to present the cultural life of their community, or their ideas and interpretation of their own community through an artistic medium.

Remember:

- This project is intended to encourage students to think about the role and value of the arts in their own community, and share their ideas about culture and the North with others through the Show Us *Your North* website. We have provided a few suggestions but we want to remain open to all manner of unique projects.
- In general, an effective arts education project promotes student engagement and respect for student voice by providing opportunities for students to:
 - become involved in project planning
 - investigate and find solutions for a variety of artistic challenges
 - ask questions about big ideas and topics that have relevance to their real lives
 - collaborate with teachers, other students and resource people
 - make connections among the arts and life in the community
 - make choices about materials and ways of discovering
 - share their learning with others.

How to Get Started

Read this information package and then send in the Participation Form (see page 6 of this package).

Timelines

We will accept Participation Forms and content for the website anytime during the 2009-2010 school year.

Website
Content:
What to Send
Us After Your
Project is Done

We are looking for content organized under 3 topics:

- Our Community
- The People
- Our North.

The content for the website will come from you, the teachers and students in northern schools. The following are examples of what you might send us for each topic.

Our Community

- a description, written by students, of their community: how many people, what the school is like, activities in the community, and anything else that describes the community to others
- accompanying pictures of the community.

The People

- biographies, photos and other information on artists who live in the community (traditional, contemporary, any discipline such as painting, craft, dance, filmmaking, music, etc.)
- interview with an artist or artists from the community
- descriptions and/or pictures of cultural events in the community.

Our North

- student writing and/or art in any form (text, photos of student art, audio files, video, etc.) about life in their community and cultural events there – documentation of whatever the students did for their Show Us *Your* North project
- a brief project description if one is needed as context for the students' submissions
- documentary photos of the project (a release form will be sent to you for the use of photos of students).



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SHOW US *YOUR* NORTH WEBSITE PROJECT PARTICIPATION FORM

Complete this form in black type or ink

School Name:	
Name for Cheque Issue <i>(if different from above)</i> :	
Contact Name:	
Contact Position:	
Contact Mailing Address:	
Phone:	E-mail:
Fax:	Website:
Grades that will participate:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, my school agrees to participate in the Show Us <i>Your</i> North website project If you check yes, the Saskatchewan Arts Board will provide your school with a digital camera and \$500 to help your students discover traditional or contemporary artists in your community who are working in any arts discipline.	
Please submit the following by mail, e-mail or fax: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• this form• a brief description of what you will do for the website• a budget that shows how you will use the \$500 fee (we recommend an honorarium of no less than \$100 per artist)	
Please send this material to: Show Us <i>Your</i> North Saskatchewan Arts Board 1355 Broad Street Regina, SK S4R 7V1 E: dianne@artsboard.sk.ca F: (306) 787-4199	