

080930_First Nations Youth Photography Club
Contact Person: Celina Tuttle, Program Coordinator, Project Mentor
Make It Happen Society – Nurturing Youth and Community Capacities

First Nations Youth Photography Club

Requested amount: 2500 Total Project Budget: 6000
Start Date: January 2009 End Date: December 31, 2009
Existing project Funds required: November 30, 2008 (for planning)

3. Project Partners:

The Pacific Rim Arts Society, the Ucluelet First Nation youth program, Pacific Rim National Park, local professional photographer Dolores Baswick, USMA Nuu-chah-nulth Child and Family Services and the First Voices.com Aboriginal languages initiative have and will continue to lend their support, financial and otherwise, to the activities of the Photography Club falling within their organizational mandates, i.e. arts and culture, youth engagement and language. The Photography Club has worked closely with youth and Elders from several other First Nations communities, including Ahousaht, Esowista/Opitsaht and anticipates their support in terms of logistics and in-kind contributions. Several local businesses and both tourist information centres sell Photography Club works and have said they will continue to do so.

Potentially, North Island College, local schools, the soon-to-be-launched dual language (Nuu-chah-nulth and English), local cinematographer Lance Blackwell and Sound technician Roger Plant have expressed interest in contributing (film components), and the regional literacy program are all partners and supporters.

Introduction to your organization:

The photography club is a project of Make It Happen – Nurturing Youth and Community Capacities is a registered, non-profit society, operating out of Tofino but active throughout the Biosphere region. The purpose of the Society is to stimulate ideas and pursue action in creating access to a life worth living for youth and adults living in marginalized or remote communities in British Columbia and other areas determined by the membership and executive. We are committed to furthering the ideals of social justice, equality, participation, human rights and protection of the environment through:

- Engaging individuals and community members in initiatives that effect positive social change.
- Raising awareness of social, political and economic factors affecting these communities.
- Development of community-focused ideas and initiatives.
- General education and vocational training.
- Processes and activities that maximize human potential and nurture excellence, personal growth and positive change in all areas of human experience: social, environmental, economic, physical, psychological, spiritual, and cultural.
- Provision of financial assistance and other resources.

Description, goals and objectives of the project, as well as a timeline for completion.

The First Nations Youth Photography Club aims to support club members in further developing their photographic and filming skills, through participation in workshops, exhibitions, competitions, day trips and longer outings. The Club brings together youth aged 12 – 25 in a fun, healthy and creative activity that offers new experiences, develops skills and encourages them to be independent thinkers and doers. It strives to engage a range of youth from different communities – those who are doing well socially and academically, youth in care and youth-at-risk. Participation in club activities provides an opportunity for members to express themselves creatively and exposes them to new experiences, other photographers and artists with whom they might not otherwise have an opportunity to engage. There are currently 25 members from throughout the Biosphere Region. To date members have had their work included in photo exhibitions at the Talking Stick Festival in Vancouver and at the Sooke Museum in Victoria. Photos were displayed in Ottawa and at the Pacific Rim National Park for National

Aboriginal Day. Six of the photos from these exhibitions were chosen for inclusion in a curated exhibition in Beijing. Photos have also been exhibited at ArtSplash! an annual art show at Long Beach and Art in the Gardens. The Club hosted a booth at the Tall Ships Festival in Port Alberni and will be featured as the club-of-the-month in Canadian Geographic PhotoClub in November. More than 70 photographs have been submitted for this feature.

Project activities

Framing workshop and community exhibitions:

Club members will have an opportunity to frame two 8x10 photographs of their own work. The new collection of photos will then go on exhibition to the youth photographer's communities and will later be added to the Club's growing collection of framed photographs ready for display in various exhibitions, art shows and events. The skills learned in the workshop, and the equipment purchased, will allow photographers to mount and frame other pieces of their work for future exhibitions and for personal use. The equipment will remain in the care of the Make It Happen, so that club members may have access.

Following the feature in Canadian Geographic, a PowerPoint tour of the photographs and the photographers at work will be presented in the communities of Ahousaht, Esowista/Opitsaht, Itattsoo and to a broader public in Ucluelet and Tofino.

Culturally Significant Photographic Projects and Contributions

In addition to their independent photographic endeavors and those initiated through the Club, there are projects associated with community needs and desires, traditional topics and cultural events. For example, Club members have been photographing traditional and culturally significant subjects, such as plants, sea food and other food sources in different seasons; some dances and celebrations; completed artworks and those in progress, and portraits of Elders in their respective communities. The Club is working with various Elders to translate some of the photo captions into the photographer's respective Nuu-chah-nulth dialect.

Photographers work with elders in their communities to identify photo subjects in their own languages. Identifying themselves as photographers to others has also encouraged several youth to learn from their families about their traditional names, where they originated and what they mean, and they are choosing to sign their works with these names. All youth are encouraged to write about their photographs and, more often than not, these writings refer to cultural happenings and traditions, linking them to contemporary issues.

Photos and texts from these projects contribute to language teaching and culture revitalization initiatives, working with the photographers, the projects or portions of them will be donated to the communities or towards projects that support First Nations language and culture revitalization, instill community and self-pride or engage youth in healthy activities and development. For example, Ucluelet First Nations community workers have expressed interest in the youth photographing community elders and having these portraits framed and put on permanent display in the community hall.

First Voices, a First Nations initiative designed to support Aboriginal people engaged in language and culture rejuvenation will receive copies of photographs and texts for a national language archives and for inclusion in the FirstVoices website. All pictures and photographs in the FirstVoices image bank (now numbering over 8000 images) are tagged with the name of the photographer or artist responsible. Whenever an image is selected from the library to illustrate a FirstVoices language entry, full credit for the image appears on the page.

Media Production Workshop

Working with local and other professionals in radio/television production and in collaboration with program staff at the Laichwiltach Family Life Society in Campbell River, youth participating in this media workshop will learn the movie production skills of:

- Copywriting and Storyboarding
- Announcing techniques

- Interviewing and reporting procedures
- Research methods
- Camera operation and editing principles
- Stop-start animation process

The Media Production Workshop will meet one day per week for 4 hours. Each workshop session lasts for ten weeks. Two additional hours will be needed per session for preparation and equipment set-up/tear-down time. Seating will be limited to 12 participants (2 students per machine). A DVD will be presented to each youth enrolled in the program as a way of acknowledging completed student projects.

Products developed through this workshop will result from participant ideas and initiatives, however, they will be encouraged to produce media material suitable for a public viewing, either through the photographic exhibitions or in a media arts or other festival organized by local arts societies such as the Pacific Rim Arts Society.

Project Implementation Time Line

PROJECTS	MONTHS											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
I.												
Framing workshop												
Community exhibitions												
II.												
Culturally Significant Photographic Projects												
III.												
Media Production Workshop												
ACTIVITIES												
Publicity and Promotion, e.g. press releases, media interviews, securing future exhibition sites, etc												
Obtain quotes and purchase equipment												
Club gathering(s) to choose and print photos												
Workshop with professional photographer (mounting and framing photos)												

How does this project help to achieve the goals of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, as stated on the CBT’s website (www.clayoquotbiosphere.org/organization/goals.php)?

The activities of the First Nations Youth Photography Club have the capacity to fulfill many of the CBT goals and objectives. Through the encouragement and support of many it is possible to begin to engage community members, particularly youth, in a projects that will foster or support language and cultural rejuvenation projects, in addition to providing learning opportunities and developing skills, all of which lead to healthier communities.

Potentially, the project can serve as a platform for training opportunities and creation of jobs, e.g. setting up a cottage industry specializing in photocards and framed prints; coordinating arts projects and participating as volunteer or with honariums in arts initiatives featuring photography or film media.

It can be anticipated that the project will further a number of CBT goals and objectives as referenced below; promote development of a sustainable economy; enhance knowledge of interactions between

humans and the biosphere and social interactions; enhance quality of life; provide healthy, sustainable recreational activities for youth; encourage the involvement of the entire community and surrounding area; promote the development of educational resources; promote opportunities for cross-cultural exchange; support Nuu-chah-nulth culture, including language initiatives.

What is the community impact and who will benefit from this project?

The Projects outlined here motivate youth, provide an outlet for healthy expression of feelings and activities that promote healthy alternatives to sometimes antisocial behaviours, while maintaining their interest in the learning process. In the foreseeable future, participating youth and their communities will derive benefits. These will range from health and social benefits to longer term, less tangible benefits such as skills and leadership development, instilling lifelong learning values in youth, and potentially educational opportunities and creation of jobs.

Describe the community involvement and collaboration with other agencies.

The Pacific Rim Arts Society, the Ucluelet First Nation youth program, Pacific Rim National Park, local professional photographer Dolores Baswick, USMA Nuu-chah-nulth Child and Family Services and the First Voices.com Aboriginal languages initiative have and will continue to lend their support, financial and otherwise, to the activities of the Photography Club falling within their organizational mandates, i.e. arts and culture, youth engagement and language.

The Photography Club has worked closely with youth and Elders from several other First Nations communities, including Ahousaht, Esowista and Opitsaht and anticipates their support in terms of logistics and in-kind contributions. Several local businesses and both tourist information centres sell Photography Club works and have said they will continue to do so. PRNPR is interested in collaborating with the Club in the context of its new facilities, placing stronger emphasis on Nuu-chah-nulth culture, both traditional and contemporary. Support from schools and education programs is returned

The literacy program, schools, medical and holistic clinics, arts and culture groups and tourism related businesses can all work together to promote and implement project components to mutual benefit.

How do you plan to communicate the results of your project?

Through word of mouth, press releases, articles for publication in local media, the Internet. Potentially radio, TV and media interviews of Club members and workshop participants.

4. Project Budget

Please complete the following project budget including contributions from partner organizations and funding from other sources.

Item & Description	Total Cost	Confirmed Contributions (in kind & financial)	Estimated Contributions (in kind & financial)	Support requested from the CBT
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September 30, 2008

Cultural Committee – Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
381 Main Street, Box 67
Tofino, BC V0R 2Z0
Phone 250-725-2219 Fax 250-725-2384

Dear Members of the Cultural Committee,

I would like to support the application submitted by the First Nations Youth Photography Club, a project of Make It Happen Society.

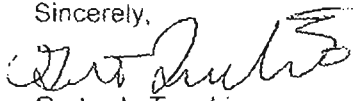
First Nations youth in the area, including several from the Ucluelet First Nation (UFN), benefit greatly from participating in the club and its activities. During weekly meetings, UFN youth learned in a supportive, nurturing environment the basics of photography, such as equipment use and care, composition and lighting. With other club members, they review their work and are able to plan activities and outings. Importantly, the photography club provides members in need with equipment and supplies, learning opportunities and encouragement. Club meetings are always well attended and popular with our youth.

Youth participation in photo shoots and workshops, exhibitions, competitions, day trips and longer outings provide many opportunities to learn new skills, such as mounting and framing their work, making photo cards, meeting and working with the public. They are very proud of their work and are eager to share it with our communities at large through activities such as photographing elders, cultural practices and arts and traditional foods and plants.

The First Nations Youth Photography Club provides an opportunity for members to express themselves creatively and brings youth into contact with other photographers, artists and experiences they might not otherwise have an opportunity to enjoy and to learn from.

I feel it makes an important contribution to the health and well-being of First Nations youth in our communities and I hope you will support this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Gertrude Fouchie,
Education Liaison