



# CITY OF RAPID CITY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701-2724

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## *Office of the Mayor*

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February 9, 2016

Rapid City Common Council  
300 Sixth Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701

Re: First Nations Sculpture Garden

Dear Council Members:

Recently we received an update on the First Nations Sculpture Garden Project that is to be installed in Halley Park this summer just west of the Parks and Recreation building. Elizabeth Cook-Lynn provided the update at the beginning of January 2016. She sent follow-up emails on February 4th and February 5th regarding a funding request.

In her letters and emails, she articulates some of the expenses required and mentions the total project budget of \$450,000. In the attached email chain, she requests that the City provide \$150,000 in funding for this project (a full 1/3 of the total project) prior to the June 2016 deadline.

Before placing this item on any council agenda, I would like to hear your thoughts on this topic. Please email, call, or visit with me the next time you are in City Hall so that I can provide an appropriate response to Ms. Cook-Lynn.

Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Steve Allender  
Mayor of Rapid City



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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

## Sakos Kelsey

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**From:** Elizabeth Cook-Lynn <[ecooklynn@gmail.com](mailto:ecooklynn@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:06 AM  
**To:** Sakos Kelsey  
**Subject:** Re: FIRST NATIONS SCULPTURE GARDEN

Yes, Kelsey  
please forward this info to the council  
and tell them to be free to contact me 605-341-3228  
or [ecooklynn@gmail.com](mailto:ecooklynn@gmail.com)  
It is difficult to contact our five member board  
as they are at Sisseton Eagle Butte, Canada, Pine Ridge, etc  
Ft. Thompson

But, our cultural board may be free and some of them are here in towan  
and so is our landscape artist  
so....if any of the board would like to have a coffee...with us, we are available  
I do have a power point that is fairly brief.....???  
liz  
On Feb 9, 2016, at 10:28 AM, Sakos Kelsey wrote:

Good morning Elizabeth,

I will certainly keep you updated with any recommendations the Council might suggest.

Additionally, thank you for the project status you included below. Would you like me to forward this along to the Council as well?

Thank you,  
Kelsey

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**From:** Elizabeth Cook-Lynn [<mailto:ecooklynn@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:19 AM  
**To:** Sakos Kelsey <[Kelsey.Sakos@rcgov.org](mailto:Kelsey.Sakos@rcgov.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: FIRST NATIONS SCULPTURE GARDEN

Sakos.....

thanks for taking our "stuff" to the Mayor....I know you all are busy...we have no advocate on the city council which is the way many projects work, I am told....so just keep us informed about what we should do...etc

this is to tell you all that we are on our way with this project...and it will get done!!!! ..The busts of the four sculptures have been cast from the molds our sculptor Marilyn Wounded Head made a year ago....and this process which is now underway (our foundry is in Tempe, Arizona)..... takes 6 months or more....we are hoping that next summer we will be



going forward.....and we need the city's support.....Each Sculpture will cost \$37,500.....made, shipped and installed.....

The truth is, we want words etched on one of our pieces that says....."gift from the city of Rapid City to the First Nations Sculpture Garden".....but that takes more than a handshake....as you know.....it takes money

Our request from the city is not, we think, out of order nor excessive...Rapid City will be proud of this new cultural addition to its parks.....

thanks for keeping us in consideration.... from liz and the FNSG Board of Directors. ....

On Feb 8, 2016, at 2:39 PM, Sakos Kelsey wrote:

Good afternoon Elizabeth,

Thank you for taking the time to provide me with the requested funding amount, deadline and details for the First Nations Sculpture Garden.

Mayor Allender and I spoke about this on Friday afternoon, and he has requested that I share the same information with the City Council. After doing so, I will be sure to provide you with the response that I receive.

Thank you,  
Kelsey

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**From:** Elizabeth Cook-Lynn [<mailto:ecooklynn@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, February 05, 2016 8:12 AM

**To:** Sakos Kelsey <[Kelsey.Sakos@rcgov.org](mailto:Kelsey.Sakos@rcgov.org)>

**Subject:** Re: FIRST NATIONS SCULPTURE GARDEN

Thursday, Feb.4

Hello

Thanks so much for your quick reply. We are asking that the city offer the First Nations Sculpture Garden \$150,000 for our current fund drive, a portion of our second phase of development. Our deadline on that is June, 2016. This is for what we are calling our "bronzing" phase of the four statues, a stage which will make the busts ready for shipment and installation in about six or seven months. Our contract with our sculptor has been finalized and dates have been set.

Our contract with J. Scull Construction calls for a budget of \$350,000, much of which will be handled pro bono, according to Jim Scull in our conversations. That sum even includes some landscaping. We would ask that the city consider whether or not that amount or a portion of that might also be considered, as well as the \$150,000. The deadline for that consideration should be next month or April at the latest, as soon as the weather permits site work. We are well aware of the constraints on public money but we feel that if all or most of our donors for this public art/history project are available to



us from **out of state**, or from other cities and towns, which has been our experience, so far, we must remind local institutions that their support is crucial. This project is, we feel, an important one which ensures appropriate Indian-White relations here in our city and region.

Our original budget called for an expenditure of over a half a million dollars, but our most recent adjustment tells us that the entire cost will be something over \$300,000, and we have raised over half of that amount through grants and donations. We are anxious to go forward with the city's financial support.

We would appreciate meeting, or reply soon...

....as we are looking at early spring site construction.<image001.jpg>

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn  
[ecooklynn@gmail.com](mailto:ecooklynn@gmail.com)  
605-341-3228

On Feb 4, 2016, at 12:07 PM, Sakos Kelsey wrote:

Good afternoon Elizabeth,

Thank you for the message in regards to the First Nations Sculpture Garden.

May I ask what figure amount and deadline your team is requesting from the City in order to assist with this project?

I can certainly get you in for a meeting with the Mayor, but the first availability is the start of March.

Respectfully,  
Kelsey

<image002.jpg>

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**From:** Elizabeth Cook-Lynn [<mailto:ecooklynn@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2016 9:52 AM  
**To:** Mayor's Office Group <[Mayor'sOffice@rcgov.org](mailto:Mayor'sOffice@rcgov.org)>  
**Subject:** FIRST NATIONS SCULPTURE GARDEN

Rapid City Mayoral Office:  
To: Mayor and Planner/ Budget committees

Dear Sirs:

In December, as the President of the **First Nations Sculpture Garden** project (using input from our all-Indian board of

developers) , I sent to your offices our four page "Progress Report and Review" white paper as an end of the year information status of the project. We have heard nothing from the City Government offices. In that update we also enclosed our tentative budget from J. Scull Construction and our Track Two level of fund raising plan as well as a request that the city consider a substantial donation to the ongoing work that we are doing. At the same time that the review went out, we sent \$55,500 to our sculptor and foundry according to our contract with them that gives the time line as (7 months) when the "bronzing phase" of our four statues will be finished and installed. (Each statue will cost \$37,500 to bronze and install). We have heard nothing from the Mayor's office, nor from the committees that might be involved in decision making. I made a call to Mr. Shoemaker (communications officer) who assured me that the City is very interested in our progress but that his office has little to do with budget matters. We have not heard whether or not our correspondence has reached the appropriate desks for our project to be discussed as per our information and requests, and that is the reason for this memo. We are pleased that our landscape and construction plans by Stanley Design have been approved, and we thank you for your diligence.

We are certainly aware of all of the work that the city officials must attend to in accordance with the plans for the future developments of Rapid City, and we recognize that our little project of the art and history of our area is not as significant as many other worthy endeavors. But, we continue to believe in our work and are grateful for the support that we have been given in the nearly three years that this project has progressed. We have raised about half of the \$450,000 that the total cost of the project will require, a substantial cut from the 800,00+ budget originally proposed. Our "bronzing" phase of fund raising is now in progress and we are hopeful that responses will be good. Our themes express the 20th century progress of Sioux Indian and Tribal figures who have contributed to our state's well being, i.e., Eastman in Medicine, Black Elk in Religion and Philosophy, Howe in Art and Deloria in Law and Politics. This is an educational project with the long-range goal of tending to a long neglected history of Indian-White relations and is not meant as a money making tourist venue. We would like to believe that our city planners support our work.

Our board is made up of native peoples from the Reservations and outlying districts and towns and it strains our almost non-existing travel budget to get them here in Rapid City for a meeting with you and your committees, but I am personally available as the CEO of the project and would be happy to show up in your offices with my brief plower point to discuss further any questions you may have and how, specifically, you may help



us. Please let me know if you would like a meeting to discuss how we can work together to further this project.

Sincerely

<image001.jpg>

[ecooklynn@gmail.com](mailto:ecooklynn@gmail.com)

Elizabeth Cook-Lynn  
[ecooklynn@gmail.com](mailto:ecooklynn@gmail.com)  
605-341-3228