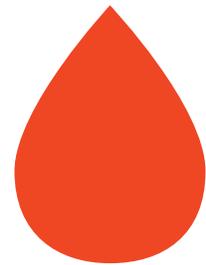




# Water is Life

EDUCATION + OUTREACH CURRICULUM



**NTWC**  
*National Tribal Water Center*

A facilitator's guide to organizing the Water is Life Project for your community – centering art and culture in community mobilization toward sustainable access to safe water.

National Tribal Water Center at Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

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Mural artist Andrew Morrison



Northern Cheyenne Tribe Visioning Meeting

# Introduction

From ceremony to subsistence, hydration to recreation, water is part of our tradition. The Water is Life community art project is an education and outreach project that supports community-based efforts to improve sustainable access to safe water. The project draws from the strengths and rich cultural ties to water that Tribal communities hold by engaging community members in a conversation on water through art, education, cultural sharing and celebration.

The Water is Life project was born out of reverence for art, water, community, and culture. Central to the project is the creation of a large-scale mural representing local water culture. Community members collaborate with a professional Native muralist to come up with a vision for a meaningful design. The mural can be a conversation starter, honoring traditional ties to water and serving as a source of pride and reflection.

The Water is Life project guide provides communities the opportunities to tailor the project to their own specific goals.

## **Water is Life was originally developed with the following objectives in mind:**

- ◆ Facilitate sharing of knowledge and behavior that optimizes the health benefits of clean water use
- ◆ Improve the sustainability of local water infrastructure
- ◆ Share and preserve local water cultural knowledge

## **Participating communities have experienced positive results in their relationship to water use and access, and their cultural or traditional ties to water. These were some of the outcomes:**

- ◆ A failing water treatment plant led one community to take action and revamp its treatment process to bring drinking water back into regulatory compliance. The community carried out the Water is Life project in order to reshape local perception toward the utility and increase confidence in the improved treated water.
- ◆ A significant portion of customers failing to pay their water and sewer bill left utilities in two communities in debt and unable to properly fund system maintenance and upgrades. The utilities applied the Water is Life project to promote transparency of utility finances and engage their customers in finding solutions to this issue.
- ◆ A tribal utility's desire to inform community members about their diverse water sources and how to protect them, and the preservation of their community's cultural and traditional knowledge of water.



# Project Overview

The Water is Life project has two primary community engagement components: an introductory Visioning Meeting and a Water Week series of tailored activities and events.

**The Visioning Meeting** brings community members together to talk about the cultural significance of water and to begin conversation on local water related goals. This event is the community's introduction to the project. The outcomes from this meeting inspire and inform the development of the activities offered to community members during Water Week. This guide will explain how to successfully facilitate your own activities during Water Week.

**Water Week** activities can vary greatly from one community to the next. However, at the heart of the Water is Life project is culture and water-focused artwork. There are three core Water Week activities that support this:

**Main Public Art Creation:** A lead artist works with the support of community members to create a piece of public artwork that represents local cultural ties to water. Although we have done murals, the public art piece could be any type of art such as carving or theater production that all community members are able to access.

**Storytelling to Youth Art:** Elders are invited to share traditional water-related stories and then youth are encouraged to create designs based upon their interpretation of those stories. This activity engages young people in the project and showcases their beautiful artistic nature along with the variety of artwork created by many hands.

**Water Week Cultural Celebration:** This activity brings the community together at the end of Water Week for an official reveal and dedication of the completed public artwork. It provides an opportunity to recognize community members who work to protect and provide clean water to the people and is a time to reflect and share food, prayer, song, dance, and anything created throughout the week.

This activity guide provides planning tips, materials lists, and insight and lessons we've learned from carrying out these and other Water Week activities.



Lauren Monroe and Andrew Morrison, Browning, MT

# Project Team

An effective Water is Life project requires planning, logistics, tailoring of activities, marketing, and facilitation. Although one person may fulfill multiple roles, we've found it helpful to have at least one team member in the following roles:

**Project Manager:** Serves as the main point of contact and manages the project flow and keeps everyone moving forward.

**Activity Developer:** Tailors activities, invites facilitators and handles logistics for the outreach activities offered to the community during the Visioning Meeting and Water Week.

**Utility Representative:** Role varies, but may include working with the activity development lead on educational materials and facilitating outreach activities like tours of the water plant.

**Marketing and Outreach:** Gets the word out about the Visioning Meeting and Water Week events. There is an example in Appendix B that may be helpful to the person in this role.

**Lead Artist:** Designs and creates the main piece of public art reflecting community ties to water.

**Assistant Artist:** Supports the lead artist. This is a great opportunity for a young artist to learn from a more experienced lead artist.

# Budgeting and Funding the Project

The primary costs associated with the Water is Life project may include:

- ◆ Art supplies and materials for activities (Estimate: \$1,000-\$3,000)
- ◆ Food for Visioning Meeting and Closing Celebration (Estimate: \$500-\$1,000)
- ◆ Honorariums/gifts for participating artists, storytellers and facilitators (Estimate: \$1,000-\$5,000)
- ◆ Transportation for community members to activities (Estimate: \$20-\$100)

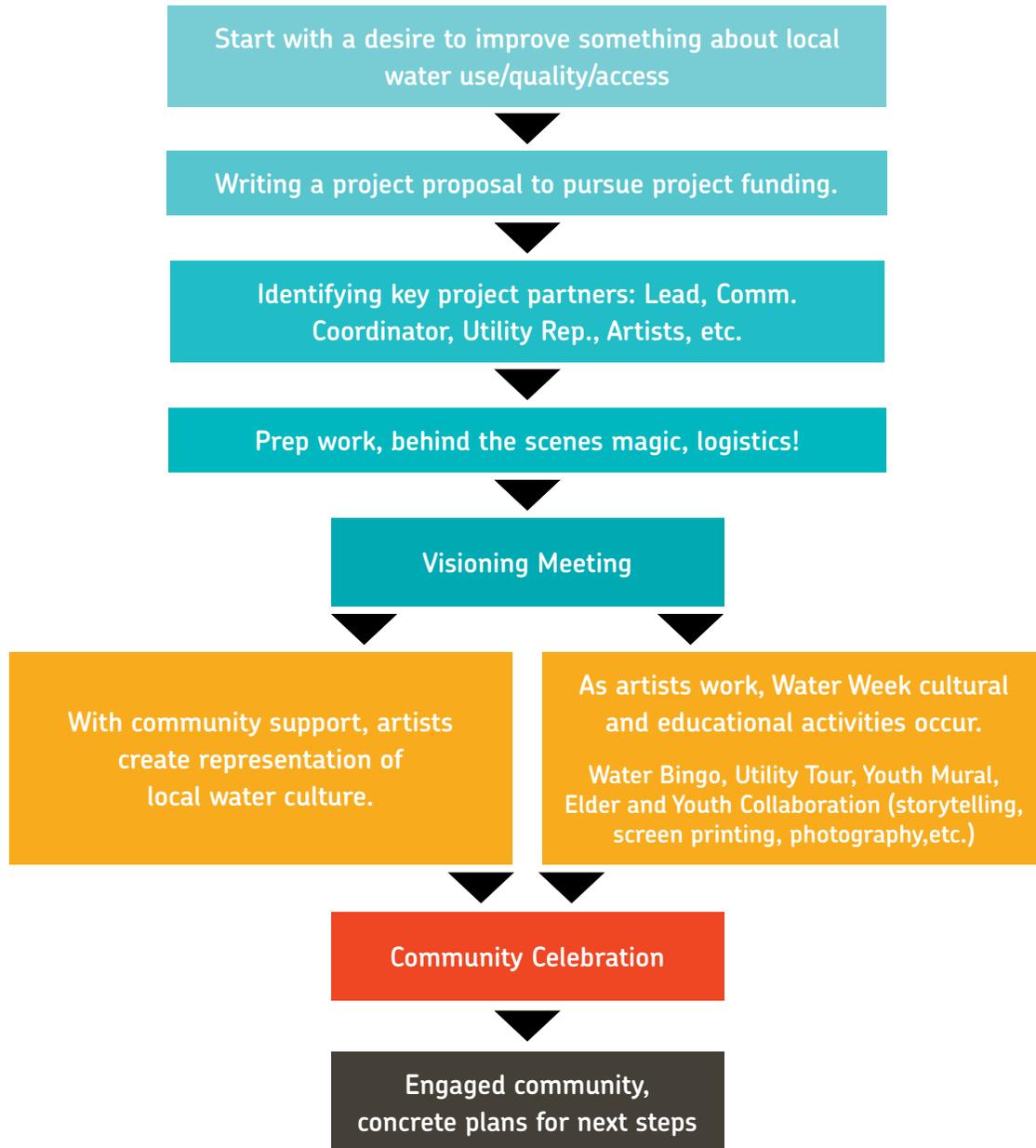
Support staff salaries and travel costs if an organization such as the National Tribal Water Center are contracted to provide technical assistance. Costs are reduced when the project is developed, managed and facilitated locally.

# Key Project Planning Tasks

- Write program proposal
- Secure needed approvals from the Tribal council, city council or utility
- Find program funding
- Assign project team
- Develop activities for Water is Life
  - Visioning Meeting
  - Water Week activities
  - Celebration



# Water is Life Program Flow Chart



# Activity Guides

START HERE



# VISIONING MEETING

The Visioning Meeting is a pre-Water Week event of discussion on local water culture. In this activity guide, you'll find information on required prep work, visioning meeting facilitation, and follow-up along with a list of materials you may need.

The main purpose of the Visioning Meeting is to provide an opportunity for as many people as possible to contribute to a collective vision of what local water culture means to their community. Lead artists receive the input they need to design a piece of art that represents and celebrates local traditional ties to water.

Holding the visioning meeting a few weeks prior to Water Week builds excitement of the activities and is an opportunity for the community to reflect on their water culture.

## Introducing the community artist

Ideally, the lead artist for the Water is Life project is an accomplished artist who is a member of the community or a Tribal member. When this isn't possible, invite professional Native artists from outside of the community to collaborate on the project. The visioning meeting serves as an important opportunity for them to be immersed in local community culture and gather essential input that will guide the mural or art design. This is a multi-day process and recommended for a minimum of two days.

The first day is typically spent introducing the artist to project team members, local leaders and culture bearers. Ensure there is enough time for conversation, visiting, and personally inviting key community members to the visioning meeting. During the meeting, you can introduce the team and present a slideshow introducing the project and the lead artist's previous work. Then open the floor to everyone willing to share input on water culture.

The second day the artist has time to follow-up with key community members and dig deeper into ideas and stories that came up during the visioning meeting. It's also valuable to have the artist available to community members at a dedicated time and location so they may come by with any additional thoughts and ideas.

Ideally, when the artist has a vision in mind, they gain input from the community before finalizing the design and preparing for implementation.

- **Identify a location for public artwork:** Identify the location of the artwork prior to the visioning meeting. Knowing the location helps participants visualize ideas for the design. Have a photo of the future location on the marketing material for the event. Our favorite location for public art tends to be the local water tank for a mural. If a water tank is not available or suited to the chosen artwork medium, consider an alternative location. Walls on public buildings can also be ideal. Murals can also be created on large canvases and displayed in public spaces.



Shanny Spang Gion and James Temte, Lame Deer, MT



Bonita Barr and Debra Moto, Deering, AK

- ❑ **Identify a meeting venue:** Ensure the venue has enough seating and table space for drawing and writing, and has a projector. The projector will display information on the Water is Life project, introduce program team members, share examples of the contributing artist's work, and post prompts on the water culture conversation.
- ❑ **Marketing design:** The key to a successful visioning meeting is the inclusion of many voices so ensure people show up. Be sure to get the word out about the event with beautiful marketing materials. These could include flyers, brochures, or an ad in the local paper.

Reach out to youth or community members with an interest in graphic design and ask them to design the materials. Here's what to include on the marketing materials:

- A description of the Visioning Meeting
- Who is invited
- What they should bring
- Date, time, and location
- Contact information for someone to call if there are questions

**Outreach:** Share the event through the most popular methods for your community. Examples include an ad in a local paper or newsletter, flyers posted on bulletin boards around town, posts on Facebook or other social media platforms, and announcements on CB, VHF, radio or local stations.

It's truly worth the effort to do all that you can to attract as many attendees as possible. The more folks engaged in the visioning meeting, the more connected they will feel to the artwork and activities that occur during water week and the greater the potential impact of the program.

## FACILITATION

The visioning meeting is the first opportunity community members have to participate and build a connection to the Water is Life project. Build excitement around this opportunity to both share and learn more about local water culture.

The meeting can include door prizes, food, and surveys if you are planning to evaluate the impact of the program in your community.

## FOLLOW-UP

Have the lead artist available to meet with community members the day after the visioning meeting. Invite community members to stop by and see the artist's designs. People can also stop by with new thoughts, input, and photos. This extra time to reflect and provide feedback significantly adds to the overall design process.

If the lead artist is from outside the community, the day(s) following the Visioning Meeting also serve as an opportunity for visits to any sites or locations brought up during the meeting.

## PURPOSE

The artwork can serve as a visual representation of water culture. The artwork design makes a connection to improving sustainable access to safe water. It does this by engaging community members in thought and conversation surrounding water. The community's renewed connectedness to water fosters an opportunity for focused education.

Art can be an effective tool for uniting community behind a cause. Shared involvement in the project helps bridge gaps between organizations such as utilities and customers or Tribal councils. The artwork serves as a catalyst for change, and provides a unified starting point to address barriers to sustainable water access.

After the artwork is complete, create a handout or poster recapping the Water is Life project and provide the lead artist's description of the design. This could be included as an informational insert with the water/sewer bill, shared on social media, or posted around town.

# WATER IS LIFE MAIN MURAL PROJECT ACTIVITY

## PURPOSE

The mural serves as a visual representation of water culture and as a connection to improving sustainable access to safe water. The activity engages community members in thought and conversation about water, and in return, reconnects the community to water that fosters an opportunity for focused education.

Art can be an effective tool for uniting community behind a cause. The mural project's collaborative approach helps bridge gaps between organizations such as water utilities and customers or Tribal councils, serves as a catalyst for change, and can provide a unified starting point to address barriers to sustainable water access.

## OVERVIEW

This project works best when the mural creation happens over a four to five-day period during Water Week. On the final day of the week, host a community-wide celebration where the mural is officially "revealed" and dedicated, and people involved with local water resources can be recognized.

The following timeline gives a general overview of how the main mural project can unfold. The following section, Project Roll Out, provides detailed information on carrying out each component of the project. There is flexibility to the duration and order in which some components occur.

### Main Mural project timeline example:



## MATERIALS:

Work with the artist to select and purchase needed materials for the mural. If possible, accompany the lead artist to help purchase or transport materials to the community.

- ◆ **Canvas or Plywood** – If not painting directly on a wall you can paint on canvas or plywood. Plywood is cheaper, but canvas has is nicer and is more compact for shipping to remote communities. There are canvas kits for purchase in 48” x 72” and 72” x 96” sizes which can be stretched.
- ◆ **Primer** – Applying primer before painting helps extend the life of the mural and reduces the number of coats of colored paint required for coverage.
- ◆ **Water-based Exterior Paint** in semi-gloss or flat. To give a sense of how much paint to buy, six gallons of paint covered a 140’ x 6’ mural space with some left over.
- ◆ **Paint Can Openers and Mixing Sticks** – These often come free with the paint.
- ◆ **Brushes** – 10-20, mid-range quality brushes in a variety of sizes. Wash them after use to extend their usability.
- ◆ **Paint Pails** – Pour a small portion of the color that you’re working with into these paint pails for easy mobility as you paint. We love the one-quart HANDY Paint Pails with strap handle and brush magnet.
- ◆ **Paint Pail Liners** – These help clean paint pails when switching colors.
- ◆ **Rollers** – Paint rollers cover large areas with paint quickly.
- ◆ **Roller Covers** – Roller covers go on the rollers. Grab extras of these because they have to be tossed after each day’s use.
- ◆ **Roller Extension Poles** – These screw on to rollers to reach a much greater area from a single position, which is really helpful because it means less moving of the lift or scaffolding.
- ◆ **Paint Trays** – Fill these with paint to dip the rollers in.
- ◆ **Paint Tray Liners** – These disposable liners prevent washing the paint trays in between each color.
- ◆ **Spray Paint** – Spray paint is fast and can allow an entire mural to go up in a day. Spray paint is also great for incorporating stencils.
- ◆ **Disposable Dust Masks** – Work in a well-ventilated area when working with spray paint. Disposable dust masks can be used for additional respiratory protection.
- ◆ **Poster or Foam Board** – Foam board is ideal for creating stencils you’d like to use multiple times. Poster board also works well, but it breaks down more quickly than foam board.
- ◆ **Disposable Gloves** – Use the Nitrile (non-latex) gloves to protect hands from spray paint.
- ◆ **Utility Knife** – These work great for the precision cutting required for stencil making.
- ◆ **Drop Cloth** – Plastic or canvas drop cloths or tarps protect the ground from dripping paint. We recommend securing a canvas drop cloth in place on the surface of the lift or scaffolding as they provide greater friction, and are safer than the plastic drop cloths when working up high.
- ◆ **Chalk Reel** – These make very long straight lines.
- ◆ **Yard Stick** – Useful for making shorter straight lines.
- ◆ **Sidewalk Chalk** – Allows you to sketch out design elements.
- ◆ **Garbage Bags** – Sturdy trash bags handle used plastic cups and brushes.

## PROJECT ROLL OUT

**Identify mural location:** The preferred location for the main mural is the local water tank. Their large size, prominent location, and clear connection to local water resources make them the perfect canvas for this project. If the water tank is not the best option for your community, consider other locations throughout town.

You may need to obtain permission from the owner or the utility if you want to paint the water tank. Provide the utility partner with information on the motivation behind the Water is Life project and show photos of previous murals.

**Identify a lead artist:** The Water is Life project is community-based and tied closely with local tradition, so it's important that the lead artist be a community member, a Tribal member living outside of the community, or someone who will be able to connect with the community.

Here are some things to consider when selecting a lead artist:

- A local artist or Tribal member with experience in mural creation
- An interested local artist without mural experience who can partner with a muralist who offers guidance on executing murals
- A professional Native artist from outside the community with proven experience in mural making
- An individual willing to be designated as a mural lead to facilitate a community participatory mural by following the Youth Mural Activity Guide

Artists are responsible for attending the Visioning Meetings, creating a design and approval, purchasing all necessary supplies, providing mentorship to a local apprentice artist, and completing the mural by a designated day and time.

Determining how much to pay an artist for a mural can be tricky. Some quick online research suggests \$10-\$30 per square foot. On water tanks, murals can be 24 feet by 30 feet and larger, or over 700 square feet. That could mean, travel and supplies included, a suggested value of \$7,200-\$36,000 depending on the detail of design and the skill of the artist. Artist expenses to consider include their artwork created, travel, lodging, per diem, and equipment and materials.

With all expenses considered, a range of \$8,500 - \$10,500 should be budgeted for each mural. For previous projects, some communities paid artists:

- ◆ Provided scaffolding or lift necessary to access the work space between \$0-\$1,200
- ◆ Travel which included two trips between \$1,200-\$2,400
- ◆ Artist's work \$5,000
- ◆ Lodging \$400-\$1,000
- ◆ Per diem \$400-\$525 total
- ◆ Materials up to \$1,000



Two Chief Guns by Lauren Monroe and Andrew Morrison, Browning, MT.

**Identify an apprentice artist:** Murals are a lot of work, and few artists can complete one in a week without some support. The creation of the main mural presents an excellent opportunity for young artists from the community to work with and learn from an experienced mentor.

Local apprentice artists are especially important when the artist is visiting from outside the community. The apprentice artist can also advise the lead artist on culturally appropriate colors and symbols and assist with language translation.

Speak with local art teachers or youth club leaders for recommendations if you need help identifying an apprentice artist. Teenagers in high school or middle school can make excellent assistants. Be sure to provide the apprentice artist with an honorarium of \$500 to thank them for their time and contribution.

**Secure equipment:** Artists may need scaffolding or mechanical lifts to access the surface they will paint. Unlike ladders, this equipment provides the artist with the surface area needed to work comfortably and organize painting supplies. Whenever possible, mechanical lifts are preferred over scaffolding because they are more stable and easier to move. Lifts can be easily leveled and can adjust to uneven terrain better than scaffolding. It is recommended to secure a lift or scaffold at least two weeks to a month before painting will begin. Check within your community to see if you can borrow or rent a lift. Schools, housing organizations, city administrations, and local businesses are all potential sources. Lifts can be rented in most cities and delivered to remote sites.

If you rent a lift, remember the ground below the mural space is not flat flooring. Find an all-terrain or rough-terrain version with good tires and four-wheel drive. Ensure the lift is sized to allow the artist to easily reach the highest section of the mural. For example, if you are painting a 32-foot water tank, you'll want a lift that extends to 28 feet or higher.

If you can't gain access to a lift, scaffolding is the next best option. Scaffolding is often available within a community and can also be rented. However, scaffolding requires a flat and even surface in order to stand with stability. You may need to level out the ground below the tank with shovels and lay plywood down to form a flat base for the scaffolding. In order for scaffolding to be safe, be sure it is assembled correctly and completely with cross bars in place.

## FACILITATION

The project team facilitates the Visioning Meeting, provides artist support, and helps integrate the apprentice artist(s).

The artist will need support with:

- Driving – If the artists have come in from out of town, they will need help getting around town.
- Painting assistance – If apprentice artists aren't available, project team members can assist with painting.
- Food and drinks – Bring food and drinks to the mural site to make sure the artist(s) is hydrated and well fed.

## FOLLOW UP

After the mural is complete, create a handout or poster recapping the Water is Life project and providing the lead artist's description of the design. This could be included as an informational insert with the water/sewer bill, shared on social media, or posted around town.



# YOUTH MURAL PROJECT

## PURPOSE

The youth art project engages young people in the excitement and conversation about water and creates an opportunity for them to learn more about their water culture from elders. When creating their mural, young people do exactly what the professional artist does: create their own collaborative public work of art that tells a piece of the story of their traditional ties to water.

## PREP WORK

- **Identify mural location:** Public art is meant to be seen! Visibility and access is key when identifying a location for the youth mural. Try to find a prominent location within the community where everyone can admire this meaningful contribution.

There are a couple of options for making a mural space accessible to young people, even the tiniest ones. Two approaches that have been successful were to simply paint a short, but wide mural along the bottom of a wall or water tank or to paint on canvases or plywood or something that can be mounted in its final location.

- **Reach out to elders, storytellers:** Invite a local Elder to share traditional stories connected to water with the kids. The kids can use their imaginations to sketch characters from those stories. Their sketches can be incorporated into the mural design, tying the mural closely to local water culture and giving youth the chance to share these community stories with others.

The involvement of Elders and the stories they share add cultural context to the mural. Early on into the project, reach out to respected Elders and storytellers in your community, and invite them to share their water cultural knowledge with the kids as part of the project.

- **Determine who will participate:** The number of hands involved, as well as the ages of the artists, will influence the design and facilitation of mural creation. Depending on the size of the mural space, it is easiest to work with 5-10 kids at a time, grouped by age when possible. Each group is invited for a separate painting session. Work with schools and youth clubs to coordinate painting sessions with teachers and supervisors. If weather permits, work outdoors in one-hour painting sessions open to all interested youth. Sessions coordinated with an existing youth organization such as a school or clubs are more manageable. Reach out to potential community partners who can connect you with youth and provide additional supervision during the mural-making process.

- **Designing the mural:** Young people tend to take a refreshingly uninhibited approach to art and this results in beautifully creative murals. Provide an outline and basic instructions for young artists but leave room for them to go outside the lines and exercise artistic freedom.

**The design should be tied back to at least one project goal:** maximizing the benefits of safe water use, improving sustainability of local water resources, and/or preserving local water culture. Incorporating images inspired by traditional water stories is one way to connect the project back to local culture.



## MATERIALS

- ◆ **Paper** – If you plan to incorporate the storytelling activity, provide kids with paper so they can sketch visions from the stories on
- ◆ **Markers** – These are for sketching story visions/ characters to inspire mural design
- ◆ **Canvas or Plywood** – If not painting directly on a wall, plywood is cheaper and easier
- ◆ **Primer**
- ◆ **Water-based Exterior Paint** in semi-gloss or flat
- ◆ **Brushes** – Multi-packs of 1” and 2” brushes that can be thrown away when you can’t wash them fast enough
- ◆ **Paint Pour Spouts** – Makes pouring into plastic cups much cleaner
- ◆ **Plastic Cups** – Pour and mix paint in plastic cups, then give each painter a cup
- ◆ **Disposable Gloves**
- ◆ **Spray Paint** – Older teens are great with stencils and spray paint
- ◆ **Disposable Dust Masks** – It’s important to work in a well-ventilated area when working with spray paint
- ◆ **Poster or Foam Board** – Foam board is ideal for creating stencils you’d like to use multiple times. Poster board also works well, but it breaks down much more quickly than foam board
- ◆ **Utility Knife** – for stencil making
- ◆ **Drop Cloth** – Plastic or canvas drop cloths or tarps protect the ground from dripping paint
- ◆ **Old T-shirts**
- ◆ **Garbage Bags**

## OUTREACH

**Create Marketing Materials:** If you will be working with the youth at a particular school or club, there may not be a need for marketing. If the activity will be open to all community youth who aren’t affiliated with a school or youth program, you will need to get the information to them. It’s also great for the entire community to know how the youth are contributing to the project.

Offer the youth mural project as part of Water Week and include the youth mural on the Water Week flyer. Make sure to include the following information in your marketing material:

- Event time
- Event location
- Who is invited
- What they need to bring (ex: clothes they don’t mind getting paint on)

Share the event through the most popular methods for your community. A few ideas for sharing include running an ad in a local paper or newsletter, posting the info or flyer on social media, announcing the project on the CB/VHF radio or local radio/TV station and posting posters in prominent locations throughout town.

The more youth who are engaged in the mural project, the more connected they will feel to the artwork and the other activities during Water Week.



## FACILITATION

### Tips for facilitating the youth mural:

- Tip 1:** Provide general outlines and instructions, and leave room for deviation and creative expression.
- Tip 2:** Don't worry about fine detail in the design, murals are viewed from a distance.
- Tip 3:** Choose a limited color palette. Select 3-5 colors that work well together to create a harmonious, unified and interesting mural.

**Schedule:** The ideal youth mural schedule spreads the creation out over three days. Here's an example of how you can break down activities for the mural:

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Elder storytelling activity. Kids sketch from stories. Prime the mural space.	Painting Session 1: Create a background layer; this is a good session for young children. Allow time for the background to dry.  Painting Session 2: Add interesting intermediate components such as stencils, patterns, or line work. This is a good session for older youth.  Allow time for drying.  Sketch on outlines of images taken from kids' storytelling activity art.	Painting Session 3: Fill in remaining components. This is good for any age.  Allow time to dry.  Clean up lines and add borders or any finishing touches.  Allow time to dry.

When facilitating a youth mural project, provide an environment that strikes the right balance between structure and artistic freedom.

Additional tips help prepare you and the participating youth to produce great mural:

- ◆ Have materials organized and prepared beforehand (paint, brushes, t-shirts, disposable gloves)
- ◆ Have a place prepared for kids to put materials after they finish painting
- ◆ Have a hand-washing station after they finish painting
- ◆ Have time in between sessions to allow paint to dry and reduce colors from mixing

## FOLLOW UP

Deliver the mural to its final location (if painted on panels/canvas), and hang it in place. Facilitate the youth mural as part of the larger Water Week of activities and have an official reveal and dedication of the youth mural along with the professional mural during the final community celebration. It is good for the youth to have adults show interest in their work.

### Here are a few ideas to follow up the completed project:

- ◆ Write an article with pictures of the finished mural and creative process for the local paper or newsletter
- ◆ Share photos of the finished mural on social media
- ◆ Create a flyer introducing the mural to send out as an insert with the water bill
- ◆ Encourage friends and community members to ask children about the stories behind the mural



Clockwise from top left: Russian Mission, AK; Deering, AK; Browning, MT

# WATER BINGO

Water bingo is similar to regular bingo, but with words or numbers representing answers to water related questions in place of the usual numbers on the bingo cards. The idea for water bingo was inspired by the popularity of bingo as a pastime in rural communities.

The purpose of water bingo is to create opportunities to share water and water cultural knowledge with the community. The competitive nature of bingo inspires engagement and directs attention towards the facilitator. The questions are best when tailored to the community. Although questions have short, one or two word answers, there is an opportunity to talk more about the knowledge behind the answers during or after the game.

## PREP WORK

□ **Coming up with questions:** The educational value of water bingo depends upon the content of the questions developed. A bingo card usually has 25 spaces including a free space right in the middle. We recommend creating about 40 questions. Questions should be relevant to water, and especially, to local water culture. Questions should have answers with one or two words or numbers that can easily fit on a bingo card square. Talk with local elders about the effects of seasonal changes in water on subsistence practices, traditional names for local places, and the inclusion of water in ceremony or prayer. This research will help you develop questions tailored to your community. Here are a few examples of local water culture related questions developed for a specific community in northwest Alaska:

- **Q:** In the summer of 1974-1975 an experimental commercial fishery was conducted in Deering, AK selling which type of fish?  
**A:** Chum salmon
- **Q:** Although they haven't been seen in recent years, elders recall seeing up to 50 pairs of which type of bird in the area surrounding Russian Mission, AK?  
**A:** Swans
- **Q:** What food source is usually collected after the first rain?  
**A:** Eggs

### General water related questions can be incorporated into Water Bingo:

- **Q:** On average, how much total rain (or snow), in inches falls in our community?  
**A:** (Statistics for any community can be found on City Stats.)
- **Q:** What percentage of our body is made of water?  
**A:** About 65%
- **Q:** What percentage of our blood is made of water?  
**A:** About 83%
- **Q:** What percentage of all the water on earth is fresh water (not salt water)?  
**A:** 3%
- **Q:** How much water is required to produce [item]?  
**A:** (Find out how much water is required to produce a variety of food, energy and other items at [National Geographic: The Hidden Water We Use.](#))

## MATERIALS

- ◆ Bingo cards
- ◆ List of questions and answers for facilitator to read from
- ◆ Something to mark bingo cards with (crayons, pencils, chips, etc.)
- ◆ Prizes (optional)
- ◆ Snacks (optional)

## PREP WORK CONTINUED

- ❑ **Creating bingo cards:** There is an array of bingo card generators available on the Internet. [BingoBaker.com](http://BingoBaker.com) is a website that helps find and customize bingo cards. The lifetime membership option can create hundreds of random, well-formatted bingo cards. The free version of this generator allows you to create up to eight cards at a time. Print two-sided cards so everyone can play two rounds.
- ❑ **Collecting prizes:** Prizes have a special way of motivating people to show up for an event and are a great tool for maximizing participation! Make it an all ages event and select prizes for adults and children. Prizes may be purchased or donated. Look for prizes that tie into water and its related health benefits such as watercolor paints, little pills that grow into sponge animals when placed in water, soaps, and hand towels. Also try to provide some grand prizes such as a free month of water service.
- ❑ **Identifying a venue:** A good Bingo venue is simple, it only needs sufficient seating and a place up front for the host to call out the questions.

## FACILITATION

Water bingo facilitation can be simple or can be enhanced with stories. The facilitator will have the question-and-answer sheet and will read questions, then await the participants' responses. Once the participants have answered the question correctly, the facilitator has the opportunity to go into more depth on the answer. Consider the example question posed earlier:

Q: In the summer of 1974–1975 an experimental commercial fishery was conducted in Deering, AK selling which type of fish?

A: Chum salmon

After asking this question, the facilitator can speak on the history of the fishery – what it was like working there, whether it was successful or not and why, what became of it. The facilitator may not want to expand on the answers to all questions (as this would make for a very long game), but expanding upon a portion can increase the educational impact of the activity.

In regular bingo, users must have a number that falls within a specified letter row in order to mark off a square. Allow participants to mark the correct answers anywhere on the card without designating a column. The more total questions you have, the longer it will take participants to win.

If you have enough prizes, you can also do a blackout round where a grand prize is given to the first person to mark off every square on their card.



Water Bingo in Deering, MT

Water Bingo in Russian Mission, AK

# WATER TREATMENT PLANT TOURS

One of the primary goals of the Water is Life program is to increase sustainability of Tribal water infrastructure. Without the support of customers, it would be nearly impossible to maintain water and sanitation infrastructure. One way to improve customer perception and support of local infrastructure is to help customers understand how the water system works and how it's maintained by the utility. Water system tours give community members the opportunity to start at the source and learn about where their drinking water comes from, how it becomes drinkable, what makes it safe to drink, and how it is delivered to homes.

## PREP WORK

This activity requires a close collaboration between the project team and the utility staff. Connect with the local utility manager and water system operators to introduce the Water is Life project and gain an overview of the system. You will rely on the utility staff to lead the water system or water plant tour, so coordinate a date and time for the tour most convenient for them.

Create a graphic to accompany the tour. In order to create this type of graphic get to know the system to determine where the tour will focus. If the system is small and near the water plant, then a plant tour can be conducted. If the system is spread out and contains multiple buildings and different facilities and water sources, you may need to include a few different locations or do a whole system tour.

Set up a time with an operator to go over a tour plan in detail. During this meeting, gather the information and images needed to create an interesting infographic. Bring a camera and notebook, and ask the operator to explain the process of making water, starting at the source and ending at the point where the wastewater returns to the environment. Along the way, take notes and photos of primary system components such as pumps, heat exchangers, boilers, filters, tanks, sewage lagoons, etc. that you may include in your educational material.

Create marketing materials. Include the water plant or water system tour activity as part of Water Week so that the event is advertised on the Water Week flyer.

Make sure to include the following information in your marketing material:

- Event time
- Event location
- Who is invited
- What they need to bring (ex: clothes they don't mind getting dirty, closed toed shoes)

**Conduct outreach:** Once marketing materials have been created, start getting the word out! Share the event through the most popular methods for your community. The more community members engage in the water plant and system tours, the greater the collective knowledge. And more people will be aware of the hard work that goes into providing this service.



## FACILITATION

It's important at least one operator facilitates the utility tour. The work that operators do is complex, varied and requires immense problem solving abilities and an incredible array of technical skills. Many operators are on-call, are under-appreciated, and endure stress because they are passionate about their job of providing safe water for their community. It's important that customers have the opportunity to hear from the operators about what they do. This can provide an idea of what customer water bills pay for.

Facilitation of the tour is straightforward. Utility staff can run groups of 5–15 people at a time depending upon the size of the facilities. The tour could include information on the following:

### System history

- Water source(s)
- The treatment process
- Is the water filtered? How?
- What chemicals are added to the water and why?
- How are chemical quantities determined?
- Water heating (cold climate communities)
- Types of heating present: electric, boilers, recovered heat, etc.
- How is water heated?
- How much fuel does the plant use monthly for heating?

### Distribution

- How does water get delivered to homes?
- How old are water/sewer mains?
- What pumps are involved (circulating, pressure, etc.)?

### Wastewater

- What happens to water after it leaves a home?
- How does a sewage lagoon work?

### Quality assurance and monitoring

- What kind of testing is done to ensure that water is safe to drink?
- Who tests the water?
- How the system is monitored (temperatures, levels, etc.)

### Responsibilities of the job

- What does a typical workday look like for you?
- What do you do if there is leak in the pipeline?
- What are some of the unique challenges of the job?
- What kind of training have you had to go through?
- What do you enjoy about the job?

## FOLLOW-UP

The graphics created for the tour can make great informational bill inserts. Send them to customers to keep them informed. You could also run them in the local newsletter or share them on social media to take advantage of the many avenues for information sharing.



Sean Bad Bear, water plant operator on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

# STORYTELLING

Storytelling is crucial knowledge sharing from generation to generation. The storytelling event offers community members of all ages an opportunity to enjoy traditional stories related to water.

## PURPOSE

Listening to traditional stories about water can help community members reflect on the ways in which water is part of their culture. The purpose of the storytelling is twofold: to facilitate the opportunity for community members' enjoyment of traditional water stories, and to engage and pay respect to elders and culture bearers who carry the stories with them.

## PREP WORK

- ❑ **Reach out to storytellers:** Elders are keepers of cultural knowledge. Reach out to Elders and ask if they would be willing to share stories they know about water with the community. If they agree, ask them where they would like to present and whether or not they have any needs as far as venue access and accommodation. Make an effort to compensate elders for their time by giving them a small honorarium or gift of thanks.
- ❑ **Determine whether or not to record:** Ask for permission first and let them know how you plan to record, what the recordings will be used for, and who would have access to them. If you didn't receive permission to record the stories, consider asking if you could write the stories down.
- ❑ **Consider how children will be integrated into the event:** Children are present in most parts of daily life, and it's important they hear traditional stories. However, young children can have shorter attention spans and lots of energy and can interrupt the stories. Remind everyone to behave and show respect to Elders.
- ❑ **Identify an event venue:** For the storytelling event, look for a venue that is spacious, comfortable, and easily accessible with ample seating. If your Water Week weather allows, consider outdoor venues. Choose a venue where Elders will be well accommodated and designate seating for Elders.
- ❑ **Marketing design:** It's important to get the word out about the storytelling event to as many people as possible so everyone has the opportunity to hear the stories.
- ❑ **Outreach:** Once place and time have been identified, start getting the word out! Share the event with the community through the most popular methods for your community.

## FACILITATION

This event is simple to facilitate. Set up seating, shade tents, snacks, beverages and the sound system beforehand. Once the event begins, after an opening prayer (if this is customary in your community), and an introduction of the event and storyteller(s), the event can be handed over to the storyteller. Communicate with the storyteller before the event about how much time they should spend speaking. Agree upon a way to let them know when their time begins to run short to avoid interrupting them when they're speaking.

T-Shirt screen-printing when held in conjunction with the storytelling, this event can work well. Folks may drop off t-shirts to have them printed and allowed to dry as they enjoy the stories.

## MATERIALS

- ◆ Seating
- ◆ Shade tents if outdoors (optional)
- ◆ Microphone/speakers depending upon event size and venue (optional)
- ◆ Snacks and water (optional)



Northern Cheyenne Elder Tony Prairiebear during a storytelling event.

# PHOTOGRAPHY

## PURPOSE

The photo exhibition is a visual exploration of cultural ties to water and the ways in which water connects all living things. The photos that result allow folks to enjoy the beauty of water and reflect upon connections to water through the eyes and lenses of their family, friends and neighbors.

## PREP WORK

- **Choose a theme or categories:** The theme or categories chosen for the photo exhibition will help to shape participant and audience experience. The theme can encourage deeper exploration of the interrelation of culture, water, and all living things. A single theme could simply be photography showing how water is part of local tradition or culture.

If you would like to provide multiple categories, here are more ideas:

- How water brings people together or connects all living things
  - How we protect our water
  - Portraits of the people who work to make sure we have the water we need
  - The vital infrastructure that brings water to our homes
  - You can designate this event as an exhibition or show or as competition.
- **Decide who will participate:** With project leads, decide who the exhibition should be open to. Will everyone participate or will you focus on a specific population such as students in school? Are you limited by display space or funding to print submitted photos? If so, you may want to put a cap on the number of submissions that you accept.
    - Determine how submissions will be made, such as email?
    - How many photos will each participant be able to submit?
    - What should be included with each submission?
      - ie: Participant name, age, title and caption for the photo
    - How will the photos be submitted?
  - **Choose prizes:** If you decide to do a competition rather than just an exhibition, include prize information on the marketing materials. It will be necessary to designate prizes ahead of time.
  - **Identify a venue to display photos:** If you are hosting a photo competition, a physical photo exhibition is optional but may be appreciated by participants and community members. A public location such as a community hall, heritage center or school where people might enjoy the photos are all great ideas.
  - **Develop marketing materials:** Once you've ironed out the details, you'll want to advertise for the competition. Marketing materials for a photography competition should include the following information:
    - Competition start and end date
    - Theme or categories of competition
    - Who is invited to participate
    - How many submissions each participant may enter
    - How to submit photos
    - Prizes
    - Exhibition date and location
  - **Disclaimers such as the following:** "By entering the contest, participants grant the \_\_\_Tribe license to display, distribute and reproduce works of the entries. Any photos of people and minors will require a completed and signed media authorization form."

- ❑ **Conduct outreach:** Once marketing materials are created, get the word out! Share the event through the most popular methods for your community. The more community members participate in the competition or exhibition, the greater the potential for reflection and raising awareness surrounding water.
- ❑ **Identify judges:** Recruit judges to help choose the winners of the competition. This could include local art teachers, the lead and apprentice artists, and project team members. Agree on criteria for judgment. This could be as simple as everyone choosing their favorites or could include a more in-depth process of scoring photos based on more specific criteria:
  - Originality
  - Creativity
  - Composition
  - Color balance, lighting, exposure and focus
  - Adherence to theme
  - Inspirational power
- ❑ **Print photos/photo books:** Photos can be printed for display in various sizes through any local drug store or big box store. There are a handful of websites online that make photo book printing easy.
- ❑ **Display photos:** You can search online for many creative ways to display photos. You can create an affordable mat/frame effect by gluing photos to a piece of card stock.

## FACILITATION

The majority of the work involved in the photo competition/exhibition lies in coordinating prep work, setting up an avenue for submission, and determining how photos will be shared. The competition/exhibition itself may be combined with another event such as storytelling or the community celebration. You may wish to hold a discussion on the photographs and how they speak to traditional and modern cultural ties to water. You may invite participants to share their perspectives and the stories behind their photographs.

## FOLLOW UP

If you print a photo book or calendar as part of the photo competition/exhibition, you may wish to print some extra copies to make available for sale after the event.



Deering, AK



Russian Mission, AK

# SCREEN PRINTING

Screen-printing is a fun method for creating t-shirts with a local design on-site. A local artist or the lead artist can come up with a design for the Water is Life project which is then made into a reusable screen can be created to hand print multiple shirts. This activity is an interesting method to give community members another way to connect to water, culture, and the Water is Life project.

## PURPOSE

Screen-printing provides an opportunity to highlight a unique piece of local artwork. It allows everyone interested to create a keepsake from the project and can serve as marketing for the project to carry on the project's message once participants begin wearing the printed t-shirts.

## PROJECT PREP WORK

- Come up with a design** – For this activity, an artist will need to come up with a design that displays your community's impression of the Water is Life project. This is a great opportunity to collaborate with a local artist.
- Have screen created** – Local print shops can turn digital images into screens for printing on shirts.
- Purchase materials** – Below is a list of the materials used for screen-printing:

## MATERIALS

- ◆ **Screen** – Purchase the screen from a local print shop. Have two screens made so you could do two different colors of prints without having to wash the screens as often. Each screen cost about \$50.
- ◆ **Ink** – Use water-based screen printing ink. White and/or black are your best bet.
- ◆ **Paint Scraper/spatula** – This is to take ink from the jar/container to place and spread evenly on one side of the screen.
- ◆ **Squeegee** – these spread the ink evenly across and push it through the screen onto the shirt. The squeegee should be an inch or so longer than the design on either side.
- ◆ **Spray Bottle** – When you notice the prints beginning to lighten or lose detail, you likely have some drying ink stuck in the screen. Alleviate this issue by spraying the screen lightly with water. After you spray, don't wipe the screen. Wiping the screen while it is not pressed against a shirt could result in excess ink on the clean side and will make unwanted marks on the next shirt that you print.
- ◆ **Board** – You'll need a section of a board, about 12" x 18" piece, or something solid to put inside the t-shirt that you're printing on. This provides a stable surface for printing and prevents the ink from going all the way to the backside of the shirt.
- ◆ **Clothesline** – After applying the print to the shirt, give it time to dry. Set up a clothesline around the printing station so that those participating could hang their shirts to dry while participating in another activity. Shirts should be ready after about 20 minutes.
- ◆ **Clothespins** – Hang printed shirts on the clothesline.
- ◆ **Iron** – Heat helps set the ink. It is recommended to toss shirts into a dryer on high heat after they've finished air-drying. An iron also works, just remember to iron the t-shirt inside out or place another piece of fabric between the iron and the ink.
- ◆ **Paper Towels or Rags** – The squeegee and the paint scraper/spatula will need to be cleaned often so have rags or paper towels on hand.
- ◆ **Drop Cloth** – This can be anything to cover the table that you'll be working on. There will be a lot of setting down of inky tools, so the cloth will be ideal to protect your workspace from ink.
- ◆ **Garbage Bags**
- ◆ **T-shirts** – Purchase t-shirts in a variety of sizes to give out to participants or purchase them and sell them at cost or with a slight mark-up for fundraising. Participants can also bring their own shirts to be printed.

## FACILITATION

Hold the screen-printing activity with another activity such as a storytelling event or community cookout/celebration. Set up a screen-printing station to the side of the main event. This has the advantage of attracting more people and gives folks something else to do as they wait for their shirts to air dry.

There are many instructional videos online to walk you through the screen-printing process. Try out the directions listed below:

1. Insert the piece of wood/board inside of the T-shirt and center the area where you'd like to apply the print.
2. Place the screen on the T-shirt and center it.
3. Grab the ink color you'd like to use and use a small paint scraper to apply it to one edge of the design on the screen as shown in the above photo. You'll quickly figure out the amount of ink you need to apply each time once you've done a few prints.
4. Have someone assist with holding the screen down firmly upon the shirt.
5. Take the squeegee and set it beside the ink to the outside of the design. Apply pressure to the squeegee, and use it to pull the ink across the screen. Repeat this motion, lifting and pulling the squeegee across the design while applying pressure four to five times to really push the ink through the screen.
6. Set the squeegee aside and lift the screen straight up and off the T-shirt. The excess ink that remains on the squeegee can be re-used on the next print.
7. Remove the board from inside of the T-shirt and hang the shirt up to allow it to air dry.
8. Set up the next T-shirt. Use the paint scraper to remove the excess ink from the squeegee and place it on the screen.

Repeat the above steps until you begin to notice the prints getting lighter or losing detail. Then use the spray bottle to apply a thin coat of water to the inky side of the screen. Do not wipe the screen after spraying as you'll risk pushing ink through to the clean side resulting in unwanted marks on your next print. We would spray the screen between every one to four shirts. More frequency was necessary the longer we used the screen.

Once you've finished, clean the screen thoroughly with water. It can be nearly impossible to remove the ink from the screen if it is allowed to dry completely.

Be sure to inform folks that they can increase the durability of their newly printed shirts by running them through the dryer on high heat or ironing them without bringing the iron in direct contact with the ink. You may also incorporate ironing into your activity process.

You may wish to print additional shirts to share or sell later on to those who weren't able to make the event.



T-shirt screen printing  
in Lame Deer, MT.

## COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

The community celebration is held on the final day of Water Week and ties together all of the Water is Life project activities. The artwork is officially “revealed” and dedicated. Project team members and local leaders share thoughts on the importance of water culture within the community and recognize those who strive to protect local water resources and provide clean water for the people.

### PURPOSE

The celebration at the end of water week is a time to emphasize reflection on water culture, celebrate traditional ties to water, and recognize and strengthen ties in the community. The celebration welcomes everyone to come together and enjoy a meal. This is an ideal opportunity for the artist to address the community and explain the design for the artwork. It is a time to recognize those who work or have worked in the past to ensure the sustainability of Tribal water resources. It is also a time for local leaders to speak about the next steps forward concerning any local water issues.

### MATERIALS

Host a cookout – everyone loves food, and it’s a great way to attract attendees. Below is an example purchase list from our last community celebration in Lame Deer. We planned for roughly 100 people. Check locally for items you may be able to borrow rather than buying disposable versions whenever possible.

- ◆ Tables
- ◆ Chairs
- ◆ Shade tents
- ◆ Grill
- ◆ Grilling utensils
- ◆ Microphone/PA system
- ◆ Paper plates (120)
- ◆ Paper cups (120)
- ◆ Napkins
- ◆ Water cooler
- ◆ Ice
- ◆ Water
- ◆ Ground bison or beef burgers (50 lbs) – We followed an online a suggestion of  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb ground meat per person. The large frozen packs of burgers from Costco have also worked well.
- ◆ Serving trays (3-4) – We just grab a few foil trays to hold burgers and fixings.
- ◆ Serving utensils (4) – Tongs probably work best
- ◆ Hamburger buns (120)
- ◆ Condiments – Ketchup (2), Mustard (1), Relish (1). We got the Costco large size combo pack of condiments.
- ◆ Tomatoes
- ◆ Onions
- ◆ Lettuce
- ◆ Chips



Community celebration in Deering, AK.

## PROJECT ROLL OUT

- ❑ **Open nominations for folks to recognize:** We have yet to visit a community that isn't home to passionate water champions working in some capacity to protect local water resources or to provide safe water to the community. This work is often overlooked, so the Water is Life community celebration is an ideal time to recognize them.
- ❑ **Order plaques and print certificates of recognition:** During the celebration, present a plaque of recognition to the entity in charge of the water system such as a utility manager or city administrator. An award could be presented to the Tribe and anyone managing local water resources. A certificate of recognition can be given to all other nominees.
- ❑ **Create marketing materials:** Include the Community Celebration activity as part of Water Week. Make sure to include the event time and location in your marketing material.

Once marketing materials are created, get the word out! Share the event through the most popular methods for your community. The more community members present at the community celebration, the greater the collective awareness of the work that's been done and the work left to do in connection to local water resources and infrastructure.

## FACILITATION

Hold the celebration by the artwork if possible. If the location is not easily accessible, hold the celebration in a central community gathering space.

The final celebration is the perfect opportunity to snap a community photo with the new artwork as well.

When people arrive, serve lunch and begin the celebration. Begin with a prayer, followed by some words by local Tribal leaders and project team members recapping the work that's been done. This often involves reiterating the value of sharing and maintaining water culture and reflecting on next steps for the community. Provide time for the artist to speak about their work. Conclude the event with a presentation of plaques and certificates of registration, describing each nominee's work.



Water is Life celebration in Lame Deer, MT.

# Acknowledgments

The National Tribal Water Center would like to recognize and offer our sincere gratitude to the five communities who participated in the development of the Water is Life project – the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine community of the Fort Belknap, MT, the Yup'ik community of Russian Mission, AK, the Iñupiat community of Deering, AK, and the Northern Cheyenne community of Lame Deer, MT, and the Blackfeet Nation community of Browning, MT. We would like to thank our partners at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Health Studies Section for the ongoing financial, technical and moral support that they've provided over the course of the project's evolution from idea to fully formed curriculum. We would also like to thank the Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative for the support they provided in carrying out the project in two communities in Alaska.



# Appendix A

## WATER IS LIFE PROJECT CHECKLIST

This outlines the major tasks in order to facilitate a smooth and effective Water is Life outreach project. The tasks are organized by when they should be completed, which may help you to prioritize.

This resource does not include tasks associated with getting your project funded.

Visioning Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Water Week Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### TO DO 3-4 MONTHS PRIOR TO WATER WEEK (BY \_\_\_\_\_).

Task	Completed	Responsible Party
Designate roles (project lead, activity development lead, utility representative, communications lead, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Identify and reach out to lead artist.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Initiate contracting agreement with lead artist.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Clarify project objectives, what you hope the community will gain through participation in the project.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Select Visioning Meeting and Water Week Dates.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Come up with a list of activities you'd like to further develop to offer during Water Week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Identify the space where the main mural will be painted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Obtain any permission needed from the owner of the structure where the main mural will be painted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	



**TO DO 1-3 MONTHS TO WATER WEEK (BY \_\_\_\_\_).**

The details of the following tasks will depend on the specific activities you choose to offer during Water Week. Refer to the individual activity guides for more detailed, activity specific checklists as well as guidance on how to tailor the activities to local culture and project objectives.

Task	Completed	Responsible Party
Tailor chosen Water Week activities to local culture and project objectives.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Identify venues for all Water Week events.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Create a schedule for Water Week activities, designate times.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Verify that the lead artist has travel plans locked in for Water Week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Identify facilitators for each Water Week activity to be offered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Create marketing materials (flyer, brochure, ad in local paper, radio announcement, etc.) to advertise the visioning meeting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Begin advertising for Water Week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reserve a lift (preferred) or scaffolding for use in creation of the main mural.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reserve any equipment available in town that will be needed for Water Week (grill, PA system, tables, chairs, shade tents, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Initiate photograph competition if this exhibition will be part of Water Week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Identify volunteers from throughout the community who may assist in Water Week activity set-up, facilitation and clean-up.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Create a pre/post survey to assess project impact.	<input type="checkbox"/>	



To do 2-4 weeks prior to the Visioning Meeting (by \_\_\_\_\_).

Refer to the Visioning Session Activity Guide for more details on the prep work that goes into the visioning meeting.

Task	Completed	Responsible Party
Ensure that contract agreement with lead artist is signed and in effect.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Verify that the lead artist will be available to attend the Visioning Meeting and that they have their travel plans locked in.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Designate a lead facilitator for the Visioning Meeting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If providing a meal, determine how many people you will be able to feed (all attendees, first 50/75/100, etc.) and determine whether you will need to provide meal tickets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If providing a meal, coordinate catering agreement.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If providing a meal and using meal tickets, create tickets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Identify venue for visioning meeting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Create marketing materials (flyer, brochure, ad in local paper, radio announcement, etc.) to advertise the Visioning Meeting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Begin advertising for the Visioning Meeting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Purchase in supplies (pens, paper, etc.) or raffle prizes needed for Visioning Meeting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

To do 2 weeks prior to the Visioning Meeting (by \_\_\_\_\_).

Task	Completed	Responsible Party
Create a comprehensive list of materials needed for each activity that will be offered (see example purchase list on page XX and materials lists in individual activity guides).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Purchase all materials needed for Water Week activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Confirm any equipment rentals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Confirm attendance of all facilitators.	<input type="checkbox"/>	



# WATER IS LIFE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

## PROJECT TEAM

### Project Lead

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Activity Development Lead

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Communications Lead

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Lead Utility Representative

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Community Artistic Lead

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Lead Artist (if known at this point)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Primary Project Objectives

Through participation in this project, we hope that our community members will gain:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Project Dates

Visioning Meeting (1 day, 3-4 weeks prior to Water Week): \_\_\_\_\_

Water Week (5-6 day range): \_\_\_\_\_

Activities to offer during Water Week (assume Visioning Meeting, main mural and final cultural celebration are already included):

1. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

# Deering Community Vision Meeting

**Water is Life Mural Visioning  
Dinner and Door Prizes  
Thursday, June 9th from 5:30-7 p.m.  
Deering City Office  
Who's invited: Open to the Public**

The National Tribal Water Center invites you to a community vision meeting to discuss and pass on your traditional values and beliefs surrounding water. Andrew Morrison, a nationally recognized Native artist, is going to attend to partner with local talent to design a mural for the water storage tank that will represent and celebrate your water culture.

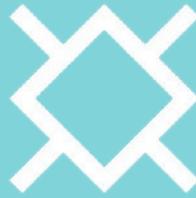
*Please bring stories, photos, and memories to help describe Deering's traditional culture and water values.*

If you have any questions, please call James Temte at the National Tribal Water Center (907) 729-3749 or Marleah LaBelle at the Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (907) 729-3635.





*mahpe e-vóto'estaé'eneonéve (Water giving life, life - giving, enliven)*



# Water is Life Water Week Activities

## Tuesday, June 27

- Water Storytelling and Youth Art Project, 1-3 p.m., Boys & Girls Club
- Water Storytelling, for all ages, 6-7:30 p.m., Dull Knife Lawn
- Screen Printing Water is Life T-Shirts, featuring the design shown on this flier. Bring your own T-shirt or fabric to have printed on, 5-7 p.m., Dull Knife Lawn

## Wednesday, June 28

- Youth Mural Painting, youth ages 8 years and under, 1-3 p.m., Boys & Girls Club
- Storytelling and Symbolism, create a T-shirt with Tony Prairiebear, for all ages, 1-5 p.m., NCT DEP NR Conference Room
- Spring Clean Up, for 18 and up, 6-7:30 p.m., meet at Dull Knife Lawn

## Thursday, June 29

- Youth Mural Painting, youth ages 13 years and up, 10-11:30 a.m., Boys & Girls Club
- Youth Mural Painting, youth ages 9-12 year olds, 1-3 p.m., Boys & Girls Club
- Water source and facility tour, for all ages, 3-4 p.m., NCUC Building

## Friday, June 30

- Water Walk, walk to the water tank for the official reveal of the mural, 10-11 a.m., meet at Tribal Office Parking Lot
- Water Culture Celebration and Cookout, 12-1:30 p.m., Tribal Office
- Screen Printing Water is Life T-Shirts, featuring the design shown on this flier. Bring your own T-shirt or fabric to have printed on, 12-1:30 p.m., Tribal Office



**Water is Life Project - Fort Belknap**

# **Water Treatment Plant Open House and Dedication**

**Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 1:00 p.m.  
Fort Belknap Water Treatment Plant**



**OPEN TO  
PUBLIC!**



**LUNCH  
PROVIDED**

The National Tribal Water Center invites you to the Ft. Belknap Water Treatment Plant open house and dedication. We will celebrate Fort Belknap's water culture, the traditional values and beliefs surrounding this precious resource. Following the dedication we will be giving tours of the water treatment plant.

Please call James Temte at the National Tribal Water Center [907-729-3600] with any questions.

*Supporting Tribes in their efforts to establish safe and sustainable water - service*



**NTWC**  
National Tribal Water Center



**NTWC**  
*National Tribal Water Center*

National Tribal Water Center  
(907) 729-3635 | [tribalwater.org](http://tribalwater.org)  
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