

MAHKATO ORGANIZATION BUSINESS PLAN

Hans Sageng 9/1/2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Mahkato Organization will be incorporated this year as a charitable non profit to manage a particular fund and conduct activities according to its mission. "Welcome Home," by A White Rainbow ©2016, expresses the nature and mission of that organization, suggests some initial project ideas, and will help to generate the startup capital. A life long vision, prayer, and effort to understand and share this inspiration has now been wrapped up in this book and plan, and has formed a seed ready for a life of its own. The ultimate meaning and value of that vision will become clear as we nurture this seed. With support and participation in Mankato, that essential and universal value will take root in our global community as well.

Copies of Welcome Home are offered for free with the invitation to make an optional donation and/or to purchase additional copies for gifts in order to share this opportunity with friends. Both those donations, and the profit from sales will go to start this new organization. Special edition copies are offered to honor the participants of memorial ceremonies, and more importantly to honor the past generations whose lives and sacrifices we remember with these ceremonies.

Mahkato Organization's mission is to support the Mdewakonton Wacipi, the Reconciliation Pow Wow, and the Reconciliation of All People. That necessarily will go beyond traditional Native American ceremony and culture. There can be no real reconciliation between our people and cultures, short of real change, healing, and a transformation of our humanity as a whole. "Welcome Home" is about welcoming the Dakota people back to their homeland after their persecution and exile. It is also an invitation to all people to recover, reclaim, and assert their humanity and dignity.

The Mahkato Organization support for the Pow Wow and for reconciliation will compliment and cooperate with rather than duplicate or compete with the Mahkato Mdewakonkon Association, the Wacipi itself, or any other existing activity or support. The new organization will use the 501(h) provision to inform and encourage political advocacy, such as "Idle No More," and "DPLA," as well as educational, ceremonial, and service related events and garden projects aside from the Pow Wow activities.

FORMAL PURPOSE OF THE MAHKATO ORGANIZATION:

- to provide cooperative support to the Mdewakonton Association Wacipi, the Reconciliation Pow Wow, and to advance the reconciliation of all people;
- to manage and preserve the resources of the Mahkato Organization to assure perpetual care for memorial and ceremonial initiatives set forth according to the bylaws;
- to support and conduct non-partisan public service, research, education, and informational or ceremonial activities and programs to advance public awareness of our universal interdependence and responsibility to care for each other and the environment;
- to promote universal commitment to non-violent conflict resolution, reconciliation, mutual cooperation, and humanitarian service;
- to build local, national, and global community with respect for and protection of our diverse cultural heritage, personal freedom, and both individual and community civil rights and dignity.

SCOPE AND SCALABILITY:

The organization will recognize, within the stated purpose, a perpetual and comprehensive responsibility and potential, limited only by their imagination, to be realized with whatever resource becomes available. Each project and the organization as a whole will adapt according to whatever level of support and participation is forthcoming from the community. However, care will be taken to provide for follow-through or perpetual maintenance of any project commitment. Need for those provisions will be anticipated and documented along with the decision to support each initiative.

For instance, if there is only enough to buy a few trees for a ceremonial planting, then enough will also be reserved for replacement trees in case of early failure, and a long term plan will be in place to care for and protect them. **I would call that a complete success even with no additional sales or donations;** however, provisions will also be made to assure that the organization itself will continue for the foreseeable future. In the other extreme, building a brick and mortar cultural community center with multiple programs would require documented assurance of legal security in perpetuity, with comprehensive and competent flexible planning of all aspects.

TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF SOME INITIAL PROJECTS, FOR EXAMPLE

- I. Accept seed deposit and residual income from the “Welcome Home” project of Along The Way, and secure those funds to be kept and used for the purposes set forth in the Articles of Incorporation, according to the organization's bylaws.
- II. Apply the available resource to the most appropriate projects and levels of expense allowing for reserves that will support maintenance of those projects for their foreseeable lifespan.
 1. At the discretion of the board or duly appointed planning committee, the following project may be considered, scaled, and implemented to fit the available resources, and to suit the disposition of all other stakeholders in the community.
 1. **Minimal:** Purchase Oak seedlings for ceremonial planting, as explicitly described in the book “Welcome Home,” in the chapter titled “*Vision of A White Rainbow,*” and further provide for their protection, care, and potential replacement.
 2. **Scale up:** Implement other ceremonial and educational theme gardens or other landscape features to enhance the ceremony grounds. Consider installing utilities for automatic irrigation, or similar provisions.
 2. Also at the discretion of the board and its committees, the website Mahkato.org may be supported, redesigned, or retired and may be used along with other media including ceremonial or educational events to serve the organization's purpose.
- III. Consider other projects, with or without other sources of income, based on continuing analysis of the organization's potential to serve its purpose, such as:
 1. Projects coordinated to serve the Mahkato Mdewakonton Association and its events.
 2. Other projects serving the organization's purpose.
 1. Consider other ceremonial and educational initiatives or events.
 2. Consider organizing and/or sponsoring a family/youth community program, also suggested in the book, or hosting events as a resource for existing programs that serve the organization's purpose.
 3. Consider developing a computer database and communications network.
 4. Consider political advocacy as provided for with the 501(h) election.
 1. A standing committee may research current developments, plan and propose activities and report through the organization's information network.
 5. Consider expansion of the program to network with other communities.

ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR A FIRST BOARD MEETING: 2016

To decide if you want a membership or board position, review the book, available at <http://Mahkato.org/WelcomeHome.pdf>, and these other campaign materials; understand the organization will only be what we make of it; contact me at (Hans.Sageng "at" AlongTheWay.us) to see the proposed Articles, Bylaws, and current discussion; and join in with whatever questions or ideas you may have. If you use "Mahkato Organization" in the subject field, I will moderate and summarize the discussion, and include you in the email list for an online preliminary meeting.

Books are already in production and paid for. They will be delivered in October and will be used to continue this introductory campaign. Kirkus Reviews called Welcome Home a "hippy manifesto for the future of America." I am of course interested in any critical review or discussion of the book itself, but that really can't determine whether to incorporate or what we will make of this organization. If the book's content does not strike you as a practical blueprint, that's my failure, but you may still be inspired, sympathetic, or enthusiastic about this cause and initiative.

We will need a minimum of 3 initial directors or incorporators to review, approve, and sign the already properly prepared Articles and registration paperwork. Incorporation as a 501(c)(3) charity might be possible in time to offer tax exempt status to contributors in the Welcome Home campaign.

At some time in the near future, to be determined by the preliminary email discussion, possibly at the Coffee Hag, Taco John's, or similar venue, using general rules of order:

Gather and call to order

Opening and Introductions

1. Approve or Revise agenda.
 2. Discuss and Approve the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and Key Ideas.
 3. Discuss plan to recruit and install directors, and if possible proceed.
 1. Three directors are required for incorporation, myself and two others.
 2. Up to seven directors may be nominated and approved based on qualification guidelines outlined in the Bylaws, and discussed with the nomination and acceptance procedure.
 4. Discuss the fundraising campaign.
 5. Discuss tentative project ideas.
 6. Decide action items, and the forms and times of coming meetings and actions.
 1. Board of Directors: exercise of corporate powers: Incorporator signing, Director and Officer review and instalation, voting to ratify member approved actions, delegation of authority to agents and committees.
 2. General membership:
 1. Network communications: discussion board and newsletter, systems, journalism.
 2. Regular meetings: soon after solstices and equinoxes, open to all members and generally required for directors, followed by the regular board meeting.
 3. Event and project planning: committee meetings as needed.
 3. closing
- Record minutes of this first meeting to include with registration paperwork.