

Proposal for

NATIVE CULTURAL UNIVERSITY CENTER

Alcatraz Island

November 20, 1970
Indians of All Tribes Inc.

Alcatraz Island Occupation Collection,
Native American Studies Collection,
UC Berkeley Ethnic Studies Library.

THE PURPOSE OF ALCATRAZ

November 20, 1969, we came with 79 people to Alcatraz for the purpose of taking the island for all Indian people to have a place we could call "Indian Land".

This tiny island represents "freedom" for all Indian people living in the Americas known as Canada, United States, Mexico and South America. These are all our great lands of the Indian peoples now held in bondage by alien governments.

We have been here one year occupying this island which represents our "fight" to live as free people in our own country.

Our "fight" for this island representing freedom for all Indian peoples is non-violent. We came to this island unarmed, prepared to give our lives if need be. We realize that a gun does not make a man and we challenge the entire United States military, man to man, man to woman and man to child with no guns. Even if we had guns on the island, we would be foolish to think we could fight the whole military complex because we are not the masters of weapons, violence or murder. We are the true masters of Peace. We don't just mouth words when we say that we are the Peace people because we speak from our hearts and we are proud to say that we do.

Alcatraz is the beginning of the "Return of the Buffalo" which means, the coming back of our people and the return of the spirit. Alcatraz is a traditionalist Spiritual movement.

This is our prophecy and the Great Spirit is working for the people. We ~~were~~ ^{will win} and not just Alcatraz.

Our 1st Anniversary Celebration marked by the 20th of November, 1970 is a major victory for Indian people everywhere. We have endured the hardships imposed on us by the federal government on a rock which has no natural resources. Despite the fact the government had taken away our fresh water supplies, cut off our electricity, telephone lines, tried to endanger our image through the battle of the press, applied pressure to individuals and families, and various other government negotiating tactics, we endured one whole year and the meeting of season to season completing the circle of our medicine. This is our victory, because if the government wants to play a waiting game, we can use the time to build instead of watching them watch us test our endurance. Our people have been living like this all the time under the same conditions only now in front of the whole world. We have proved before the whole world and to the United States government that our will to survive is greater than all the weapons in the world.

No matter how much they have tried to annihilate us, assimilate us, and acculturate us, We still live!!!

PROGRAM FOR ALCATRAZ CULTURAL COMPLEX

What we want is an Indian Spiritual Center for our people to come.

A tiny island is the symbol of our once great land. What this island stands for, will grow as a seed throughout our great country and again, be free as our tiny island is now.

Our ceremonial lodge is round, as the seasons make a year, as the sun is and encircles the mother earth, as she is round.

Within our lodge we shall have a ceremonial plaza for tribal Religion activities (such as tribal dancing, singing, private clan meetings or council meetings with Indians from all tribes). There will also be an Indian kitchen serving Native foods.

The Native Museum will be below the plaza (ceremonial) consisting of Native cultural exhibits. Also there will be a Native Archives and library collection with original documentations of how the "white man" committed genocide to our people and other peoples in the past and present. There will be a collection of books written by our own people as well. Writing was a primitive form of communications before because we practiced what we believed and it was common knowledge what the truth was and what it meant. Now, we must adjust ourselves accordingly and use all knowledge because of all the peoples different levels of development.

The Great Indian Training Center (Thunderbird University) will include Native Arts and Crafts, a Native Law Institute, Center for Ecology, and Survival Training, and a College of Tribal Languages.

In order to establish an economic base for the Island and Indian people all over, we are going to use our Arts and Crafts as trading implants.

Our reservations have suffered great economic depressions because of our land resources being taken away along with our fishing and hunting rights. We have not been able to adjust or accept the money system where you must work for someone for little or nothing in order to make the employer richer so that he may control you which is contrary to our concept of freedom.

We shall have a representative on every reservation or Indian community in our country go give them an outlet for trading their arts and crafts for good compensation in order to encourage arts and crafts of our people and provide minimal base income for themselves, until the land is free for all.

The arts and crafts coming from the reservations along with that which is made on the island will become the base income for the island. The island will become an inlet for receiving arts and crafts and an International outlet for authentic Indian art in the area of leather/goods, beadwork, silver craft, paintings, basketry, rug making, pottery, wood-carving, etc.

All the people who are living on the island, serving and enjoying all functional parts will be members from programs such as ex-cons, alcoholics, drug addicts, and ex-service veterans from hospitals. One-half of other participants may consist of no "special" requirements but who have interests for a relevant education.

Thunderbird University is a part of the whole national higher educational system. There will be specialties in other areas throughout Canada, United States, Mexico, and South America that will all plug in the national Native University. Students of Alcatraz will only be required to fulfill one whole year in order to complete the circle of seasons, then may be considered as

graduates who may continue training in special fields back on the reservations or other continental areas. Graduates may stay on as teachers for one more year if desired, but no more. In this way, we may have a continual flow of students passing through Alcatraz, who may return to their people with necessary "tools" for winning the struggle of Freedom and Peace.

The Cultural Center will be open for all Indian people to come. Representatives from any country in the world must make prior appointments but are welcome to come to the island. Only large wholesalers will be extented buying privileges from the island.

The lighthouse which has shined over the Bay for over 150 years will continue to do so only will be redressed in totem design telling the story of our people. This is the true statue of liberty representing Freedom for world wide Peace.

The plan we present today, is the described needs of our people. Not just on Alcatraz but everywhere.

On Alcatraz we present our Architectural plans of what we want to do and how we are going to do it. Our structural plans are from professional architects with national and international repute.

The new year ahead, will be planned in three phases:

Phase 1. Final technical and funding angles to be worked out during the first four months or less;

Phase 2. The demolition of all buildings over a period of eight months;

Phase 3. The initial construction of part of the island during the last four months.

CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR ALCATRAZ

I. INDIAN SPIRITUAL CENTER AND MUSEUM

A. Ceremonial Plaza

- 1) Tribal Religion Activities
- 2) Tribal Dances
- 3) Meetings
- 4) Native Kitchen

B. Museum

- 1) Cultural Exhibits
- 2) Archives & Library

C. Lighthouse, Totem Design

- 1) Statue of Liberty

II. GREAT INDIAN TRAINING CENTER, THUNDERBIRD UNIVERSITY

A. Arts & Crafts

B. Institute for Native Legal Studies

C. Indian Center of Ecology & Survival Training

D. College of Tribal Language

III. INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

A. Administration Buildings

B. Desalinization Plant

C. Utility Area

- 1) Power Plant
- 2) Water Storage
- 3) Sewage Treatment

D. Maintenance Building

- 1) Garage
- 2) Shops

E. Craft Exhibits & Sales Display

- 1) Leather Goods
- 2) Beadwork
- 3) Silver Craft
- 4) Paintings
- 5) Basketry
- 6) Rug Making
- 7) Pottery
- 8) Wood Carvings

IV. DOCK

A. Passenger Boats

B. Marina