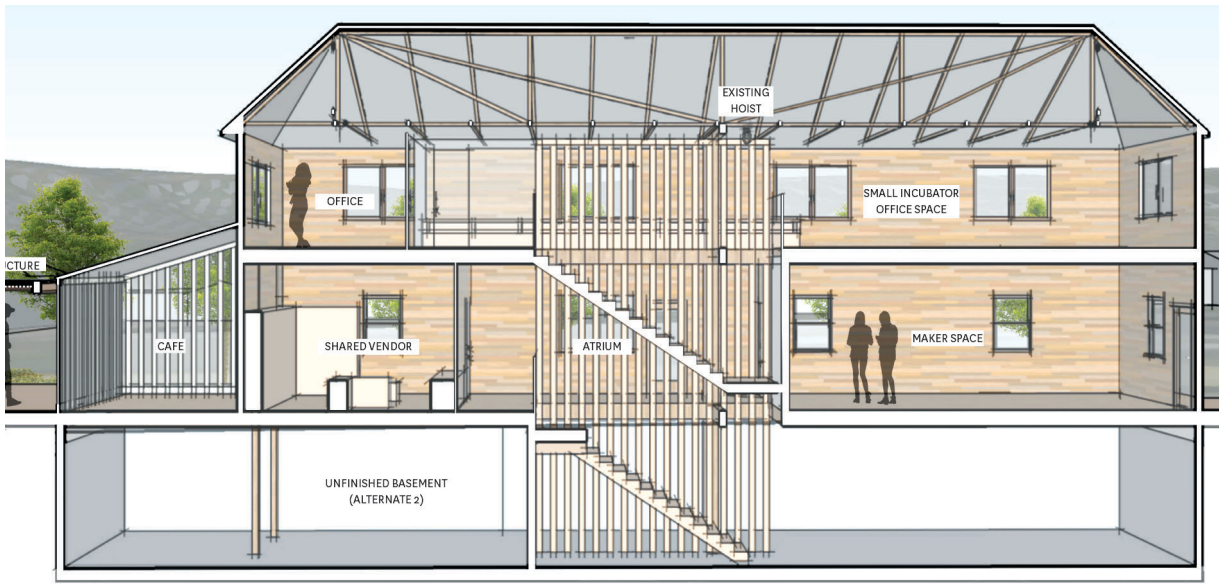


Businesses: project manager on board



A conceptual drawing, by Hacker Architects, of the Small Business Incubator building.

(Continued from page 1)

In the basement will be space for artisans to produce their work. Outside would be a variety of food carts in the food court pavilion; and the nearby service building.

This will all be done in phases, with the main Commissary work the initial phase. The Community Action Team began the project a few years ago, with an open house and information and opinion gathering session with the community.

People mentioned more retail space and business offices, and small business support, as among the biggest needs in Warm Springs. The Old Commissary—once relocated to a new site—was identified as the best option for an incubator project.

The team studied two different

sites, and with more community input they identified the highway-Paiute Avenue site as the best. A benefit is its close proximity to the highway, and there is infrastructure already in place.

Tribal Council gave their support, and provided the Community Action Team with a 10-year lease of the Old Commissary.

The Community Action Team has hired Marissa Ahern as the Small Business Incubator project manager.

Ms. Ahern is a graduate of the University of Colorado, where she studied Environmental Design in the Architecture program, and is completing her Master's Degree in Community and Economic Development.

— Dave McMechan

Examples of small business incubators

What is a small business incubator? One definition reads:

Business incubators are organizations that offer startups shared operation space.

In doing so, entrepreneurs enjoy a collaborative work environment with invaluable mentoring and networking opportunities, funding support and shared equipment. In short, they offer fledgling young companies a warm, safe place to grow and prosper.

There are many examples in Oregon, each one a little different.

The Warm Springs Community Action Team has looked at several, such as the Gaucho Collective of Klamath Falls.

The Gaucho Collective features working space, laptop stations, a

kitchenette, printer-copier-scanner, a meeting room, lockers for rent, and Wifi.

For the Warm Springs small business incubator, there are so far two businesses identified so far: a café and the Tananáwit shop. The operator of the café is still not determined.

The rest of the space at the Warm Springs incubator would be available to other small business owners.

Further business space—for food carts, for instance—would be available outside the main building.

The Hacienda Community Development Corp. is an example of how the food court area may develop, said Christ Watson, Community Action Team director.

The Hacienda CDC, in Portland, has a food court area and a service teaching those interested in the food service industry.

Purpose statement of incubator project

The Warm Springs Community Action Team states the purpose of the Small Business Incubator with these observations:

Currently, small businesses on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation provide fewer than 200 jobs for Warm Springs tribal members, far below the estimated 1,000 needed to stabilize the job market and create a healthy economy on the reservation.

To address this problem, the Warm Springs Community Action Team seeks to develop a small business incubator that will serve as an anchor for small business in the Warm Springs downtown area.

The Small Business Incubator project will be the first effort in decades designed to improve the small business environment for community members in Warm Springs.

This project will address a community need for places and spaces where community members can meet, and where social and economic relations may be intertwined.

Tananáwit artists group to have shop at small business center

Tananáwit is an artists' project, working in partnership with the Warm Springs Community Action Team.

Tananáwit artists will have a first-floor store at the Small Business Incubator building, with artist work space on the basement floor.

The group this spring received its non-profit 501(c)3 status. The board members are chairman Gerald Danzuka, Tamera Calhoun, Marge Kalama, Shayleen Macy EagleSpeaker, Tamera

Moody and Aurolyn Stwyer. Emily Courtney will be working with the Community Action Team to establish the Tananáwit shop at the new business center. Leah Guliasi is the Community Action Team liaison to the Tananáwit board and membership.

If you would like information on joining Tananáwit—meaning 'Our People' in Ichishkeen—stop by the Community Action Team office, 1136 Paiute Avenue, or call 541-553-3148.