



LISA KRAFT



Copper Bear Consulting, LLC

turning ideas into action

Copper Bear Consulting, LLC is an American Indian/Woman-Owned business located in Oklahoma. Founded in 2006, Lisa Kraft provides consulting services to Oklahoma tribal leaders for master tribal planning that leads to tangible nation building. With over 26 years of experience in Oklahoma Indian Country, she is an award-winning grant writer for Oklahoma tribes. Kraft researches, assists leaders in planning, introduces leadership to other consultants, and writes for large development grants. She also consults on project compliance and management to represent the owner in construction. Kraft enjoys training staff and building tribal capacity.

Kraft has a career in federal compliance and grants and contracts management. Her specialties are U. S. HUD Indian Community Development Block Grants (ICDBG) and U. S. DOJ Consolidated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS). She understands land planning from a unique perspective, especially Fee-To-Trust title conversion. She has converted 17 tracts for her own tribe, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, including the CPN tribal headquarters in Shawnee, Oklahoma and land surrounding the Grand Casino on I-40 in McLoud.

Ms. Kraft was hired by the Citizen Potawatomi Nation (CPN) upon graduating with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Oklahoma (1995). She helped negotiate her own nation into self-governance in 1998 and created the CPN's transportation (Roads) planning and construction program. Kraft earned a master's degree in history from the University of Central Oklahoma in 2004. After starting a family, she went on to the U. S. Department of Agriculture to become a federal grants and agreements specialist and construction contracting officer. Her ability to manage complex, multi-million-dollar projects and bring in millions in federal grants led to her becoming the Research Manager (Grant Submissions) for the College of Arts and Sciences at Oklahoma State University in 2009. Kraft has a vantage view of federal grant writing and management from a tribal, state, public higher education, and federal perspective.

Tribal leaders of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation appointed Ms. Kraft to her Nation's bank Board of Directors of First National Bank and Trust of Shawnee (2002-2008) until she was encouraged to run for elected office. She served four consecutive terms (2008-2021) representing over 15,000 members living in Oklahoma. Ms. Kraft has a pulse on federal capital development grants and tribal governance dynamics. She works well with leadership to realistically plan and create tribal expansion in facilities, programs and enterprises.

As a 14-year legislator for America's 9th largest tribe, Kraft has experience enacting legislation to support a \$450 million tribal operating budget. She understands the value of master planning and how to strategically develop a plan to turn concepts into reality. Kraft has knowledge of tribal issues on both trust and fee-simple lands. She has spent a career being accountable to federal funding sources and tribal leaders. Kraft's work ethic is transparent, documented, and detail oriented. When time is of the essence, Kraft consistently meets deadlines and delivers highly competitive grant proposals; as a result, this creates momentum for her clients as they pursue sovereignty, service delivery to their members, and nation building.