

## **CONCEPT PAPER**

**Project Title:** Rehabilitation, Administration and Management of the Presidencia of Vintar, Ilocos Norte

**Contact Person:** Dr. Ma. Fidelis Foronda-Labrador  
President, Saranay ti Vintar, Inc.

### **Background and Rationale:**

The Presidencia has been a major landmark of Vintar since it was built in the early 1900s to serve as the seat of the local government. With the advent of time, including structural damages from the 1932 earthquake, a new Balay ti Ili was constructed in the 1950s. Spaces that used to house municipal government offices were later on used as classrooms, but the main hall continued to be the town theater for socio-civic events. Later on, with further wear and tear, spaces were used to host local offices of provincial agencies.

With its illustrious history though, the Presidencia was an integral part of every Vintarinian's life. Thus, the Presidencia continues to evoke memories among Vintarianians everywhere in the world.

With the help of the Infrastructure Funds coming from Senator Aquilino Pimentel, Jr. in 2001, the restoration of the Presidencia has been going on. As of December 2004, 70% was already accomplished as per contract according to the DPWH project engineer. The next phase of restoration is the finishing and furnishing stages.

Given the limited resources of government and its other priority projects for the town, there is a compelling need for the active participation of the private sector, especially the citizens of Vintar, in bringing back the Presidencia as a center of activity. These concerned citizens must contribute their time, talent and treasure in rekindling the pride of Vintarinians everywhere in this historical landmark of the town, by making it a modern-day facility. And by operating and maintaining it without drawing from scarce municipal funds, the municipal government would be able to focus its resources unto the more critical needs of the town.

### **Project Objective:**

The overall objective of the project is to develop the Presidencia as a center for Vintar arts and culture and a facility for socio-civic activities.

Specifically, the project aims to develop the Presidencia as a self-sustaining facility by earning revenues for its upkeep, and thus, government funds may be used for other priority projects.

The key activities of the Presidencia will be as follows:

1. repository of cultural and historical artifacts of Vintar;
2. learning center for the arts;
3. hub for socio-civic activities; and
4. tourist destination.

### **Approach and Operations:**

A citizens' organization, The Siwawer Inc., will be organized as a foundation to implement the project. As a non-profit, non-stock membership organization, it will have a Board of Trustees composed of Vintar citizens, and its day-to-day operations will be handled by a Facility Administration Team.

To embody a cross-section of Vintarinians, the Board of Trustees (BOT) will consist of seventeen members, as follows: four nominated by the Municipal Government, four town residents, four Manila residents, four overseas residents, and the incumbent Municipal Mayor as an ex-officio member and Chairman of the Board. Membership of the organization will include Vintarinians by birth and by affinity, and anybody who shares the vision of Vintar.

Siwawer, Inc. will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Municipal Government of Vintar to manage the project for a period of 25 years, renewable upon agreement of both parties. The Siwawer, Inc. will employ adequate staff with appropriate skills to operate and maintain the Presidencia. It will handle the day-to-day operations of the Presidencia including support services such as mobilization of resources.

Siwawer, Inc. will undertake the following major operational activities for the Presidencia:

*1. Development and management of the Presidencia:* Siwawer Inc. will finish, furnish and operate the Presidencia and turn it into a heritage site and cultural center for Vintar, and carrying out the four key activities cited above. The building will have the following rooms:

- Museum and archives
- Multi-purpose hall for social and civic functions
- Library
- Learning center
- Exhibit area
- Souvenir shop
- Comfort rooms

*2. Support services:* Activities will be undertaken in support of the Presidencia as center of history, culture and the arts:

- Publications and media
- Networking and linkaging
- Resource mobilization
- Education

3. *Project administration*: This will include various aspects of management such as:

- Planning
- Finance
- Promotions
- Event management
- Building maintenance and improvement

Siwawer Inc. may undertake other activities deemed necessary to attain the objectives of the project, as approved by the BOT. These will be defined in its Constitution and By-Laws.

### **Project Phases and Timetable:**

The project will have the following phases:

1. *Obtaining policy support and MOA*: This preparatory stage will include obtaining a resolution from the Sangguniang Bayan allowing the Municipal Mayor to enter into a MOA for the said project, drafting and signing the MOA, and organizing Siwawer Inc.
2. *Finishing and furnishing of the building, and collection of Heritage Items*: This stage will include fund raising, finishing and furnishing the building based on the above-mentioned uses, and collection of Vintar artifacts for the museum and archives.
3. *Operations and maintenance*: The day-today activities at the Presidencia will involve visitors' management, events management, special classes at the learning center, exhibits, etc. Support activities will handle promotions and resource mobilization. Administrative services include maintenance and improvement of facilities, accounting and finance. The association will maintain a separate bank account with internal and external auditors, a book of accounts and financial reports.
4. *Monitoring and evaluation*: Siwawer Inc will submit regular financial and narrative reports to the Municipal Government and the Siwawer Inc. membership, and plan out and implement changes that will continuously enable the Presidencia to achieve its objectives.

Given the present situation and work progress, detailed tasks must be done throughout the year of 2005, such that the grand reopening of the Presidencia can be slated for the Vintar

Fiesta in December 2005.

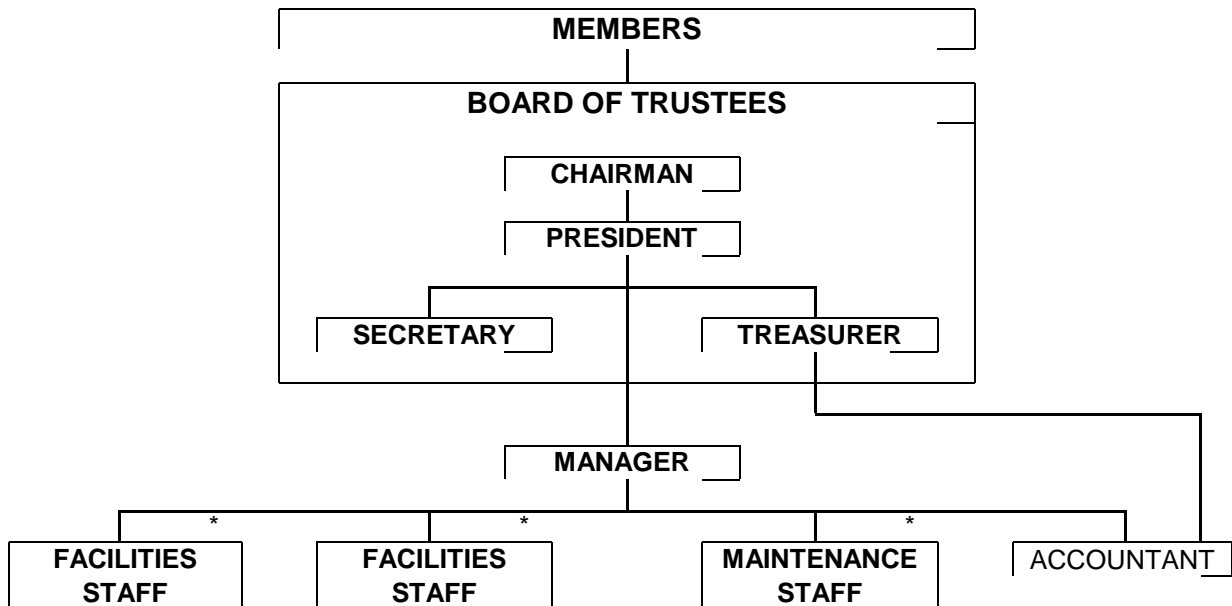
**Sources of Funds:**

The project's financial resources will come from various sources such grants from funding agencies, donations from corporations and individuals, membership fees, annual membership fees, usage and rental income, sales of publications, fees from events, user fees and other sources. As a foundation, the non-profit, non-stock nature of Siwawer, Inc. should enable it to obtain funds from several sources.

**Proponent's Profile:**

*Organizational Structure:*

SIWAWER INCORPORATED  
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



\* Number of positions and required qualifications will be determined as need arises

Hon. Jose G. Foronda  
Mayor, Vintar, Ilocos Norte

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity for exchanging ideas and views during our informal caucus this morning regarding the finishing and subsequent operations and maintenance of the Presidencia.

As agreed, we respectfully submit the concept paper of the project. We appreciate that you have volunteered to present this paper to the Sangguniang Bayan for their immediate deliberation. Should any changes be required, we will be very glad to sit down with you and finalize this concept.

We look forward to your favorable consideration on this matter. Since the construction of the Presidencia is about to be completed, your immediate action will be appreciated.

May the year 2005 bring together Vintarinians all over the world with the Presidencia as the rallying point of unity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ma. Fidelis Foronda-Labrador  
President, Saranay ti Vintar, Inc.