



Forix Foundation Interim Report  
"Designing Change Stitch by Stitch"

Submitted By  
Anchal Project  
April 13, 2015

## **1. Project Summary**

Anchal Project sought the grant from Forix Foundation to create a sustainable program run by and for commercial sex workers through leadership opportunities and the prospect of career advancement with our textile and design initiative. More specifically, we aimed to provide the proper training and wages for three project assistants for one year, who could then guide and train 90+ Anchal artisans.

## **2. Progress**

Starting in December of 2014, four project assistants received training by a professional tailor in general skills such as suitable color combinations and print pairings, basic math, measuring and cutting techniques. They spent December 2014 & January 2015 learning and mastering these practices.

They learned quickly and were inspired to learn more. Once they were comfortable with foundational skills, the tailor taught them more complicated techniques - such as how to assemble new patterns, hand and machine sew uniquely textured materials, and how to add hardware like zippers and handles.

When the Anchal team was there to monitor progress in February, we were so proud to discover them coming up with their own original ideas - such as lap top cases, embroidered borders on decorative pillows & cross-body purses with a special pocket for mobile phones.

Their creativity confirmed that Anchal artisans are not just seamstresses; they are designers with the education and training needed to sustain a career & support themselves and their families for a lifetime.

## **3. Staffing**

*Colleen Clines, Co-founder and Executive Director*  
Responsible for overall strategic and operational planning for Anchal's staff, partners, programs, expansion & execution of it's mission. For this project, Colleen created new, practical and innovative designs. In India she interviewed & hired the tailor,

communicated the new designs with the team, assisted in teaching & oversaw daily lessons.

*Maggie Clines, Creative Director*

Responsible for maintaining Anchal's design aesthetic & unique brand in website content, marketing, and strategic planning. For this Project, Maggie created new designs and accompanying lesson plans that would ensure effective communication & understanding.

*Tess O'Keefe, Development Coordinator*

Responsible for sharing Anchal's story through grant administration, community outreach & partnerships. For this Project, Tess recorded the progress of this proposal through written, photo & video journalism and assisted in teaching.

#### **4. Budget**

A major challenge was finding a qualified tailor who had both the technical skills and the ability to teach the artisans. This delayed the start of our proposed project by three months but made room in the budget to hire one more project assistant and cover additional materials.

Including the professional training & project assistant wages for the month of April, we have spent a total of \$3,000.00 of our allocated funds.

This also includes the initial cost of materials, which was \$500.00.

Month	Training Cost for Professional Tailor	Artisan Wages (4 @ \$100.00 each)	Monthly Total	Completed
September 2015	0	0	0	n/a
October 2015	0	0	0	n/a
November 2015	0	0	0	n/a
December 2014	\$100.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	Yes

January 2015	\$100.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	Yes
February 2015	\$100.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	Yes
March 2015	\$100.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	Yes
April 2015	\$100.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	Yes
May 2015	\$100.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	
June 2015	\$100.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	
July 2015	\$100.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	
August 2015	\$100.00	\$400.00	\$500.00	

## 5. Impact

The four project assistants have learned a variety of new skills that have furthered their economic opportunities and personal empowerment. They are dignified leaders in their communities who serve as role models to their families and the other Anchal artisans. They motivate others through the prospect of career advancement & inspire them to create positive changes. The promotion of these women has been the inaugural step for Anchal to transition into a fully self-sustained program.

The Tailor will continue to train the project assistants in more advanced techniques to ensure unique, high-quality products that will sell in the US Market. This will directly benefit the four project assistants & the 90 artisans each month who will be able to expand their skill set & increase their economic opportunities. The profit from their pieces will fund more leadership positions & allow for more movement within our program. Ultimately Anchal will become a self-sustaining program run by and for the women involved.

Thank you Forix Foundation!





PHOTO: Project Assistant Shakuntela measuring the length of recycled saris.



PHOTO: Project Assistant Shazia measuring and marking Kantha before cutting.





PHOTO: Project Assistants Shakuntela & Gulshan working together to cut Kantha pieces for new products.



PHOTO: Professional Tailor Smile teaching Project



Assistants Shakuntela & Nazia how to cut & layer Kantha with canvas lining for new bags while Project manager Kusum overlooks.



PHOTO: Project Assistant Gulshan machine stitches new designs together (above) before helping Shakuntela do the same (below).

