



**ABCs of Economic Development in Indian Country**  
**American Indian Business Alliance Conference & Tradeshow**  
**Thursday - Friday, November 3-4, 2016**  
**Radisson Inn, Bismarck, ND**

If you are an American Indian entrepreneur, artisan or business owner, an Economic or Community developer, a Tribal Council member and leader, a tribal educator or student, Banker, CDFI or other financial professional, a state or federal agency, or a corporation or nonprofit supporting Indian Country you need to attend this conference.

Strengthen and grow your tribal economy and workforce:

- Gain new insights on how to access capital and credit for native communities
- Be inspired by success stories from nationally recognized business owners
- Better understand and capitalize on the "Buy Indian Act"
- Learn about exciting opportunities in telecommunications, transportation, tourism and more
- Discover best practices for implementing native CDFIs, UCC and Business codes
- Participate in a Rez Cafe discussion on the development of a Native Cultural Preservation & Artist Cooperative
- Network with hundreds of other professionals from ND, SD, WI, MT, MN and beyond to promote Indian business development throughout the region

Register before October 24, 2016 and receive a \$50 early bird discount. Blocked room rates of \$99.00 are available, please reference the "American Indian Business Alliance," when booking your room. To book your room call 701-255-6000 or [register online](#)

Register for the conference [CLICK HERE](#)

There are still Tradeshow Booths and Displays available for native owned businesses and native artisans.

## **MNIBA BECOMES AN AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN INDEPENDENT BUSINESS ALLIANCE (AMIBA)**



The American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA) is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to helping communities become more self-supporting and resilient through fostering a culture that values and supports independent business and local entrepreneurs.

AMIBA does this by helping communities launch and successfully operate an Independent Business Alliance® (IBA). AMIBA will be working with MNIBA as we develop and educational campaign and launch a statewide "Buy Native - Support Local" campaign. They are working closely to adapt and modify many of their materials to engage the native audience with native-centric branding and messaging.

AMIBA's Independent Business Alliances are based on a model they pioneered in 1998. Since then, IBAs have formed in a diverse range of communities. They play a crucial role in creating more opportunities for entrepreneurs, building more self-reliant and durable communities, and empowering citizens to guide the development of their communities. These Alliances comprise a key component of the growing Localization Movement.

We are honored to be an affiliate and look forward to launching our statewide campaign.

## JOIN MNIBA'S STATEWIDE BUY NATIVE-THINK LOCAL WORKING GROUP

MNIBA is starting a statewide Buy Native - Think Local campaign and we want you to take part! We seek people who are passionate about their communities, who want to see American Indian-owned small business and artisans thrive and who want to open doors for equitable purchasing and contract opportunities.

Our statewide work group will meet monthly over the phone and the American Independent Business Alliance will join us and mentor us through this process. We will build an educational campaign with attractive outreach materials to build a statewide brand with native-centric messaging and presentations throughout the year.

In addition to the monthly calls, the statewide work group will meet quarterly for an entire day. Mileage and meals will be reimbursed.

## BE A PART OF THIS HISTORIC MOVEMENT

American Indian-owned small businesses are critical to building vital tribal economies and reservation economic multipliers. For American Indian entrepreneurs to compete, it is important to unite with other American Indian-owned businesses, tribal governments, tribal enterprises, tribal institutions, native nonprofits, citizens and community organizations to build a statewide Buy Native - Think Local campaign.

The goal of this campaign will be accomplished through the following initiatives:

- Public education about the greater overall value of American Indian-owned businesses; as well as the vital economic, social, and cultural role American Indian-owned business plays in their communities.
- Facilitating cooperative promotion, advertising, purchasing, sharing of skills and resources and other activities to help American Indian-owned businesses gain economies of scale and compete more effectively.
- Creating a strong and uncompromised message of access to business opportunities and inclusion for American Indian-owned businesses at the tribal, local and state levels.
- Enhancing opportunities for local investment, banking and access to capital for local entrepreneurs.

Help us as we define and develop:

- New model Buy Indian Policies for tribal government review
- Procurement Code of Ethics/Policy
- Native nonprofit and institutional campaigns
- Kinship commerce - inter-tribal trade
- Native to Native purchasing
- Native art messaging

If you are interested in being part of this work group, please contact Pamela at 218-850-8364 or [email](#)

## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL WOMEN'S SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

Women's entrepreneurship is on the rise, according to preliminary data from the U.S. Census Bureau, which shows that women are increasingly becoming small business owners. U.S. business ownership rose 27.5 percent for women, and overall, America added one million net, new businesses from 2007 to 2012, a period in which U.S. employment fell by 3.8 million.

This is exciting news, and as we celebrate National Women's Small Business Month, it is important to not only recognize the contributions of women-owned businesses, but to help more women get started.

Please join us in recognizing the women and their contributions to the economic and social fabric of our communities!

## MNIBA's BUSINESS DIRECTORY IS ONLINE

If we missed any entries, please feel free to contact us at 218-847-9554. The beauty of this directory is that it will be updated bi-monthly as new entries are added.

[Click here](#) to view the directory online OR [Click here](#) to download the directory in a pdf format.

## MNIBA's 2016 Listening Session Report is Available for Download

This report lays out actions that when implemented will lead to closer collaboration and cooperation among and between all stakeholders.

The listening sessions highlighted several critically important themes, including: lack of detailed data on American Indians in Minnesota, underutilized “Buy Indian-Targeted Business” procurement policies & procedures, overcoming invisibility, underdeveloped infrastructure, and lack of a strong, unified and uncompromised voice for American Indian owned business, insufficient access to supportive business resources & networks and the need for coordinated advocacy & educational efforts.

[Click here](#) to download MNIBA's 2016 Entrepreneurial Listening Session Report: Lessons Learned

## INDIAN COUNTRY'S PREMIER ONLINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY IS OPEN - GET LISTED

Several months in the collaborative planning and development, we are proud to announce the launch of Indian Country's Premier American Indian Business Directory!

**There is no cost to list your business!** The directory is designed to provide Native American-owned and tribally-owned enterprises a way to market products and services to prospective buyers, including other Native American-owned firms, government agencies, tribal governments, corporations, and foundations. If you are interested in being on the directory website please follow the link and sign up. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR BUSINESS](#)

### **About the American Indian Business Alliance:**

The American Indian Business Alliance (AIBA) is a 501c-3 tax exempt organization dedicated to helping American Indian and tribally-owned business get started and continue growing. This collaborative effort represents the Indian Business Alliances of Montana (MIBA), South Dakota (SDIBA), Minnesota (MNIBA), North Dakota (NDIBA) and Wisconsin (WIBA).

**MNIBA IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR**  
 THE NEW ONLINE STATEWIDE INDIAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

*MNIBA's online business directory is a **FREE MARKETING TOOL** for American Indian business and artisans in Minnesota.*

**BENEFITS OF BEING LISTED WITH MNIBA:**

- **VISIBILITY:** Gain more exposure. People will not buy your products or services if they don't know who you are.
- **ONLINE EXPOSURE:** Get found easily by search engines and people searching for services online.
- **EASILY UPDATED:** Make important address changes and service updates immediately.
- **SOCIAL MEDIA:** Gain maximum exposure for your social networks. Show your Twitter, LinkedIn, Business Facebook, YouTube accounts and your business blog address.
- **MNIBA'S CONTACTS:** Get promoted via MNIBA's social and business contact mediums, including regularly distributed e-newsletters and press releases.

[www.mniba.org](http://www.mniba.org)

## MNIBA Business and Artisan Directory Applications Are Now Interactive

Get listed, get connected, and get noticed!

Go to [www.mniba.org](http://www.mniba.org) and click on the Business Directory pull down.

Minnesota Indian Business Alliance  
 P.O. Box 1902 Detroit Lakes, MN 56502  
 Telephone: 218-847-9554      Email: [info@mniba.org](mailto:info@mniba.org)      web: [www.mniba.org](http://www.mniba.org)