



Minnesota Indigenous Business Alliance

2022 Impact Report



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2022 IMPACT REPORT

The Minnesota Indigenous Business Alliance (MNIBA) is a Native-led and governed 501c3 nonprofit serving Native entrepreneurs, artists, and businesses. Since our humble beginnings, MNIBA still puts "*Native Business First!*" As our organization grows, so do the opportunities to scale our impact.

2022 In Retrospect

"Moving forward in a post COVID-19 world"

Native trade and exchange is gradually, and slowly reopening. MNIBA continues its work, communications, and plans to come back together as Native business remains at the forefront of our collective goals for 2022.

Much of the content in this report—has been previously shared throughout our communication platforms. It reflects and celebrates us moving forward as we redefine business in a post Covid-19 world.

IMPACT STATEMENT

Our impact focuses on creating equitable outcomes for Native entrepreneurs and artists. This impact is achieved every day by being a critical resource provider and connector linking entrepreneurs to opportunities that support, elevate, and showcase Native innovation.

MNIBA's goal is to inspire the next generation of Native business, artists, and social entrepreneurs to design trade and exchange practices rooted in collaboration, cooperation, and sharing. We believe this is a pathway forward for economic justice, self-sufficiency, and equitable outcomes for our People. We continue to expand these boundaries while advocating for economic development initiatives that transition away from "resource extraction" to the development of "restorative and values based economies."

MNIBA is honored and privileged to be working on the traditional territories of the Dakota and Anishinaabe people. We acknowledge their respected Elders, community leaders, language speakers, entrepreneurs, artists and the next seven generations.

MISSION

Align Partners
Connect Business to Resources
Transform Native Economies

VALUES

COMMUNITY: building trust and long-term relationships.

CREATIVITY: pushing beyond the obvious to promote change.

SHARED LEADERSHIP: representative of the communities we serve, fostering cooperation, collaboration, and respectful inquiry.

RESTORATIVE GROWTH: working to build healthy and equitable Native economies that work for all.



2022 IN REVIEW

In 2022 we continue to redefine business in a post COVID-19 world. Businesses are slowly reopening, and more in-person events are slowly taking place. In spite of this there were historic precedents being established in this place we call mnisota makece.

New Business Led by Native Women

MNIBA witnessed many new businesses open and many were led by Native women. We continued to see indigenuity applied in the creation and adaptation of new Native business and revitalization of art practices.

Native Women

Minnesota created a state Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives; the first of its kind in the U.S. Utah and New Mexico, among others, are also taking a deeper look at the disproportionate violence against Native women. Minnesota used its work for Native women to launch a commission on violence against Black women in November.

Rights of Nature

Another case explores connected issues. Over the summer, the White Earth Nation sued the state of Minnesota through a tribal court in a case related to the Line 3 pipeline. White Earth has codified the rights of wild rice in its tribal laws, and the pipeline, off-reservation yet on treaty territory, crosses wild rice beds. Minnesota appealed to the federal court but, in September, the U.S. District Court decided that it could not intervene in the tribal lawsuit as the tribe holds sovereign immunity. Minnesota filed appeals to the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals and to the White Earth Tribal Appeals Court. The fact that a federal court is allowing a tribal court to hear a case against a state over off-reservation matters creates a new precedent; the assumption so far has been that tribal courts only have jurisdiction over non-tribal entities if they engage in activities on tribal lands. This case is all the more important because, in the United States, natural entities have not been seen as legal persons. Depending on the outcome of this case, rights for natural entities could be introduced to U.S. laws through tribal laws and tribal jurisdiction. Even if this development were restricted to treaty territories, it would carry significant consequences.

MNIBA believes that impact cannot be measured solely through monetized means. Impact encompasses the influence our actions and the actions Native entrepreneurs, artists, and partners, collectively have on our communities.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Advocating for virtual trade and exchange

Trade and exchange has not fully returned to normal. MNIBA continues to assist Native businesses transition to a virtual platform. We continue to challenge how we think about technology and to hold it as part of a network of activity located throughout time and space of both “people and things,” or human or non-human, that work together with the intent to respond to new opportunities. In simpler terms, ***use what works, and continue to recognize and respect relationships.***

Contributions to Regional and National Work Groups

- 2022 - Building Tribal Economies Toolkit - National Congress of American Indians
- 2022 - MNIBA hosted a training with the American Indian Community Housing Project on Business Plan Overview basics for Indigenous and BIPOC enterprises.
- 2022 - MNIBA partnered with

Bringing New Learning, Tools and Conversations to MNIBA’s Economic Practices

2022 - 2023 MNIBA was accepted in an international course on Asset Building Through Community Development. We have spent an entire year integrating these new learnings into our work and work with communities.

We have intentionally chosen a pathway to community and economic development that is a “people-centered” change process, facilitated with a community of Native change-makers to build capacity and to actualize their own dreams, and enhance the quality of their work in the communities they serve, and those of the wider community they are a part of.

The Abundance-based focus in community development emerged due to a growing critique of the consequences of “needs-based” approaches.

MNIBA is moving away from the traditional western models entrenched in capitalism, and instead focus on the importance of relationships and capacity building, to ensure that our cultural lifeways and values are woven into the very weft and warp of the work the community is co-creating.

MNIBA has expanded its economic practices to include other types of contributions that impact the diversity of our Native economies.



BUY Native Statewide Campaign

Advocating for virtual trade and exchange

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Buy Native Messaging & Activities

MNIBA continues to expand its Buy Native messaging and art work. We are excited to see what is happening in many of our Native Nations and the move towards growing a strong and diversified economic sector.

Soft Launch of the Buy Native Interactive, Online Business Directory

Third quarter 2022 MNIBA did a soft launch of its new directory. MNIBA’s goal is to showcase a national directory of Native business.

Essential features include:

- Business description
- Certifications & licenses
- Socials
- Business logo
- Category & location search
- Customer views are totaled on your page
- Customer inquiries are directly linked to your email and/or phone.

Offering three subscription levels:

- Pine - free for Native Businesses and Organizations includes all the essential features.
- Birch - \$25 annual fee, includes essential features plus a promotions tab (promote events, sales, or job listings) Improved business ranking on the directory home page.
- Cedar - \$50 annual fee, includes all of the above, plus a featured promotional video, and a30-day featured status on the home page. Offers best business ranking on the directory home page.

Register your business today:

www.mniba.org/biz-directory/registering-your-listing.html

Native Cooperative Development

Native Community Cooperative Developer (NCCD) Training

MNIBA helped in bringing Native practitioners from the U.S. and Canada together to offer the first of its kind training designed for Native communities.

Fifteen Native community members applied to be considered to be part of the first cohort. Phase I offered 10 virtual trainings led by Native practitioners from the U.S. and Canada and included:

- Our Journey Together: Contextualizing the Work
- Building Trust Part I: The Art of Facilitation
- Building Trust Part II: Cultural Dynamics
- Building Trust Part III: Exploring Our Values Around Money
- Building on Abundance: Storytelling and Appreciative Listening
- Building on Abundance: Creating the Organizing/Steering Committee
- Building on Abundance: Mapping the Individual's Gifts of Heart, Head, Hands, and Spirit
- Building on Abundance: Mapping Physical Infrastructure, Natural Resources, and Community Gifts
- Building on Abundance: Mapping Community Associations and Institutions
- Building on Abundance: Cooperatives a Model for Doing Business Your Way - Together.

Phase I will close with a three-day gathering in St. Paul in February 2023. Phase II will be offered the last quarter of 2023. The goal is to offer a total of five phases. Phases III, IV, and V will be offered in 2024-2025 culminating in a certificate of Native Community Cooperative Development.

Cohort members represent:

- Oneida Nation
- Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Navajo Nation
- Confederated Tribes of Umatilla
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
- Sault St. Marie Band of Ojibwe
- Hopi Nation
- Umuha Nation



Mnisota Native Artists Alliance

Mnisota Native Artists on the Move

Many opportunities presented themselves during 2022 for Native Artists. MNIBA has been able to partner with multiple organizations to bring services into the communities and that are meaningful for the artists. The strides made in 2022 could not happen without partners and allies in the work.

Mnisota Native Artists Alliance has a New Home

We found a studio in the heart of the NE Minneapolis Art District, just days before Art-A-Whirl. We joined the Northeast Minneapolis Arts Association (NEMAA). Our first order of business was to hold a lottery for three Native vendors to have a booth during the 3-day event. It is the largest art event in the area, with over 10,000 people visiting the building.

We have found a space that will serve our community of Native artists well.



**WE HAVE A
NEW NEW
STUDIO!**



The Northrup King Building
1500 Jackson Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413
Studio 456

*Come See Us This Weekend at
Art-A-Whirl*



Featured Artists

Brian Dow

Jes Dufree

Woodland Thunder

May 20-22, 2022
Friday: 5 - 10 pm
Saturday: Noon - 8pm
Sunday: Noon - 5pm



Northrup King Building
1500 Jackson Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413
Studio 456

Mnisota Native Artists Alliance

Art Talks and Tea

This year we featured several talks, and our partnership with Pow-wows.com elevated the visibility of these amazing and talented artists we serve. Art Talks and Tea has created a large following through out the U.S. and Canada.



ZOOM TALKS AND TEA



January 26th, 2022 @ 7pm
Central

Storytelling + Language Revitalization through the Power of
Puppetry in Native Arts with Chris Griffith



ZOOM TALKS AND TEA



zoom talks & tea
what you feed grows

Join us for a conversation
about the Intergenerational
Cultural Incubator,
Cansayapi Wicoicage Oti.



FEBRUARY 22
6:00 PM CST

Starting soon... Starting soon...



ZOOM TALKS AND TEA



March 8th, 2022 at 6pm
Central

The Business of Native Art and Design
with Anishinabe Artist
Sarah Agaton-Howes



ZOOM TALKS AND TEA



April 20th, 2022 at 6:30 pm
Central

Equity and
Reparations for
Native Art
with Anishinabe Artist
Adrienne Benjamin



Mnisota Native Artists Alliance



ART TALKS AND TEA
PRESENTS



May 18, 2022 at 6:30 pm
Central

Healing The People Through
Performing Arts
with Seneca / Mvskoke artist
Lumhe "Micco" Sampson



ART TALKS AND TEA
PRESENTS



July 28th, 2022 at 6:30 pm
Central

We Need More Native Art
Professionals...period
with Kickapoo and Latinx decedent Native
Art Professional
Crystal Wabnum



ART TALKS AND TEA
PRESENTS



August 23rd, 2022
6:30 pm central

The Value of Digital Art as a Native Art
Pedagogy
with Dakota/ Mohegan/ Muscogee Artist
Marlena Myles



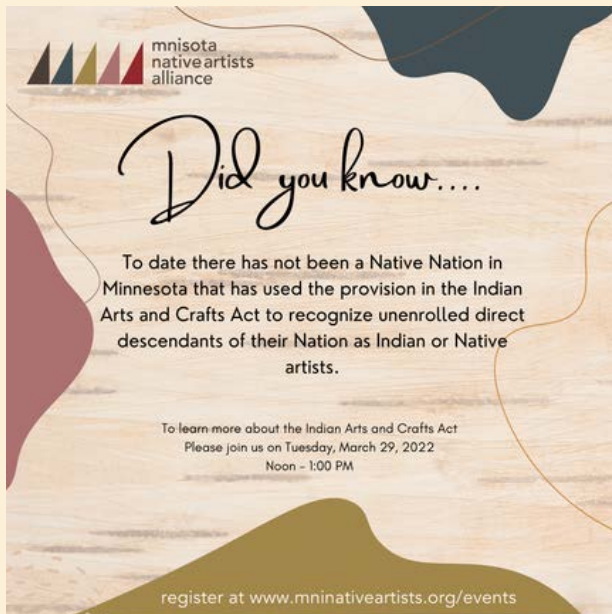
ART TALKS AND TEA
PRESENTS



September 29th, 2022
6:30 pm central

A Talk About The Spirit of Tiwahe
Foundation
with
Tony Drews

Mnisota Native Artists Alliance



Events and Activities

We hosted two significant events with Springboard for the Arts and the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, one designed for attorneys, that offered CLE's and one for the artists. Over 59 attorneys attended the training and were representative of MN, NE, SD, and ND. Over 100 artists attended the second event and were located throughout the country.

A partnership with Tiwahe Foundation resulted in a call for Native artists to design a print for Tiwahe's grantees. We also hosted a photoshoot at Mille Lacs.

A poster with a yellow background and a red and white feather pattern. The text reads: "CALL FOR Artists", "The Tiwahe Foundation is a place for giving — and giving back — that benefits the well-being of American Indian people and communities in Minnesota. Our American Indian Family Empowerment Program is a program invested in human capital — in the skills, resources, and cultural strengths that American Indian families and individuals possess that allow them to contribute to the cultural and social wellbeing of their community.", "The Tiwahe Foundation has partnered with The Mnisota Native Artists Alliance to assist us in our efforts to commission a local Native Artist to provide us with a graphic art piece that would be used as a gift that we will print and will be given as a framed piece of artwork to our 2023 American Indian Family Empowerment Program grant recipients. We will distribute about 100 prints of the selected work.", "FOR THE ARTISTS", "We will offer \$1,000 in commission for the selected artist, who will also be honored on our website as our 2023 Tiwahe artist. The final prints will include a short artist bio, and information about the artwork on the back of the prints. The Tiwahe Foundation will retain the rights to this artwork. However, this artwork will be used solely for the purpose of honoring our AIFEP grant recipients.", "The honored artist will also be invited to speak about their work at our Grantee Honoring, but it is not required.", "REQUIREMENTS", "Submitted artwork must be in a PDF file format, 300 dpi at 11x17 inches. Artist will be picked by February 28th and the final artwork must be completed by May 1st, 2023.", "TIWAHE FOUNDATION", "SUBMISSIONS OPEN OCTOBER 17 - DECEMBER 16 2022", "tiwahfoundation.submittable.com/submit", "mnaa MILLE LACS AMERICAN INDIAN FAMILY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM".

A poster with a grey background and a photo of two women at a table. The text reads: "mnisota native artists alliance", "Mille Lacs Photo Shoot", "May 14 & 15, 2022", "Ten 1-hour time slots available", "Professional product and head shots", "REGISTER AT", "WWW.MNINATIVEARTISTS.ORG/EVENTS/MILLELACS-PHOTOSHOOT-FOR-ARTISTS".



Mnisota Native Artists Alliance



Events and Activities

We hosted an art market in our new studio, and our new partners, NEMAA and Art Space provided a large studio for Art Attack in November. We launched the Art Back Campaign. In December we hosted a Native Art Appropriation Panel, hosted by NEMAA. We had an audience of 75 people, and a large viewing audience via zoom.



Grantmaking in Mnisota

MNIBA awards 16 Grantees Statewide

MNIBA was part of a three-state partnership funded through the Bush Foundation. Minnesota was able to grant \$400,000 in 2022.

We began our funding strategy by reaching out to trusted partners and community members on the ground and asked for them to make recommendations. We reached out to our foundation partners for recommendations of names that maybe they had wanted to fund, but for whatever reason, they couldn't.

We were provided with multiple names and began reaching out to these organizations to let them know that someone in their community recommended them to receive a general operating grant. It is such an honor to recognize these organizations. Chi Miigwech and Wopida Tanka for the important work these grantees are doing, and for caring and working to make their communities a better place.



www.watobomani.org



washmn.org



makoceikikcupi.com



Grantmaking in Mnisota

MNIBA awards 16 Grantees Statewide cont.,

Many of these organizations have been operating at a grass roots level and volunteering their time in their communities. Please take the time to learn about these groups.



[facebook.com/p/MN-Indigenous-Womens-Society](https://www.facebook.com/p/MN-Indigenous-Womens-Society)



NEWS FROM
A NATIVE
AMERICAN
PERSPECTIVE
44 YEARS OF SERVING THE
NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY
[HTTPS://THECIRCLENEWS.ORG](https://thecirclenews.org)
THECIRCLENEWS@GMAIL.COM

thecirclenews.org



www.blackbearsandblueberries.com



anoperatheatre.org/-zitkla-sa



**NET ZERO
NATIONS**

netzeronations.org

Grantmaking in Mnisota

MNIBA awards 16 Grantees Statewide cont.,

Many of these organizations have been operating at a grass roots level and volunteering their time in their communities. Please take the time to learn about these groups.



www.manidooogitigaan.org



Beginning Life Beautifully

www.mewinza.com

Bois Forte Food Sovereignty Group

Contact: Dani at dani@harvestnationinc.com

Duluth Sobriety Feast

Contact: Frances at fsaukko74@yahoo.com

Minomiikana Cultural & Wellness Center

Contact: Frank at ftg59@yahoo.com

MMIW - Twin Ports

Contact: Rene Ann at nlmcoalition@gmail.com

Obaashiing University

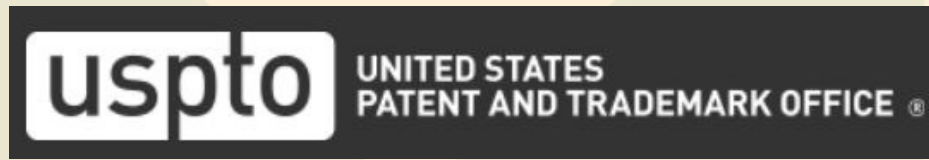
Contact: Vickey Fineday at babyboots0215@gmail.com



niibicenter.org



2022 Partners



STFX
UNIVERSITY

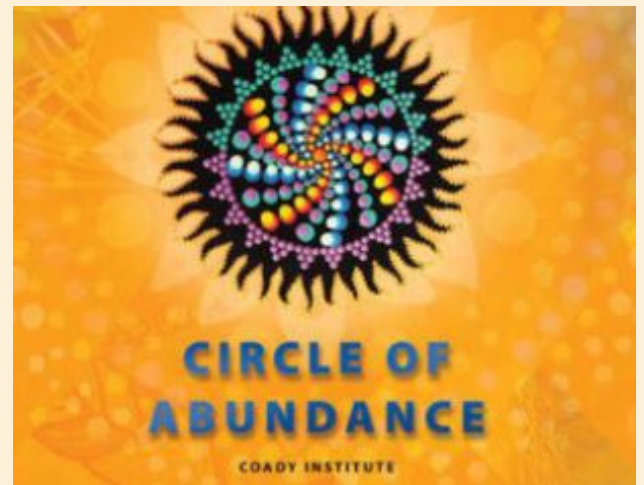
COADY
INSTITUTE



2022 Partners and Funders



**MILLE LACS
BAND OF OJIBWE**



AICHO

American Indian Community
Housing Organization

@ co-operatives first



cura Center for Urban
& Regional Affairs





300+ Native Entrepreneurs

Thru business plan review, network connections, and referrals to financial and business resources.



2000 HOURS

Time-based giving throughout all MNIBA and MNAA programs on behalf of board, working groups, organizational partners, and volunteers.



52 SUPPLIERS

42 – Native owned
4 – Women owned
2 – POC owned



48,000 PEOPLE

Reached thru presentations, statewide work groups, newsletter, website, email/phone and social media.



486+ Native Artists

Surveys, photoshoots, presentations, newsletter, email/phone communiques, website, and social media.



\$352,555.00 Donations & Financial Contributions



100% INDIGENOUS FOCUSED

Projects and programs

2022

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



Relationships - Donors & Funders

Wopida Tanka - Chi Miigwech for the generous support from our donors and funders. Without their support we would not be able to accomplish what was done in 2022!

Amanda A.
Andy B.
Christina M.
Dmitry E.
Eric W.
Faye M.
Greta S.
Hilary O.
Joan B.
Julianne H.
Karyn C.
Kathy S.
Kirsten T.
Marta S.
Michelle V.
Nancy S.
Nicholas L.
Otto Bremer Trust
Peter L.
Raise MN
Sacred Pipe Resource Center
Stacy M.
Tisha M.

Amy H.
Anonymous (7 donors)
Courtney G.
Emma & Bruce C.
Erica M.
First Peoples Fund
Headwaters Foundation for Social Justice
Jeremy S.
Josh L.
Julie S,
Kate K.
Katherine L.
Kyle S.
McKnight Foundation
Molly O.
Natalie M.
NW Area Foundation
Pamela S.
Propel Nonprofits
Ramona S.
Sarah F.
Steve D.
Wayne D.

Looking Ahead

MNIBA's goals for 2023 are as follows:

- National launch of the Buy Native Business Directory 1st - 4th quarters.
- MNIBA hosts Native Community Cooperative Developers in 1st quarter.
- Development of a new series of Red Paper publications 2nd quarter.
- MNIBA secures funding to explore the number of Native women owned businesses in Mnisota and learn what resources they need to move through the recovery phase 4th quarter.
- MNIBA/ MNAA opens studio space and schedules monthly exhibits and demonstrations 4th quarter.
- MNIBA/MNAA begins launch of ART Back Campaign 4th quarter
- MNIBA begins planning for launch of Building Abundance in Native Communities through Asset Mapping 4 quarter.

MNIBA continues to support as many Native entrepreneurs, artists, and organizations through the Buy Native campaign as possible throughout the year.

We would like to acknowledge David Clifford, Oglala Nation, a Lakota brand specialist and graphic designer for the beautiful designs he created for this report.



Follow Along

Interested in learning more about our work? We post updates regularly on all of MNIBA's social media platforms, and in MNIBA's newsletters.

Please "like" and "follow us," and don't wait until next year's Impact Report to learn about what we are up to!

Please visit us at www.mniba.org and sign up to receive our updates.