



# 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

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"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

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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

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Align Partners  
Connect Business to Resources  
Transform Native Economies

# VALUES

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**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

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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

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## **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.

## **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 economic practices to include other types of contributions that impact the diversity of our Native economies.



# BUY Native Statewide Campaign

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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 a 30-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](http://www.mniba.org/biz-directory/registering-your-listing.html)

# Native Cooperative Development

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## **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



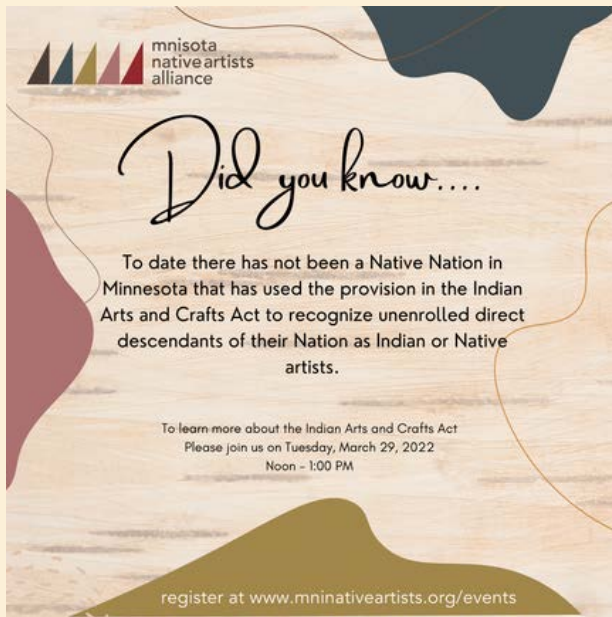
ART TALKS AND TEA  
PRESENTS



September 29th, 2022  
6:30 pm central

A Talk About The Spirit of Tiwahe  
Foundation  
with  
Tony Drews

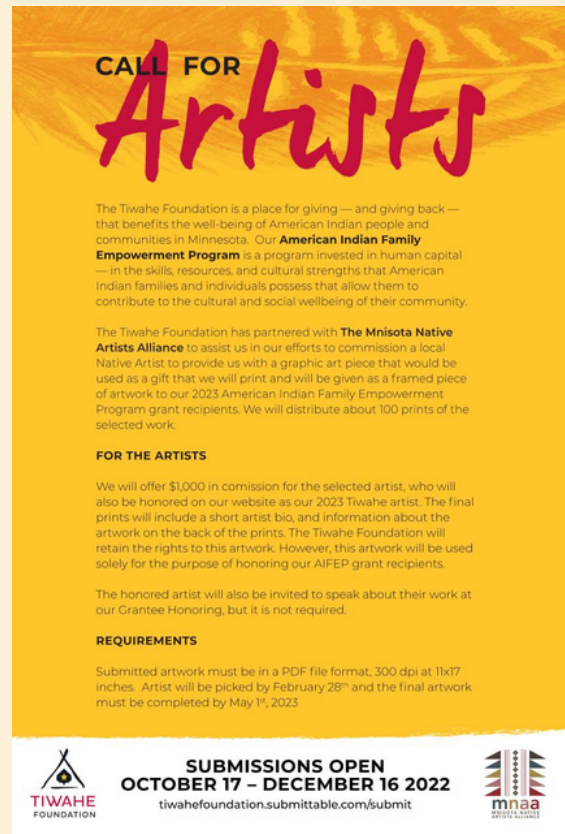
# Mnisota Native Artists Alliance



## 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.



# 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

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## **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](http://www.watobomani.org)



[washmn.org](http://washmn.org)



[makoceikikcupi.com](http://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](mailto:THECIRCLENEWS@GMAIL.COM)

[thecirclenews.org](https://thecirclenews.org)



[www.blackbearsandblueberries.com](http://www.blackbearsandblueberries.com)



[anoperatheatre.org/-zitkla-sa](http://anoperatheatre.org/-zitkla-sa)



**NET ZERO  
NATIONS**

[netzeronations.org](http://netzeronations.org)

# Grantmaking in Mnisota

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## **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](http://www.manidooogitigaan.org)



*Beginning Life Beautifully*

[www.mewinza.com](http://www.mewinza.com)

## **Bois Forte Food Sovereignty Group**

Contact: Dani at [dani@harvestnationinc.com](mailto:dani@harvestnationinc.com)

## **Duluth Sobriety Feast**

Contact: Frances at [fsaukko74@yahoo.com](mailto:fsaukko74@yahoo.com)

## **Minomiikana Cultural & Wellness Center**

Contact: Frank at [ftg59@yahoo.com](mailto:ftg59@yahoo.com)

## **MMIW - Twin Ports**

Contact: Rene Ann at [nlmcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:nlmcoalition@gmail.com)

## **Obaashiing University**

Contact: Vickey Fineday at [babyboots0215@gmail.com](mailto:babyboots0215@gmail.com)



[niibicenter.org](http://niibicenter.org)



# 2022 Partners



STFX  
UNIVERSITY

COADY  
INSTITUTE





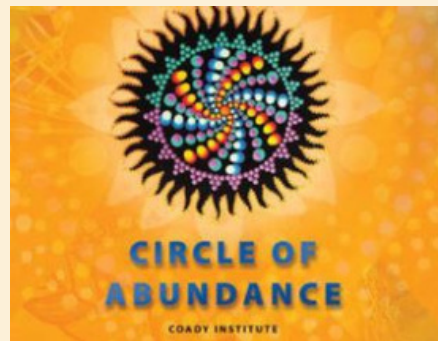
# 2022 Partners and Funders

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**IDRS**inc.

**MILLE LACS  
BAND OF OJIBWE**



**AICHO**

American Indian Community  
Housing Organization



NORTHEAST  
MINNEAPOLIS  
ARTS ASSOCIATION

 **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

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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

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## **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

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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](http://www.mniba.org) and sign up to receive our updates.