

NACDI

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

**FOUR
SISTERS**



Annual Report
2023

A Letter from the President & CEO

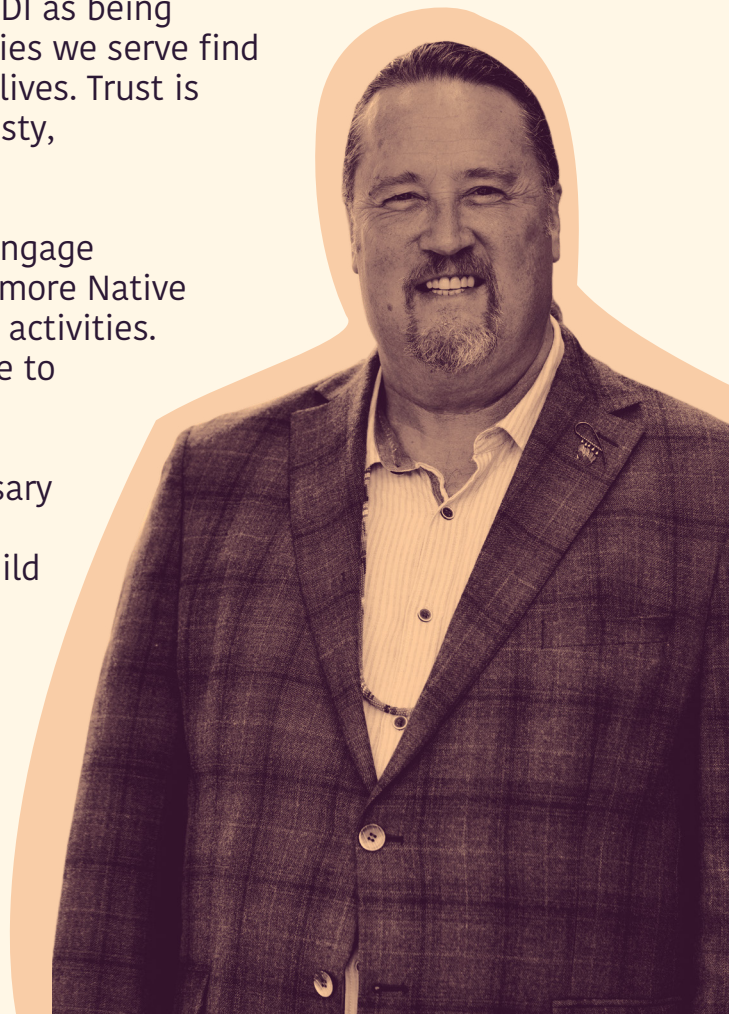
Dear Friends and Supporters;

I want to thank you all for your interest in, and support of, NACDI's work throughout 2023. We have continued to realize our mission to amplify and advance the Native American Community's vision for a vibrant future. Strong partnerships are fundamental to NACDI's approach. NACDI thrives in partnership - with philanthropy, public sector, businesses, other nonprofit organizations (both Native and non-native), and mostly with community. The foundation for these partnerships is growing and maintaining trust.

A maxim that has guided my work for decades is, "The quality of our work reflects the quality of our relationships". So much of Native culture is relationship based, rather than transactional. At NACDI we take the work to establish, grow, and maintain positive, trust-based relationships very seriously; at all levels from individual community members, with grassroots movements, agencies, and institutions. I like to describe NACDI as being permeable to community. That is, the communities we serve find NACDI present, accessible, and relevant to their lives. Trust is strengthened through robust engagement, honesty, and transparency.

Non-native people often ask me how to better engage with Native communities and how they can get more Native people involved in their work, organizations and activities. My response; show up in our communities. Strive to build authentic, quality relationships over time. Your regular and sustained presence in Native communities will begin to build the trust necessary to engage in satisfying, reciprocal relationships. Investing that time and effort will, over time, build trust and likely yield positive results; Native people will gain interest in you and your work. You will build trust! Together we can build the collaborative and thriving world we want to live in.

Miigwech,
Robert Lilligren







All My Relations Arts

In April, All My Relations Arts brought a traveling show from Ontario's Thunder Bay Art Gallery to our gallery. Entitled Piitwewetam: Making is Medicine, the exhibition explored one family's journey through grief and recovery using art and ceremony as healing. This exhibit highlighted the deeply personal collective experience of love and the nuanced ways in which we cope with loss. Through regalia, cradle boards, ribbon shirts and moccasins, the care and attention put into each piece was medicine for the makers.

The community response to the exhibition was overwhelmingly positive and emotional. One visitor stated their connection to the work:

Beautiful – breaks my heart yet the words and feelings communicate joy and life. Thank you so much for sharing this.

– AMRA visitor

What a gift! This exhibit was probably our most traditional show and it was delivered through a family's personal experience. It demonstrated how we can use our culture and ancestral ways of knowing to heal. While the topics of death, loss and grief can be difficult to articulate, the artists of Piitwewetam celebrated the beauty, laughter, joy and hope that exemplifies the love of a family member.





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Beautiful – breaks my heart yet the words and feelings communicate joy and life. Thank you so much for sharing this. – *AMRA Visitor*



Make Voting a Tradition

In 2023, Make Voting a Tradition attended and held a wide variety of community events in order to speak with people about voting and civic engagement. One big event was our Indigenous People's Day event held in partnership with the Indian Health Board (IHB) and the American Indian OIC (AIOIC). It was a great day of partnership, and we look forward to doing it next year. Not only did it give us a chance to coordinate with other Indian orgs to table, it also gave us an opportunity to register community members and provide education on voting. It's nice to be able to connect with folks as well as share the services other organizations offer.

In Minnesota, citizens with felony convictions can vote now. Our work focused on registering felons, as well as youth 16 and 17 who will be 18 by the time of elections. Spending our energy and time on connecting with youth and felons created a new excitement not just for us registering them, but for the whole community.

Numbers wise in 2023, we participated in 72 events and registered 2,164 eligible voters, with 344 being first time voters and with 104 being 18. Make Voting a Tradition also won the National Secretary of State award for our work in civic engagement.

One thing we'd love to see happen is making Indigenous People's Day also National Indigenous Voter Registration Day. With Indigenous People's Day and elections often in the Fall, it's a great opportunity to connect with our community and encourage civic engagement.



We have found that our biggest impact is made when we are face-to-face, connecting with our neighbors and relatives.

FOUR SISTERS

Urban Farm

This year, NACDI was growing and planting seeds in our community. With our Four Sisters Food Sovereignty programs, we are connecting our people back to the living world. We thought it would be an outstanding idea to work with our partners to grow some seedlings and have a plant giveaway for the community. Our farmer, Gloria Iacono, started tomatoes, peppers, kale, chard, sunflowers, and more. We worked with EPIC, Dream of Wild Health, and East Phillips residents and held an event on May 13th for a Seedling Giveaway. The organizers provided over 500 plants to neighborhood residents to use in their own gardens. They also provided entertainment and a food truck to make the event a day-long Spring celebration.

Although there was a steady drizzle on our day, the turnout was incredible!! We had hundreds of our neighbors show up to browse and learn about the seedlings. We had master gardeners and farmers on site to answer questions and to set people up for success in their gardens.

It is amazing what we can do with the most modest of gifts. A simple seed, soil, and light are the gifts we receive from Creator. How we give that back to our community is a testament to our mission and adherence to our Native values. It was so heartwarming to see the look of joy on our neighbors faces as they received their seedlings. By starting the growing season with connectedness and generosity, we were able to celebrate the abundance of gifts in our community. We are excited to continue to offer the seedling giveaway each year.



I feel like we are fully realizing the potential of this space and activating it in a good way with community.

FOUR SISTERS

Farmers Market

2023 saw new things for the Four Sisters Farmers Market! Destiny Jones took on the role of management at the market in April after starting at NACDI as the Administrative Operations Coordinator in 2022. Alongside Isaiah Durant-Haines as Assistant Market Manager, the team oversaw a summer of new vendors, programming, and opportunities for Four Sisters.

The season kicked off with a bang with a performance by The Pretendians and saw an influx of new customers and vendors. Highlights include wild rice banana bread from Gatherings Cafe, amazing jewelry by Summer Cohen of Beads, Bling, and Buckskin, and fresh produce from our friends at Rusty Patch Farm. The market also saw its first inaugural Farmer's Market Artist in Residence in collaboration with All My Relations Arts and its first Pickle-Off at the market with the help of the folks at the Indian Health Board. Four Sisters also began working with Prairie Island Indian Community's Food Sovereignty team on satellite markets that brought our model of Indigenous food sovereignty to their community currently within a food desert and allowed our entrepreneurs new opportunities to vend around the Twin Cities metro.

This was a year of exploration that would be continued in 2024. We are grateful for the amazing people we were able to work with along the way.



Organizational Overview

Native American Community Development Institute's (NACDI) work is founded on the belief that all American Indian people have a place, purpose, and a future strengthened by sustainable asset-based community development. Since 2007, NACDI's work facilitates systems change through our integrated pathways of Community Engagement, Community Organizing, Community Development, and Indigenous Arts and Culture. NACDI utilizes these strategies to control our narrative, influence policy, and lead systems change while shifting power dynamics through shared Native values, traditions, cultures, and practices.



These are community-led efforts to secure self-directed wealth building in the American Indian community. NACDI partners with a wide network of Native and non-Native individuals and organizations to create a vibrant, healthy, and balanced community with economic opportunities for Native people. NACDI's key projects include: All My Relations Arts, Four Sisters Farmers Market and Urban Farm, and Make Voting A Tradition (MVAT). NACDI is building a vibrant future for all our relations.

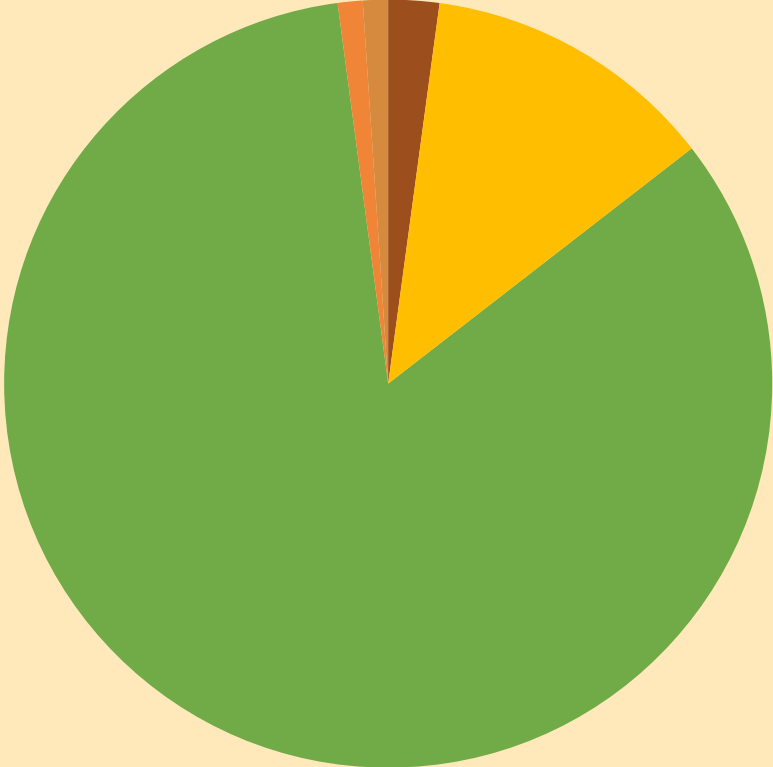


2023 Financials

NACDI endeavors to be a good steward of the funds we receive from foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individuals. Here is a chart of our revenue and expenses broken down by board categories. Part of being a good steward is transparency, so NACDI provides our detailed tax form 990 on our website for review.

2023 Funding Sources

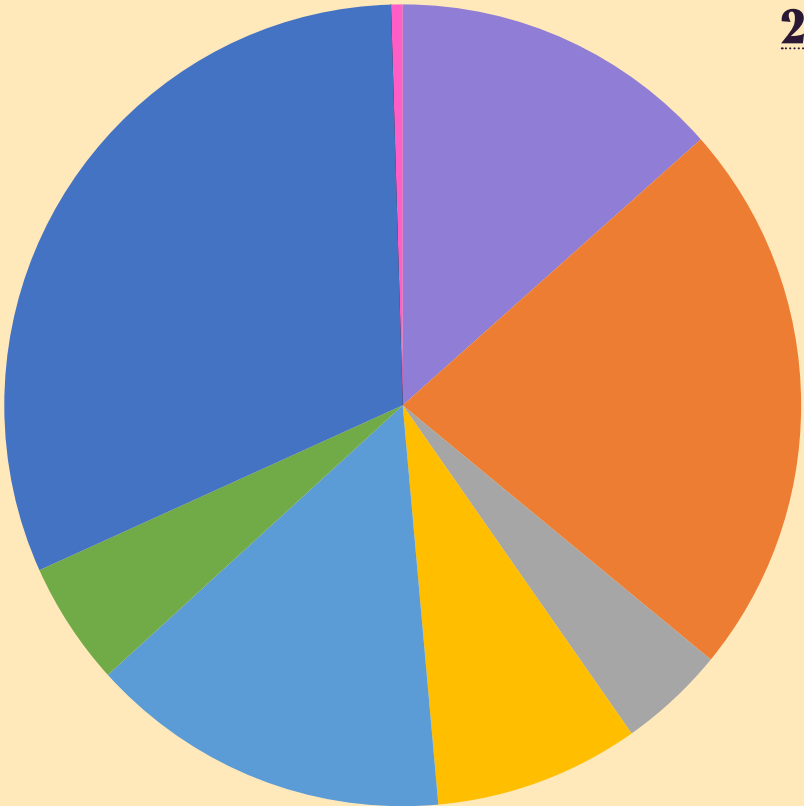
- Foundation Donations
- Other Income
- Corporate Donations
- Consulting Income
- Individual Donations



2023 Expenses

Based On Program

- General Operations
- Other NACDI Programs
- AMRA Programs
- Four Sisters Urban Farm
- Four Sisters Farmers Market
- Make Voting A Tradition
- Fundraising
- Fiscal Sponsorship



Thank You



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee:

Chair: Sam Olbekson

Vice-Chair: Deanna Standing Cloud

Secretary: Christine McDonald

Peter McLaughlin 4th District Hennepin County Commissioner

Mihailo Temali ED MN LISC

CREDITS

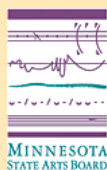
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Gloria, Hilary - Tj Turner Pictures

Robert, Angela, Jolene - Ne-Dah-Ness Greene

Graphic Design:

Dennis Madamba



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