



NACDI

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



**FOUR
SISTERS**



AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL CORRIDOR

A LETTER FROM THE President & CEO

Reflecting on our work at NACDI in 2024, the word that comes to mind is “growth”. Growth within our organization, growth in the capabilities and leadership of our incredibly talented professional staff, growth within our projects and programs, growth in our reputation and profile, and most importantly growth in our community.

Last year was the fourth and final year of the implementation of NACDI’s “Change Plan”, which followed three and a half years of self-evaluation, reflection, organizational analysis, and strategic planning. The goal of the Change Plan was to build a sustainable business model that builds our capacity and impact. At NACDI we very much feel the power and pressure of the additional capacity we’ve gained from our Change Plan in 2024. Now we are engaging with professionals to help us shape how we can best serve our communities and amplify our impacts with this newfound capacity.

We are so very grateful to all of our supporters, funders, and community partners. We look forward to continuing to advance and strengthen these partnerships in the coming year!

Miigwech,
Robert Lilligren (he/him)
White Earth Ojibwe
NACDI President & CEO



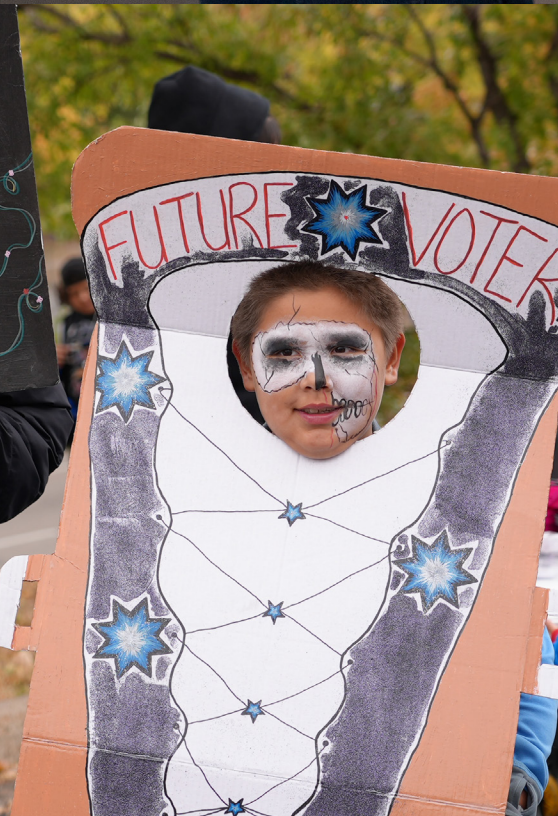


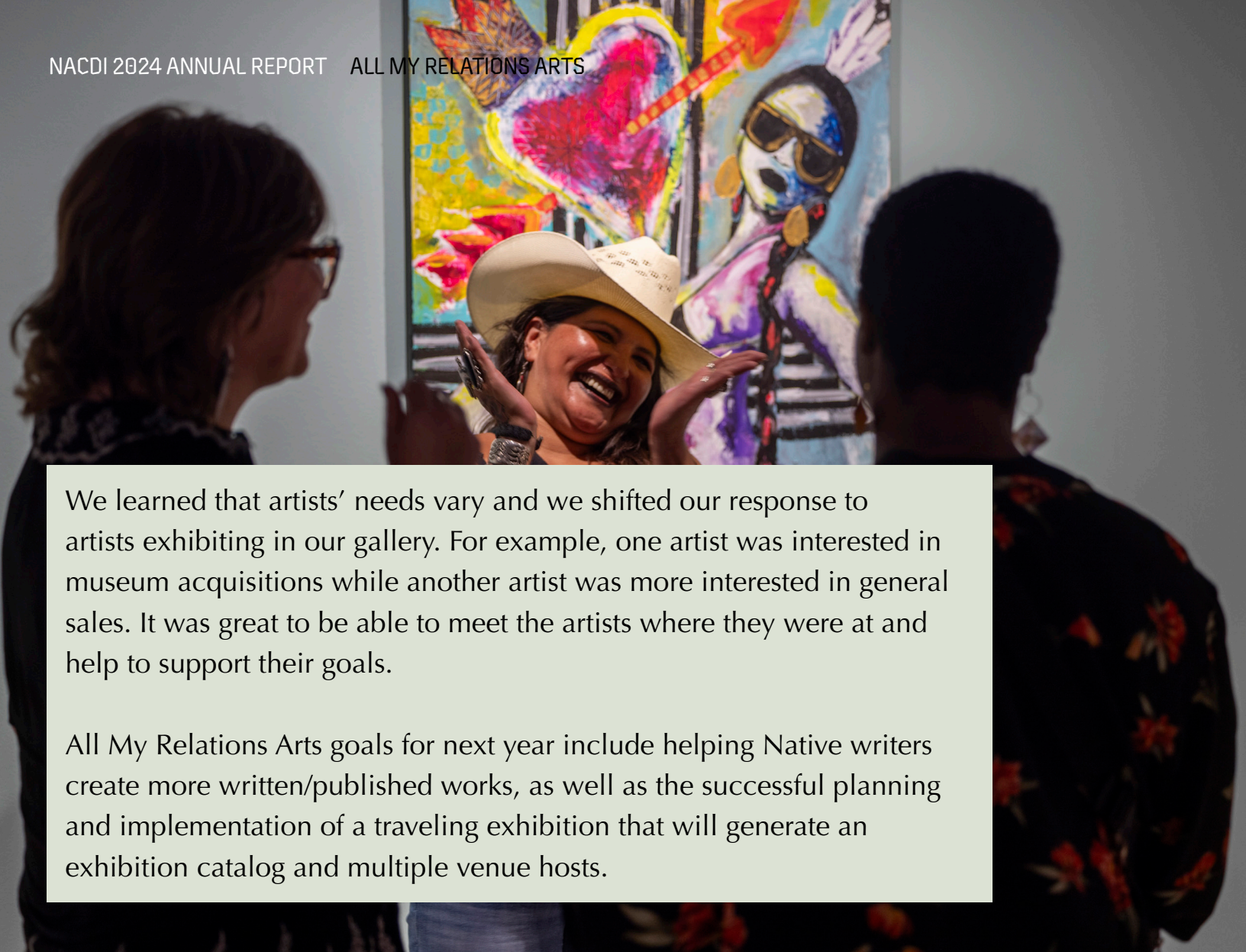
All My Relations Arts



In 2024, All My Relations Arts held four major shows: Okizi, held in collaboration with the American Swedish Institute; Frank Buffalo Hyde's AL·TER·NA·TIVE; Arikara Proper by Jennifer White, and a partnership with the Emerging Curators Institute, Niimiwin, curated by ECI fellow Josie Hoffman.

Our exhibitions were often the work of partnership, such as our collaboration with the American Swedish Institute for the Arctic Highways/Okizi joint exhibition. There was also frequent partnership within NACDI programming, including the work with Make Voting a Tradition to contract artists to create a series of art available to the community about voting and voter rights. In addition, the All My Relations Arts program created an advisory committee of artists to help inform decision making.



A woman wearing a white cowboy hat and a black top is laughing and clapping her hands. She is standing in front of a large, vibrant, abstract painting. To her left, the back of a woman's head with glasses is visible. To her right, the back of a man's head is visible. The painting features a central figure with a large, colorful heart and a figure with sunglasses and a feathered headdress.

We learned that artists' needs vary and we shifted our response to artists exhibiting in our gallery. For example, one artist was interested in museum acquisitions while another artist was more interested in general sales. It was great to be able to meet the artists where they were at and help to support their goals.

All My Relations Arts goals for next year include helping Native writers create more written/published works, as well as the successful planning and implementation of a traveling exhibition that will generate an exhibition catalog and multiple venue hosts.

Three people are playing drums. On the left, a man with a tattoo on his arm is playing a drum. In the center, a young girl is playing a drum and singing. On the right, a man wearing a cowboy hat and a patterned jacket is playing a drum. They are standing in front of a large, vibrant, abstract painting. The painting features a central figure with a large, colorful heart and a figure with sunglasses and a feathered headdress.

"AMRA celebrated 25 years of operation in 2024. It has been so rewarding that through 25 years, we are continuing to highlight and support American Indian artists and to see the successful trajectory of the artists that have been a part of our history is uplifting and we love celebrating the beauty that these incredible artists create."

--Angela Two Stars

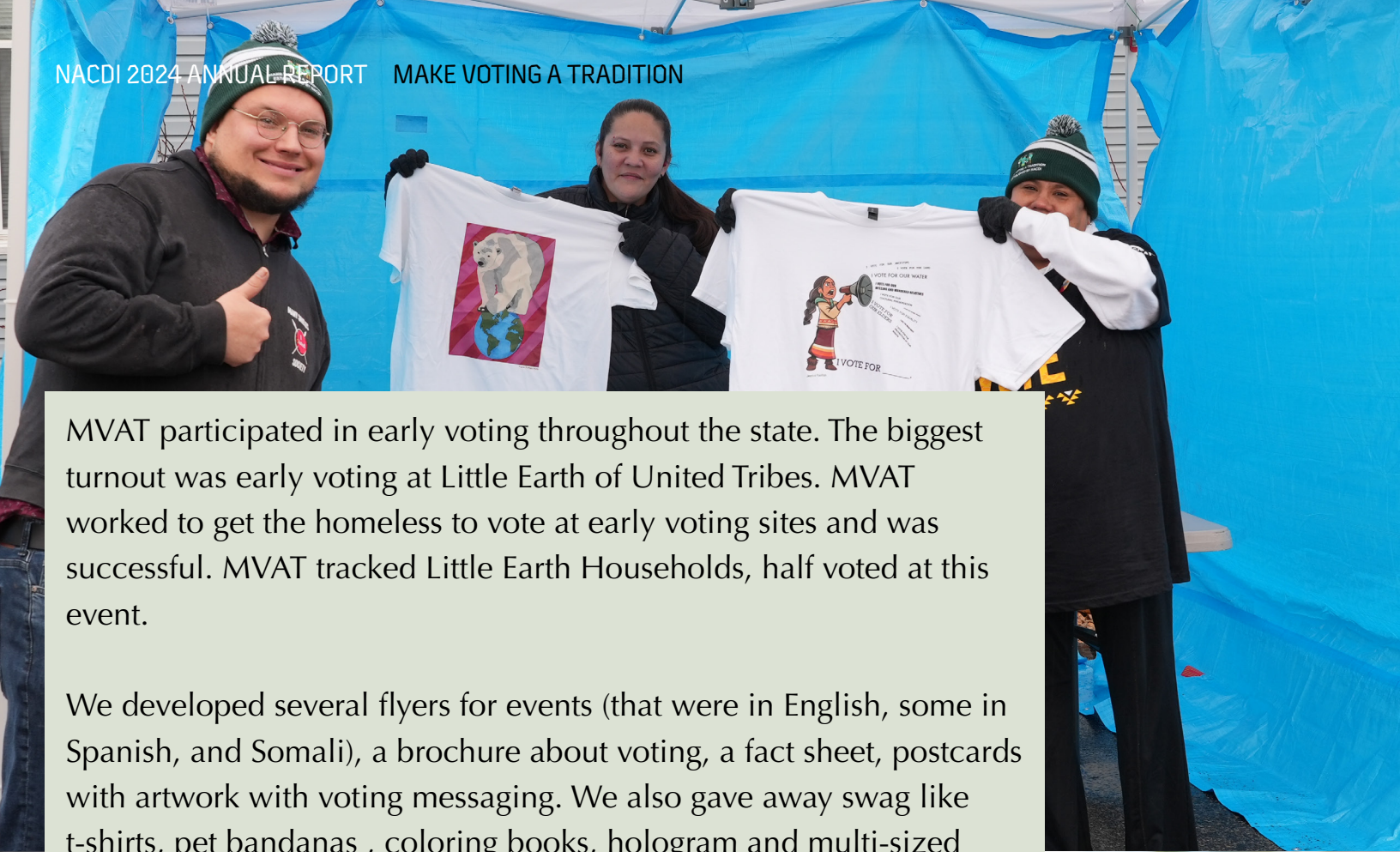


Make Voting a Tradition

Last year, Make Voting A Tradition participated in 99 events, registered 1,548 paper registration 1,997 online registration for a total of 3,495. MVAT took part in 113 events, spoke with 14,899 people and 2,000+ when door knocking. MVAT voter outreach reached approximately 50,000+ people. MVAT partnership with Native Organizing Alliance (NOA) enabled MVAT to work with 22 canvassers/fellows from the community. The ability to participate in multiple groups, events allowed MVAT to register a record number of voters from the Native community.

MVAT collaborated with AMRA to commission artwork from six Native artists that was used to inspire and engage our community through visual art messaging. We received a lot of very positive responses from community members about swag featuring the art!

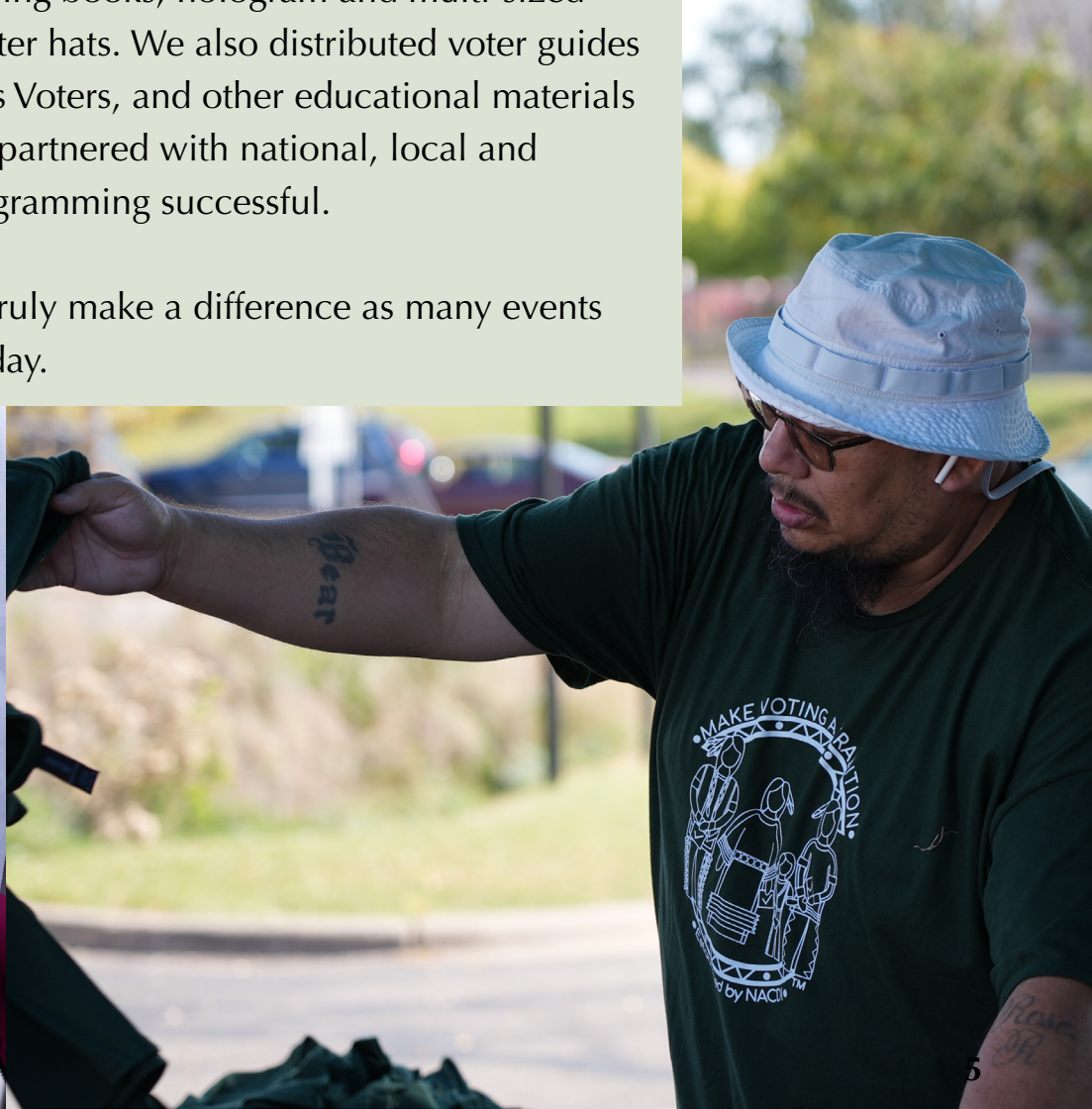
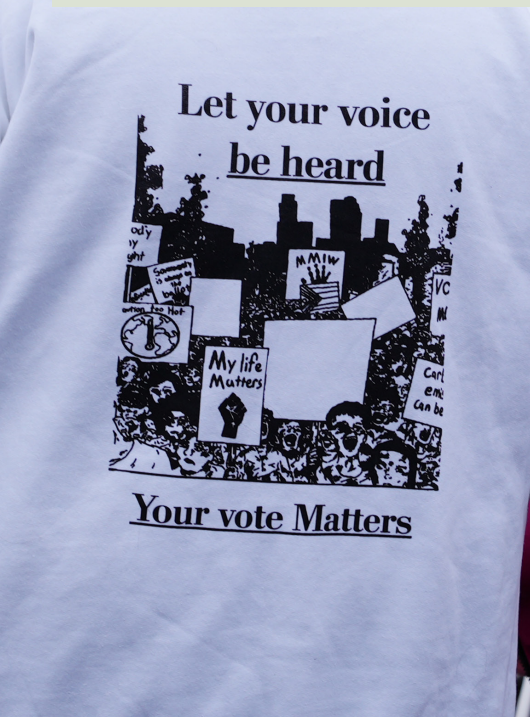




MVAT participated in early voting throughout the state. The biggest turnout was early voting at Little Earth of United Tribes. MVAT worked to get the homeless to vote at early voting sites and was successful. MVAT tracked Little Earth Households, half voted at this event.

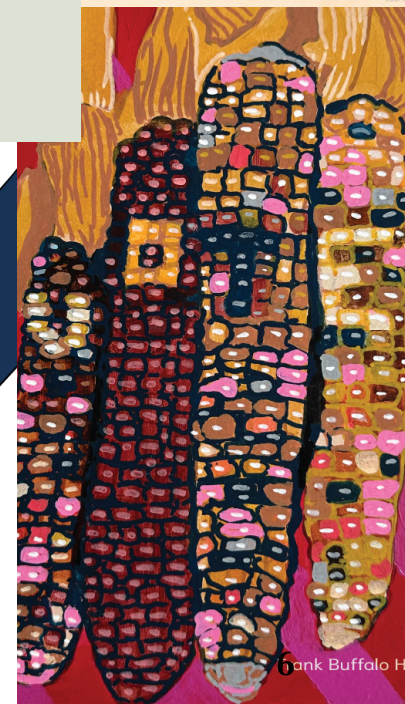
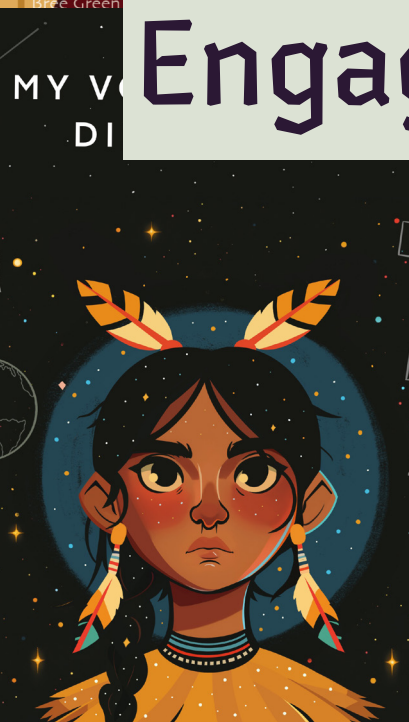
We developed several flyers for events (that were in English, some in Spanish, and Somali), a brochure about voting, a fact sheet, postcards with artwork with voting messaging. We also gave away swag like t-shirts, pet bandanas, coloring books, hologram and multi-sized stickers, yard signs, and winter hats. We also distributed voter guides from the League of Women's Voters, and other educational materials from MVAT Partners. MVAT partnered with national, local and reservation to make our programming successful.

MVAT canvassers numbers truly make a difference as many events are at the same time, same day.





Art as Civic Engagement Strategy



Farmers Market

2024 was a great year for the Four Sisters Farmers Market. We kicked off the season early with a series of Business Workshops on the corridor, with a major thanks to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribes building for their hospitality. Open to all members of the community, Market Manager Destiny Jones collaborated with business professionals from local organizations and within Indigenous networks like Mni Sota Fund and Blue Hummingbird Woman to create curriculum that set early entrepreneurs on the right track for their first year of business or planning. The workshops saw entrepreneurs at many stages of business and the market was thrilled to see three participants as new full-time vendors in the summer!

The market season started with a bang on June 6th with our biggest turnout to date! This increase in visitors was a trend we saw for all 21 of our markets this season, which we can credit to our amazing and consistent vendors, our lovely musical programming from talented musicians like Annie Humphrey and James Harvin, tasty food demos from Gatherings Cafe and Simone Rendon of Edible Arts MN, and our AMRA Farmers Market Artist in Residence of the year, Natchez Beaulieu. Despite unrest in the community due to encampment removals, we kept our varied visitors of the market cool with free water and snacks and worked to continue to facilitate the open-minded community space for which we are known.




A highlight of the season was “Preservation Month”. Set in September, Psihnaketu-wi (“when the rice is set to dry” in Dakhód’iapi), the month was devoted to preserving the growing season’s bounty just as nations have in the state for time immemorial. We hosted a series of canning, drying, and freezing workshops that allowed participants to go home with plenty of new knowledge and food. We want to give a special thanks to Ritchie Two Bulls of First Nations Kitchen, Becky De La Cruz of the U of MN Master Gardener’s Program, and Ocean Journey for making this possible! The month finished off with our Third Annual Pickle- Off at the market, hosted in collaboration with the Indian Health Board and a quick pickle tutorial by Dream of Wild Health.

As the season wound down, Market Manager Destiny Jones was able to change gears from action to advocacy. Working within her role on the Minneapolis Food Council, Destiny has begun to research solutions regarding elder food access within the county and will lobby with folks at the Land Stewardship Project on environmental and agricultural concerns in the spring. Though the work is never quite over, its also never dull or without love! Four Sisters is grateful for all of those who attend, vend, and collaborate to make every season a shining example of Indigenous love, excellence, and community. We thank you, we thank you, we thank you.

FOUR SISTERS

Urban Farm



2024 was the third growing season for the Four Sisters Urban Farm, the second season hosting an annual community Seedling Giveaway and the first year piloting a summer internship. Each season builds on the previous year's accomplishments, deepening our connection to land and to each other.

We were proud to host a second Seedling Giveaway this year at our farm, giving away over 1100 starter plants (mostly vegetables and some flowers) to community members. Starting the season with an event like this is an opportunity to show gratitude for our community and to start our season in a good way. This year's event continued to grow with plant donations from other organizations and the continued support of our community partners.



Another highlight from the 2024 season was piloting a summer internship.

We were able to engage four youth interns in helping to steward our farm space and learning about larger food sovereignty efforts in the area. Our internship was a partnership with Project for Pride in Living's LEAP Program and HIRED Minneapolis. In addition to maintaining our farm space, interns visited several different farms in the area and were encouraged to pursue independent study opportunities that aligned with their individual interests. In line with NACDI's organizational culture, our internship program was designed to invest in the interns' professional growth and development through supporting the whole person. We look forward to continuing this program in the 2025 season.

As we continue to build and grow our farm space, we are grateful for the connections we have made that serve as a strong foundation. We take pride in our deep community roots and look forward to continuing to support our friends and neighbors on their food sovereignty journey.

“Through the internship I felt very fortunate to have the opportunity to be outdoors and work with my hands while also learning about what it means to tend to a communal garden space within an urban environment. Reflecting on my experiences I feel like I was shown how vital community is in practicing ways for food security and access to fresh produce. It felt good to be a part of a place that holds shared responsibility.”

-- Memengwaa Paap

The Good Relatives Collaborative

The Good Relatives Collaborative (GRC) stands as a transformative initiative dedicated to reshaping traditional funding models through a Native-led lens.

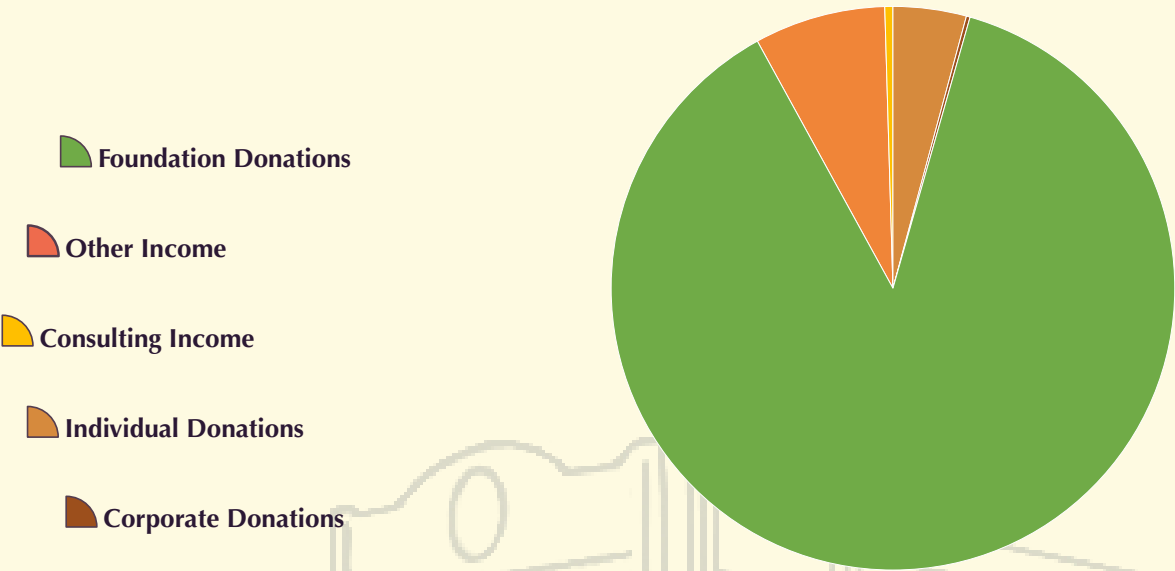
Rooted in the Native communities of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, the GRC brings together three partner organizations to distribute \$1.9 million annually in culturally responsive grants and awards. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to addressing the diverse and dynamic needs of Native grassroots and constituency-led organizations. By focusing on community leadership, healing, cultural revitalization, and capacity building, the GRC seeks to empower Native communities through cooperation, reciprocity, and innovation.



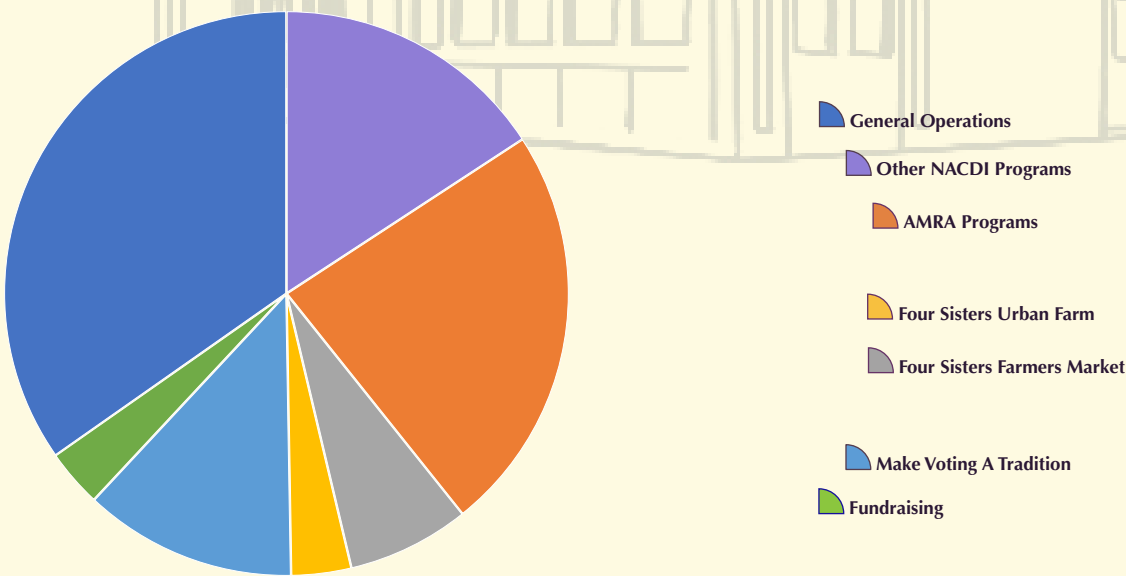
2024 Financials

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.

2024 Funding Sources



2024 Expenses Based On Program



Part of being a good steward is transparency, so NACDI provides our detailed tax form 990 on our website for review.

THANK YOU TO



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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