Our Commitment to Transparency & Accountability

At First Nations, we view the resources entrusted to us as sacred and take great responsibility in how we use them. We prioritize transparency and accountability in our operations, and are proud to have received the highest rating of Four Stars from Charity Navigator for 12 consecutive years.

Candid Platinum. In 2023, First Nations again earned the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid (formerly GuideStar), the highest level of recognition offered.

We also met all 20 standards set by the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance, excelling in areas of governance, oversight, effectiveness, finances, fundraising, and donor privacy.

New in 2023, First Nations was honored with a Top-Rated Award from GreatNonprofits as a result of receiving positive feedback from donors, supporters, and those we serve.

Michael E. Roberts
Tlingit
PRESIDENT and CEO

A-dae Romero-Briones
Cochiti/Kiowa
VICE PRESIDENT, POLICY & RESEARCH, CALIFORNIA TRIBAL FUND, NOURISHING NATIVE FOODS & HEALTH

Catherine Bryan
Navajo
VICE PRESIDENT, GRANTMAKING, COMMUNICATIONS, ADMINISTRATION, and STRENGTHENING TRIBAL & COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

100% of our board members are Native.

For a complete list of board members and biographies, visit firstnations.org/about/board
First Nations Development Institute’s mission is to uplift and sustain the lifeways and economies of Native communities through advocacy, financial support, and knowledge sharing.

Our Approach

For over 43 years, First Nations has been committed to strengthening tribal assets and Native communities. In 2023, we continue this focus, protecting traditional knowledge and assets for our collective future, and preserving our resources and relationships by uplifting them, celebrating them, and preserving Native communities. In 2023, we continue this focus, protecting our lifeways and economies for our collective future, and preserving Native lifeways and economies for our collective future.

2023 IMPACT

Our Grantee Community Partners

In 2023, First Nations made 326 grants to Native-controlled nonprofits and tribal government programs, a total investment of $13,537,000.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

326 GRANTS AWARDED

$873,000 FUNDS AWARDED THROUGH LUCE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FELLOWSHIP AND JUSTICE THROUGH THE EYES OF NATIVE ARTISTS PROJECT

$13,537,000 GRANT FUNDS AWARDED

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

185 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUPPORT SESSIONS

Includes capacity building workshops, webinars, and convenings.

54,278 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH PROGRAMS

11 PUBLICATIONS AUTHORED OR PRODUCED

4,576 PUBLICATIONS DOWNLOADED FROM ONLINE KNOWLEDGE CENTER

2023 UNMET NEED

In any given year, First Nations is able to fund only a small percentage of the grant requests we receive.

Advocacy Financial Support Knowledge Sharing

Protection

2023 Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellows

One of the newest First Nations’ Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellows, Anton Treuer (Ojibwe), is committed to sharing his knowledge to ensure that Ojibwe lifeways are forever protected. Through the fellowship, Anton is advancing his self-created apprenticeship, in which he personally mentors community members of all ages in the Ojibwe language and in many cultural and spiritual traditions, such as drum ceremonies, medicine dances, and tobacco offerings. An author and professor, and one of the few remaining Ojibwe language speakers in the country, he is guided by one of his elders who told him early on, “If you learn something—a word, a song, a ceremony, anything—make sure you teach it to at least four other people.”

Preserving

In 2023, First Nations continues its work in the field of Native justice, both environmental and economic, means to their communities. The groundbreaking collection of stories, Invisible No More: Voices from Native America, highlights the resilience of Native people and their fight to maintain their distinct identities, protect land and the environment, and advance tribal sovereignty.

Invisible No More

This collection of essays offers a new narrative—one grounded in Native history and Native values. It is one that gives Native people and Native practitioners visibility, and one that suggests a strong call to action.

Michael E. Roberts | Tingit
President and CEO
First Nations

 Prevailing

Since 1980, First Nations has invested in the lifeways and economies of Native communities.

Our Grantee Community Partners

In 2023, First Nations made 326 grants to Native-controlled nonprofits and tribal government programs, a total investment of $13,537,000.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

326 GRANTS AWARDED

$873,000 FUNDS AWARDED THROUGH LUCE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FELLOWSHIP AND JUSTICE THROUGH THE EYES OF NATIVE ARTISTS PROJECT

$13,537,000 GRANT FUNDS AWARDED

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

185 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUPPORT SESSIONS

Includes capacity building workshops, webinars, and convenings.

54,278 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH PROGRAMS

11 PUBLICATIONS AUTHORED OR PRODUCED

4,576 PUBLICATIONS DOWNLOADED FROM ONLINE KNOWLEDGE CENTER

2023 UNMET NEED

In any given year, First Nations is able to fund only a small percentage of the grant requests we receive.

Advocacy Financial Support Knowledge Sharing

Protection

2023 Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellows

One of the newest First Nations’ Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellows, Anton Treuer (Ojibwe), is committed to sharing his knowledge to ensure that Ojibwe lifeways are forever protected. Through the fellowship, Anton is advancing his self-created apprenticeship, in which he personally mentors community members of all ages in the Ojibwe language and in many cultural and spiritual traditions, such as drum ceremonies, medicine dances, and tobacco offerings. An author and professor, and one of the few remaining Ojibwe language speakers in the country, he is guided by one of his elders who told him early on, “If you learn something—a word, a song, a ceremony, anything—make sure you teach it to at least four other people.”

Preserving

In 2023, First Nations continues its work in the field of Native justice, both environmental and economic, means to their communities. The groundbreaking collection of stories, Invisible No More: Voices from Native America, highlights the resilience of Native people and their fight to maintain their distinct identities, protect land and the environment, and advance tribal sovereignty.

Invisible No More

This collection of essays offers a new narrative—one grounded in Native history and Native values. It is one that gives Native people and Native practitioners visibility, and one that suggests a strong call to action.

Michael E. Roberts | Tingit
President and CEO
First Nations

 Prevailing

Since 1980, First Nations has invested in the lifeways and economies of Native communities.
Our Commitment to Transparency & Accountability

At First Nations, we view the resources entrusted to us as sacred and take great responsibility in how we use them. We prioritize transparency and accountability in our operations, and are proud to have received the highest rating of Four Stars from Charity Navigator for 12 consecutive years.

Candid Platinum. In 2023, First Nations again earned the Platinum Seal of Transparency from Candid (formerly GuideStar), the highest level of recognition offered.

We also met all 20 standards set by the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance, excelling in areas of governance, oversight, effectiveness, finances, fundraising, and donor privacy.

New in 2023, First Nations was honored with a Top-Rated Award from GreatNonprofits as a result of receiving positive feedback from donors, supporters, and those we serve.

Michael E. Roberts
Tlingit
PRESIDENT  and CEO

A-dae Romero-Briones
Cochiti/Kiowa
VICE PRESIDENT, POLICY & RESEARCH, CALIFORNIA TRIBAL FUND, NOURISHING NATIVE FOODS & HEALTH

Catherine Bryan
Navajo
VICE PRESIDENT, GRANTMAKING, COMMUNICATIONS, ADMINISTRATION, and STRENGTHENING TRIBAL & COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

The cover of this year’s Impact Report features “Mitákuye Oyás’iŋ,” by Danielle SeeWalker, who is Húŋkpapȟa Lakȟóta and a citizen of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota. It represents Wópȟpe, the daughter of the son and the moon, and her harmony among all our relatives and how we must live in the philosophy of Mitákuye Oyás’iŋ in order to continue to protect, preserve and carry forward our cultural values and ways of life. To learn more about Danielle’s work, visit seewalker.com.