

FIRST NATIONS DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS PROUD TO SHARE...

# Protecting Preserving Prevailing

2023  
IMPACT  
REPORT



**FIRST NATIONS**   
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

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 sustaining them. We remain committed to prevailing, always increasing Native representation and visibility, and sharing our stories with pride and purpose.



CORE STRATEGIES FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE:

- Advocacy
- Financial Support
- Knowledge Sharing

### ADVOCACY

40

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS PROVIDED TO STUDENTS

377

FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

11

FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

4

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICES SUPPORTED

92

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE PARTICIPANTS

### 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

## 2023 IMPACT

### KNOWLEDGE SHARING

185

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUPPORT SESSIONS  
*Includes capacity building trainings, webinars, and convenings.*

54,278

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH PROGRAMS

11

PUBLICATIONS AUTHORED OR PRODUCED

4,576

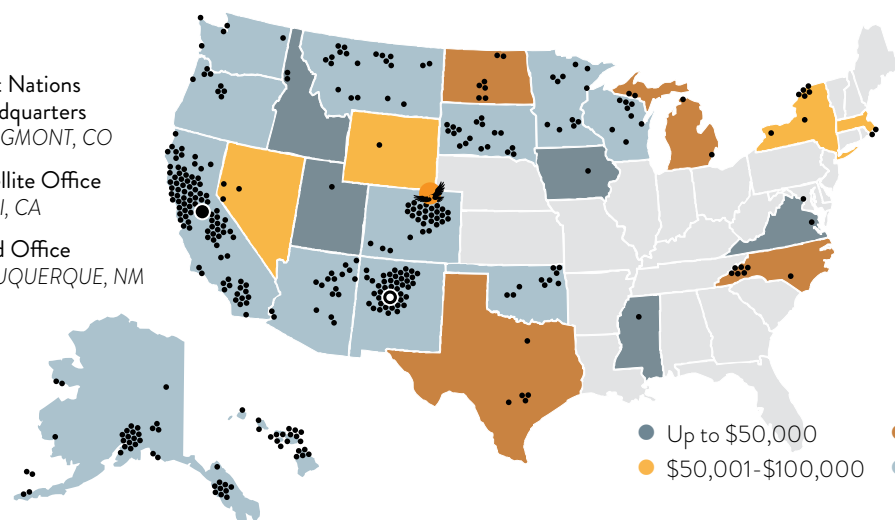
PUBLICATIONS DOWNLOADED FROM ONLINE KNOWLEDGE CENTER

### 2023 UNMET NEED

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

## Our Grantee Community Partners

- First Nations Headquarters LONGMONT, CO
- Satellite Office LODI, CA
- Field Office ALBUQUERQUE, NM



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

### COMMUNITY INVESTMENT



Anton Treuer | Ojibwe  
2023 Luce Indigenous Knowledge Fellow

## Protecting KEEPING NATIVE CULTURE AND LANGUAGE ALIVE AND GROWING

“Seven generations from now, when nobody knows my name...I think there is a real chance that our language and ceremonies will be alive in the hearts and minds of our future generations. And that will be the greatest accomplishment and legacy.”

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."

## Protecting Preserving Prevailing



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

### Preserving INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF OUR SOIL, LAND, AND WATER



Leiloni Begaye | Diné  
Senior Program Officer,  
Stewarding Native Lands,  
First Nations

“All trainings are focused where our feet are grounded in Nahasdzáán, and we honor all relatives from clanship to our four-legged relatives, winged-relatives, and water.”

Navajo and Pueblo tribal nations have always called the Southwest “home,” stewarding beautiful, vast landscapes with diverse ecosystems that constantly interact in kinship through the soil, water, plants, animals, birds, and tiniest of organisms.

First Nations serves over 167 Native American land stewards throughout their ancestral homelands, sharing knowledge and skills inherent in conservation planning – inventory mapping, ecological site composition, soil analysis, rangeland management, and more. Trainers meet up close and personal with Native farmers and ranchers, addressing challenges revealed in the field, from drought and fencing, to irrigation, wildlife, and permits. Also provided is hands-on experience in planning for ecological, economic, and community goals. What makes these trainings stand out is that land stewards themselves are part of the process, engaged in the future of their lands and their home.

## Prevailing BUILDING A MOVEMENT FOR NATIVE AMERICAN JUSTICE

### INVISIBLE NO MORE



VOICES FROM NATIVE AMERICA  
EDITED BY RAYMOND FOXWORTH AND STEVE DUBB

“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 | Tlingit  
President and CEO  
First Nations

First Nations is leading research and advocacy in line with a broader, national discussion about racial equity. As part of this work, we collaborated with Nonprofit Quarterly to share voices from Native American leaders about what 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.

Also, through this justice movement, Native artists like Jackie Fawn (Washoe, Yurok) are contributing their artistic gifts, recognizing that art should be at the forefront of any movement for change. Jackie's illustration (right) depicts “justice for our ancestors, as we are still here, honoring our roots so the next generation won't have to make the difficult strides we do as parents and relatives.”





# Our Commitment to Transparency & Accountability



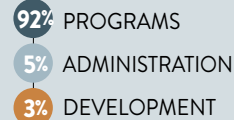
At First Nations, we view the resources entrusted to us as sacred and take great responsibility in how we use them. We prioritize transparency and accountability in our operations, and are proud to have received the highest rating of **Four Stars from Charity Navigator** for 12 consecutive years.

**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.

To learn more about our impact in Indian Country, as well as the financial position of our organization, please visit: [firstnations.org/our-values/financial-information/](https://firstnations.org/our-values/financial-information/)



The cover of this year's Impact Report features "Mitákuye Oyás'ïŋ," by Danielle SeeWalker, who is Húŋkpaŋa Lakphóta and a citizen of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota. It represents Wóphpe, 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'ïŋ 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](https://seewalker.com).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VICE CHAIR

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TREASURER

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SECRETARY

100% of our board members are Native.  
For a complete list of board members and biographies, visit [firstnations.org/about/board](https://firstnations.org/about/board)

## LEADERSHIP TEAM



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Tlingit  
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# FIRST NATIONS

DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

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