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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/

The cover of this year’s Impact Report features “Mitákuye Oyásíŋ,” by Danielle SeeWalker, who is Húŋkpapá 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 Oyásíŋ 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.
In any given year, First Nations has 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.

**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**

**2023 Impact**

- **ADVOCACY**
  - 40 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS
  - 377 FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
  - 11 FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

- **COMMUNITY OF PRACTICES SUPPORTED**
  - 4

- **KNOWLEDGE SHARING**
  - 185 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUPPORT SESSIONS
  - 54,278 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH PROGRAMS

- **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**
  - 326 GRANTS AWARDED
  - $873,000 FUNDS AWARDED THROUGH LUCE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FELLOWSHIP AND JUSTICE THROUGH THE EYES OF NATIVE ARTISTS PROJECT

- **2023 UNMET NEED**

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

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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.

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**Preserving**

**Investing in the Future of Our Soil, Land, and Water**

Navajo and Pueblo tribal nations have always called the Southwest “home,” stewarding beautiful, vast landscapes with diverse ecosystems that constantly interact with 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.

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**Prevailing**

**Building a Movement for Native American Justice**

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 (Wasco, 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.”
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.

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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.

Community Investment

- Up to $50,000
- $100,001-$200,000
- $50,001-$100,000
- Over $200,000

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 GRANTS FUNDS AWARDED

Knowledge Sharing

- 185 TECHNICAL RESISTANCE SUPPORT SESSIONS
- 54,278 PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH PROGRAMS
- 11 PUBLICATIONS AUTHORED OR PRODUCED
- 4,576 PUBLICATIONS DOWNLOADED FROM ONLINE KNOWLEDGE CENTER

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

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
President and CEO
First Nations

In 2023, 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.”

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Invisible No More: Voices from Native America
Linda Peña
Editors

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Marguerite Smith | Shinnecock
VICE CHAIR

Susan Jenkins | Choctaw
TREASURER

Shyla Sheppard | Mandan/Hidatsa
SECRETARY

100% of our board members are Native. For a complete list of board members and biographies, visit firstnations.org/about/board

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