

mniba.org

2021 Impact Report

05/31/2022



mniba
Minnesota Indigenous
Business Alliance

MNIBA
P.O. Box 40354
St. Paul, MN 55104



2021 IMPACT REPORT

The Minnesota Indigenous Business Alliance (MNIBA) is a Native-led and governed 501c3 nonprofit serving Native entrepreneurs, artists, and businesses. Since our humble beginnings, MNIBA still puts "*Native Business First!*" As our organization grows, so do the opportunities to scale our impact.

2021 In Retrospect

"Navigating together in uncharted waters"

Native trade and exchange did not reopen as planned, and though faced with uncertain times and unprecedented changes in how MNIBA works, communicates, and comes together, Native business remained at the forefront of our collective goals for 2021.

Much of the content in this report has been previously shared throughout MNIBA's communication platforms. It reflects and celebrates us navigating together in uncharted waters during this ongoing global pandemic.



IMPACT STATEMENT

Our impact focuses on amplifying Native innovation and to create equitable outcomes for Native entrepreneurs and artists. This impact is achieved every day by being a critical resource provider and connector linking entrepreneurs to opportunities that support, elevate, and showcase Native innovation.

MNIBA's goal is to inspire the next generation of Native entrepreneurs to design trade and exchange practices rooted in collaboration, cooperation, and sharing. We believe this is a pathway forward for economic justice, self-sufficiency, and equitable outcomes for our People. We continue to expand these boundaries while advocating for economic development initiatives that transition away from "resource extraction" to the development of "restorative and values-based economies."

MNIBA is honored and privileged to be working on the traditional territories of the Dakota and Anishinaabe people. We acknowledge their respected Elders, community leaders, language speakers, entrepreneurs, artists and the next seven generations.

MISSION

Align Partners

Connect Business to Resources

Transform Native Economies

VALUES

COMMUNITY: building trust and long-term relationships.

CREATIVITY: pushing beyond the obvious to promote change.

SHARED LEADERSHIP: representative of the communities we serve, fostering cooperation, collaboration, and respectful inquiry.

RESTORATIVE GROWTH: working to build healthy and equitable Native economies that work for all.



2021 IN REVIEW

In 2021, the world continued to confront the consequences of the momentous events of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic, the murder of George Floyd, the U.S. presidential election, followed by the January 6, 2021, Insurrection at the U.S. Capital.

As the year began, we were still firmly in the grip of COVID-19 that first emerged in late December 2019 and spread around the world in 2020, prompting lockdowns, a global recession and upheaval on an unprecedented scale.

Amid the introduction of vaccines and loosening mandates for mask-wearing and social distancing measures, the arrival of the more contagious Delta variant of the virus dampened hopes for a return to pre-pandemic life. Following that, we were hit again with another highly contagious variant, Omicron, toward the end of the 2021.

In April 2021, former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in the death of George Floyd, which sparked uprisings against systemic racism and police violence in more than 2,000 U.S. cities and 60 countries around the globe in 2020.

Despite this, we continued to see indigenuity applied in the creation and adaptation of new Native business and revitalization of art practices.

In keeping with the tradition set in our previous Impact Reports, we wish to reflect on our year's work through stories. We do this because we don't believe impact can be measured solely through monetized means. Impact encompasses the influence our actions and the actions Native entrepreneurs, artists, and partners, collectively have on our communities.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Advocating for Virtual Trade and Exchange

When it was clear the trade and exchange was not going to return to pre-pandemic life, we all longed for, MNIBA continued to assist as Native business transitioned to a virtual world. We will continue to challenge how we think about technology and to see it as part of a network of activity located throughout time and space of both “people” and “things”, or humans and non-humans, that work together with the intent to solve a set of defined problems. In simple terms, **use what works, and continue to recognize and respect relationships.**

Conversations and Conference Presentations

- Moving Camp: Rethinking and Rebuilding Native Economies
- Nonprofit Quarterly Remix - Remaking the Economy: Organizing & Wealth Building in Communities of Color
- Aspen Institute - Increasing Prosperity in Rural Communities
- The Association of Cooperative Educators (ACE) Canada - Risk and Rebuilding in Cooperation
- Native American Agriculture Fund - Cooperating to Enhance Native American Food Economies

Contributions to National Work Group Publications

- 2021 Building Community Wealth: The Role of Arts and Culture in Equitable Economic Development - ArtPlace America
- 2021-2022 Building Tribal Economies Toolkit - National Congress of American Indians



BUY NATIVE STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN

Social Media Allies

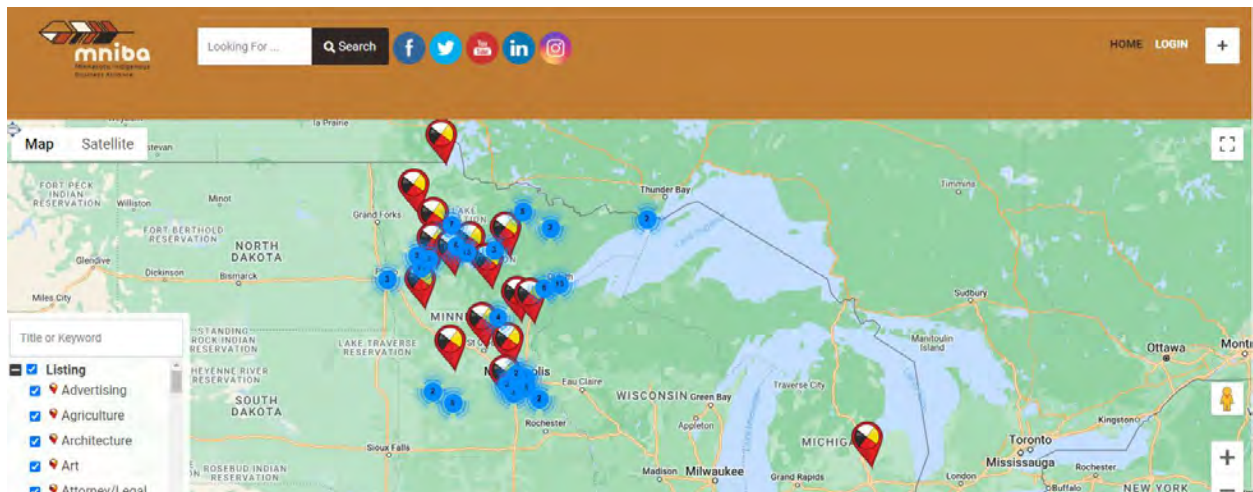
MNIBA launched the Social Media Allies program and recruited 400+ volunteers to virtually lend their time and expertise to help MNIBA better engage both targeted and new audiences and share MNIBA's brand and Buy Native messaging more widely.

Buy Native Messaging

We have continued to test different messages to see how they resonated with our followers and new audiences. We continue to create tools that Native entrepreneurs can use beyond COVID-19 to diversify their marketing strategies.

Buy Native Business Directory

Scheduled to launch 3rd quarter of 2022. This directory will be open to all Native entrepreneurs, professionals, artists, social enterprises, nonprofits, Tribal Governments, Colleges, and enterprises throughout the U.S. This new directory returns us to a time of trade and exchange where we are no longer separated by arbitrarily drawn nation-state borders.



COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Partnership with Center for Rural Affairs

This partnership resulted in fourteen video interviews entitled; "Models of Native Cooperative Ownership."

Models of Native Cooperative Ownership Series

Guest Presenter:
Rez Chicks
Fresh Eggs
Co-op

What came first? The chicken or the egg?

Get inspired by this story of four families from the Umatilla Indian Reservation who joined together and decided to try and provide some of the basic food necessities for themselves and their community.

JOIN VIA ZOOM
<https://cfra-org.zoom.us/j/97471393792?pwd=T3BlaxNnFBbUSING53dnFZRWxkaZ0>
Meeting ID: 974 7139 3792
Passcode: 019801

THURSDAY JULY 22, 2021
5:30 - 6:30 PM Central
4:30 - 5:30 PM Mountain
3:30 - 4:30 PM Pacific

For more information, email Pamela at info@mniba.org

Models of Native Cooperative Ownership Series

Have you ever dreamed of starting a Native arts cooperative, but did not know where to start?

Hear from a group of Zavi Artists that came together and formed the ABTZ cooperative to:

- Breakdown the divisions caused by the outside 'jobbers' who dictated the wholesale market and nurture a sharing and thriving artist community.
- Reassert self-determination over the cultural and intellectual rights of their ancestral arts and art forms.
- Establish pricing in line with the materials and time taken for both retail and wholesale markets.
- Practice shared leadership and decision making in alignment with their cultural values and lifeways.
- Create strategies that supported their artist community through the pandemic and complete shutdown of their community.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021
6:30 - 8:30 PM Central
4:30 - 6:30 PM Mountain
3:30 - 4:30 PM Pacific

Register here: <https://www.cfra.org/models-native-cooperative-ownership-series-online-0>

For more information, please contact Pamela Standing at info@mniba.org

MODEL NATIVE COOPERATIVE OWNERSHIP SERIES

Hear from members of One Liku "Among the Cornstalks" Cooperative

- Why and how they organized
- How they are bringing community together to grow their traditional corn
- How this cooperative influenced Oneida Nation policy on land lease preference
- How they are working together to carry out their responsibility to the corn

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021
6:30 - 7:30 PM Eastern
5:30 - 6:30 PM Central
4:30 - 5:30 PM Mountain
3:30 - 4:30 PM Pacific

Register here: <https://www.cfra.org/models-native-cooperative-ownership-series-online-1>

For more information, please contact Pamela Standing at info@mniba.org

Partnership with NCBA CLUSA Int'l and Native American Agriculture Fund

This partnership will result in the development of a model Native American Cooperative Developers program that addresses the needs of Native communities. Up to 12-13 Native applicants will be selected to attend a three-month pilot program and earn a stipend upon completion and evaluation of the training materials.

Partnership with Cooperative Development Centers

MNIBA assisted in the following Native focused food sovereignty and small business initiatives with the following communities:

- Omaha Nation - food and value-added cooperative
- Quinault Nation - T.I.D.E.S. small business cooperative
- SUSU Indigenous Cooperative (food justice)



MNISOTA NATIVE ARTISTS ALLIANCE

An Alliance is Born

The Mnisota Native Artists Alliance (MNAA) received funding from the McKnight Foundation and Resist. McKnight Foundation also engaged the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) to research the last ten years of Legacy funding for the arts and State agency distribution to Native artists. This report will be released 3rd quarter 2022.

Staff and contractors were hired, and MNAA's website and social media platforms were launched. MNAA began scheduling photo sessions so that artists could have access to professional headshots and product shots for their portfolios. Our new Curator started hosting live video conversations with Native artists, entitled; "Zoom Talks and Tea." MNAA is growing a large audience of followers.

MNAA also launched a Winter Gift Giving subscription box, along with our annual Native Art Winter catalogue increasing sales and visibility. MNAA hopes to launch an online portfolio in 3rd quarter 2022.

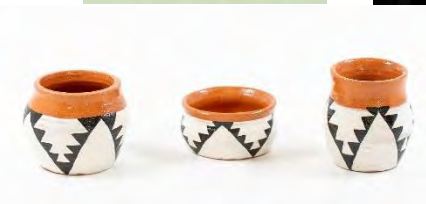
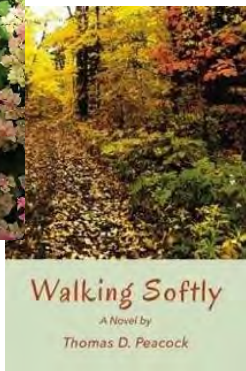
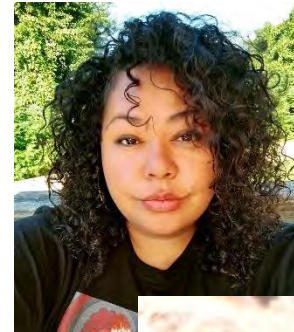
Springboard for the Arts contracted with MNAA for their Community Supported Art (CSA) subscription and three Native artists were selected to create 50 pieces of art.

Artists, partners, and staff began work on MNAA's Artist Manifesto which includes the following Articles of Agreement:

- *Article 1: Statement of Commitment and Service to Mnisota Native Artists*
- *Article 2: Working Together in Cooperation:*
- *Article 3: A Place Between: Native Art Forms and Descriptions*
- *Article 4: Grantmaking through a Native Lens*
- *Article 5: Pathways to Building, Maintaining and Managing an Arts Business*
- *Article 6: Listening for the Truth: Cultural Appropriation*
- *Article 7: Protecting our Future: Indian Arts and Crafts Act*
- *Article 8: The Gift Economy, Bartering, Time Banks, and Sharing Resources*
- *Article 9: Community Benefit Agreements*
- *Article 10: Creating a Future for Native Youth in the Arts*
- *Article 11: Anishinaabe and Dakota Art*
- *Article 12: Reparations and Restitution: Shaping Policy for an Equitable and Just Future*



MNISOTA NATIVE ARTISTS ALLIANCE



MNISOTA NATIVE ARTISTS ALLIANCE



zoom talks & tea

CRADLEBOARD LOVE: A CONVERSATION WITH LORENE CLARK ABOUT THE REVITALIZATION AND APPRECIATION FOR A BELOVED ART FORM

OCTOBER 21, 2021
2:00 - 3:00 PM CENTRAL



zoom talks & tea

SLAYING GRANTS IS LIKE SLAYING DRAGONS: MOIRA VILLIARD WILL TAKE US BEHIND THE SCENES WITH TIPS OF SLAYING THE GRANT WRITING TRADE.

NOVEMBER 18, 2021
6:00 - 3:00 PM CENTRAL



Angela Two Stars,
"Charging for Emotional
Labor as a Native Artist"

zoom & tea

DECEMBER 16, 2021
6:00 - 7:00 PM CENTRAL
LIVE ON:
[FACEBOOK.COM/MNINATIVEARTISTS](https://www.facebook.com/mninaiveartists)



2021 SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND AWARD

September 3, 2021



Dear Pamela and Minnesota Indigenous Business Alliance, Congratulations! You have been nominated to receive a gift in the form of a grant for \$100,000 through our Amplifying Sovereignty funding initiative!

After many in depth conversations and a rigorous selection process by some of your peers from the region, your organization has been acknowledged by the Waterers Committee as one of our region's leaders

doing important work in the arts, culture, and community organizing fields. These funds are unrestricted and meant to support your organization's charitable work in whichever way is deemed best by you and your board of directors.

These funds have been set aside for Native reparations and the Land Back Movement - targeting funds to Native organizations in our region. Our strategy centers sovereignty, self-determination, culture, and language as determined by those who identify politically and culturally in this way. We encourage you to look at [our website](#) to see a more complete picture of our work and goals.

Along with centering sovereignty, self-determination, and culture, you have also aligned with our following values, which led to your selection for this unrestricted gift:

- Native led, grounded in the work of anti-oppression, and focused on growing the wealth and reparations of BIPOC artists, culture bearers, and community organizers;
- Organizations whose work is rooted within the hills, lakes, prairies, and woods geography within borders of South Dakota, North Dakota, or Minnesota; and
- Organizations that center sovereignty, self-determination, culture, and language as determined by those who identify culturally in this way;
- The work/practice of the organization as a whole is rooted in belonging and relatedness;
- The work/practice of the organization is artist-centered and narrative shifting;
- The work/practice of the organization includes elements of decolonization, anti-oppression, and/or reparations;
- The work/practice of the organization as a whole includes elements of healing, risk-taking and trust-building.

As mentioned at the beginning of the letter, these funds are not restricted to any one project or idea, rather they have been awarded simply to support you in continuing to meet your mission and do the good work you are already doing. We are seeking to build relationships and hope this connection is a stepping stone to create trust and community.

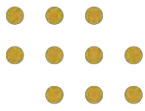
We want to express our wholehearted gratitude to you for your practices and contributions to the culture of our region.

With all our warmth and care, The Waterers

Holly Doll, Ka Ly, Michelle Fredericks Dubray, Rachel Asleson, Peter Strong, and John Davis



2021 PARTNERS AND FUNDERS



OTTO
BREMER
TRUST™

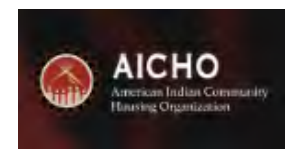
MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL
BUSINESS JOURNAL



ARTPLACE 2020
10 YEARS



ALL MY RELATIONS ARTS





200+ Native Entrepreneurs

Thru business plan review, network connections, and referrals to financial and business resources



1800 HOURS

Time-based giving throughout all MNIBA and MNAA programs on behalf of board, working groups, organizational partners, and volunteers



36 SUPPLIERS

28 – Native owned
2 – Women owned
2 – POC owned



32,000 PEOPLE

Reached thru presentations, statewide work groups, newsletter, website, email/phone and social media



400+ Native Artists

Surveys, photoshoots, presentations, newsletter, email/phone communiques, website, and social media



\$26,600 INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS



100% INDIGENOUS FOCUSED

Projects and programs

2021 IMPACT AT A GLANCE



RELATIONSHIPS – DONORS & FUNDERS

Wopida tanka - Chi miigwech for the generous support of our donors and funders, without their support we could not have been able to accomplish what was done in 2021.

Abbie M.
Abigail K.
Agnes M.
AICHO
Alyssa R.
Anonymous (7 donors)
Bruce C.
Bremer Foundation
Chris & Katie H.
Christina K.
Elaine H.
Elizabeth P.
Emily B.
Erica M.
Gabriella C.
Heidi M.
Hilary O.
Jacqueline Q.
Jennifer P.
Jesse S.
Jill M.
Joan B.
Jonah F.
Joshua L.
Juanita E.
Justin C.
Karyn C.
Kate D.
Kate K.
Katie M.
Kelly H.
Kim S.

Kristin T.
Laura & Levi Z.
Lawrence S.
Lori J.
Madonna Y.
Margaret G.
Margueritte S.
Mary S.
McKnight Foundation
Molly O.
Monica K.
Nan O.
Nance A.
Nancy K
Nancy S.
Paige W.
Pamela S.
Peter L.
Philomena Foundation
Ramona K.
Resist Foundation
Sara M.
Sarah W.
Shanne S.
Stacy R.
Stephanie E.
Steve B.
Steve D.
Unity Unitarian Church
Waterers
Wayne D.
Wilson Fund

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022

MNIBA's goals for 2022 are as follows:

- Buy Native Business Directory launch 3rd quarter.
- Mnisota Native Artists Alliance (MNAA) CURA's Artist Funding Report is published and distributed to lawmakers, foundations, regional and national art organizations 3rd quarter.
- MNIBA secures funding to explore the number of Native women owned businesses in Mnisota and learn what resources they need to move through the recovery phase.
- MNIBA does a soft opening for Lunch and Learn events and a Buy Native conference late 3rd and early 4th quarter.
- MNIBA hires a new Co-Executive Director of Operations and Development 3rd quarter.
- MNIBA board engages in strategic planning 3rd - 4th quarter.
- MNAA online portfolio launched 3rd quarter.
- MNAA opens studio space and schedules monthly exhibits and demonstrations 3rd and 4th quarter.
- MNAA works with Native attorneys and law students to expand MN Statute 325F.43 for the protection of Native art and cultural appropriation 3rd - 4th quarter.

MNIBA will continue to support as many Native entrepreneurs, artists and organizations through the Buy Native campaign as possible throughout the year. We would like to acknowledge Ashley Fairbanks, White Earth for her beautiful redesign of MNIBA's logos and branding.



FOLLOW ALONG

Interested in learning more about our work? We post updates about our work, workshops, events, featured entrepreneurs, and artists on our website and social media platforms.

Please “Like” and “Follow Us, ” and don’t wait until next year’s Impact Report to learn about what we are up to.

Please visit us www.mniba.org and sign up to receive our communiques and newsletter

