BUILDING
INDIGENOUS
POWER

A RETROSPECTIVE OF NDN COLLECTIVE’S FIRST FIVE YEARS
VALUES

THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF ALL THINGS

INDIGENOUS SELF-DETERMINATION

EQUITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE AND MOTHER EARTH

MISSION

NDN Collective’s mission is to build the collective power of Indigenous Peoples, communities, and Nations to exercise our inherent right to self-determination, while fostering a world that is built on a foundation of justice and equity for all people and Mother Earth.

CORE PILLARS

DEFEND
We must continue to defend our people, communities, and nations against negative resource extraction that poisons our people, pollutes our water, destroys our land, contributes to climate change and violates our human rights.

DEVELOP
We must continue to develop Indigenous communities in a regenerative and sustainable manner based on our values and connection to land, culture and identity. We are doing this through regenerative community development, renewable energy investments and social enterprise development.

DECOLONIZE
We must continue to decolonize our minds, communities, and sovereign nations. Through the revitalization of our Indigenous ceremonies, culture, languages and lifeways we will continue to strengthen our identity, and break free from the oppressive systems that disconnect us from achieving the healing, growth and connection to spirit that is integral for us as Indigenous people.
OPENING WORDS

From 2007–2018, I ran the Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation in my community on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Our work involved place-based affordable housing development and food sovereignty work. During that time, about 70 different Indigenous communities reached out, hoping to start similar projects. In the midst of thinking about how we could support these communities, I was actively participating in the defense of our homelands against the developers of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Ultimately, we didn’t win the fight against the pipeline – which was devastating to our movement, and to our people – but it got me thinking about what our communities would look like if we had the funding, resources, platforms, and agency to impact the issues affecting our lives.

NDN Collective is the idea and intervention that was born of that moment. Founded on Indigenous Peoples’ Day in 2018, NDN Collective provides the most ambitious, systemic approach to empowering Native communities in the history of philanthropy and impact investing. The change, liberation, and justice we seek requires the centering of marginalized experiences and leadership, as well as the significant redistribution of resources by those currently overseeing the concentration of wealth. Our core programming consists of grantmaking, narrative amplification, predevelopment support, and low-interest investments, as well as community organizing and power building. In 2022, our annual budget across all programming was $50 million.
The biggest barrier to Indigenous power building and enhancing self-determination continues to be access to resources and the community-led infrastructure to execute successful projects. We need to focus on many issues with a high level of investment to create access to, and develop new systems around, food, education, housing, jobs, and safe communities. We know from emerging research that access to and investments in strong, supportive, and immersive culture gives individuals and families the necessary context to navigate mainstream systems with marked improvement. Changing the future landscape for Indigenous families will also take investing in the next generation of leadership in our communities.

NDN Collective’s capacity to increase access to resources, support, and opportunities for our communities continues to be limited by the amount of resources we can successfully secure. Looking into FY23, NDN is honored to have diverse funding partnerships that include individuals, foundations, corporations, and other groups. But in order to grow our programming in response to the actual and urgent needs of Indigenous communities, we will need to uplevel.

To do that, NDN Collective is continuing to refine both revenue and programming plans to adapt to current funding opportunities. Through both annual and long-range partnership and resource planning, NDN is positioning our organization to ensure long term success well into the future.

Nick Tilsen, 2023
President and CEO of NDN Collective

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

During our first five years we’ve:

- Centered and made real the work of LANDBACK in all of our programming.
- Received funding from over 90,000 different individual donors who believe in the power of Indigenous self-determination.
- Distributed $44 million in grants to 745 grantees.
- Supported nine businesses with our braided capital model which has totaled in over $6 million in loans and power building resources.
- Supported 11 development projects that have centered community wealth building.
- Grown an audience of 321,366 followers and subscribers.
- Produced 8 different political memos and positions papers which have provided recommendation to the White House Office of Public Engagement and Biden Administration departments, including the DOE, DOI and CEO.
- Testified before Congress on leasing on Federal lands and provided speeches at the COP27 World Leaders Summit and to the COP Presidency on direct climate financing.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

NDN Collective is an Indigenous-led movement infrastructure organization dedicated to building Indigenous power. Through organizing, activism, philanthropy, grantmaking, capacity-building and narrative change, we are creating sustainable solutions on Indigenous terms. We are intentionally structured as a movement infrastructure organization, not to be mistaken with an intermediary organization. NDN Collective builds out the systems that our people and movements need to be resilient for the long-term through our unique braided capital services in:

- Organizing, Policy & Advocacy
- Grantmaking
- Lending & Impact Investing
- Community Development & Social Enterprise
- Narrative & Communications

Founded in 2018, NDN Collective was born out of a practitioner base of knowledge that originated from NDN Collective President and Founder Nick Tilsen’s experiences serving rural Indigenous communities through the Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation. This orientation to the grassroots is foundational to our work in understanding the scale of systems, tools and resources needed to create lasting impact for Indigenous communities across the world.

To date, we have distributed $44 million in grants to over 700 grantees, as well as have provided $6 million in loans. During the height of the pandemic, NDN Collective had the infrastructure to move resources out of philanthropy and into Indigenous communities, as well as invest in and help launch new Indigenous businesses at a scale never seen before. This culminated in $12 million in targeted support for COVID-19 response efforts.

Over the last five years, we have proven that investments in Indigenous peoples fosters a world that is built on a foundation of justice and equity for all people and the planet. We have created major shifts in philanthropy, built a lasting infrastructure to support advocacy and organizing for Indigenous peoples globally, initiated community development here in the He Sapa, and provided major resources to Indigenous-led efforts across Turtle Island.

Through our work across Turtle Island, we have seen food systems develop, Indigenous businesses thrive, language efforts revitalize, and climate resilience policy changes emerge. Most recently, we were awarded $50 million to decrease the racial wealth gap that Indigenous people’s face.

All of this work is being done in tandem with local organizing and community development in the He Sapa, where NDN Collective is headquartered, which includes the building out of the Oceti Sakowin Community Academy (OSCA), a school where local Lakota students will get to learn their language and culture.

Our work is just getting started. Over the next five years, we will increase the investment into Indigenous communities by growing our grantmaking and lending. We will strengthen our advocacy and actions to shift unjust policies and racist practices. We will launch a new community development project in the He Sapa that will provide affordable housing.

Most importantly, we will continue to invest in the self-determination of our people, and the belief that our best days are ahead of us.
HOW WE MEASURE IMPACT

At NDN Collective, we recognize that research and evaluation are practices that our Indigenous ancestors have been engaged in for thousands of years. In addition to measuring external progress within the context of Indigenous self-determination, we monitor and collect data to measure our organizational effectiveness through our program interventions. We use more than 200 unique indicators to better understand the context and conditions that impact Indigenous communities’ ability to defend, develop, and decolonize.

Our evaluation indicators can be grouped into three categories: financial power, social power, and political power. Examples of our indicators include, but are not limited to:

**Greater Financial Power is Promoted.**
Did our actions result in the following?
- Increased funds (philanthropic and private) flowing towards Indigenous self-determination
- Increased quality of infrastructure in Indian Country
- Increased affordable housing in Indian Country
- Increased access to renewable energy in Indian Country
- Increased number of social enterprises in Indian Country
- More Indigenous Peoples living above the poverty line
- More Indigenous Peoples having community ownership over our utilities and infrastructure

**Greater Social Power is promoted.**
Did our actions result in the following?
- Increased connection of Indigenous Peoples across boundaries
- Increased public recognition of challenges and opportunities facing Indigenous Peoples
- Increased speakers of Indigenous languages
- Indigenous culture is reflected in governance and decision-making structures
- Legal infrastructure is aligned to Indigenous values and customs
- Indian Country understands, utilizes, and leverages the concepts of equity and justice

**Greater Political Power is promoted.**
Did our actions result in the following?
- Increased passage of legislation that protects Indigenous Peoples
- Increased number of Indigenous Peoples holding political office
- Indigenous Peoples approve decisions made about their land, rather than solely consult
- Indigenous Peoples regulate and own schools in Indian Country
- Indigenous Peoples regulate and control corporations entering Indian Country
- Indigenous advocates have the knowledge and tools they need to effectively create and change policy
“Currently, there are LANDBACK battles being fought globally and across Turtle Island.”
NDN ACTION

The NDN Action program works to advance the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the environment through organizing, educating, advocating, building, and growing Indigenous-led campaigns and movements to develop Indigenous power.

For the first five years, NDN Action’s structure included four campaigns: Racial Equity, Climate Justice, Education Equity and LANDBACK. Our Creative Resistance Coordinator, along with the support of contracted artists and fellow Indigenous trainers, provided training and action support to the four campaigns.
LANDBACK CAMPAIGN

LANDBACK is a generational movement with a long legacy of organizing and sacrifice to get Indigenous lands back into Indigenous hands. Currently, there are LANDBACK battles being fought globally and across Turtle Island.

At NDN Collective, we stepped into this legacy with the launch of the LANDBACK Campaign in 2020 as a mechanism to connect, resource, amplify and politicize this movement. South Dakota is our cornerstone battle where we are focusing on the closure of Mount Rushmore and the return of all public lands in the Black Hills.

NDN ACTION POLICY AND POLITICAL WORK

At NDN Collective, we approach building Indigenous power through a multifaceted approach. We organize from the grassroots level, supporting Indigenous movement-building projects across Turtle Island that are determined by and for Indigenous people. We also recognize the value of being at the table and asserting ourselves unapologetically as Indigenous people on matters of federal policy, where decisions are made that impact our communities, lands and lifeways. To that end, NDN actively engages in policy and political work. This includes organizing Impact Days in DC (an opportunity to engage in dialogue with members of the White House, federal agencies and Congress on a range of Indigenous issues); publishing position papers; and convening with members of Congress to uplift urgent policy solutions from a decolonial point of view.

CREATIVE RESISTANCE

NDN Collective believes in the power of art as activism. We utilize creative resistance strategies to define and uplift our messaging and calls to action. In addition, we are working to skill up and build our active Indigenous trainer network through trainings and workshops. Our Creative Resistance work ties into our non-violent direct action (NVDA) training and strategies. Over the past five years, we have invested in and grown our creative resistance capacity through staffing a full Creative Resistance team in 2023 to provide several services which include:

- Managing gear inventory
- Facilitating art builds
- Building a warehouse of action-ready supplies
- Coordinating and facilitating in-house training and action support

ARTS TRAINING & ACTION SUPPORT

NDN Collective’s Creative Resistance team has partnered closely with other movement organizations like Indigenous Peoples Power Project (iP3), Greenpeace, Students for a Free Tibet, and Hawai’i Unity and Liberation Institute to host Action Camps and provide training to new organizers and activists. Our Creative Resistance team has also developed, facilitated, and co-facilitated 24 trainings across Turtle Island and in countries including Germany, Scotland, and Egypt.
Ahead of Trump’s visit to Mount Rushmore in the summer of 2020, NDN coordinated a campaign to call for (1) the closure of Mount Rushmore; and (2) the return of the Black Hills to the Lakota. Over the course of these peaceful protests, 20 Indigenous and non-Indigenous land and treaty defenders faced excessive force from local police, and NDN President Nick Tilsen was arrested on a slew of charges that have since been dismissed. Although NDN’s campaign against a national monument that symbolizes white supremacy has deep roots, it was also an action that existed in solidarity with the 2020 protests in defense of Black lives. Our LANDBACK Campaign ultimately emerged from this action.

Launched in 2021, LANDBACK U was a free comprehensive online learning platform that was available through the end of 2022. LANDBACK U bolstered political education and engagement in our communities through exploring topics critical to our movement to reclaim land and our relationship to land. Over the course of 12 sessions, LANDBACK U facilitated classes on Cultural Fire, Black Indigeneity, the Hawaiian Kingdom, Palestine Right of Return, and US Militarism and Imperialism.

Media

LANDBACK Magazine
Published in November of 2022, the magazine He Sapa: The Heart of Everything That Is, pivoted on the origin work of the LANDBACK Campaign to reignite and continue the ongoing struggle to return the He Sapa (Black Hills) to the Oceti Sakowin (Lakota/Dakota/Nakota) Nation. Created in partnership with Indígena, Primate, Red Media Press, and Red Planet Books and Comics, we printed and distributed 1,000 copies of the first edition of this magazine.

Position Papers
NDN Collective’s LANDBACK team led the development of two organizational position papers—“Demilitarization is Decolonization” and “The Right of Return is Landback”—connected to the campaign’s goal to provide analysis and political education around various Landback struggles.
Our Racial Equity campaign was developed in the Fall of 2020 with the intention of focusing on two core areas: the disproportionate criminalization and incarceration of Indigenous people in the State of South Dakota and beyond, and our unhoused relatives in the Black Hills.

Alongside other community members and organizers, our team helped set up and resource the Mni Luzahan Creek Patrol. Every day, and overnight, Creek Patrol would walk the creek that runs through Rapid City and provide outreach to unhoused relatives living on the creek. This outreach included, but was not limited to, providing our relatives with food, clothing, and rides to warm shelter. Creek Patrol led to the development of Camp Mniluzahan.

**Billboard Campaign**

**LANDBACK.Art** was a campaign to place 20 billboards across North America. We invited Indigenous artists, community members, and their allies to illustrate their answer to “What does Landback mean to you?” and then placed their art on billboards in communities currently fighting for Indigenous rights and the protection of Native land.
CAMP MNILUZAHAN & TINY HOUSE VILLAGE

Camp Mniluzahan was a winter camp and vital mutual aid effort that emerged from a non-violent direct action in 2020. This action led to the arrest of multiple community members who were standing up for unhoused relatives in the Black Hills.

Over three months, the camp provided three hot meals a day, shelter, protection, and material aid for over 350 unhoused Indigenous community members. Through Camp Mniluzahan, we were able to assist camp members on their healing journey by connecting them to culturally relevant resources including traditional medicines and ceremony. One of our goals was to dispel stereotypes and relieve barriers that our relatives experience to finding permanent housing opportunities.

The project of developing a tiny home community for our unsheltered relatives came about after witnessing the inhumane and unjust treatment many people are confronted with, alongside the harsh winter conditions of South Dakota. The 24-unit tiny home community will be built on sovereign land and is focused on creating long-term solutions and fostering self-determination. The community will be called Gliúŋ, which translates to “return for good” in Lakota. Gliúŋ will allow individuals the opportunity to work towards long-term sobriety, self-autonomy, self-determination, and equity through the ownership of their tiny home. You can learn more about the development of Gliúŋ in our section on NDN Holdings on page 78.

COMBATTING RACISM AND VIOLENCE IN RAPID CITY

Grand Gateway Hotel Boycott and Lawsuit

In response to racist statements made by the owner of the Grand Gateway Hotel and other businesses in Rapid City, NDN Collective held an action at The Foothills Inn on April 12, 2022. The action kicked off a multi-week boycott of all properties owned by the Uhre family. Over 100 community members showed up to the initial action. For weeks after, community members continued to show up to call for accountability for the Uhre family as well as rally against local businesses with racist policies. The goal was to discourage community members from supporting businesses with racist policies and practices, and to instead encourage them to lend their dollars to businesses that stand in solidarity with Indigenous people in Rapid City. In addition to the boycott, NDN Collective filed a federal civil rights class action lawsuit against the Grand Gateway Hotel for refusing service to Native Americans. In October of 2022, the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed a lawsuit against the owners and operators of the Grand Gateway Hotel and the Cheers Sports Lounge and Casino after conducting a months-long investigation sparked by NDN Collective’s organizing, protesting, marching, and filing of a separate lawsuit.
EDUCATION EQUITY CAMPAIGN

Achieving equality and cultural safety in our school systems for Indigenous students was the primary goal of NDN Collective’s Education Equity Team. Between 2019 and 2022, our Education Equity Team advocated for Indigenous Education on the local and national level, participated in the building of the South Dakota Education Equity Coalition, passed legislation that would support the creation and funding of Oceti Sakowin Community-Based schools in the state of South Dakota, and opened Oceti Sakowin Community Academy in Rapid City.

INCUBATING SOUTH DAKOTA EDUCATION EQUITY COALITION

NDN established the South Dakota Education Coalition (SDEEC) in 2019 with the intention of improving educational opportunities for Native American students in the State of South Dakota through an innovative and multi-pronged approach to decolonize and Indigenize education. After two years of leading the coalition in the development of political strategy for annual legislative sessions, NDN supported SDEEC in becoming its own non-profit entity. As part of this incubation, NDN Collective provided funding to support the coalition’s transition.
INCUBATING, BUILDING AND LAUNCHING OCETI SAKOWIN COMMUNITY ACADEMY

NDN Collective believes that for our children to thrive, they must be empowered through an educational system that honors their culture, tradition and language while equipping them with the tools necessary to join the movement of reimagining a world that works for everyone.

In partnership with the NACA Inspired Schools Network, NDN hosted NISN Fellow Mary Bowman for three years. During her fellowship, NDN contracted an architectural and design firm to support Mary and NDN in the planning and development of the Oceti Sakowin Community Academy; a community-based school grounded in the Oceti Sakowin lifeway and values. This school will teach Oceti Sakowin ideologies and land-based learning to create a space where Indigenous students’ identities are honored and lifted. The Oceti Sakowin Community Academy (OSCA) opened in Rapid City, South Dakota on September 7th, 2022.

CLIMATE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Between 2021 and 2022, our Climate Justice Campaign team led and supported campaigns aimed at ending extraction, contamination and violence in our territories, while working to uplift Indigenous Peoples as decision-makers to shift political power in service of protecting lands, resources and future generations.
ANTI-EXTRACTION

Report: Faulty Infrastructure and the Impacts of the Dakota Access Pipeline
At the start of 2021, after a year of research and collaboration, our Climate Justice team published the report ‘Faulty Infrastructure and the Impacts of the Dakota Access Pipeline.’ Co-authored by a team of experts on NEPA and engineering, this first-of-its kind report details how the Dakota Access Pipeline is technically unsafe and why the entirety of the DAPL regulatory process has lacked integrity. The report was sent out to Federal agencies as well as members of Congress and the White House and is meant to serve as a key tool for our movement once public comment on the DAPL Environmental Impact Statement commences.

MEDIA AND STORYTELLING

Through narrative strategy, media and storytelling, our Climate Justice team mobilized communities into action through building literacy on political and environmental issue areas.

These included two podcasts; *Sko Vote Den Podcast*, which interviewed organizers, movement leaders, journalists, activists, and researchers on the realities of voting in Indian Country; and *In our Power: Climate Justice, Self-Determination and Regenerative Economies*, which highlighted Indigenous-led solutions at the forefront of the climate crisis.

**Book: Required Reading**
Published in the summer of 2021, *Required Reading: Climate Justice, Adaptation and Investing in Indigenous Power* is both a road map and a call to action that illuminates the linkages between centering Indigenous leadership and repairing our fractured world in this era of a changing climate. We printed 1,300 copies which were carried in bookstores and libraries across the country, utilized as teaching curriculum in universities, and was recommended reading by the White House during the 2021 White House Tribal Nations Summit.
POLICY GUIDANCE

Our Climate Justice team engaged directly in advocating for climate justice and equity-oriented policy through lobbying and informing federal agencies, elected officials and policymakers at the state and national levels to advance Indigenous rights, Tribal Sovereignty, and environmental and climate protections. Our team produced four memos that served to provide guidance to Federal and Tribal Governments, consistently met with the White House Office of Public Engagement and Biden Administration departments including the DOE, DOI and CEQ, as well as led two delegations to the United Nations Climate Change Conferences.

Memos
1. Mobilizing Climate and Environmental Justice Investments to Indigenous Frontline Communities
2. The Climate and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Crisis: Intersections, Root Causes and Immediate Steps Towards Ending Both
4. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022: Investments for Tribal and Indigenous Communities

FIELD BUILDING

COP26 & COP27
In 2021 and 2022, NDN attended the Conference of the Parties (COP27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Additionally, in 2022, NDN Collective served as the fiscal sponsor for the Indigenous Peoples Pavilion, making it the first time in history that the pavilion was fiscally sponsored by an Indigenous organization. This move, in turn, increased autonomy outside the dominant framework of the proceedings. As a whole, our delegation represented Indigenous viewpoints and participated in events both inside and outside of the formal meeting structure, including moderating panels and speaking engagements; coordinating a meeting between the White House Climate Policy Office and frontline and Indigenous organizers and representatives; and tracking and participating in negotiations on Loss and Damage, Article 6 and Adaptation as part of supporting the Indigenous Peoples’ Caucus.
Nations, Nations, and surrounding Island history, led by Indigenous women. This has become the larger.

Across the Island (aka North Baffin), Indigenous, Inuit and First Nations individuals, tribes, and First Nations organizations, 700 Indigenous-led organizations, 5,440 million of grants support to over 270 NDN Foundation has made over.

Now a little more than five years.
8 DIFFERENT FUNDING STREAMS

44 MILLION DOLLARS ($) IN GRANTS

12 MILLION DOLLARS ($) IN TARGETED SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE EFFORTS

150 ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED THROUGH COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION GRANTS

30 ARTISTS AND MAKERS SUPPORTED BY THE RADICAL IMAGINATION GRANT PROGRAM

60 INDIGENOUS LEADERS SUPPORTED THROUGH CHANGEMAKERS FELLOWSHIP

40 COMMUNITY-LED ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE COMMUNITY ACTION FUND

AT A GLANCE

FOUNDATION & GRANT-MAKING

Indigenous-Led Grantmaking: Fortifying Community Solutions and Self-Determination
An entire system of wealth has been built in the U.S. through the extraction of Indigenous lands and assets.

The NDN Collective - Foundation was formed to rematriate wealth back to Indigenous hands. We seek to honor and resource our Peoples’ prosperity and self-determination by using grantmaking as a temporary tool for community organizing, development, and movement and power building. We believe that our work toward justice and liberation will end its necessity.

As the grantmaking arm of the NDN Collective, our Foundation has resourced Indigenous Peoples with an unprecedented amount of funding. Since our inception a little more than five years ago, NDN Foundation has made over $44 million in grant support to over 700 Indigenous-led organizations, individuals, Tribes and First Nations across Turtle Island and surrounding Island Nations. NDN defines Indigenous-led as organizations or entities whose board or decision-making body is 100% Indigenous and whose staff are at least 70% Indigenous. While organizations with less than that composition may still choose to apply, it is expected that plans for developing and empowering 100% Indigenous leadership and decision-making are included in the proposal.

Verification of tax status is a condition of eligibility and includes but is not limited to, Tribes, LLCs, non-profit organizations, or groups with fiscal agents/sponsorships. As part of our commitment to our Indigenous Relatives across the postcolonial borders of Turtle Island and related Island Nations, we provide all application materials, related communications and programming in the common trade languages of English, Spanish and French. We acknowledge the shared use of these colonial languages, while actively supporting reclamation and perpetuation of our sacred Indigenous languages throughout our ancestral communities.

To date, our Foundation has become the largest Indigenous-led fund in herstory/history, led by Indigenous women and matriarchs who engage in key philanthropic partnerships as part of a broader movement to disrupt institutional philanthropy. Some of these include MOSAIC Environmental Justice Collaborative which has disbursed over $11M to over 3,000 organizations supporting environmental movement infrastructure with 80% focused on grassroots community based organizations; and Grantmakers in the Arts, which as a philanthropic Affinity Group has a bold agenda for advancing racial equity.

The Foundation carries out the NDN Collective mission to build the collective power of Indigenous Peoples and communities by prioritizing the support of grassroots and community-based organizations whose solutions are designed by and for our people, our lands, and our way of life. Dedicated community practitioners have come together to build the NDN Collective’s Foundation, including its grantmaking initiatives and processes. As a team of eleven and still growing, we are committed to dramatically increasing philanthropic investment in Indigenous-led organizations by modeling a mindset of abundance. The Foundation leans on community leaders in advisory roles across grant programs. We integrate culture and ceremony into our work and draw from our Indigenous knowledge systems as we move toward a more just and equitable future. We believe in and invest in Indigenous ingenuity, and sustainable, regenerative community-based solutions.
IN INITIATIVES VS. NEEDS YET UNMET

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* Total Applications does not include incomplete applications.
** Only grants that were set up to receive applications in the Flaxx app were counted.

PROGRAMS

COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

In 2020, a COVID-19 Response Fund of over $12 million was deployed to provide grants, communications and strategic support to 95 Tribal Nations, frontline Indigenous organizations and individuals who provided essential services to Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island during the pandemic. The first phase of rapid response grants went to Indigenous communities, artists and entrepreneurs who were bracing from the stresses placed on public services and the economy, and who were combating the spread of misinformation about COVID-19. The second phase of Transition and Resilience Grants sought to support Tribal Nations in sustaining community-based, self-determined solutions for pandemic times.

AT A GLANCE
Marjorie Tahbone, Iñupiaq and Kiowa, is an Alaska Native business owner whose work supports culture revitalization and reclamation through traditional skills, including hide tanning, clothing production, foods harvest and preparation, preservation, and tattoo work. She stated, “For far too long we have been told that our skills and way of life is not good enough, is not worth learning. But now we see that it is essential to our healing and cultural identity. This grant has allowed me to learn more of our cultural skills and since then, I have been able to teach others what I have learned.”

Located on the Pine Ridge Reservation, Makoce Agriculture Development is focused on integrating traditional Lakota worldview with developing modern food systems. Utilizing the principles of holistic environment connection and regenerative agricultural practices, Makoce’s work is in response to the immense need for local food access and workforce opportunity. As they put it, “Agriculture and food systems development will always be a foundational focus for human life, economy, community and health.”
NDN CHANGEMAKER FELLOWSHIP

We believe that our people have the creativity, innovation, and determination to build healthy, resilient futures.

Through The NDN Changemaker Fellowship, we invest in the visions, leadership, and development of Indigenous Changemakers through taking part in a year-long cohort. Fellows are awarded $75,000 as part of providing direct investment into their leadership qualities and their work in their communities.

Helena Benozaadleyo Jacobs (Koyukon Athabascan) was an inaugural Changemaker Fellow in 2020, and invested in the creation of the Alaskan Birthworkers Community, responding to the lack of maternal support resources in rural Alaskan Indigenous communities. The Alaska Native Birthworkers Community is a grassroots group of volunteer Alaska Native reproductive justice advocates, full circle birth helpers (doulas), childbirth educators, breastfeeding counselors, healers, caregivers, public health researchers, scholars, parents, aunties, and a midwife. Through organizing and providing hands-on support, they are reclaiming Alaska Native birth practices and supporting families from preconception through postpartum with culturally-matched care.

Oswaldo Martinez is from Pueblo Xhidza and works with Fundacion de Santa Maria Yaviche. Oswaldo utilized the fellowship funding to keep youth living and working in his community. He placed an emphasis on creating opportunities specifically in communications where youth had the chance to work for their communities’ Indigenous radio and TV stations. This spurred the development of their own Editorial Press Company called NDN Xhidza. Through an additional NDN grant, his community was able to purchase materials to install renewable energy infrastructure, making it possible for 70% of this community to rely on renewable energy. As a result, elders are now able to process their foods traditionally and created NDN Kieru Kass, an Indigenous collective company that generates income to sustain farming and other community initiatives.
COMMUNITY ACTION FUND

The Community Action Fund provides urgent response grants between $15,000 and $30,000. Priority funding is placed on frontline, grassroots and community-based efforts that defend our people, communities and nations against negative resource extraction that harms our people, waters, lands, and/or violates our human rights.

Through the Community Action Fund, the Guainia Taíno Tribe of the U.S. Virgin Islands was able to host the Taino Community Unification and Self-Determination Action, which brought Caribbean Indigenous Leaders and community members together to sign a historic treaty. The treaty signing was between the Guainia Tribe of the Virgin Islands, the Guainia Tribe of Borikén (Puerto Rico), the Eagle Clan Arawaks of Barbados and Guyana, and the Kalinago Nation of Dominica. Prior to colonization the Taíno, Kalinago (Carib), and Lokono (Arawak) were once linked, and now partnership is solidified again through the treaty. The Guainia Taíno Tribe shared that “for our communities, this action was a successful affirmation of our self-determination and the beginning of a new, positive chapter in the often tragic collective history of our Peoples.”

The funding also allowed the Guainia Taíno Tribe of the USVI to meet with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, Virgin Islands government officials, U.S. Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Director of the V.I. State Historic Preservation Office to view recently unearthed artifacts. There is hope that the meeting will “set a pathway for consultation moving forward, on artifacts and ancestral remains that were or might be unearthed in the future.”
Consejo Regional Indígena y Popular de Xpujil (CRIPX) is the first group to present a public position and file legal action to defend Mayan territory against the train misnamed the “Mayan Train.” The Train is a multi-state railway line spanning more than 950 miles within the Yucatan Peninsula and seeks to connect beach resorts to ancient Mayan sites. This mega project, however, negatively impacts the surrounding Indigenous communities through the invasion and deforestation of their territories. Through the support of the Community Action Fund, CRIPX is carrying out legal actions to stop the work of the so-called Mayan Train by promoting strategic litigation and mapping out how best to present the case to the Supreme Court. To strengthen their legal actions, CRIPX is undertaking training actions to learn about the processes of succession of rights, fraud and issues of land expropriation by the government.

The Community Self-Determination Grant provides support and investment for long-term visions, priorities and power building of Indigenous Nations, communities and Peoples through providing $100,000 per year, with commitments of up to two years. This is a critical investment in the long-term visions, sustainability, priorities, and capacities of Indigenous Nations, communities and Indigenous-led organizations. This significant, flexible, multi-year funding is intended to strengthen and leverage long-term financial sustainability of Indigenous-led organizations, including through capital support and investments.
The Community Self-Determination Grantee-Partner Highlights:

**The Standing Rock Renewable Energy Power Authority** (“SAGE Development Authority/SAGESRST”) is building a utility-scale wind farm in Standing Rock, ND, called Anpetu Wi, meaning “morning light” in Lakota. This wind farm will build regional partnerships to “connect” Standing Rock, Red Lake, and other Reservations with vital medical, commerce, and government services within the Upper Midwest Inter-Tribal EV Charging Community Network. Anpetu Wi is building regional partnerships to (1) increase Tribal EV use across the region; (2) advance equitable access to clean, affordable transportation to long-distance destinations; and, (3) bring new job opportunities to the region. Native Sun and SAGE will test and demonstrate EV use in rural, under-resourced Tribal communities in the target three-state geographic area of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, over a three-year period from 2022—2025. Upon completion, Anpetu Wi is estimated to be the single largest revenue source for Standing Rock by nearly doubling their community’s annual revenue. In addition to receiving the Community Self-Determination Grant, NDN Collective is providing capacity building by partnering with an energy firm to assist with the pre-development technical assistance process in lieu of debt capital. The energy firm is an expert in renewable energy development in Indian Country, and is well versed in the technical knowledge needed for the startup phase that Anpetu Wi is currently in.

**Village of Newtok** is one current grantee partner in the Arctic exemplifying the intent of the Community Self-Determination Grant. For more than 20 years, Newtok, Alaska, a remote Yup’ik Alaska Native Village, has been battling climate change-fueled erosion and flooding. Due to rapidly increasing water levels in the Arctic, the entire village of Newtok was forced to relocate to a new village site called Mertarvik. The village received a 2021 Community Self-Determination Grant for Relocate Newtok which provided organizational resiliency to assist with the transition. Relocate Newtok conducted over 1,700 hours of training in the construction trades and will continue training sixteen additional crews in the current grant year.

In early November, the Biden-Harris Administration announced that the Village of Newtok was one of three communities selected for a $25 million relocation grant provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. Relocation grants are provided to communities, such as Newtok, who are severely impacted by climate change and in a position to implement and manage relocation and retreat plans.

“The Village of Newtok used NDN funds to train up their own construction workforce, laying the groundwork for optimal use of the federal dollars that came later,” said Tina Kuckkahn (Ojibwe), NDN’s Director of Grantmaking. “This is community self-determination in action,” added Program Officer Janet Maylen (Muscogee Creek/Seminole).
RADICAL IMAGINATION GRANT

Radical Imagination Grantees are artists and creatives who are radically imagining the future through their stories, art, dance and songs. Over the course of a year, we invest in these individuals so that they can make and produce their art as part of amplifying a new narrative for Indigenous people. Starting in 2023, Radical Imagination Artists will be supported over two years with grants of $100,000.

As a Radical Imagination Artist, Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu (Kanaka maoli) created the animated short video, Kapaemahu, telling the traditional story of mahu, four legendary individuals that brought healing powers from Tahiti to Hawai‘i. Following their Radical Imagination grant year, Hina went on to publish a children’s picture book of the same name, which was selected as a Stonewall Honor Book, “considered the first and most enduring award for books about the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience.” The four mahu stand today on Waikiki beach as large stones imbued with their healing powers. The sacred stones were once suppressed and denied but with Hina’s work receiving numerous accolades, including being considered on the shortlist for an Oscar, the mahu will remain an important and protected part of Native Hawaiian history.

Marianne Nicolson (Kwakwaka’wakw) utilized her project year to detail the commodification of cultural production. Marianne worked on reviving the forms and use of lukwa “feast dishes” in the community. These spectacular forms of art are rich with symbolism around traditional economies of food distribution and sharing, which defy the glorification of wealth hoarding upheld in capitalist philosophy. Her project centered on highlighting community care, sustaining traditional economic practices, and decentralizing the role of market forces in art production.

Radical Imagination Artist Highlight:

Simon Sedillo (Genizaro) is a Professional Partner with the Earlham Colleges’ Border Studies Program based out of Tucson Arizona. Sedillo is a community rights defense organizer, filmmaker, educator, artist, and author from Oaxaca México. Simon launched a collaborative short-documentary film, Without Men or Bosses and published a book called Weapons, Drugs, and Money: Crime, Corruption, and Community Based Liberation in the US/Mexico Neoliberal Military Political Economy.

Radical Imagination Artist Highlight:
COLLECTIVE ABUNDANCE FUND

Beginning in 2023, NDN Collective will begin dispersing a $50 million Community Trust Fund from the Bush Foundation through individual grantmaking and power building to Indigenous families in the tri-state region of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota over the next five years. The NDN Collective Abundance Fund will invest and support in rebuilding Indigenous and generational wealth, while beginning to address the wealth gap of Indigenous individuals. This work is a way to advance the dismantling of white supremacy thinking and exploitative and extractive economic systems that have not worked for our People.

Throughout 2022, in preparation of redistribution of this fund, we centered our work on redefining wealth from our Indigenous perspective, rather than the western definition which promotes the accumulation of money and material possessions without regard to the protection of people and the planet. The NDN Collective embraces the following community sourced definition of wealth:

Indigenous wealth is a quality of life and mindset that encircles family and community well-being and the care of relationships (self, family, extended family, community, land, environment), and a spirit of generosity. Money is a tool to support basic needs (safety, food, shelter, education) and bring financial security and self-determination so that one can live a “good life,” abundant in social and cultural sharing.

PRESIDENT & PARTNERSHIPS FUND

The President & Partnerships Fund (PPF) is an opportunity to identify and support strategic partnerships and movement building organizations that align with NDN Collective’s core strategies to Defend, Develop, Decolonize. Such strategic opportunities are based on principles of reciprocity and may include collective movement building, support of mutually meaningful goals, and gap funding that may fall outside of the NDN Foundation’s formal grantmaking programs. Peer funders, Indigenous movement builders, and other Indigenous-led organizations may be identified and invited by the President. The PPF provides flexible funding to Indigenous-led organizations and supports cross-sectional movement building in service of our vision for equity and justice for all people and Mother Earth.

Special projects may also be periodically supported by the PPF as identified by the NDN Collective Board of Directors. The PPF may also directly support movement leaders and direct expenses associated with movement work. Such direct expenses would be directed by the NDN Collective’s President Office and facilitated with the Operations and Finance team.
REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM DEEP DIVES

Regional Ecosystem Deep Dives (REDD) is a NDN Collective program designed to help build regional Indigenous development ecosystems to support place-based solutions. This program is a coordinated effort that enables NDN Collective to strategically invest our resources in Indigenous communities and leaders beyond NDN Foundation and NDN Action by harnessing the unique resources and opportunities available throughout the ecosystem. Through regional directors, strategies are developed to identify approaches for the distribution of NDN Collective ecosystem services to actualize Indigenous self-determination. We do this by 1) deploying NDN’s ecosystem of services in a strategic manner to build place-based infrastructure; (2) serving as thought-partners in development of strategies and solutions; (3) providing more one-on-one support for organizational development; and (4) disbursing $1 million in grant funding within the region toward priority projects and/or partnerships.

NDN has the capacity to support up to four regions, which have been selected largely based on organic, authentic relationships with, and invitations from, communities and leaders that have values and principles aligned with our work. It is important to note that we are not basing this work on our relationship with organizations, but rather the people in the communities and regions themselves. This way, we can build trust and connections across relationships and use the nonprofit industrial complex as a tool to bring our visions to life rather than as the starting point for our work. In addition, we will also seek out geographic, political, and social diversity in the regions we work with so that we can learn about the different contexts of Indigenous Peoples and deepen our understanding of how NDN Collective can best serve diverse communities.

Many of the community-based groups that have been identified for Regional Deep Dive partnerships have been in operation for years. These organizations are comprised of lifelong community advocates and activists, researchers, traditional knowledge holders and youth. Although many of these community-based groups have worked for years with scarce financial and organizational capacity and support, they have been successful in leading place-based strategies for the protection of land, territories, sacred water and Indigenous Peoples. The vision for having regional directors was so that we could work directly with these community collectives. Success of this program will be determined by the increased resiliency of organizations as indicated by the improvement of organizational and financial capacity, fundraising success, and strength of collective strategies.
The four regions that NDN Collective will support from 2022-2026 are:

1. Alaska
2. Ka Pae ‘Aina o Hawai‘i
   Hawaiian Islands
3. The Northern Plains
   North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, and Indigenous communities that live in proximity to the colonial northern border of the United States
4. The Southwest
   New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, California, and Indigenous communities that live in proximity to the colonial southern border of the United States

REDD Grantee Highlight:

The Oceti Sakowin Community Academy: Empowering students to be unapologetically Indigenous

From its beginnings, the American educational system has been a source of irrevocable harm to Native children, families, and communities. Beginning in 1819, the United States operated or supported over 400 boarding schools across 37 states that: forcibly removed Indigenous children from loving homes and communities, prevented them from speaking in their own languages, and forced them to endure physical and emotional violence, abuse, and sometimes death at the hands of their so-called educators.

The last of these schools closed only a little more than 50 years ago in 1969. And the racist systems that gave birth to the Indian boarding school movement continue to have devastating consequences for today’s Indigenous students, families, and communities. As Secretary Deb Haaland, who launched the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, has said:

“The lasting and profound impacts of the federal government’s boarding school system have never been appropriately addressed. This attempt to wipe out Native identity, language and culture continues to manifest itself in the disparities our communities face, including long-standing intergenerational trauma, cycles of violence and abuse, disappearance, premature deaths, and additional undocumented physiological and psychological impacts.”

Improving access to high-quality education is a critical step in addressing some of these lasting impacts. Yet until now, little has been done to close the education gap for Indigenous students. The American education system still largely ignores the realities of Indigenous history and experience, and fails to incorporate and honor Indigenous cultures into learning experiences.

Early research also shows that opportunities to learn in Indigenous languages can deepen students' connection and commitment to education, leading to better educational outcomes, increased self-esteem, and a stronger sense of cultural identity. These indicators will not only result in higher high school and college graduation rates, but they will also support the long-term health and holistic
wellness of Indigenous youth and their communities. That is why Indigenous-led schools, with curricula informed by Native culture and tradition, are so critical to the wellbeing of Indigenous communities.

Yet Indigenous educators working to bring Native culture, history, and language into the classroom still face significant pushback. As an increasing number of states enact legislation prohibiting the use of Critical Race Theory, educators are restricted from offering instruction that addresses the injustices experienced by Indigenous Americans.

Western South Dakota is at ground zero in the fight against Critical Race Theory. Here on the homelands of the Oceti Sakowin (meaning “Seven Council Fires” and referring collectively to the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota people), Indigenous children represent 11% of all students—one of the highest proportions in the country. To meet their needs, Indigenous educators have been advocating for years to integrate Lakota history, culture, and language into the classroom. They understand that increasing culturally-relevant education would not only improve educational outcomes for Indigenous students but also provide all students with a deeper understanding of the distinct challenges faced by Native communities.

For over a decade, educators from across the state have worked tirelessly to develop the Oceti Sakowin Essential Understandings (OSEUs)—a set of standards for teaching Native history and culture that were adopted by the state Board of Education Standards in 2018. Yet South Dakota’s Governor Kristi Noem and other policymakers have actively fought against the accurate inclusion of Indigenous history and culture in the state’s schools. Proposed social studies standards supported by Governor Noem were stripped of references to the Oceti Sakowin; Noem issued an executive order blocking the use of Critical Race Theory that conflicts with teachings in the OSEUs; and the South Dakota legislature blocked a bill to make incorporating the OSEUs required in South Dakota classrooms.

These social and political realities created some of the initial visioning for the Oceti Sakowin Community Academy (OSCA)—a model that demonstrates how Indigenous communities can and must define their own educational systems.

As Nick Tilsen has said: “We have to build community-based solutions for Native students. We’re not going to wait for South Dakota’s government to continue playing games with our children’s lives. At our school, we will teach accurate history, and work to turn our young people into the warriors of tomorrow. Our children will be armed with the truth – it’s the only way to battle ignorance and dismantle white supremacy.”

After two years of planning with community members, families, and educators, OSCA officially launched in September of 2022. OSCA’s mission is to provide an inclusive and diverse education that centers on rigorous, culturally-relevant instruction in a Lakota, community-centered framework. The vision is to provide students with a deep sense of belonging, and higher engagement and motivation—which in turn should lead to improved academic outcomes, holistic wellness, strong cultural identities and deep personal confidence.

Rapid City was once the site of a government boarding school where children were forcibly removed from their families from the Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and Cheyenne River reservations until its closure in 1933. Today, with the opening of Oceti Sakowin Community Academy, we are seeing healing from that trauma. We’ve created an educational space where students are encouraged to feel unapologetically Indigenous, and to celebrate their own history, culture, and Indigenous identity. Students are thriving in our classrooms and parents and families are engaged in new ways. Lakota educators are also finding new educational pathways that address the
trauma of that history and create a new future for students.

While the Community Academy may be new, it already has strong partners in the community, including the South Dakota Education Equity Coalition, a group of educators and other stakeholders committed to promoting diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning environments for future generations. The academy was also incubated at NDN Collective and received funding through NDN’s Regional Ecosystem Deep Dive program.

In response to our opening, the Rapid City Area School system is already working to expand their educational offerings on Indigenous culture, language, and history. This model has the ability to inform and influence public and other schools systems, encouraging them to include culturally-relevant education that reflects the diversity of our communities.

Over the next five years we will follow the first kindergarten classes with 40 students to fourth grade, adding two classes of kindergarten students every year. It is estimated that the cost of educating a student at our school is $25,000/year. With this estimate we know our annual budget will grow by $1 million annually. With limited philanthropic support in the state of South Dakota, we are looking for regional and national funders who are ready to partner with us to develop a new model of education for Lakota students. This model will help inform the future of Indigenous education in other communities as well that are seeking to upend the unjust systems that have harmed Indigenous students for generations.

While there has been some progress in building support for Indigenous-led education, the fact remains that not enough Indigenous youth have access to culturally-relevant instruction. Now more than ever, we need to create and support model institutions that define what community-driven, Indigenous-led educational institutions can be—and how they can positively impact Native youth. Join us.
LENDING & IMPACT INVESTING

“When We Build: Highlights from Five Years of Investing in Indigenous Power”, Lending & Impact Investing

“Over the next decade, NDN Fund will move more than $100 million in capital...”
INVESTMENTS RAISED
$ 6,775,000

LOANS DEPLOYED
$ 5,742,625

POWER-BUILDING
$ 262,500

RESOURCES PROVIDED

9 BUSINESSES & PROJECTS SUPPORTED

IN NUMBERS

NDN FUND

NDN Fund – the lending and investing arm of NDN Collective – is a national, emerging Native Community Development Financial Institution (NCDFI). We work to dramatically increase Indigenous Peoples’ access to capital and financial decision-making power through an approach grounded in resilient and regenerative Indigenous lending principles.

NDN Fund provides pre-development, startup, bridge, and expansion loans and other resources to large-scale and regenerative Indigenous-led and community-based development projects and businesses. This support is provided across any and all stages, as needed.

Our target borrowers and clients are Native Nations, Tribal Enterprises and/or corporations, Native nonprofits and organizations, and Native-owned businesses.
HOW WE DO IT

NDN Fund focuses our work in five primary areas:

1. **Renewable energy**
   We support community-owned and controlled, ecologically sound renewable energy that fosters a just transition away from fossil fuels.

2. **Community development and housing**
   We support community and housing design that engages communities; reflects the cultures, bioregions, and ways of life of Indigenous Peoples; and creates pathways to affordable home ownership and wealth-building.

3. **Resilient, regenerative, and sustainable infrastructure**
   We support the development of critical infrastructure that will enable Indigenous Peoples to live self-determined lives, including roads, potable water systems, rainwater harvesting systems, sewer systems, ecological wastewater treatment, broadband access, and transmission lines.

4. **Social enterprise**
   We support innovative entrepreneurs and businesses that offer clear social and cultural benefits with the potential to deliver services at scale.

5. **Regenerative agriculture**
   We support agricultural businesses with holistic land management practices that leverage the power of natural systems and processes to feed our people and animals in ways that mitigate and reverse climate change.

Our work is done in concert with the NDN Collective ecosystem and external partners to source other forms of capital as needed, such as grants, equity, tax credits, and loan guarantees. This combination of resources is called “braided capital.” NDN Fund—along with the entire NDN Collective ecosystem—is creating a paradigm shift in how society thinks about economic development.

We are doing so by rooting our lending strategy in Indigenous systems thinking: recognizing the interconnectedness of all things and our responsibilities to our homelands and each other.

Deep capacity building, or “power building” within our communities is integral to the success of our model, leaving Indigenous peoples with the technical knowledge and access to networks necessary to further develop their economic infrastructure and systems.
LENDING

Over the next decade, NDN Fund will move more than $100 million in capital to projects that 1) uphold the principles of regenerative and just economies, and 2) are both led by, and in service to, Indigenous communities. We will do this through two lending programs: Relief & Resilience and SEEDING (Social Enterprise & Economic Development for Indigenous Growth).

1. Relief & Resilience Loans
Loans ranging from $10K-$500K to Indigenous small businesses and nonprofits, designed to be dynamic and responsive to fund community needs as they arise and enabling us to move capital in emergency situations.

2. SEEDING Loans
Loans ranging from $500,000 - $3,000,000 to Indigenous projects and businesses with pre-development, startup, bridge, and expansion capital.

To decide which loans to issue, we use our Resilience Impact Assessment (RIA) which is a work-in-progress and a major component of our Indigenized lending model. The RIA was designed to assess 1) the level of resilience in a loan under consideration, as part of underwriting, or 2) the level of resilience in an existing loan, as part of portfolio management and risk assessment. The RIA supports our decision making and loan structuring and, most importantly, will surface opportunities for building greater resilience in the loan, the underlying project or business, and the community through the life of the loan. Part of our success comes from our intentional process to stay actively engaged with our borrowers through quarterly impact reporting, regular communications, and providing power building resources as needed. The RIA was developed in partnership with the Opportunity Finance Network, the trade association of community development financial institutions, Precovery Labs and a network of innovative and community-led Community Development Financial Institutions. It is currently stewarded by the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire as we move into the next phase of testing and refining.

POWER BUILDING

NDN Fund provides power building resources to organizations and individuals to help them become investment-ready. While not all of these organizations will necessarily receive a loan from NDN Fund, they will be in the waterway for future funding opportunities. Further, the power building resources that they receive from NDN Fund will help prepare them to receive a loan from other investors. NDN Fund also works to build the investment community’s understanding of the economic opportunities in Indian Country by cultivating and strengthening direct relationships between organizations in our waterway and other funders and investors.
IMPACT EVALUATION THROUGH STORYTELLING AND DATA

A critical component of our work is lifting up the stories from our borrowers and power building clients. We use a combination of storytelling and data obtained from our borrowers through their Quarterly Borrowers Reports to show the true impact of NDN Fund's lending in Indigenous communities. We take this approach because mainstream impact evaluation is not grounded in the holistic realities of our Indigenous communities, and we value stories paired with data to show the fullest possible picture of our impact.

Community Partners Impact Highlights:

**Miss Anne’s MayPop Herb Shop** is a Lakota woman-owned and operated full-service herb shop serving New Orleans. The shop is stocked with hundreds of herbal remedies that support health and wellbeing. NDN Fund’s loan to MayPop Herb Shop will allow the shop to expand their online shipping in order to serve a national market.

The MayPop Herb Shop has become a community resource for remedies, plant knowledge, healing and social change by utilizing an ecological and economic sustainability model. During the pandemic, operations had to be scaled back due to the lack of travel and tourism, but with the NDN Fund Loan, the shop was able to resume—and expand upon—its pre-pandemic service levels.

The power building resources we have provided to Miss Anne’s MayPop Herb Shop include hiring Nativ3 (an Indigenous team of creative experts) to rebrand and develop a new website so that their products can reach a wider market. The website brings to life a unique, one-of-a-kind, mobile-friendly experience that provides access to products, education and knowledge-sharing. The functionality means that Miss Anne’s MayPop Herb Shop will be able to track how well the website is meeting the needs of the target audience so that there can be continuous improvement. The information gleaned from this online feedback, along with other activities at Miss Anne’s MayPop Herb Shop, will contribute to the NDN Fund impact evaluation.
The NDN Fund loan to the Marketplace will leverage Tocabe Eatery's successes into the Marketplace’s national direct-to-consumer food distribution business. Their goal is to build a successful business that creates wide consumer access to Native and Indigenous foods, and provides a new central marketplace for Native food suppliers. The Marketplace integrates their community-centered vision by including a two-to-one donation component into the business model that provides food for Indigenous families for every item sold on the online platform. Their goal is to move to a one-to-one donation model in the near future. The Marketplace’s centralized e-commerce platform amplifies their ability to connect households to Native and Indigenous food systems to make sure that all peoples have access to foods that are farmed, ranched, fished, harvested, and crafted by Native caretakers.

NDN Fund paired this loan with our power building resources which included helping the Marketplace secure a government and Tribal procurement consultant, a Tribal College and University procurement consultant, a PR firm to help build a marketing strategy, and assistance to develop a non-profit for Tocabe Indigenous Marketplace that focuses on Native food systems, health outcomes, and education. The results of the power building activity, along with other Marketplace activities, will inform the NDN Fund’s evaluation of impact.

Tocabe Indigenous Marketplace was established in 2021 by the owners of Tocabe Eatery to make Native and Indigenous foods widely available through a single online marketplace. This first-of-its-kind food distribution hub supplies healthy Native and Indigenous ingredients to consumers throughout the United States. Tocabe’s successes come not only from their work providing delicious Indigenous foods to consumers, but also through their vision to support Native and Indigenous food sovereignty and self-determination through business ventures. Tocabe’s ethos is Native first, local second, meaning that they prioritize sourcing items directly from tribal and Native producers whenever possible. To do so, the founders have formed relationships with Native food suppliers around the United States to source authentic ingredients through business dealings that directly support local and tribal enterprises. Tocabe has also developed relationships with community organizations to deliver Indigenous and Native foods to families who would not otherwise have access to readily available traditional foods.
“By using the NDN Holdings entity, NDN Collective seeks to create a sustainable circular economic model that allows for us to meet our community needs on our terms.”
NDN Holdings

NDN Holdings is a for-profit holding company, wholly owned by NDN Collective, that exists to build assets and get land back by transitioning land, real estate, and building ownership through strategic land acquisition opportunities. NDN Holdings is not run as a traditional for-profit business that centers the bottom line. Rather, NDN Holdings takes on development projects that directly support our mission and values and are based on impact for the people and community. Our activities help build assets and strengthen Indigenous power throughout the organization and the communities we support.

NDN Holdings’ first development project was centered around the NDN Headquarters building. Initially when NDN Collective leased a building in downtown Rapid City, the owner dismissed a creative art project that added to the building’s charisma. Instead of leasing another building, we created NDN Holdings to help develop a new site for the home of NDN Collective. By using the NDN Holdings entity, NDN Collective seeks to create a sustainable circular economic model that allows for us to meet our community needs on our terms.
NDN Holdings offers the following services:

1. **Co-Design Land, Building, & Facilities Strategies**
   We work with local Indigenous communities to identify strategic purchases and development related to land, buildings, and facilities that would help them actualize their ability to defend, develop, and decolonize.

2. **Land & Asset Acquisition**
   We purchase land and assets strategic to the defense, development, and decolonization of Indigenous Peoples and Mother Earth by facilitating transactions using NDN Collective’s Land & Power Building Fund.

3. **Project Management**
   We work with architects, engineers, and contractors to ensure community development projects are completed as intended.

4. **Property Management & Maintenance**
   We provide ongoing maintenance and property management assets to ensure they are well cared for and continue to meet the needs of Indigenous Peoples in their communities.

5. **Land & Asset Sales**
   We create opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, communities, and Tribes to buyout NDN Collective and enable local ownership and stewardship of land and assets.

NDN Holdings’ projects are financed through NDN Collective’s Land & Power Building Fund and fully owned and operated by NDN Holdings through NDN Collective. Income generated through the projects serves to diversify NDN Collective’s revenue. NDN Holdings strives to be a major beneficiary to the entire NDN Collective ecosystem through using revenue to help fund direct programs, grant opportunities, and critical impact work.

**IMPACT PROJECTS - COMPLETED**

**NDN Headquarters** – Mniluzahan (Rapid City, South Dakota) was a real estate development project designed to build an intentional, creative space for local NDN Collective employees and staff, located in the north area of Rapid City where a number of Indigenous community members reside. The approx. 6,490 SF project consists of office, warehouse, and apartment space, and was completed in 2021.

**No KXL Ranch** (South Dakota). In 2019, NDN Holdings stepped in to help our Relatives against the proposed KXL pipeline by buying land in the pathway of the proposed route. This purchase was critical in the fight for a fossil fuel-free future and directly helped shut down the KXL pipeline. NDN is now in the process of transitioning the land back to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (RST). The RST has already bought back one of the parcels directly from NDN Holdings and is in the process of obtaining a second resolution that will allow for the second parcel to be placed under the tribe’s control. NDN Holdings is not charging a fee for this transaction nor adding on any appreciation or price adjustment. Rather, NDN Holdings is selling the land back to the tribe only for what NDN paid for the land. By recouping the transaction costs, NDN Holdings will be able to support other Indigenous communities across Turtle Island.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - IN PROCESS

LOCAL TO MILUZAHAN & HE SAPA
(Rapid City / Black Hills Area)

The Mniluzahan Community Land Trust (Rapid City, South Dakota) seeks to make housing options affordable and accessible to our relatives and community. NDN Holdings purchased approximately 65 acres of land in North Rapid City, where we will build the Oceti Sakowin Community Academy. The remaining area will be designed for affordable housing options including apartments, townhomes, and single-family houses.

The He Sapa Retreat — Mniluzahan (Rapid City, South Dakota) is being designed to provide direct programmatic support to the entire NDN Collective ecosystem. In 2021, NDN Holdings purchased an approximately 16-acre lot that includes a 7,290 SF house and warehouse, and partnered with local architects, engineers, and contractors to finalize a design which will feature an outdoor and indoor space for ceremony and gathering.

*Disclaimer - Retreat is used as an overall description of the site but it is not a licensed retreat facility.

Come eat at RELATIVE! (Rapid City, South Dakota) We are currently developing an Indigenous-led restaurant and event space adjacent to HQ that will offer coffee, food, art, live music, and events. At approx. 2,925 SF, RELATIVE will serve as a cultural hub centered amongst the North Rapid Indigenous community. This modern Indigenous eatery will be a place that centers traditional Indigenous foods, people, and teachings. RELATIVE will have diverse revenue streams, including catering and a dining area that can serve as an event space for the community.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - In process

Since 2021, NDN Holdings has been developing a K-12 school facility in partnership with NDN Collective Education Equity team and the Oceti Sakowin Community Academy (OSCA) (Rapid City, South Dakota). NDN Holdings helped incubate OSCA and worked very closely with the team to get OSCA operational in the Fall of 2022. The OSCA board includes expert local Indigenous school administrators and teachers, who are using their experience to create a school that promotes inclusive and diverse education and that is driven by rigorous academics while grounded in the thought and philosophy of the Oceti Sakowin. The school will include powwow grounds, an outdoor star knowledge classroom, and an educational restoration area. It will also be adjacent to a community garden and affordable housing for families.

The Wright Street Duplexes (Rapid City, South Dakota) will offer affordable housing based on Annual Median Income for up to four families, and will include amenities and a safe play area for children. Rapid City’s population is estimated to grow by over 30% in the next 3 years due to the military expansion in Box Elder. This directly impacts the housing market by making it harder to find safe, affordable housing options for our relatives. We are combatting this problem by providing affordable housing to the North Rapid Indigenous community, focusing on impact rather than profits.

The NDN Wood Avenue & Culture Hub (Rapid City, South Dakota) development project is intentionally placed in the North Rapid City community, home to many of our local relatives, to serve as a cultural hub. The project consists of 28 apartment units located on second and third floors, and approx. 18,000 SF of retail on the ground floor. The project will serve the local Indigenous people through providing accessible and affordable pricing, and we are partnering with local Indigenous businesses to fill out the retail spaces, including a barbershop, clothing store, trading post and Indigenous food lab and market. The housing opportunities will be affordable and we will utilize traditional Indigenous concepts to connect communities together.
Throughout 2021, NDN Holdings partnered with our Racial Equity Team to create the community Gliiŋ (Rapid City, South Dakota), “to return for the good”, formerly known as Camp Mnikuzahan, to support our unhoused relatives. After spending several months visiting numerous Indigenous communities across Turtle Island who have begun and/or completed the process of developing their own tiny home communities, the Racial Equity team determined that Gliiŋ would represent a community that moved beyond transitional housing, fostering a true sense of belonging and safety to individuals choosing to live there.

We partnered with the Seattle-based organizations Block Project and Facing Homelessness to acquire tiny homes, and will be using our own creative systems to build out a 24-home community. In addition to providing housing, we will be starting a workforce development society. The Gliiŋ Workforce Society will help build the tiny homes and provide training and jobs for the local community. Residents will also be encouraged to participate in the tiny home building and greater workforce society to help build community and develop job skills.

Additional plans for the development of Gliiŋ include an outreach center program that incorporates spaces for a kitchen, lounge, gathering hall, wash facilities and a sweat lodge. Emergency housing will also be available for families, as well as self-determination services, which includes counseling and assistance with locating and accessing community resources. Residents will also have the opportunity to support in areas such as maintenance, gardening, kitchen assistance and repair and installation of tiny home features.

NDN Holdings purchased land on Eyak Lake in Cordova, Alaska to be returned to the Eyak people. The Sea Otter Island Retreat is a collaborative partnership with the Native Conservancy which includes plans for designing a lake house retreat. This project furthers habitat restoration, Indigenous food sovereignty, cultural revitalization, LANDBACK and OCEANBACK!

NDN Holdings acquired the property and water rights at Pine Creek Ranch (Nevada) to transition the lands back to the original Indigenous caretakers. Knowing this process might be possible only if there was a sustainable economic model that would allow tribes to maintain operations, NDN Holdings partnered with Ranch Advisory Partners to return grazing animals to the lands. NDN Holdings has also engaged with the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Department of Agriculture to reinstate long-standing vacant allotment permits that would allow for free range grazing. This is a LANDBACK project and our goal is to partner with a local Indigenous tribe or community that can operate it successfully long-term.
When We Build: Highlights from Five Years of Investing in Indigenous Power Communications & Narrative
**NDN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

* Data from 2022 only

141 BLOG POSTS

200+ VIDEOS PUBLISHED*

83.7K VIEWS ON YOUTUBE*

177.5K VIEWS ON FACEBOOK*

148K NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS*

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**SOCIAL MEDIA AUDIENCE**

- Instagram: 143K
- Facebook: 105K
- Twitter: 39K
- LinkedIn: 6K
- YouTube: 5.47K
- TikTok: 5.2K

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**COMMUNICATIONS & NARRATIVE WORK**

Our Communications & Narrative Team is comprised of experienced Indigenous storytellers, artists, creatives, narrative change strategists, and media-based organizers who support the NDN Collective ecosystem. The Communications & Narrative Team creates and uplifts stories of Indigenous Nation building and movement-building as well as works to disrupt false narratives and build Indigenous power in service of a culture shift. Our people need to see, hear, and experience narratives that reflect our dynamic strengths and our collective power.

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**WEBSITE ANALYTICS**

- Page Views: 482K
- New Users: 204K
- Countries Reached: 195

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**AT A GLANCE**
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST FIVE YEARS

WEBSITE AND BLOG
The NDN blog is active with new content weekly, and since our launch in 2018, we have published a total of 141 blog posts, 125 press releases, and 4 position papers.

SOCIAL MEDIA
NDN Collective social media consists of platforms on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, TikTok and YouTube, with a combined total of 321,366 followers and subscribers as of December 2022.

PODCAST AND VIDEO PRODUCTION
NDN has produced a total of three unique podcasts to date, hosted and produced by various NDN Collective Staff. In the Spring of 2023 we launched our new podcast, “LANDBACK For the People”.

Original NDN Collective video productions have consisted of short-form social videos, on-the-ground livestream coverage of events and Indigenous organizing, livestream productions and more polished productions of short films and video ads. On a handful of occasions, our production team has either live streamed or gathered footage from select grantees, producing documentary shorts and banking footage for future video storytelling work. Video coverage of NDN Collective non-violent direction actions also allowed for critical movement narratives to be upheld, rather than allowing news media to distort the details and purpose of our planned actions.

DESIGN
In our first five years, our design team has produced thousands of individual designs and marketing materials consisting of digital graphics and advertisements, digital billboards, and print collateral, such as brochures, booklets, and posters.

EARNED MEDIA
Since our launch, we have worked directly with Indigenous media outlets to amplify many of our programmatic opportunities for Indigenous people. Our non-Indigenous press list also ensures that mainstream press regularly have awareness of our work, and the opportunity to work with NDN Collective to produce stories covering the rise in Indigenous movement building.

“NDN Collective is not an intermediary funder. We are an organization built to fund and support the power of Indigenous communities. Therefore, we partner with funders who are aligned with and believe in our theory of change.”
ADVANCEMENT

As a construct of white supremacy, philanthropy provides less than 0.5% of its funding to Indigenous Peoples. NDN Collective disrupts this reality by advocating for the liberation and rematriation of resources that have been stolen by institutional philanthropy over centuries through extractive industry, government policymaking, and church and military campaigns.

We only collaborate with philanthropic partners who recognize that redistribution of resources is a vital part of shifting power and decision-making. We have also taken a specific approach to work with unrestricted funds and utilize that funding to adequately and sustainably finance our operations and support community partners and grantees more directly. Additionally, all our funding has to match our theory of change; we do not deliver services or programming for another entity or another theory of change as we are not an extension of the field of philanthropy. As a last point NDN Collective is not an intermediary funder. We are an organization built to fund and support the power of Indigenous communities.

The sizable amount of resources raised to date (>170M), while significant and unprecedented in the Indigenous non-profit field, remains incommensurate when compared with the legacy of generations of theft that form the foundation of wealth in the United States, including the accumulated endowments of institutional philanthropy that we engage with our organizing strategy. We have strong partnerships with donors who fund our work in a way that allows us to stay focused on our goals and visions instead of implementing their strategies. We aim to be a place that funders look to for how to fund in a way that trusts and believes in the people who are closest to the challenges they are trying to solve.
Building Indigenous Power: A Retrospective of NDN Collective’s First Five Years

**BALANCE SHEET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Assets</th>
<th>Total Liabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$1,662,407</td>
<td>$82,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$10,200,211</td>
<td>$151,002</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$43,850,914</td>
<td>$4,104,876</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$58,480,888</td>
<td>$298,717</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$88,432,678</td>
<td>$811,762</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**PROFIT & LOSS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Income</th>
<th>Total Expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$2,205,412</td>
<td>$625,046</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$11,369,310</td>
<td>$3,900,468</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>$48,223,108</td>
<td>$10,855,614</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$46,975,823</td>
<td>$29,102,939</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$62,679,223</td>
<td>$31,747,350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* For full financials please refer to our website.
Building Indigenous Power: A Retrospective
of NDN Collective’s First Five Years

Wealth Liberation

FOUNDATIONS WHO SUPPORT OUR WORK

1 11th Hour Project
2 45 North Partners
3 ABABWO Fund
4 Agua Fund
5 Annenberg Foundation
6 Annie E. Casey Foundation
7 Arkay Foundation
8 Bainbridge Community Foundation
9 Battelle Always Giving
10 Beth Zemsky Family Foundation
11 Better Way Foundation
12 Bezos Earth Fund
13 BFK Foundation
14 Bijan Ghaisar Foundation
15 Blackbaud Giving Fund
16 Black Hills Area Community Foundation
17 Blue Shield of California Foundation
18 Bread & Roses Community Fund
19 Bunting Foundation
20 Burkehaven Family Foundation
21 Bush Foundation
22 California Community Foundation
23 Casey Family Services
24 Catena Foundation
25 Charities Aid Foundation of America
26 Christensen Fund
27 Clara Lionel Foundation
28 Community Shares of Colorado
29 Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
30 First Nations Development Institute
31 Ford Foundation
32 Friedman Family Foundation
33 Fund 4 Democratic Communities
34 Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
35 Gezelling Foundation
36 Global Wildlife Conservation
37 Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund
38 Headwaters Foundation for Justice
39 Henry Luce Foundation
40 Jaideep and Rachel Khanna Foundation
41 Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation
42 Kataly Foundation
43 Kenneth Rainin Foundation
44 Kresge Foundation
45 L.P. Brown Foundation
46 Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation
47 Libra Foundation
48 MacArthur Foundation
49 Marguerite E. Casey Foundation
50 Martha Struthers Farley and Donald C. Farley, Jr. Family Foundation
51 McKnight Foundation
52 Merz Gilmore Foundation
53 Metabolic Studio
54 NBC Universal
55 New Israel Fund
56 Newman’s Own Foundation
57 New World Foundation
58 Northwest Area Foundation
59 Notah Begay III Foundation
60 NoVo Foundation
61 Omaha Community Foundation
62 Open Society Foundation
63 Perlmeter Family Foundation
64 Pink House Foundation
65 Pisces Foundation
66 Putnam Foundation
67 Radical Imagination Family Foundation
68 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
69 Roy and Patricia Disney Family Foundation
70 Saint Paul Minnesota Foundation
71 San Diego Foundation
72 San Francisco Foundation
73 Seattle Foundation
74 Seeds to Wings Foundation
75 Seventh Generation Foundation
76 Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples
77 Sheila, Dave, & Sherry Gold Foundation
78 Skoll Foundation
79 Spring Dell Foundation
80 Steiner Family Foundation
81 Surdna Foundation
82 Swaha Foundation
83 Swift Foundation
84 Tamalpais Trust
85 Target Foundation
86 The Boston Foundation
87 The California Endowment
88 The Children’s Trust
89 The Grove Foundation
90 The Hive Fund for Climate and Gender Justice
91 The JPB Foundation
92 The Phogg Foundation
93 The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
94 The Tides Foundation
95 The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
96 United Jewish Foundation of Metro Detroit
97 United Philanthropy Forum
98 Vervane Foundation
99 W.K. Kellogg Foundation
100 Wallace Global Fund
101 WEND
102 William H. Donner Foundation
103 Windrose Fund
104 Wm. Collins Kohler Foundation
105 Youth Emergency Service DBA
106 The Phogg Foundation
107 The Phogg Foundation

$
In the first five years, NDN Collective has solidified its role in the Indigenous peoples movement. As we look ahead to the next five years, we will be focusing on increasing our impact and solidifying our financial future, so that we can do this work across generations.
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Our main priorities for organizing over the next five years are:

- Build internal NDN Collective staff capacity to engage in Indigenous power building
- Implement the Protect The He Sapa campaign to stop mining in the Black Hills
- Implement the He Sapa LANDBACK campaign to seek the return of all the public lands in the Black Hills back to the Lakota
- Implement the Rapid City vs. Racism campaign to address racism, discrimination, and systemic oppression, including police violence and overcriminalization of Indigenous Peoples in Rapid City
• Implement the Free Leonard Peltier campaign to achieve Executive clemency for Native American activist Leonard Peltier

• Advance the Climate Justice Implementation campaign to ensure Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous-led organizations are positioned to receive and leverage climate-focused resources

• Develop, launch, and run the Black Hills Action Camp to support local direct action and organizing for LANDBACK

• Develop, implement, manage, refine, and expand the NDN Legal Fund

• Develop systems, protocols, and guidelines for community members to seek duty of care support when criminalized for engaging in direct action and creative resistance

WEALTH REMATRIATION

Although our goal is to grow our grantmaking services, we recognize that grantmaking alone will not solve the wealth gap. Addressing systemic barriers, including tax policy and public assistance programs that maintain inequities, requires coordinated efforts by allied organizations and government entities.

Over these coming years, we are also moving from capacity building to power building. This means not just fortifying organizational operations and structures, but also amplifying the organizations to create, control and enforce policy, decision-making processes and resource management.

• The Collective Abundance Fund—our program to create models for closing the racial wealth gap—is a program that will give roughly $41 million away over the course of 5 years. We will be implementing impact and evaluation studies on the program that in turn will help to inform regional and national based funding models moving forward.

• We are working to increase our Community Action Grant (CAG) program from half a million dollars a year, to one million dollars a year.

• Starting in the Spring of 2023, the scope of our Radical Imagination program increased. Initially only available for individual artists, we’ve been able to broaden it to artist collectives and from one year of support to two.

• Moving forward with the Changemakers Fellowship, we are looking to implement our original vision for in-person convenings starting with the 2024 cohort, which was interrupted due to the pandemic.

REGIONAL DEEPDIVES

Our main priorities for supporting regional Indigenous community organizing efforts in the Northern Plains, the Southwest, Alaska, and the Hawaiian Kingdom over the next five years are:

• Offer executive strategic thought partnership to support regional Indigenous community organizing efforts

• Facilitate connections between regional partners, funders, and resources and offer direct support from NDN Collective staff and trusted strategic partners

• Provide unrestricted grants to organizations and leaders from each region to advance their collective work

• Support community-led action camps in each region to support local organizers’ skills and creative resistance strategies

• Mobilize and deploy affinity groups of NDN Collective staff to provide organizing support to local communities, if/when requested

LENDING & IMPACT INVESTING

Looking forward, we are working to grow our fund to $100 million within the next 5 years. To do that, we want to focus our fund work within two different areas. Firstly, we want to facilitate the growth of the loan fund to the $25 to $50 million range. Secondly, we’re becoming a community development entity, a CDE, so that our community can engage in new market tax credit programs, tax increment financing programs, and low-income housing and affordable housing tax credit programs.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Over the next years we are doubling down on our focus for community development in the He Sapa. NDN Collective will begin to transition away from doing pre-development work and towards implementation of large-scale community development, affordable housing, and social enterprise. Our five year goal is to have at least one affordable housing project built as well as to have completed the building out of an Indian Center in North Rapid City in partnership with SAPA OTP.

By the end of the coming five years, we will have close to $50 million in assets, and many of those assets will be generating income while simultaneously directly impacting our people. As this community development and social enterprise model grows, we’re also building community wealth by increasing the assets that are controlled by Indigenous people, which in turn helps to increase our communities’ political power as stakeholders.

WEALTH LIBERATION

By 2026, our aim is to have a $300M endowment that will generate $9.5M annually to support our operational costs.

Working toward wealth liberation is part of our goal of transforming the philanthropic landscape. We don’t want philanthropic organizations to fund NDN Collective just to check off their “Indigenous” box. We want them to fund the NDN Collective—to support the Indigenous peoples movement—because Indigenous people are continually developing solutions that help achieve racial equity, foster a transition to climate justice, increase educational outcomes, create new economic models for community wealth, reestablish food systems, and increase biodiversity. This is work that protects all people.

KNOWLEDGE & RESOURCE SHARING

We seek to share knowledge and resources to support our partners to defend, develop, and decolonize. We aim to do this through:

- Providing technical support and assistance to help organizations determine how to best utilize, navigate, and leverage funding and grantmaking systems
- Facilitate relationships and connections between funders and our grantee-partners
- Enable the purchase of strategic and income generating assets through the Land and Power Building Fund
- Provide programming and resources relevant to the self-determination, sovereignty, regenerative sustainability, and power of Indigenous Peoples, tribes, and Indigenous-led organizations
- Design and host a LANDBACK Summit every three years to convene and coordinate the movement
- Facilitate peer communities to encourage relationship building, collaboration, knowledge transfer, power building and growth across grantee-loan relative partners

As we look forward to the next five years, we can’t help but feel humbled by the power and potential that exists when we invest in the people who have been taken advantage of for generations. The scale of the infrastructure that we’re building has taken an immense amount of creativity and a group of dedicated individuals.

We hope what we have put forward in these pages can provide inspiration and the potential for contextualization and iteration for other organizations when considering how they want to do their work. In order to achieve true liberation, we will always remain collaborative and grounded around centering the needs of our people.
In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated a crisis of chronic underfunding of all of our essential services, resulting in many of our people walking on. Simultaneously, an amazing multi-racial grassroots upsurge emerged across Turtle Island in response to police violence and hundreds of years of systemic racism. The response across Indian Country was to create ways to meet our communities’ needs and to mobilize grassroots political power in the electoral arena as well as to develop groundbreaking initiatives to regain our inherent and legal rights to our lands and resources.

It has never been more clear that every sector of Indian Country has a role to play, from elected tribal leadership to traditional leaders to grassroots organizers. As a movement infrastructure organization, NDN Collective has been working to Defend, Decolonize, and Develop in a wide array of areas that affect our daily lives and the future of Turtle Island for all. At the heart of it, NDN is here to build a movement that is grounded by our values and spiritual beliefs.

In Rapid City, we are working to dismantle systemic racism— from opening the first Indigenous-led school to reconnect our youth with their cultures and lifeways, to serving our unhoused relatives who continue to be demonized by the local government.

We continue organizing people to protect our shared planet – from co-leading the Indigenous Peoples’ Pavilion at COP27 as part of ensuring Indigenous people can build power across the globe, to working with all levels of government to ensure our communities have access to federal climate funding. We continue to interrupt the dominant narratives influencing philanthropy by uplifting a new definition of collective wealth, and distributing historic amounts of dollars directly to our nations and communities.

Our call for “landback” has awoken a new collective sense of urgency to fulfill our role as protectors of land and resources, moving policy makers, tribal governments and grassroots communities to not only dream but also lean into sovereignty. At the core of everything we do is the belief that landback is the only way to fully repair harm to Mother Earth and to reestablish our Nation to Nation status and our treaty rights.

Above all, we are honored, humbled, and grateful for the support we’ve received from people on Turtle Island and beyond. We remain committed to building Native grassroots political power that will assure sovereignty, and a multi-racial democracy that meets the needs of all.

Judith LeBlanc (Caddo Nation), 2023
Board Chair of NDN Collective
2020 COVID 19 Indigenous Artists and Entrepreneurs cont.

607 Fond Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa - Human Services
608 Four Winds American Indian Council
609 Generations Indigenous Ways
610 Illuminative
611 International Indian Treaty Council
612 Lipan Apache Tribe
613 Little Shell Tribe of Montana
614 Maggie's House
615 Mujeres Amazonicas/Sarayaku
616 Native Organizers Alliance
617 Native Outdoors PBC
618 Nimiipuufund
619 Owyhee Combined School
620 Pueblo Action Alliance
621 Rapid City Club for Boys, Inc.
622 Standing Rock CDC
623 United Natives, Inc.
624 University of Colorado Foundation f/b/o First Peoples Worldwide at the University of Colorado
625 Venetie Village Council
626 Waytay Lutheran Church
627 Youth & Family Services, Inc. / Girls Inc. of Rapid City

2020-2022 Radical Imagination

628 Cara Romero
629 D.A. Navoti
630 Deenaalee Hodgdon
631 Himelemoana Wong-Kahi
632 Jenifer Brousseau
633 Marianne Nicholson
634 Selina Martinez
635 Simón Sedillo
636 Thomas Ryan RedCorn
637 Reyes Maldonado
638 Amadeo Cool May
639 Dakota Alcantara-Camacho
640 Dimi Macheras
641 Frank Waln
642 Jaclyn Mendez
643 Lenora Naranjo Morse
644 Marca Cassity
645 Peter Williams
646 William Wilson
647 Nivalia Toro-Lopez
648 Cesar Hernandez Andres
649 Chad Martin
650 Daniel Cespedes
651 Gabriela Spears-Rico
652 Hawane Rios
653 Josue Rivas
654 Larry McNeil
655 Marques Marzan
656 Miguel Ventura
657 Hubert Martinez Calleja
658 Dream Warrior via Poetic Fire
659 Frank Waln (FDW Entertainment LLC)

2020-2022 President's Partnership Fund

660 Gunner Jules Krogman
661 Indigenous Climate Action
662 Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN)
663 Jessa Calderon
664 Lyra June
665 Mic Jordan
666 Native Conservancy
667 Native Movement
668 People's Partnership for Community Development
669 SAGE Development Authority
670 Standing Rock Wind Project
671 Tall Paul of Dream Warriors (Paul Wenne, Jr.)
672 Tanaya Winder
673 Tocabe
674 Arctic Village Council
675 Camp Mni Lazaab
676 Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women
677 Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice
678 Decolonize Together Collective - Nikki Sanchez-Hood
679 Indigenous Climate Action
680 International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee
681 KULANIAKEA
682 Lennape Center
683 Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors Group
684 Migizi Communications
685 Naeva (NAVA Education Project)
686 Native Conservancy
687 Native Organizers Alliance (NOA)
688 Oglala Lakota Structural Fire Dept.
689 Pawnee Evening Star Fund
690 Sacred Earth Solar
691 Sovereign Bodies Institute
692 Standing Rock Community Development Corporation
693 Tanan Ch'at' oh
694 The Niyakke Yaza Teen Center (NYTC)
695 The People of the Sacred Land
696 Urban Indigenous Collective
697 WA Native Vote
698 Wambli Ska Society
699 Wotakuye Mutual Aid Society
700 YBC, LLC (Wakpala Hu Hu)
701 Yellow Bird Life Ways Center
702 About Face Veterans Against the War aka Iraq Veterans Against the War
703 Adalafah Justice Project
704 Akitkita Youth Athletic Academy
705 Akitkita Youth Athletic Academy
706 Arctic Village Council
707 Bacone College
708 Barcid Foundation
709 Chi'zh For Che'i
710 Greater Yellowstone Coalition
711 Illuminative
712 KUHIALOKO
713 Mumingnanium Mannaigua'nul
714 Suli Suanataqatuk
715 Native American Community Board
716 Native Movement
717 Oaye Luta Okolakiciye
718 Pacific Peoples Partnership
719 Pahonu Wa'a 'Ohana (Mni Lazaah Cooperative
720 People's Partnership for Community Development
721 The Niyakke Yaza Teen Center (NYTC)
722 The Niyakke Yaza Teen Center (NYTC)
723 The Niyakke Yaza Teen Center (NYTC)
724 The Niyakke Yaza Teen Center (NYTC)
725 The Niyakke Yaza Teen Center (NYTC)
726 The Niyakke Yaza Teen Center (NYTC)
727 Alaska Federation of Natives
728 First Alaskans Institute
729 Flower Hill Institute
730 Hawaii Unity & Liberation Institute - Ko’i’honua
731 Keres Children’s Learning Center
732 Hui Iwikuamo’o
733 Hawaii National Land Trust
734 Kumano I Ke’A
735 Malama Huleia
736 Missing & Murdered Diné Relatives
737 Native Conservancy
738 Native Movement
739 Native Peoples Action Community Fund
740 Oci'te Sakowin Community Academy
741 Purpose Focused Alternative Learning Corporation
742 Tewa Women United
743 Tolani Lake Enterprises Inc.
WE ARE RECLAIMING EVERYTHING STOLEN FROM THE ORIGINAL PEOPLES:

LAND × LANGUAGE × CEREMONY
FOOD × EDUCATION × HOUSING
HEALTHCARE × GOVERNANCE
MEDICINES × KINSHIP

THE BEST TIMES ARE AHEAD OF US

To support the next five years ahead, donate at ndncollective.org