



NACDI

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



A Letter from the President & CEO



Dear Friends, Relatives & Supporters of NACDI;

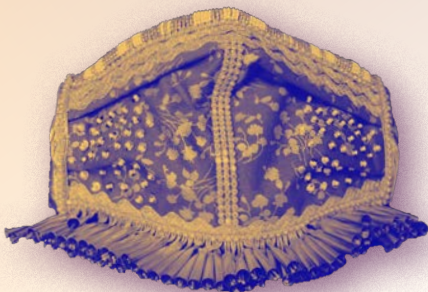
I am so very grateful to you all, and to our community, for your support, guidance, friendship and participation in our work during this very challenging and rewarding year. Because of you, NACDI has emerged stronger and even more resilient from a year of the pandemic and civil unrest. It has been a year of growth and adaptation at NACDI.

To our many funders who proactively provided supplemental funding and released restrictions on 2020 funds to allow NACDI to be resilient, even thrive, through the year I say thank you! Your belief and commitment to our work pushes us to increase our efforts. I also say thank you to our community, who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us to best respond to multiple crises we faced together in an authentic way. Your trust and confidence in NACDI affirms our asset-based approach to community development.

In 2020, NACDI continued to advance the community's vision. Progress was made on the American Indian Cultural Corridor. We began implementation of a new business model to sustain us for the coming years. Though much of the work of the four-year implementation plan needed to be deferred due to covid, we did grow our staff by over 40%, and found effective ways to put this newfound capacity to work on behalf of the community. In response to rapidly shifting, often urgent, community needs, NACDI and All My Relations Arts saw increases in our volunteer base and in individual donations. Through it all our talented, professional staff found ways to work in policy realms to promote positive, sustainable institutional change - a hallmark of NACDI's mission.

In the coming year, NACDI is well poised to expand our impact and partnerships to support Native people in building the future we envision for ourselves.

Pidamaya & Miigwech,
Robert Lillgren, President & CEO
White Earth Ojibwe



Pidamaya,
Pilamaya,
Pinagigi,
Miigwech
(thank you)

A Year of Resilience

The COVID19 pandemic has been very hard on the Urban Indian community. An already under resourced neighborhood, the combination of COVID 19 and the aftermath of George Floyd’s murder highlighted the importance to the community of NACDI/AMRA’s space on the American Indian Cultural Corridor.



First, regarding COVID: NACDI adopts its unique type of participatory generosity by seeing needs in our community and working collectively to address them. When the COVID pandemic caused our Native artists’ incomes to drop, NACDI/AMRA prioritized redirecting our resources to ensure artists earned income. We issued a call for artists to make masks to keep our community safer. Artists stepped up, AMRA purchased supplies and distributed, artists made masks and were paid for their work. The masks were distributed where they were most needed and one artistic mask from each artist became an exhibit. NACDI/AMRA was able to hire artists to do other “rapid response” arts projects, like murals in the American Indian Cultural Corridor.

After George Floyd was murdered and the neighborhood lost its grocery stores in the aftermath, NACDI staff moved artwork to a safe place and the Gallery became a pop-up food shelf for the community, which lasted several weeks. NACDI/AMRA’s space and parking lot and the connected Pow Wow Grounds Coffee Shop was also the important home base for the American Indian Movement Protectors who patrolled the AICC each night to keep it safe, incorporating Native music, art, and culture. This is an example of utilizing our gallery for much needed community space.



Once the pop up food shelf found a home elsewhere, AMRA returned to being a Gallery where the third installation of Bring Her Home was exhibited in late 2020. Because of COVID restrictions, we posted the exhibition online. We hosted conversations about the growing issue of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women along with the artists and community activists.



Although much of our work has been virtual, it has by no means decreased.





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Current NACDI Programs



Art is a central strategy for doing NACDI/AMRA's work. Our professional artists amplify contemporary issues facing the Native community. In 2020, AMRA hosted its first digitally accessible show, the Bring Her Home: Sacred Womxn of the Resistance. AMRA acted as an intermediary regranter for the Walker Art Center and gifted 17 Native artists unrestricted funds by creating the Mitakuye Owasin Awards. In addition, AMRA partnered with Illuminative to award digital and muralist artists funding to create artwork to support the Black Community in the joint fight against police brutality and systemic racism. AMRA provides Native artists with a high-profile venue, provides career growth and development and creates access to contemporary Native arts for both Native and non-Native audiences.



Four Sisters Farmers Market is an Indigenous-centered food market, focused on both Indigenous and hyper-local foods from Phillips and surrounding neighborhoods. Working with native-run farms and food producers, we help develop a healthy, Indigenous food system that is accessible and welcoming to people in the American Indian Cultural Corridor.

Hennepin County is working with NACDI and Four Sisters to transform three adjacent vacant lots owned by the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) near the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis into an urban farm and a community gathering place.

NACDI will operate the Four Sisters Farm on the site to provide access to fresh healthy foods and serve as a learning environment for Indigenous farming, medicine, and lifeways. Project partners are working with LHB Landscape Architecture and Planning studio to develop a site design for the project that celebrates the community's cultural assets.



During the 2020 national election cycle, MVAT was a lead partner with similar organizations as part of a “seven state strategy” where the number of Native votes could, and did, decide elections. American Indians’ voice in the voting process has been marginalized via systematic methods targeting how to keep them out of the democratic election process. This has been conducted through voter ID methods and complicated voter registration processes. Additionally, ease of access to voting sites and ease of access to voter registration methods has also been a public policy roadblock to American Indians. Make Voting A Tradition aims to counteract these public policies through voter education and providing individuals an opportunity to gain a stake in saying how they want public policy to be dictated in their neighborhood.

Storytelling



Artists played a role in creating hope in 2020. They persevered by continuing to create, by embracing the unknown, and worked to create a vision for a better future for our future generations.

Artist

Lori Pearson's Story

I create embroidered works that I design from photographs taken at pow-wows. My passion is translating Winnebago women's appliqué dress patterns to embroidery. In the summer of 2019, I wanted advice on my work, and cold-called Angela Two Stars, Director, All My Relations Arts, asking for a few minutes to discuss what I was doing. I sent her a few photographs of my work and she agreed to meet with me and to take a look. I was very nervous at our first meeting, but Angela's gracious artistic assessment was positive and she even offered me the chance to exhibit my art and photographs on the Mni Art Wall. I was brand new to the art world, and this was a golden opportunity to get my art out there and to build new relationships within the AMRA community. The staff at All My Relations Arts provides multiple activities throughout the year, and I attended many of them, giving me access to new thoughts and creative ideas. In November, 2020, my embroidered work called, "MMIW: Break the Chain" was chosen to be included in the "Bring Her Home: Sacred Womxn of Resistance" exhibit. This was such an honor to have my work seen side-by-side with established Native artists of such high caliber. AMRA continues to provide additional resources to the community, such as Facebook posts that share information about other Native art endeavors. I learned about the Native POP (People of the Plains) Art Celebration and was chosen to be one of artists invited to attend this July, 2021. I am so very thankful to Angela Two Stars and the team at All My Relations Arts for saying "yes" to my work, for building my confidence, and for enabling my creative growth.

Pinagigi!

Loriene (Lori) Pearson

(Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska)



Storytelling

In 2020 due to the pandemic, the Four Sisters Farmers Market had a late start into the season. There were challenges with having to quickly navigate CDC Covid restrictions and protocols to ensure we were creating a safe space for vendors, makers, and visitors. Our vendors demonstrated resilience and commitment to the Market by adhering to new guidelines and circumstances so they could continue to create access to food and healthy living.

Market Vendor

Gloria Iacono's Story



The name of Gloria's stand is TapRoute Urban Gardens, based in Southside Minneapolis. 2020 was Gloria's second year vending, but first time selling at the Four Sisters.

TapRoute Urban Gardens offers tomatoes, an assortment of greens, summer squash, fresh herbs, onions, and beets.

Gloria's interests include - moving people towards being more self-sufficient.

She would also love to see beautiful locally grown foods be accessible and affordable.

Gloria shared with us, "I could name ten other small farms in the area doing an amazing job producing food on a very small scale - often just a few acres or less. There are and will be food shortages which is just one of many reasons we need to support local farmers."



Organizational Overview

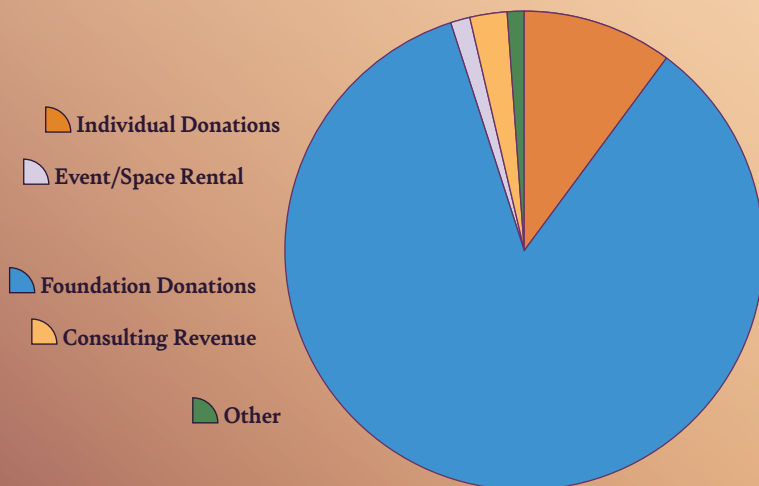
Native American Community Development Institute's (NACDI) work is founded on the belief that all American Indian people have a place, purpose, and a future strengthened by sustainable asset-based community development. Since 2007, NACDI's work facilitates systems change through our integrated pathways of Community Engagement, Community Organizing, Community Development, and Indigenous Arts and Culture. NACDI utilizes these strategies to control our narrative, influence policy, and lead systems change while shifting power dynamics through shared Native values, traditions, cultures, and practices.

These are community-led efforts to secure self-directed wealth building in the American Indian community. NACDI partners with a wide network of Native and non-Native individuals and organizations to create a vibrant, healthy, and balanced community with economic opportunities for Native people. NACDI's key projects include: All My Relations Arts, Four Sisters Farmers Market and Urban Farm, and Make Voting A Tradition (MVAT). NACDI is building a vibrant future for all our relations.

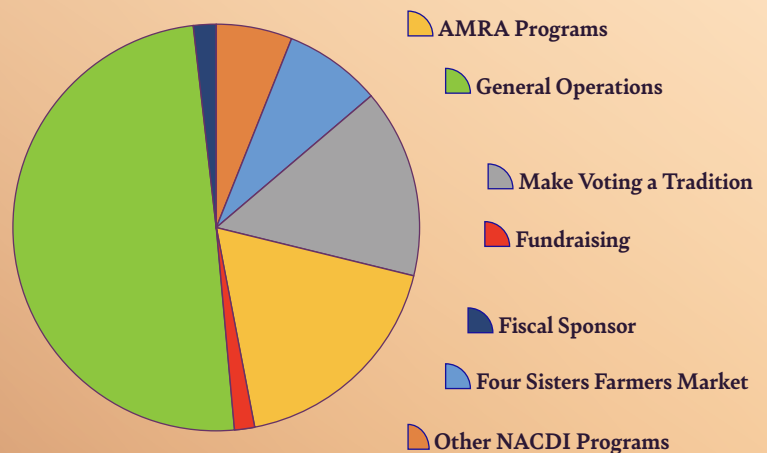
2020 Financials

NACDI endeavors to be a good steward of the funds we receive from foundations, corporations, government agencies, and individuals. Here is a chart of our revenue and expenses broken down by board categories.

2020 Funding Sources



2020 Expenses Based On Program



Part of being a good steward is transparency, so NACDI provides our detailed tax form 990 on our website for review.

Thank You



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee:

Chair: Sam Olbekson

Vice-Chair: Deanna Standing Cloud

Secretary: Christine McDonald

Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair: Heid Erdrich

Peter McLaughlin 4th District Hennepin County Commissioner

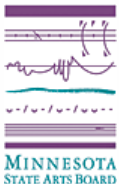
Mihailo Temali ED MN LISC

CREDITS

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Graphic Design - Dennis Madamba



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