



CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE WE BUILD IN:

NDN COLLECTIVE'S 2023 IMPACT REPORT

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NDN COLLECTIVE'S 2023 IMPACT REPORT



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.

VALUES

- ▶ **THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF ALL THINGS**
- ▶ **INDIGENOUS SELF-DETERMINATION**
- ▶ **EQUITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE AND MOTHER EARTH.**

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.

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OPENING WORDS

During the first five years of any organization, the work is about showing proof of concept.

For NDN Collective, that meant creating new movement infrastructure for Indigenous Peoples as well as actualizing our theory of change. One of the reasons we've been able to reach so many communities is because our theory of change is interwoven into our lived experience as frontline practitioners.

Our work has touched so many parts of Turtle Island that we now can't imagine a world without NDN Collective. We're currently working to ensure that the groundwork that we spent the past five years building is here for decades to come so that we can continue to transform Indian country.

As we move into our sixth year, we're shifting our focus from showing proof of concept to strengthening our movement infrastructure. In 2023, we started to see community-based organizations that received initial funding from us stabilize. Traditional philanthropy operates within short windows, but through our multi-year grant making, we've been able to watch Indigenous-led and community-based organizations thrive thanks to consistent support.

The launch of our Collective Abundance Fund in 2023 was critical to this process. For every \$1 that a white person has in this country, an Indigenous person has eight cents. This is a 92% racial wealth gap. Our fund can't singlehandedly solve this massive racial wealth gap, but what we can do is create models that foster economic mobility as well as move resources. By helping people pay off college debt, make down payments on mortgages for houses, and buy their own land, we are seeding abundance within our communities.

Within the realm of organizing and policy, we hosted our first action camp in 2023 in Mni Luzuhan. 150 people came from over 50 different Nations to join us! Action camps are opportunities to build sustaining relationships, strengthen solidarity and skill up our organizers. Being able to host a camp like that in the Black Hills—while we're also running campaigns to return all the public lands in the Black Hills back to the Lakota people—was powerful.

This year, we showed up in solidarity for the Palestinian struggle as well as the Stop Cop City movement in Atlanta. That we even could do so is a testament to the maturity of the organization. In previous years, because we were focused on building up our internal structures, it would've been harder for us to support our allies to the extent that we did. But the fact that we've been able to lead internal campaigns successfully on local and national levels, while at the same time showing up for others in their struggle, was a highlight of 2023.

On a national level, the historic action that we did at the White House for Leonard Peltier truly galvanized the fight to get the longest-living Indigenous political prisoner in U.S. history released. We also saw the United States making the biggest climate investments in history. NDN Collective was able to create the conditions for Indigenous people to access these resources in order to fund community-based climate solutions with public money.

Doing economic transition work on Indigenous terms requires orienting to a different timescale. We're dealing with complex financing solutions and climate solutions based on Indigenous values, and we won't sacrifice what we stand for in the world. When the NDN Fund makes a loan—to help rebuild a sustainable fishery or develop boats for the changing economy—it's a powerful investment in long-term community infrastructure.

One of our goals is to have a diversified revenue stream that's aligned with our mission. NDN Holdings is part of making that vision real. Owning our own assets means that we're not dependent on outside entities. The work that we're doing, particularly in Rapid City, around community development and social enterprise development, is about addressing inequity. Although Indigenous Peoples only make up 10% of the population, local tribes contribute about 26% to the tax base. Despite that, there's only about a 1-2% investment that is going into Native communities.

The United States is a settler colonial government that has been founded on capitalism, and philanthropy is a byproduct of that system. The philanthropic institutions in this country have derived their resources in some way, shape or form from the stealing of Indigenous peoples' lands.

Philanthropy—both historically and currently— does not invest into Indigenous Peoples at the levels that are required to enact justice. We're 3% of the population in America, and even if philanthropists made sure that 4% of all philanthropy in America goes to Native people, that would change the game.

But philanthropy won't do that unless we build philanthropic infrastructure by and for Native people to make that happen. This requires those with power to give up money and decision-making power as an act of justice. NDN Collective has created a model that proves that when we put those most impacted into the driver's seat of directing where and how philanthropic funding flows, systemic change takes place.

I want to challenge philanthropy to deploy resources at equitable levels. Right now, with all this great work happening, we're still seeing less than 1% of philanthropy in America going to Indigenous Peoples. That's unacceptable. Funding Indigenous people should never be a fad. It's required in order to achieve social justice. I want to remind funders that you don't have to build out a whole program to figure out how to fund us. There are Indigenous people who have figured that out, including NDN Collective. So invest into our self-determination so that we can continue to fund and support our people. Lastly, don't fund Indigenous Peoples just for Indigenous Peoples' sake. The work we do in safeguarding biodiversity and fighting to end extractive industry benefits all of humanity.

Indigenous people have been here since before there was an America. We have experienced American genocide, and we have survived it. Therefore, we have an important role in this political moment, to remind America to not destroy any remnants of justice that we have.

In the 6 years that NDN Collective has been in existence, we have been in litigation for four of those years. There's a concentrated effort by the white supremacist legal and political system to repress Indigenous liberation, to try to impact our ability to create change. As the president and CEO of the fastest growing Indigenous-led philanthropic infrastructure organization in the history of American philanthropy, I'm facing political and legal repression for living out the mission of this organization. This is an indication that we are effectively challenging the power structures because they are absolutely threatened by our people reclaiming our own power.

This isn't just happening to NDN Collective: this is happening across the movement. Since 2016, there's been over 300 different bills introduced throughout almost every state in the nation to criminalize protesting, which is tied to our ability to organize and to build collective power. American democracy has always been tainted, but we're starting to see that we're on the verge of authoritarianism and fascism.

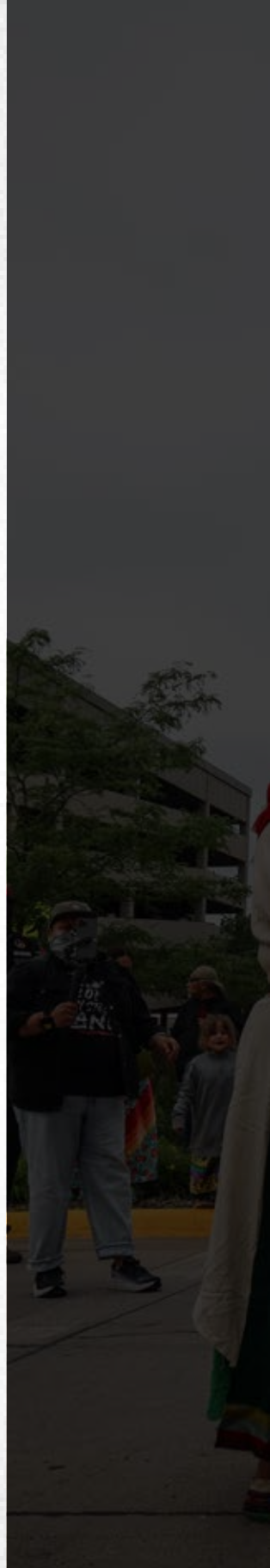
We are in a moment where people will look back 50 years from now, in the same way that we reflect on the 1960s and early 70s. We will be remembered for what we do here, now: how bold and strategic we are in our political analysis. And so I urge us, in this moment, to be audacious. To not water down what we are fighting for, and to embrace true liberatory pathways for people who have been oppressed.

To do that, we need to start telling the true history of this country. The country has to change its behavior towards Indigenous Peoples, Black people, migrant workers, people who have experienced injustice. That's why it's important that we don't just use woke language and window dress movements for social change, but that we actually back up our analysis, our politics, with investments that will transform the future.

In order to not repeat history, we must make direct investments into Indigenous Peoples. By resourcing us, we're building into a new legacy.

Nick Tilsen, 2023

NDN Collective President & CEO



DURING 2023, WE:

- ▶ Distributed **\$28.6M million** in grants to 369 grantees
- ▶ Supported **nine businesses** through our braided capital model which has totaled in **over \$6 million in loans** and power building resources
- ▶ Supported **13 development projects** that have centered community wealth building
- ▶ Grew our audience to **321,366 followers** and subscribers
- ▶ Hosted our **Inaugural Action Camp** which welcomed 100+ organizers representing over 60 Tribal Nations and Territories
- ▶ Met with **more than 25** Congressional and Federal offices to provide advocacy, education, and community-led and community-centered solutions around issues impacting Indigenous Peoples
- ▶ Published our second issue of the **LANDBACK Magazine** and the book, **Let's Get the Land Back**, a first-of-its kind resource for Tribes on land acquisition.

ORGANIZING, POLICY & ADVOCACY

AT A GLANCE

- ▶ **100+ participants**, 15 trainers, and over 60 Tribal Nations and Territories represented at our Inaugural Action Camp
 - ▶ **70 'Free Leonard Peltier'** caravan riders from South Dakota to Washington DC
 - ▶ **100+ supporters** at our Leonard Peltier action at the White House
 - ▶ **200 participants** at our first 'Protect The ĤeSápa Teach-In'
 - ▶ **70+ organizations** signed onto our letter calling for police accountability in Rapid City
 - ▶ **2 gold mines** stalled and delayed in South Dakota
 - ▶ **25+ congressional** and federal offices learned about our work and priorities
 - ▶ Produced **1 short-form documentary** in collaboration with NDN Fund, highlighting the work of one of our loan relatives
 - ▶ **1,770 supporters** signed the 'March Towards Justice' petition
 - ▶ **145,000+** email subscribers in Action Network and Constant Contact
 - ▶ 3 SMS campaigns launched—RAPIDVRACISM, IRA4TRIBES, and LANDBACK—with **680 subscribers** in our first year
-



**SUPPORT
INDIGENOUS
\$ CLIMATE \$
FINANCE \$**



**CLIMATE
JUSTICE**
upholds
**INDIGENOUS
RIGHTS**

ORGANIZING, POLICY & ADVOCACY

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.

During 2023, we prioritized a restructure of the NDN Action team. We shifted from four distinct campaigns (climate justice, racial equity, education equity, and LANDBACK) toward organizing around a single movement: LANDBACK.

LANDBACK now serves as the meta political organizing, and narrative framework through which we pursue our goals and achieve our collective liberation.

Throughout 2023, we focused on building up our base of local organizers in order to strengthen our fight for LANDBACK in the ǂheSápa (Black Hills) region where we are headquartered. We also focused on advancing policy change at the national and international levels, as well as strengthening our organizing capacity across the entirety of our ecosystem so that we can activate and deploy support when requested. Under our new structure, we have added a local organizing team and a tactical media team and situated our policy and advocacy team within NDN Action.

CLIMATE JUSTICE = **LANDBACK**
END CO₂ LONIALISM



FREE
PELTIER
NOW!

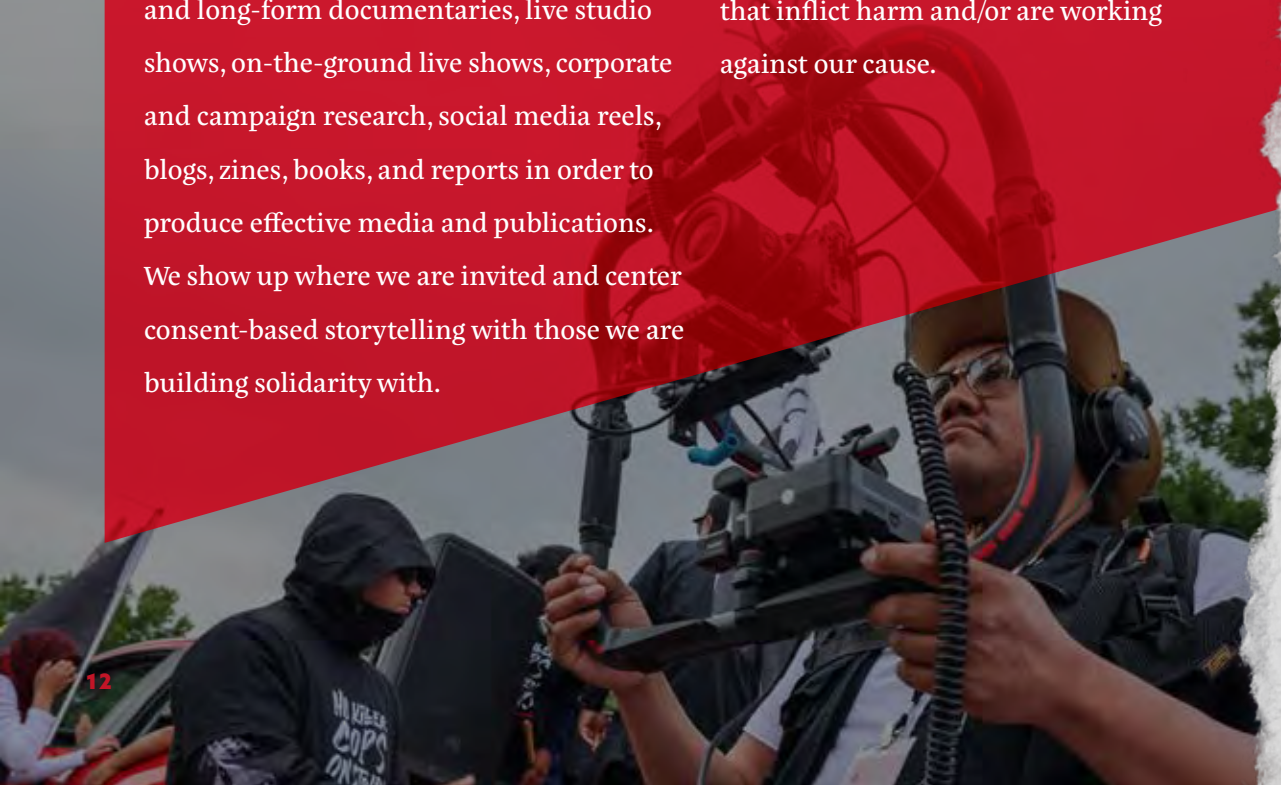
TACTICAL MEDIA

In 2023, NDN Collective's Tactical Media Team was formed as a shared service within NDN Actions. Our team is composed of both staff and contractors, including a Director of Tactical Media, Digital Organizer, Tactical Media Researcher, Tactical Media Associate, Multimedia Specialist, and Digital Organizing Coordinator.

Our focus is to uplift frontline conversations in real time through digital organizing, short and long-form documentaries, live studio shows, on-the-ground live shows, corporate and campaign research, social media reels, blogs, zines, books, and reports in order to produce effective media and publications. We show up where we are invited and center consent-based storytelling with those we are building solidarity with.

By integrating direct action ideation and strategy that is rare in traditional media production, we develop and execute an overall "coverage plan" unique to the event or action. We do this by having cameras in places that are often considered dangerous or high-risk.

We prioritize providing security for our movements by exposing oppressive tactics and narratives from oppositional forces that inflict harm and/or are working against our cause.





IN 2023 OUR TEAM:

- ▶ Manually filed **443 FOIAs** to gather evidence and research on incidents across Turtle Island.
- ▶ Supported **25+ deployments** across Turtle Island.
- ▶ Conducted 60+ lives and re-streamed footage across our platforms that **positioned Indigenous organizers, movements, and stories at the forefront of media** and narrative wars.
- ▶ Generated **180+ derivative content pieces** (video clips, social media reels) from lives, and shared these across our public platforms, blogs, emails, SMS messages, and other written materials.
- ▶ Generated **3,845,500+ views** on Instagram.
- ▶ Authored 7 blogs.
- ▶ Published 15 targeted emails.
- ▶ Disseminated 10 targeted SMS messages.
- ▶ Produced **1 documentary** in collaboration with NDN Fund, highlighting the work of one of our loan relatives.
- ▶ Garnered the support of **1,770 supporters** signing the 'March Towards Justice' petition.
- ▶ Received **145,000+ email subscribers** in our Action Network and Constant Contact.
- ▶ Launched **3 SMS campaigns** (RAPIDVRACISM, IRA4TRIBES, and LANDBACK) **with 680 subscribers** in our first year.



CREATIVE RESISTANCE

NDN Collective believes in the power of art as activism. We utilize art as an effective strategy to create messaging and amplify stories. Additionally, we are working to skill up and build capacity across our movement through training and workshops for Indigenous and POC communities. In 2023 our Creative Resistance team worked with Indigenous communities in Rapid City, South Dakota, the Southwest, Hawai'i, and Alaska.

Landback Street Mural for Indigenous Peoples Day Phoenix Fest in Phoenix, AZ.

Photo by Willi White.

Wheatpasting photos courtesy of Richard Blue Cloud Castaneda.



In 2023, we expanded the **Creative Resistance team** by adding a Creative Resistance Director and three Action Coordinators. This team brings to our ecosystem and movement **over 20 years of experience** in organizing, non-violent direct action, and art.

Our team provided **9 trainings** and **hosted 8 art builds** in 2023. Some training highlights include a 3-day intensive large-scale Wheat Paste Mural training that we hosted in Gallup, New Mexico in collaboration with more than **23 grassroots organizations** based in the Southwest. Additionally, we held a Wheat Paste Mural training and installation on the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona, in support of the fight to protect the Oak Flat sacred site from copper mining. Our team also hosted a community art build in Rapid City, South Dakota where our team led the design of a 200 x 25 foot banner that read “No More Killer Cops” which was unveiled at the March Towards Justice in Rapid City.



LOCAL ORGANIZING PROGRAMS & CAMPAIGNS



BLACK HILLS ACTION CAMP

In May of 2023, over one hundred participants and nearly fifty staff and trainers representing more than 60 Tribal Nations and territories came together in community for NDN Collective's first action camp in the heart of the ǂeSápa (Black Hills). Hosting our first camp in the Black Hills was an intentional decision, considering that this is where NDN Collective is based. We feel it is important that we anchor power within our homelands and let our work ripple outward from the ǂeSápa.

Core goals behind the camp were to:

- ▶ Build capacity
- ▶ Exchange skills
- ▶ Bring together Indigenous organizers of all experience levels
- ▶ Strengthen and learn new non-violent direct action strategies

There were four training tracks for participants to choose from: Tactical Media, Blockades, Creative Resistance, and Climbing.

We received positive feedback from participants and trainers about the space that we created, as well as helpful feedback for improving future camps. Following the action camp, we immediately saw the activation and utilization of newly learned and refined skills within organizing across various frontlines. Some examples include Tactical Media Track participants supporting live coverage, video editing, and video production during actions. Climbing Track participants also continued their skill-building to launch into more advanced training throughout the year. team within NDN Action.



RETURN OF THE BLACK HILLS

The fight for the Return of the Black Hills is one of the longest existing legal and political battles over land in the United States. Since the launch of the LANDBACK Campaign in 2020, we have stated that the return of lands in the Black Hills is a cornerstone of our work.

NDN Collective's goal is to support the Lakota federally recognized tribes and the treaty councils in the development of federal legislation called "ǂeSápa LandBack Act". The scope of this act will be to return all the federal lands in the Black Hills, revert these lands back to the Lakota, and put these lands into federal Indian trust. When these federal lands are put back into trust, the 1872 Mining Act that allows for mining claims on public lands will no longer be valid and will halt mining claims on these public lands. This is both a strategy to achieve justice and human rights in the theft of the Black Hills, as well as a strategy to fight environmental racism and the polluting of the watersheds within the Black Hills.



PROTECT THE HESÁPA CAMPAIGN TO STOP MINING IN THE BLACK HILLS PACTOLA RESERVOIR

MINERAL WITHDRAWAL

In 2023, **more than 200 participants** joined our first Teach-In about this campaign. Through our local organizing efforts in 2023, **we successfully stalled the Hell Canyon Gold Mine** and delayed the Jenny Gulch Gold Mine for at least two years.

In March of 2023, the U.S. Forest Service, in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management, proposed a mineral withdrawal that would cover over 20,000 acres of public land surrounding the Pactola Reservoir near Rapid City, SD. If approved, the withdrawal would remove all future rights for mining, drilling, and exploration in the proposed area for up to 20 years. This act will preserve and protect Pactola, which is the primary

source of drinking water for Rapid City, Ellsworth Air Force Base, and tens of thousands of community members downstream.

The entirety of the Black Hills is illegally occupied Oceti Sakowin treaty territory. In its opinion on the theft of the Black Hills, the U.S. Supreme Court stated that, “A more ripe and rank case of dishonest dealings will never, in all probability, be found in our history.” This mineral withdrawal is an important step in preserving the land for future generations while we fight for it to be returned to its rightful stewards.

Locally, NDN Collective partners with various organizations on this issue, including but not limited to: Black Hills Clean Water Alliance, Dakota Rural Action, Oglala Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, and Rapid Creek Watershed Action.

IN VIOLATION OF THE 1868 TREATY
GRAND GATEWAY HOTEL

KAR

EVICTED

DOJ CASE:

RAPID CITY V. RACISM

In Rapid City, South Dakota, Native Americans are disproportionately targeted by law enforcement, facing violations of their rights and discriminatory policing practices. Since 2001, not a single officer charged in a police shooting has been convicted, underscoring a lack of police accountability. The presence of School Resource Officers in our schools has amplified a "school-to-prison pipeline" for Indigenous youth. The Rapid City vs. Racism Campaign is an ongoing campaign aimed at addressing issues of racism, discrimination, and racial inequality by challenging systems

that continue to uphold white supremacy and contribute to the oppression of Indigenous people. NDN Collective partners with a number of local Indigenous organizations and allies on this issue of fighting racism in Rapid City.

A swift and comprehensive investigation by the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division is imperative to address these pressing concerns.







MARCH TOWARD JUSTICE

On July 4th, so-called Independence Day, NDN Collective, alongside multiple community organizations, supported the March Toward Justice in downtown Rapid City, South Dakota. Guided by the encouragement and wisdom of Lakota Elders, more than 200 participants in the march prayed, sang, danced, and raised their collective voices to demand justice for Indigenous victims of systemic racism and police violence in Rapid City.

For generations, our relatives have weathered waves of grief from police violence, murders, and missing relatives. In South Dakota, there have been [79 police-involved shootings](#) state-wide and zero convictions of police officers from 2001 to 2023. Additionally, 75% of the fatal shooting victims were Indigenous people.

Leading up to the march, [local organizers](#) held a press conference to emphasize the demands and elevate the voices of the community. Our partners at [Wambli Ska Society](#) supported daily outreach efforts. Wambli Ska Society is a

local Indigenous-led organization focused on cultivating community services such as street outreach and violence prevention through the revitalization of culture. At the march, families and wakhánheža (children in the Lakota language) showed up by the hundreds, standing in solidarity alongside 70+ organizations who signed on to a letter calling for police accountability.

While we marched towards the Rapid City Police Department (RCPD) and the Pennington County Sheriff's office, our team unfurled a 200 x 25 foot banner designed by our Creative Resistance team that read "No Killer Cops On Stolen Land." After the banner was revealed in front of the RCPD, a round dance occurred where participants, led by the drum group Good Medicine, circled the banner. Simultaneously, youth placed their handprints in orange paint along its border to call attention to the parallel experiences between young people today and our relatives who went missing or were murdered at residential schools.

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CE D





50TH COMMEMORATION OF THE WOUNDED KNEE OCCUPATION



From February 24th - 27th, NDN Collective was a proud supporter of several events that commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Occupations of Wounded Knee, including the anniversary edition of the book, **Voices From Wounded Knee**. Our staff joined hundreds of Indigenous Relatives and allies on Oglala Lakota lands for the Liberation Day March which honored members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) who rose up during the Wounded Knee occupation.

AIM members occupied Wounded Knee for 71 days in 1973, in protest of growing treaty rights violations, the violence occurring on Indigenous lands and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and as an assertion of the inherent and sovereign rights of Indigenous Peoples. The American Indian Movement 4 Directions March set out to honor the power and resilience of movement warriors, past, present, and future.

Today at Wounded Knee, there is a poignant energy imprinted on the land. During the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre hundreds of Lakota people were killed in the winter snow. In 1973 almost 100 years after the massacre, the AIM reclaimed this site as a place of Indigenous rights and empowerment.

NATIONAL ORGANIZING CAMPAIGNS



THE FREE LEONARD PELTIER CAMPAIGN

Our efforts are focused on raising awareness surrounding Leonard Peltier's case through political advocacy, activism, and cross-coalition collaboration with partners such as Amnesty International, Native Organizers Alliance, and the American Indian Movement. Advocacy in Washington, D.C. is an essential part of the democratic process that allows us as constituents to voice concerns and influence the decision-making process. This is precisely why this campaign targets various Washington, D.C. offices to ensure that we are utilizing the power of our members of congress, senators, etc. to advocate for the release of Leonard Peltier. This political pressure is part of a cohesive strategy that places this case at the center of where the decision-makers are.

For Leonard Peltier's 79th birthday, we organized a multi-city caravan that brought Indigenous community members from South Dakota to Washington D.C. The caravan kicked off with a ceremony at the Jumping Bull Compound. The caravan shuttled community members from Rapid City to Minneapolis, where a local community welcomed the buses with drums, food, and speakers. An additional 30 people joined the caravan which made its way to Washington D.C., where we held a march and action at the White House calling for Leonard Peltier's freedom. More than 100 people showed up in support of this action at the White House and 34 people were arrested.

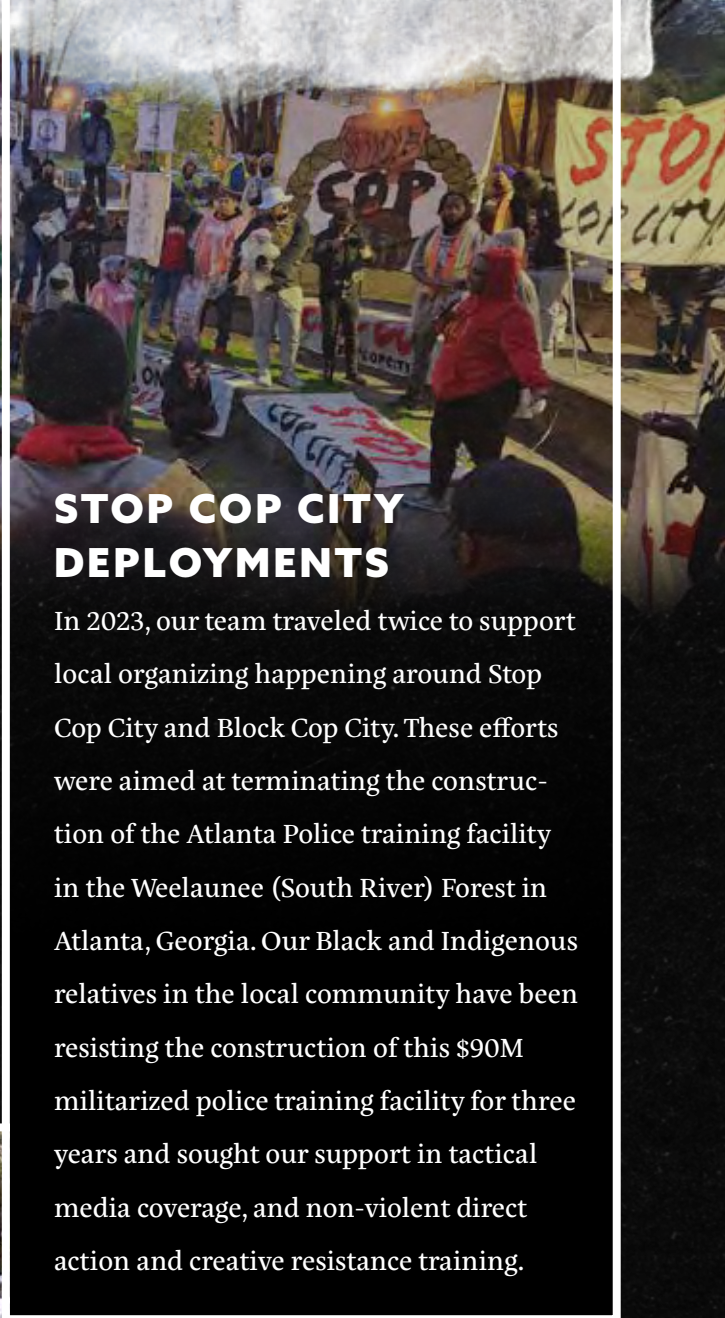


DAPL

In 2023, NDN Collective supported ongoing advocacy and education around the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), which continues to operate illegally. Our team supported efforts to highlight five important points regarding DAPL: (1) this fight is about treaty rights and Tribal sovereignty; (2) this is an environmental injustice issue; (3) the project comprises a conflict of interest; (4) DAPL is a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and (5) DAPL is unsafe to people and the planet.

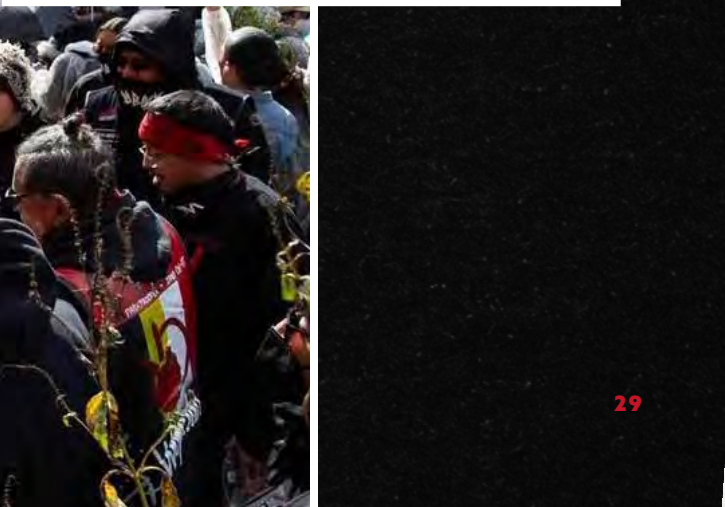
In preparation for the open public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, our team built a public comment toolkit around writing an effective and strategic public comment and shared it broadly. In October, we held a webinar in which our President and CEO, Nick Tilsen, spoke on the importance of the open public comment period.





STOP COP CITY DEPLOYMENTS

In 2023, our team traveled twice to support local organizing happening around Stop Cop City and Block Cop City. These efforts were aimed at terminating the construction of the Atlanta Police training facility in the Weelaunee (South River) Forest in Atlanta, Georgia. Our Black and Indigenous relatives in the local community have been resisting the construction of this \$90M militarized police training facility for three years and sought our support in tactical media coverage, and non-violent direct action and creative resistance training.



POLICY & ADVOCACY

Our Policy and Advocacy team works to **advance policy change at the national and international levels** in alignment with our organizational values and priorities. Our **place-based approach to organizing** is intended to put us on the frontlines in our own communities, to support other communities in their battles when invited, and to drive policy changes at every level. Our approach also **centers those most impacted** when we are advocating for policy change.

PROTECTION OF THE GREATER CHACO REGION

SOUTHWEST REGION

We supported the work done by the Biden Administration and led by Secretary Deb Haaland to place a 20 year oil and gas moratorium on the 10 miles surrounding the Chaco Region. This moratorium is a response to decades of community-based Navajo and Pueblo advocacy to address long-standing environmental and public health concerns, as well as calls to protect this sacred site that is important for Navajo and Pueblo peoples, and other tribes across the southwest.

As part of this process, we supported publicly educating community members

in understanding the decades-long advocacy led by Navajo and Pueblo peoples to establish the protections. This includes the extensive consultation that Navajo and Pueblo people have offered regarding the realities about what the moratorium does and does not do.

We will continue to support Department of the Interior resuming the Honoring Chaco Initiative as a pathway to deepen discussions about long-term protections and will continue to support and amplify Navajo and Pueblo solidarity in keeping the protections in place.

MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BIDEN

On Tuesday August 8th, 2023, the White House Office of Public Engagement hosted an event discussing the **impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)** on the economy and the shift towards clean energy.

Before the event, Jade Begay (previous Director of Policy and Advocacy at NDN Collective) was able to speak with President Biden, where she expressed gratitude for these historic climate investments in Tribes and Indigenous communities. She encouraged him to ensure that these investments are made available to Indigenous organizations in addition to Tribal governments, in order to reach as many Native people and communities as possible. Finally, she brought up the President's designation of the Grand Canyon as a national monument, and asked for his administration's support in the ongoing fight to return the Black Hills to the Lakota Tribes.

NDN Collective has been consistently sharing information about the IRA, having circulated a fact sheet about how the IRA impacts Tribal and Indigenous communities long before the White House did. We have also led many webinars to educate Tribes about the IRA programs that they are eligible to apply for, connect folks with technical assistance organizations to help with their applications, and create texting and email tools to ensure Indigenous communities are informed about the IRA.

At the end of 2023, NDN Collective partnered with Climate Justice Alliance for a national application to the EPA Thriving Communities Grant to ensure that Indigenous led organizations are prepared to apply for this funding opportunity. We also partnered with Minneapolis Foundation for Region 5. Both regions are set to receive \$50 million from the EPA to distribute to environmental justice work.



COP28

In 2023, NDN Collective sent a delegation to the United Nations 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28). Our delegation spent three weeks on the ground in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, participating in the **Indigenous Peoples Caucus** and the **Local Communities Indigenous Peoples Platform**, as well as tracking negotiations, meeting with government officials, providing presentations and hosting events.

Our delegation participated in various meetings, including a “Dialogue with the COP28 Presidency”, where the host country’s top COP advisors heard presentations from Indigenous representatives from each of the seven regions on their key issue requests related to COP negotiations. NDN Collective’s Director of Movement and Strategic Partnerships, Thalia Yarina Carroll-Cachimuel, who represents the Latin America region, spoke to the COP28 Presidency about Just Transition and what it means for Indigenous Peoples. Our Regional Deep Dive Director for the Southwest, Janene Yazzie, along with President Fawn Sharp (National Congress of American Indians) shared North America COP priorities with President Macron.

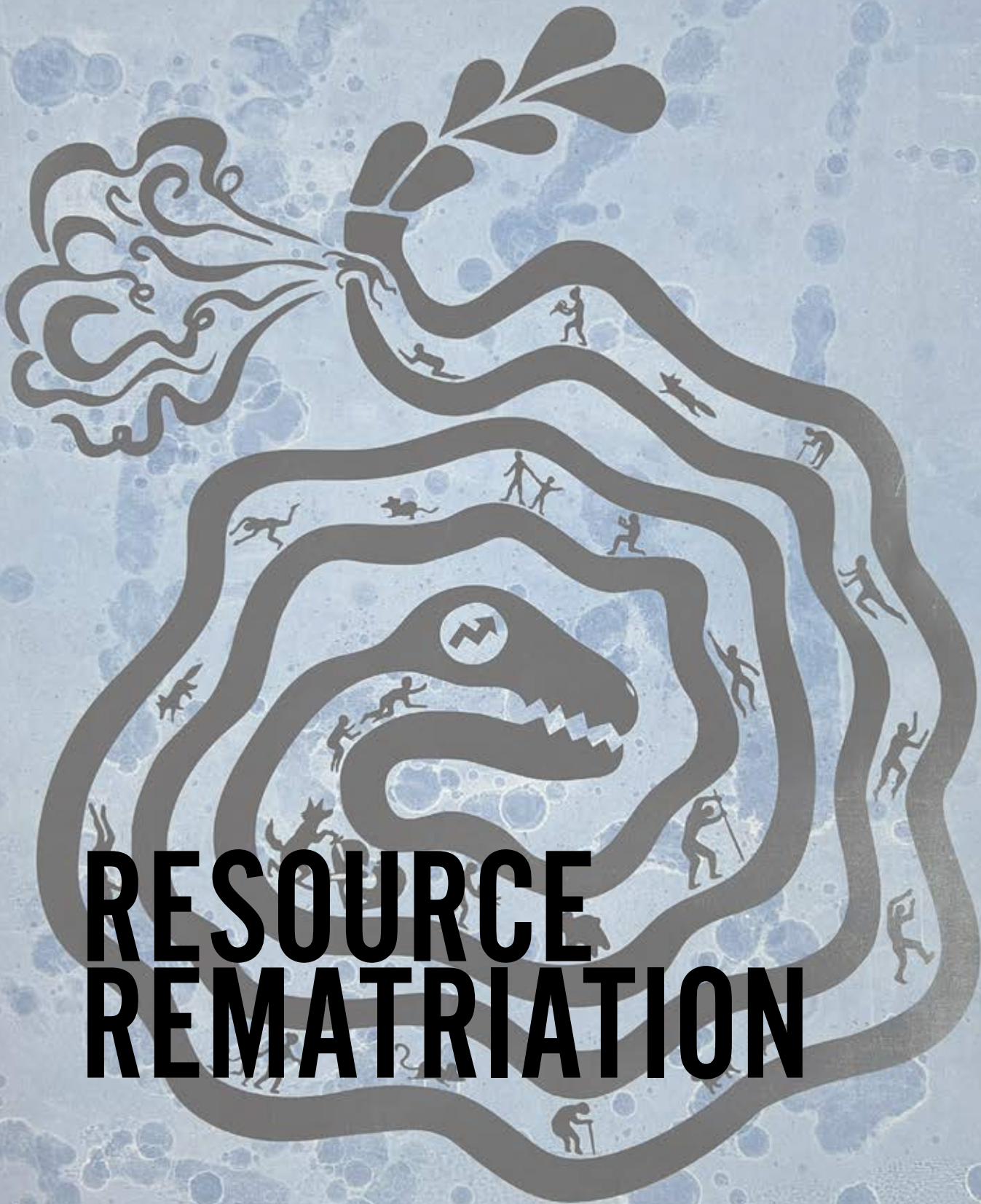
On December 4th, NDN Collective hosted a reception at the HOPE HOUSE for COP28 attendees, funders, and key stakeholders interested in learning how to uplift solutions around the globe that protect Indigenous Peoples Rights for the best outcomes for all Peoples’ and Mother Earth. NDN Collective Director of Policy and Advocacy, Jade Begay, moderated a panel featuring Janene Yazzie and Kim Pate, NDN Fund Director. The panel focused on NDN Collective’s approach to addressing extractive finance systems in government and philanthropy and paving a just and equitable path for impact investment, climate finance and grant making.

On December 6th during the LANDBACK and Climate Adaptation panel, Janene Yazzie, Kim Pate, and NDN partner Serena Mendizabal of Sacred Earth Solar, shared examples of LANDBACK in action and how this Indigenous-led movement is a climate solution model which contributes to climate adaptation, regenerative economies, and protection of biodiversity.

RESOURCE REMATRIATION

AT A GLANCE

- ▶ **17** different funding streams
 - ▶ **\$28.6M** in grants for 2023
 - ▶ **\$81.7M** total in grants since 2019
 - ▶ **369 grantees for 2023**
 - ▶ **1137 grantees** since 2019
 - ▶ **72 organizations** supported through the Community Self-Determination Grant
 - ▶ **21 Indigenous leaders** supported through the Changemakers Fellowship
 - ▶ **25 community-led organizations** supported through the Community Action Fund
 - ▶ **10 artists** supported through the Radical Imagination Grant
 - ▶ **200 individuals** supported through the Collective Abundance Fund
-



RESOURCE REMATRIATION

FOUNDATION & GRANT MAKING

Our approach is different from traditional systems of philanthropy that often produce a power dynamic: we will grant you our resources if you fulfill our demands and demonstrate our predetermined outcomes. In this other system, power is held within the philanthropic institution, and the grantees are not partners, perhaps at times, they are supplicants. This traditional philanthropic system is completely void across the NDN Collective Foundation. The system in place for the Collective is one of mutual respect and reciprocity.

—Jackie Old Coyote,
2023 Grantee Report Analyst

2023-2025 OPEN CSD

TOTAL DECLINATIONS	338
TOTAL AWARDED	51
TOTAL	389
% FUNDED	13

2023 COLLECTIVE ABUNDANCE FUND

TOTAL DECLINATIONS	664
TOTAL AWARDED	200
TOTAL	864
% FUNDED	23

2023 COMMUNITY ACTION FUND

TOTAL DECLINATIONS	80
TOTAL AWARDED	25
TOTAL	105
% FUNDED	24

2023 RADICAL IMAGINATION

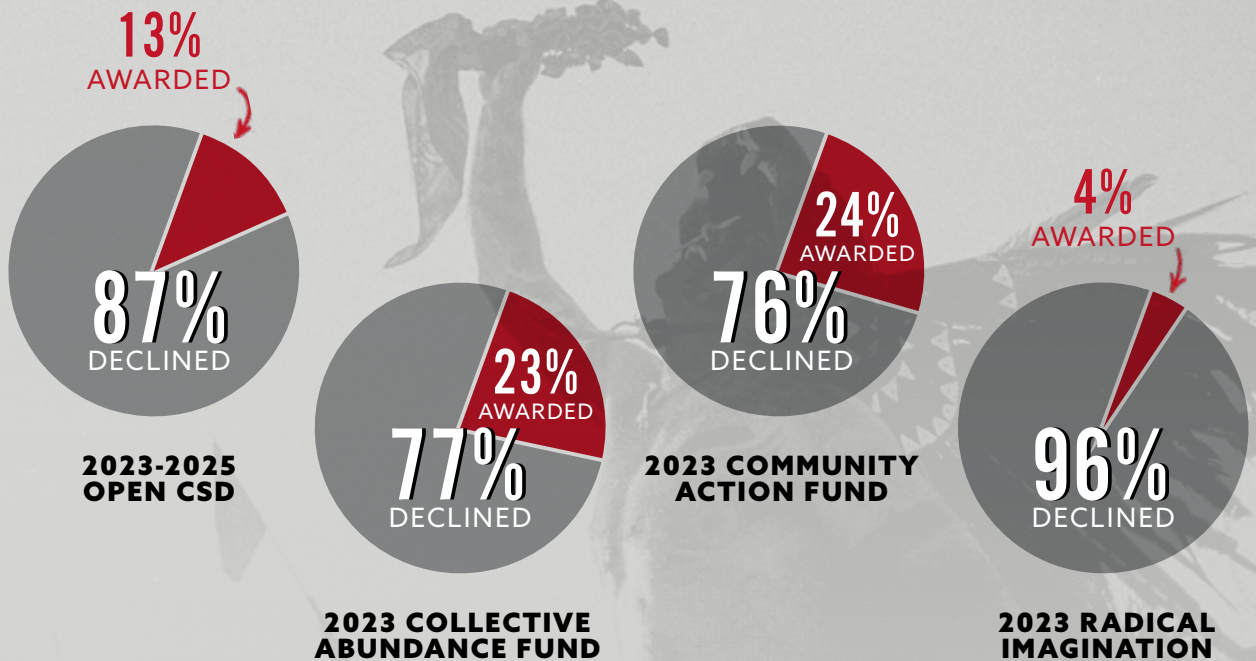
TOTAL DECLINATIONS	270
TOTAL AWARDED	10
TOTAL	280
% FUNDED	4

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE AND ELIGIBILITY:

Tribal Nations, First Nations, Inuit, Metis and Indigenous-led nonprofit organizations across Turtle Island and related Island Nations (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Boriken/Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands), are eligible to apply for our grants.

INDIGENOUS-LED GRANTMAKING: FORTIFYING COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS AND SELF-DETERMINATION

The NDN Foundation was established to **rematriate wealth to Indigenous Peoples** in response to entire systems of wealth rooted in the extraction and removal of Indigenous Peoples' lands and assets. We believe that **funding self-determined priorities and efforts is key to advancing community prosperity** and sovereignty.





POWER BUILDING

In keeping with our mission to build the collective power of Indigenous Peoples, we not only rematriate and deploy wealth back into our communities, we also offer power building resources. These resources are designed to support our people as they exercise sovereignty and pursue their self-determined work to defend, develop, and decolonize their communities and nations.

Power building recognizes the inherent right and struggles of Indigenous Peoples to manage their lands, assets and resources, and fortifies leadership and decision-making processes that uplift Indigenous power. Unlike standard capacity building, it does not seek to mirror colonial systems and institutions, but rather centers Indigenized eco-systems and organizations that can uplift our people and their prosperity.

Grantee-partners receive access to tailored webinars, published curriculum, shared learning networks, a living resource library, and other opportunities. Our power building resources cover aspects of Indigenous regenerative development, leadership and governance, decolonial future-building, healing money trauma, and the rematriation of wealth.



NDN COLLECTIVE GRANTMAKING PROGRAMS

CHANGEMAKER FELLOWSHIP

Through these two-year fellowships, Indigenous Changemakers working in their communities are provided with the support to defend, develop and/or decolonize. This program is a powerful tool for investing in fellows personal and professional growth and development.

In 2023, we redesigned the Changemaker Fellowship. The new Fellowship opportunity will be launched in May 2024, and will be a two-year, \$100,000+ fellowship to support Indigenous Changemakers representing 21 regions throughout Turtle Island and related Island Nations.

Throughout 2023, members of the 2023/2024 cohort gathered virtually to participate in Wisdom Sharing Circles around topics that included:

- ▶ *Maintaining Your Power within the Collective* with Susan Beaulieu, NDN Collective Healing Justice Director
- ▶ *Indigenous Leadership: Grounding our Values & Purpose* with PennElys Droz, NDN Collective Power Building & Curriculum Coordinator and Susan Beaulieu, NDN Collective Healing Justice Director



GRANTEE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: » BENJAMIN SCOTT «

Benjamin Scott,
2023/2024 NDN
Changemaker Fellow,
is a proud member of
the Tłı̨chǫ Nation and
the Founding Project
Director and Co-Lead
of EntrepreNorth.

Over the last five years, EntrepreNorth has worked with over 150 Indigenous entrepreneurs from across Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon to offer Indigenous-centered business education and mentorship, impact storytelling, ecosystem development, and facilitation training for alumni.

EntrepreNorth is a project that empowers Indigenous entrepreneurs to build sustainable businesses and livelihoods across Northern Canada. Their vision is to create a movement of Northern Indigenous entrepreneurs who are innovating solutions to strengthen economic resilience and community wellbeing for generations to come. They advance thought leadership on business education and financial practices that honor Indigenous knowledge systems, create social change, and generate new, restorative and healing economic pathways.

Benjamin is also the creator of **The Multi-Directional Business Compass** which offers an Indigenous-centered perspective for thinking about business, community, and economic impact in a more holistic way. The Compass framework now serves as the foundation of EntrepreNorth's pathway for learning and growth.

EntrepreNorth is using the Compass to create a new online interface that will support entrepreneurs to rapidly innovate, nurture and grow businesses in an intentional and responsible way. This online platform will become a space that creates connective tissue between entrepreneurs and business mentors, program facilitators, and potential investors.



Key points

- Positionality
- Code switching
- Balance and wellbeing
- Knowing your purpose and using your gifts
- Seeking value resonance in life and business
- Being pragmatic about business

Community Agreement

- open + vulnerable (strength)
- no cell phones with us
- no interrupting others
- it's not personal
- be audible
- be respectful of someone's communication styles
- the "I" statements rather than "you" statements
- try to be aware of assumptions
- dare to speak to find a solution
- be a good listener



COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION

The Community Self-Determination grant program invests in the self-determination of Indigenous people working in their community to **Defend, Develop, and Decolonize**. These are grants of \$100,000 USD per year, with commitments up to two years that are available to Indigenous-led organizations working in the defense, development, and/or decolonization of Indigenous Peoples and Mother Earth. Our wowicida (belief) is that the power that exists in Indigenous communities comes from the people. The people are the ones most in the position to tackle the issues in their own communities. Therefore, when investments are made into spirit and power, opportunities to catalyze change are unlocked.

Community Self-Determination Grants are intended to strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of Indigenous-led organizations. Our funding intentionally comes with no strings attached. Part of this strategy is rooted in reclaiming decision-making power for our people.

For greater impact, flexible, multi-year funding provides Indigenous-led organizations with transformative, strategic investments to community organizations closest to the issues. We intentionally prioritize grassroots, community-based efforts and solutions. **Climate and Indigenous justice are at the heart of the Community Self-Determination Grant.**



GRANTEE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: » DASIQOX NEXWAGWEZ?AN «

Dasiqox Nexwagwez?an is a mission-driven and jointly-led initiative from representatives of the Xeni Gwet'in and Yunesit'in communities. 'Dasiqox' is the name of the headwater lakes and river at the heart of the communities' Shared Caretaker Area, and 'Nexwagwez?an' means "[it is] there for us."

hide tanning/preservation, kayak racing, horse pack trips, outdoor safety skill sharing and environmental consciousness. More recently, Dasiqox-Nexwagwez?an began the second stage of the Tsilhqot'in Law project, intended to collect, translate, and use traditional laws and stories from Tsilhqot'in elders as a framework for governance in Dasiqox-Nexwagwez?an.

This Indigenous-led Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA,) was created to assert Tsilhqot'in jurisdiction in traditional territories that are adjacent to the Tsilhqot'in territories that were recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada in 2014. This work is about defending and protecting relationships with the land. In the summer of 2023, Dasiqox-Nexwagwez?an organized the **Back on the Land cultural revitalization program** to help Tsilhqot'in youth re-build their relationships with the land and language. This program included traditional cultural activities such as hunting,

After **celebrating 9 years of protecting Teztan Biny** (Fish Lake) from outside mining interests, Dasiqox-Nexwagwez?an continues to assert their rights, title, and role as caretakers of the area delineated as Nexwagwez?an. Their practices demonstrate one way to heal the damage that more than a century of mismanagement by settler governments inflicted on their people and lands. They are currently working to create opportunities that benefit Tsilhqot'in people in the short and long-term.

COMMUNITY ACTION FUND

The NDN Collective ecosystem is deeply committed and connected to the Indigenous movement space and what is happening on the ground for Indigenous activists. NDN Foundation's Community Action Fund (CAF) aims to move money into the movement space to help further Indigenous Peoples' agendas as it relates to the defense of our peoples and Mother Earth. Community Action Fund grants are one-time urgent response grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$30,000 meant to support direct actions and organizing efforts that are often sensitive and urgent. CAF provides urgent response grants to groups and individuals most impacted by local challenges, ensuring that the resources and decision-making ability lies with those most equipped to solve pressing challenges and address imminent threats. CAF prioritizes frontline, grassroots and community-based efforts that defend our territories, people, communities and nations against negative resource extraction that poisons our people, pollutes our water, destroys our lands, contributes to climate change and violates our human rights. CAF also funds climate change response and disaster relief support.



GRANTEE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: **>> CAMP MORNING STAR <<**

In 2023, the Community Action Fund (CAF) supported **Camp Morning Star**, with Manitoba Eco-Network as fiscal sponsor. Camp Morning Star is situated on a trapline in Treaty 5 territory near Hollow Water First Nation, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Camp Morning Star works to stop silica sand mining on Sacred Treaty 5 Territory and promote conservation.

In order to keep pressure on the Canadian government and Canadian Premium Sand, Camp Morning Star occupied the Sacred Lands of Treaty 5, which included the community trapline and ceremonial spaces. At first, Canadian Premium Sand proposed a fracking sand open pit mine. But the company could not get their product to market, so they returned with a proposal to mine a smaller

volume of sand over 30 years for solar glass. The Silica sand mining license has been approved by the Canadian government without addressing the 98 issues attached to the Wanipigow sand license. The Canadian government did approve the license with minor alteration, although Camp Morning Star has appealed and will continue to fight to save Treaty 5 lands. Camp Morning Star plans to mount a defund campaign against companies purchasing the solar glass in efforts to protect treaty rights, the land, and the next generation.

With CAF support, **Camp Morning Star** was able to amplify First Nations voices, create a defund campaign, lobby legislators, and continue to coalition-build against the mine.





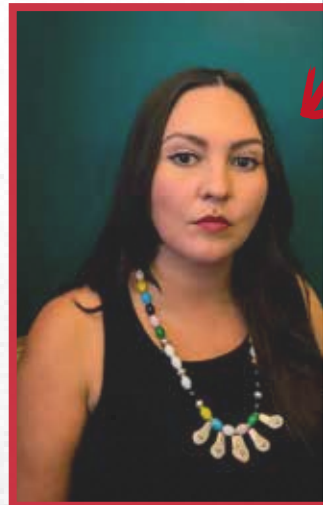
“When we support artists that can articulate what the future looks like when we win, artists who are working in conjunction with changemakers that are fighting to build that future, we close an important gap and make giant moves towards liberation.”

— Nick Tilsen, President & CEO of NDN Collective

RADICAL IMAGINATION GRANTEES

We live in a time where a radical imagination is needed to not only envision a new future, but also to build it. As Indigenous Peoples, justice for us is not solely about racial justice, it also includes complex political, sovereign, and self-determination issues. Through artistic creativity, the hearts and minds of each artist we fund brings forward new visions for just and equitable behaviors and structures, so that the dimensions of structural racism (culturally, historically, institutionally, politically and ideologically) are dismantled and a better world is born.

In 2023, we hosted the fourth cohort for the NDN Radical Imagination Grant, and were able to **award ten Indigenous creatives \$100,000** over a two-year period to continue to work on imagining and creating new worlds.



GRANTEE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT:
>> DARRAH BLACKWATER <<

Darrah Blackwater (Diné/Navajo) is an artist and attorney from Farmington, New Mexico. Darrah uses her art to explain concepts of American history or policy pertaining to Indigenous Peoples.

“My conceptual art invites a viewer to consider a different perspective on Indigenous political issues through video, visual art, writing, podcast conversations, and small-scale installations.”

GRANTEE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT:
>> RYAN! FEDDERSEN <<

“*Coyote & the Monsters Yet to Slay* is a series of artworks that tackle current social problems through the lens of Plateau lore. When the Animal People received their final names, Coyote was appointed chief of all the tribes and warned of the people-devouring monsters who must be stopped from killing all the people. Through our creativity, Coyote's work can be continuous. Paired with a community-engaged research component and infused with solutions-based thinking, *Coyote & the Monsters Yet to Slay* embodies our societal issues as monsters, that we can name and then symbolically slay.”

RYAN! Feddersen (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation) specializes in creating site-specific installations and public artworks which invite people to consider our relationships to history, culture, the land, and our non-human-kin. Her practice focuses on creative problem solving to address social issues through visual allegories that provide opportunities for introspection and epiphany.

COLLECTIVE ABUNDANCE FUND

Following a year-long planning process, NDN Collective launched the inaugural Collective Abundance Fund in May 2023. The Collective Abundance Fund, which was designed by and for our people, **supports the rebuilding of Indigenous and generational wealth** within the tri-state region of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. An enthusiastic response to this grant opening resulted in over 850 completed applications from Indigenous individuals and families. A total of **\$7.9 million in wealth building grants of \$50,000 and \$25,000 were awarded in October 2023**. Homeownership and business development topped the primary wealth building goals, as well as activities related to reliable livelihood and education attainment. In addition to the cash award, grantees may designate a portion of their funds towards family wellness, and are required to attend five power building sessions over the course of the 12-month grant period, including the Trauma of Money training.



To date we have funded:

- ▶ **3** community partners in Alaska
- ▶ **3** community partners in the Northern Plains
- ▶ **5** community partners across the Hawaiian Islands
- ▶ **6** community partners in the Southwest

THE NDN COLLECTIVE REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM DEEP DIVE PROGRAM (REDD)

The **NDN Collective Regional Ecosystem Deep Dive Program (REDD)** approaches funding through place-based power building by designing strategies for Indigenous communities who are challenging regional power structures. We focus on four geographical areas, selected for their political, geographical, and cultural diversity.

1. Alaska
2. Hawaiian Islands
3. North Central
(SD, ND, MT, MN, CA border, NE)
4. Southwest
(NM, AZ, CO, UT, NV, CA, Mexico)

As a result, our REDD work allows us to keep a pulse on issues of regional and/or national importance across Turtle Island and the Hawaiian Islands. We work in close collaboration with our partners on the ground to advance their policy priorities and organizational development.

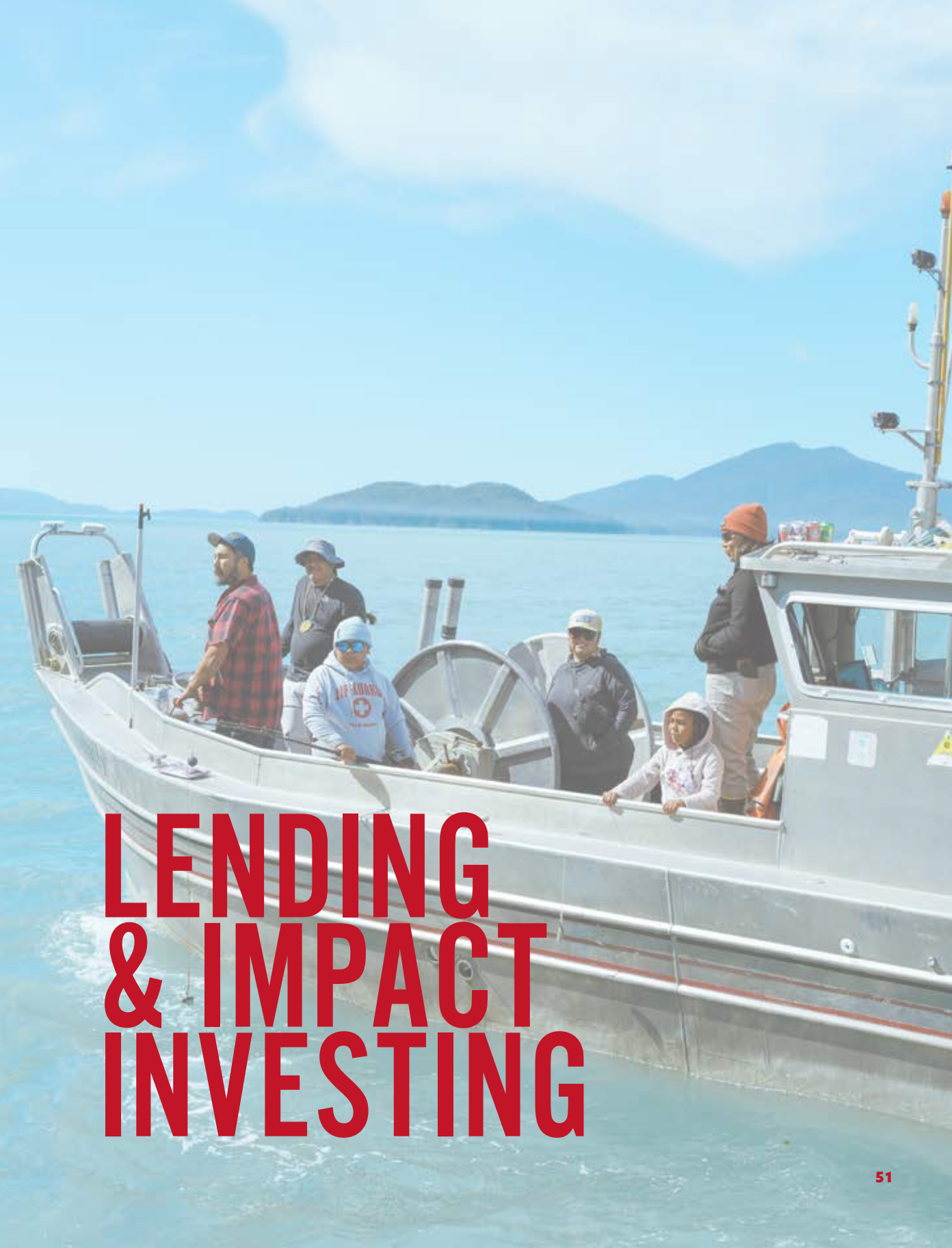
REDD is an invitational-based program with organizations chosen based on the following criteria:

- ▶ Trusted relationships with Indigenous-led and grassroots community organizations
- ▶ Recognized work and existing footprint in their community
- ▶ Aligned with NDN Collective's Defend, Develop, Decolonize model
- ▶ Challenges existing power structures to advance Indigenous power

LENDING & IMPACT INVESTING

AT A GLANCE

- ▶ **\$8,375,000** loan capital raised
- ▶ **\$5,742,625** loans deployed
- ▶ **\$531,200** in power building resources provided
- ▶ **12** businesses and projects supported
- ▶ **619 jobs** created
- ▶ **49 individuals** involved in environmental decision making
- ▶ **9 businesses** able to stay in operation
- ▶ **\$4,735,000** in business assets
- ▶ **3** succession plans developed
- ▶ **1** safe and affordable housing unit built
- ▶ **20** emerging social entrepreneurs trained and hired by Indigenous social enterprises
- ▶ **\$532,000** in new wealth created



LENDING & IMPACT INVESTING

NDN FUND

NDN Fund – the impact investing and lending arm of NDN Collective – is an **emerging Native Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI)**. We provide pre-development, bridge, and large-scale financing for Indigenous regenerative community and national development projects. NDN Fund also provides financing for Indigenous small businesses and nonprofits.

Our target borrowers and clients are Native Nations, Tribal Enterprises and/or Corporations, Native nonprofits and organizations, and Native-owned businesses.



CORE AREAS

- ▶ **Renewable energy** – community-owned and controlled ecologically sound renewable energy that fosters a just transition away from fossil fuels.
- ▶ **Community development and housing** – 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.
- ▶ **Resilient, regenerative, and sustainable infrastructure** – 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.
- ▶ **Social enterprise** – innovative entrepreneurs and businesses that offer clear social and cultural benefits with potential to deliver services at scale.
- ▶ **Regenerative agriculture** – 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.

2023 PRIORITIES AND OUTCOMES

LENDING

Relationships are sacred. In the conventional/ dominant structure of finance, relationships are deprioritized. We are restructuring finance to prioritize relationships to reflect our Indigenous ways of being. The role of lending should not be focused on protecting the loan fund. It should be focused on serving the community. Structurally and very pragmatically, this means the loan fund should only succeed when our loan relatives succeed.

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 Social Enterprise & Economic Development for Indigenous Growth (SEEDING).**

▶ **Relief & Resilience Loans**

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

▶ **SEEDING loans**

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



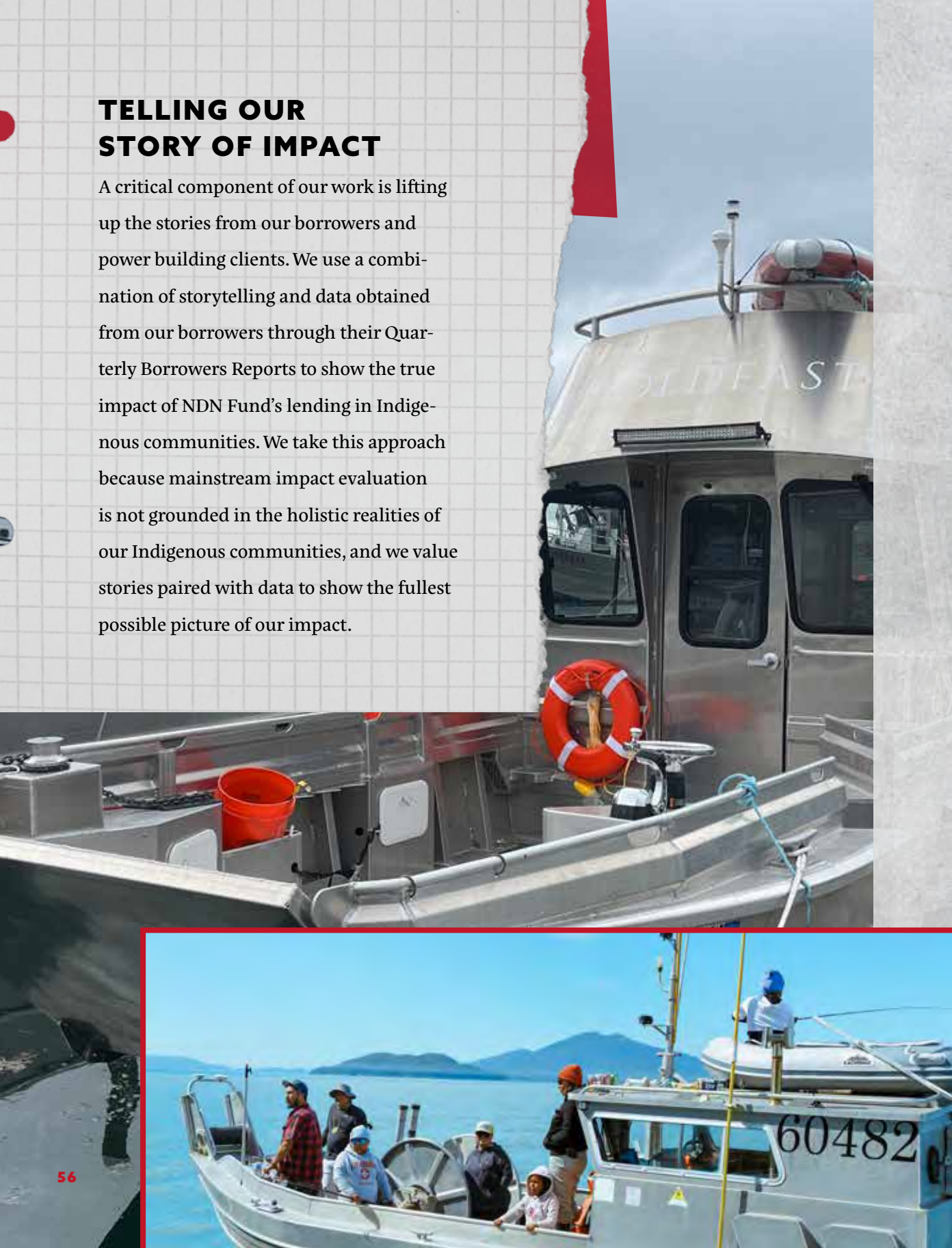
OUR RESILIENT FINANCE MODEL

NDN Fund has flipped the conventional/dominant lending model by basing lending decisions on trusted relationships.

We have developed a decolonized Resilient Financing Model. This model takes the mainstream banking 5 C's of Credit, used to assess risk of a potential loan, and flips it into the Indigenized 5 R's of Resilient Finance. This helps us determine the investment potential of Indigenous businesses and large-scale projects in a culturally-grounded way while still appropriately assessing risk. Then we overlay the Resilience Impact Assessment to determine the potential resiliency of a business or project along multiple dimensions such as job creation, business wealth, and climate stakeholder engagement to be as fully informed as possible as we underwrite.

TELLING OUR STORY OF IMPACT

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.



LOAN RELATIVE HIGHLIGHT: » GIYAH BOAT COMPANY «

Native Conservancy was established in 2003 to empower Alaska Native Peoples to permanently protect and preserve endangered habitats on their ancestral homelands. **Their vision is to create resilient futures for Indigenous peoples by preserving culture and protecting habitat**, as well as restoring and repatriating ancestral homelands, traditional food sources and subsistence practices to revitalize Native culture, habitat, health and spirituality. To fulfill this vision, Native Conservancy secures Native lands in conservation trusts to strengthen their inherent rights of sovereignty, subsistence and spirituality. They also restore Alaska Native ecosystems for coastal communities. Native Conservancy saw the need to build resilient and affordable boats to sell and/or lease to Tribal kelp farmers that are part of the emerging kelp industry in Alaska and created the Giyah Boat Company.

Giyah is designing and building high speed aluminum Landing Craft Marine (LCM) vessels known for their speed and versatility as well as for multi-purpose uses, allowing the boats to be used through all seasons, whether for kelp or for fish. This business addresses the need for safe, reliable and appropriate vessels for Indigenous mariculture and research in Alaska, and provides a fleet that Indigenous kelp farmers and fishers can reliably purchase or lease to utilize in their operations.

This is a great opportunity for Alaska's Indigenous kelp farmers and fishers to implement and lead a resilient, self-determined and conservation-minded mariculture industry on their ancestral waters, preserving their traditional lifeways. In 2023, Giyah Boat Company trained 20 emerging Indigenous social entrepreneurs.

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 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.



STORY OF IMPACT HIGHLIGHT: » INDIAN TOWNSHIP ENTERPRISE «

NDN Fund provided loan capital to the Passamaquoddy Tribe's tribal enterprise, Indian Township Enterprise to build a sustainable infrastructure for traditional eel harvesting, building self-determination, cultural healing and economic prosperity. The first phase of infrastructure was the purchase of an American Unagi franchise.

In 2023, the NDN Collective Tactical Media Team and NDN Fund journeyed to Maine to capture the Indian Township Enterprise eel harvest with digital storytelling showing the impact of the investment. The video and companion blog post can be found on the NDN Collective website at [What's the Big Eel? | NDN Collective.](#)

GRANTEE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: **>> NATIVE BOTANICALS <<**

Native Botanicals is an Indigenous family-owned business bringing Native American healing traditions into modern wellness.

As a social purpose business, they dedicate a portion of their profits to replanting projects. Every product sold helps them reintroduce Native medicinal plants in places where they have disappeared or been over-harvested. It's their way of preparing the ground for the future.

Native Botanicals has successfully operated on a small scale for several years through word of mouth and customer referrals - proving they have products that are greatly valued. Now, Native Botanicals is ready to expand with the NDN Fund loan, to serve more customers with their products and increase awareness about the importance of traditional medicines. To get Native Botanicals loan ready, we provided power building in the form of business planning, financial projections and an annual business budget while also partnering with Native 360, a Native CDFI in our rolodex of Indigenous service providers.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

AT A GLANCE

- ▶ Land & Power Building Fund
Investment: **\$11 million total**
 - ▶ Current Asset Value in 2023: **\$25 million**
 - ▶ Projected Asset Value for 2025:
\$125 million
 - ▶ Development Projects: **13 total**
Completed: 3
Current Phase: 7
New Projects: 3
 - ▶ Federal Funding Awarded:
\$2.5 million
-



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

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 continues to strengthen its financial position through diverse real estate projects and assets, and is able to generate positive cash flow through strategic lease opportunities and real estate development projects. Our long-term vision is to have NDN Holdings directly fund NDN Collective programs, grant opportunities, and critical impact work.

Over the next years, we are doubling down on our focus for community development in the ĤeSápa. NDN Holdings will begin to transition away from doing pre-development and work towards implementation of large-scale community development, affordable housing, and social enterprise. We are excited

to help create sustainable living solutions for the people by building affordable housing projects. We are also working to complete the build out of an Indian Center and Indigenous school in North Rapid City in partnership with He Sapa Otipi and Oceti Sakowin Community Academy.

In 2023, NDN Holdings attended NDN Collective's D.C. Impact days. Our community development and social enterprise arm was able to advocate for local place-based, community-driven funding opportunities. Representatives that we met with were particularly interested in our real estate development projects as well as our developing partnership with the Oceti Sakowin Community Academy.





In addition to our current work, **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 that 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 buy out NDN Collective and enable local ownership and stewardship of land and assets.



2023 KEY IMPACT PROJECTS

OCETI SAKOWIN COMMUNITY ACADEMY

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

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). NDN Holdings started infrastructure construction during 2023. The 2024 school year for Oceti Sakowin Community Academy will be on NDN Holdings land. There will be a ground lease between the two entities and a long-term strategic partnership. The infrastructure will serve approximately 70% of the Oceti Sakowin and larger site development needs. Our next step will be to oversee the installation of sustainable modular classrooms.

RAPID CITY INDIAN CENTER

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

NDN Collective and NDN Holdings are partnering with He Sapa Otipi on the future build out of the Rapid City Indian Center, a local Indigenous community and gathering space that is long overdue. NDN Holdings is working through the final site plan that will set property lines and mark official boundaries. After doing so, NDN will donate the land to He Sapa Otipi. This will help them unlock vision funds, fundraise, and begin the actual construction of the future site!

H ESÁPA RETREAT, MNILUZAHAN

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

NDN Holdings partnered with local architects, engineers, and contractors to finalize a design which will feature an outdoor and indoor space for ceremony and gathering. Through an internal project management approach, NDN Holdings manages and oversees the construction phase to successful completion. This allows for more intentional design, planning, and cost savings. The day-to-day operations will be transitioned to NDN Collective upon final completion of the project.

SCHOOL DRIVE TRIPLEX

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

NDN Holdings acquired a new triplex on the East End of Rapid City. Currently, NDN Holdings is leasing the building to NDN Collective employees at affordable housing rates. The current rent prices in Rapid City are very challenging for our relatives. By paying cash for the property and eliminating a mortgage payment, NDN Holdings is able to lease the property at sustainable rates and generate positive cash flow.

This project also speaks to a key experience for NDN Holdings. The build out of a property management function of NDN Holdings is a long-term vision and goal that has been identified as a need. This will help reduce costs internally and also be a potential income stream externally.

PINE CREEK RANCH

NEVADA

NDN Holdings acquired the property and water rights at Pine Creek Ranch to transition the lands back to the original Indigenous caretakers. 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. We have been a key communicator among both agencies. This project has been the opportunity for federal agencies to interact and work alongside one another in a positive fashion. 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.

NDN Holdings has applied for a handful of federal grant opportunities throughout its history. In 2023, we successfully accepted an award of \$2.5M from the Farm Service Agency USDA program.

WRIGHT STREET DUPLEXES

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

The Wright Street Duplexes 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.

During 2023, we ran into challenges in the construction industry. The price estimates we were receiving on top of interest rates made these projects either unaffordable or too expensive to build. However, NDN Holdings decided to go all in on green construction and sustainability measures. By utilizing envi-

ronmentally friendly grant opportunities, we envision a path towards being the key model on how to build sustainable housing at prices that the local community can afford. This project will be the prototype that outside organizations can look to and trust to meet community housing needs.

FEED THE PEOPLE FOOD TRUCK

RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

The Feed the People (FTP) food truck will be an unforgettable and authentic eating experience! We believe in the power of food and “feeding the people” to bring communities together to build power and strength as well as provide medicine for our spirits.

The food truck will operate at various festivals and community events but also be available for frontline mobilizations. In partnership with Boxelder Job Corps, we will also use our food truck as an educational tool to help local young people in the community gain job skills, provide for their families and further their education through work-based learning programs.

EYAK LAKE & SEA OTTER ISLAND RETREAT

CORDOVA, ALASKA

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. Our team oversaw and managed the clean-up and restoration work that the property needed.

COMMUNICATIONS & NARRATIVE

AT A GLANCE

▶ Social Media Audiences Across

All Platforms: **343,067**

▶ Original NDN Media & Content Highlights:

- Total Blogs: **141**
- Original Video Content in 2023:
 - * **200+** videos published
 - * **83.7k** YouTube views
 - * **177.5k** views on FB
- Newsletter: **148k** subscribers
- 2023 Website Analytics:
 - * Total pageviews **438K**
 - * Total new users **185K**

▶ **194 countries** reached



COMMUNICATIONS & NARRATIVE

COMMUNICATIONS & NARRATIVE WORK IN 2023

This was one of the busiest years in terms of **production and team growth** for our now twelve person Communications and Narrative team. Our Comms Team consistently **engaged in both internal and external ecosystem discussions** to develop communication and narrative strategies for major events happening in 2023, including:

- ▶ Grantee announcements
- ▶ The Rapid City, July 4th March Towards Justice
- ▶ Documenting the first Hesapa Action Camp
- ▶ Producing and documenting the Radical Imagination Experience
- ▶ Producing a media training for staff ahead of our D.C. Advocacy and Impact Days
- ▶ Creating media for the caravan to D.C. and rally in front of the White House to support clemency for Leonard Peltier

In addition, we worked alongside the NDN Foundation Team in helping to execute numerous **back-to-back grant launches** and grantee announcements throughout the year, amplifying opportunities and celebrating grassroots organizers, artists, businesses and organizations through our blogs, press releases, creative design, social media and creative production.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNICATIONS & NARRATIVE



SOCIAL MEDIA

.....
FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM

X

LINKEDIN

TIK TOK

YOUTUBE

.....
TOTAL

AUDIENCE

92,830

165,266

40,578

12,172

25,255

6,966

343,067

CREATIVE PRODUCTION

Over **15 short videos** were produced in 2023 for NDN Collective Instagram Reels, TikTok, and YouTube Shorts. Our top-performing short video, which promoted the launch of our new NDN Original podcast, *LANDBACK For The People*, **reached 1 million views** and over 57k likes on Instagram. 8 video episodes of *LANDBACK For the People* premiered on YouTube throughout 2023, which earned the show **1.18k subscribers**.

OUR TOP 10 WEB PAGE VISITS

OF VIEWS DURING 2023

1. Home Page **87,698**
2. Acknowledging the Winter Solstice is a Decolonial Act for Indigenous People **29,290**
3. Careers **21,053**
4. Our Mission **18,884**
5. Leadership **14,731**
6. Consultation Process Inadequate: New Letter from Nuiqsut Community Leaders to Department of Interior **10,654**
7. THE RIGHT OF RETURN IS LANDBACK **10,147**
8. Staff **8,684**
9. Campaigns **8,618**
10. Stories **6,532**

WEBSITE

The NDN Web Team ensured the overall digital health of the NDN Collective website throughout 2023. This included collaborations across the NDN Collective ecosystem to update content (whether it was a new job posting or a grant launch) in a timely manner. We regularly track performance of our website with analytics to gather insight on how our visitors interact with our digital content. A substantial portion of the website work that occurred in 2023 was curating and **developing the next iteration of the NDN Collective virtual home**. The new website will launch this year.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNICATIONS & NARRATIVE

LANDBACK FOR THE PEOPLE **PODCAST**

In 2023, NDN Collective launched LANDBACK For The People, a podcast hosted by NDN Collective President and CEO Nick Tilsen (Oglala Lakota) that illuminates the power and complexities of the LANDBACK movement. Episodes include perspectives on past and present liberatory movements, reclaiming Indigenous lifeways, rebuilding Indigenous economies, fighting to protect Mother Earth, and getting Indigenous lands back into Indigenous hands.

BILLBOARDS

This year, the Creative Design Team helped to create 40+ billboards in collaboration with outside design contractors. The bulk of the billboard design requests came from local organizers wishing to uplift efforts that included:

- ▶ Missing Relatives Alerts
- ▶ NDN Collective-led Teach-ins
- ▶ Rapid City vs. Racism efforts
- ▶ Anti-mining in the ĤeSápa
- ▶ Acknowledgement of Lakota Territory
- ▶ Local Indigenous-organized events either led by or partnered with NDN Collective
- ▶ Oceti Sakowin Community Academy enrollment and hiring
- ▶ Calls for Indigenous Relatives to get out and vote in the local Rapid City Area

BLOG

In 2023, the Communications and Narrative team utilized the blog to uplift NDN Collective’s major frontline advocacy efforts, including fighting against racism in Rapid City, protecting the ĤeSápa from mining, combatting the ongoing climate emergency and amplifying the demand for Leonard Peltier’s freedom. In addition, the organization utilized the blog as a tool to put forth call-to-actions around policy affecting Indian Country, highlight NDN Fund Loan recipients, amplify the numerous grant opportunities that NDN provides, and celebrate grant recipients. Our blogs have evolved into multimedia pieces, further amplifying storytelling through written narrative, photography, and video. In total, **we published 76 blogs and press releases** in 2023.

EARNED MEDIA

This year, NDN Collective strategically engaged with journalists to further amplify our message at key moments. At the same time, we continued to work with independent media outlets who are more aligned with our organizational values and vision of a better world. We remain committed to seeking media opportunities for NDN Collective—and Indigenous peoples as a whole—that support us in speaking freely and from the heart.

Below are a few highlights from 2023 that demonstrate the breadth of our media presence:

- ▶ [How a failed anti-trans bill in South Dakota changed everything for Indigenous queer people](#) (*The 19th*, December 12, 2023)
- ▶ [These Indigenous Leaders Started Rapid City’s First Lakota School](#) (*Next City*, November 14, 2023)
- ▶ [The Native perspectives of the Israel-Hamas war](#) (*Native America Calling*, November 9, 2023)
- ▶ [‘We say return the land to make it right,’ O&A with Nick Tilsen](#) (*Prism*, November 2, 2023)
- ▶ [Supporters of Native activist Leonard Peltier hold White House rally, urging Biden to grant clemency](#) (*Associated Press*, September 12, 2023)
- ▶ [NDN Collective opens wealth building grants ranging from \\$25K –\\$50K](#) (*Tribal Business News*, May 11, 2023)
- ▶ [NDN Collective launches ‘Land Back’ podcast](#) (*Indian Country Today*, April 24, 2023)
- ▶ [“Defend, Develop, Decolonize.” Inside NDN Collective, a Thriving Backer of Indigenous Causes](#) (*Inside Philanthropy*, April 25, 2023)
- ▶ [NDN Collective holds town hall to discuss racism in Rapid City schools](#) (*Rapid City Journal*, April 21, 2023)
- ▶ [Leveling the \(Green\) Playing Field](#) (*New York Times*, January 20, 2023)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BALANCE SHEET

TOTAL NET ASSETS **\$73,327,798**

TOTAL LIABILITIES **\$28,660,712**

PROFIT AND LOSS

REVENUE **\$28,834,280**

EXPENSES **\$51,257,168**

PROGRAMMING..... **80%**

ECOSYSTEM SUPPORT
AND MANAGEMENT **17%**

FUNDRAISING..... **3%**



WEALTH LIBERATION

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 repatriation of resources that have been stolen by institutional philanthropy over centuries** through extractive industry, government policymaking, and church and military campaigns. >>

WEALTH LIBERATION

» CONTINUED «

We collaborate with philanthropic partners who recognize that redistribution of resources is a vital part of shifting power and decision-making. We prioritize accepting 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 a movement infrastructure organization built to fund and support the power of Indigenous communities.

The sizable amount of resources raised to date, **\$190M**, 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 in the people who are closest to the challenges they are trying to solve.

**RISE
UP
FOR
PELTIER**

FR
PELT

RISE
UP

PELTIER
!WOW

EMENT

FOUNDATIONS WHO SUPPORT OUR WORK

ActBlue Charities

Alliance of the First Parish
Unitarian Universalist Church of
Arlington, MA

Amalgamated Charitable
Foundation

Amalgamated Investments

American Online Giving
Foundation

AMM Fund

Amnesty International

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Bank of America Charitable Fund

Beacom Family Foundation Agency

Ben & Jerry's Foundation

Benevity

Bia-Echo

Blue Meridian Partners

Bright Funds Foundation

Bunting Foundation

Charities Aid Foundation of
America

Christensen Fund

Clara Lionel Foundation

Communities First

Community Shares of Colorado

CS Fund

Cynthia & George Mitchell
Foundation

Daily Karma

Daniel & Kristen Woodland Fund

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

Dylan and Mikayla Jason Fund

Earthshare

Fidelity Investments

First Parish of Watertown

Ford Foundation

FrontStream Global Fund

Generous Charitable, Inc.

Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

Give Lively Foundation, Inc.

Greater Washington Community
Foundation

ImpactAssets, Inc.

Jewish Community Foundation
San Diego

JustFund

Kataly Foundation

L.P. Brown Foundation

Latino Community Foundation

Libra Foundation

MacArthur Foundation

Madrugá Fund	Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation	TIAA
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation	San Francisco Foundation	Todd Goldstein Charitable Fund
Mask House Fund	Santa Fe Art Institute	U.S. Charitable Gift Trust
McGuirk Family Fund	Sheila, Dave, & Sherry Gold Foundation	Vanguard Charitable
Medtronic Foundation	Silo Redistribution Fund	Vivian and Paul Olum Charitable Foundation
Mericos Foundation	Skoll Foundation	W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Mertz Gilmore Foundation	Sobelstein Fund	Wallace Global Fund
Mott Philanthropic	Stathoplos and Stoll Fund	WEND
Moving Money, Making Change Fund	Stripe	WesBanco
Network for Good	Stupski Foundation	William H. Donner Foundation
New Israel Fund	Surdna Foundation	Wm. Collins Kohler Foundation
Nicholas Glass & Mary Jo Baumann Donor Advised Fund	The Bafrayung Fund	You Have Our Trust Fund
Northwest Area Foundation	The Boston Foundation	Youth & Family Services
NoVo Foundation	The JPB Foundation	
One Small Planet Foundation	The Mina Fund	
Open Society Foundation	The New School	
Opportunity Collab LLC	The New York Community Trust	
Pew Matching Gift	The Schmidt Family Foundation	
Radical Imagination Family Foundation	The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	
RSF Social Finance	Thompson and Green Charitable Fund	

CLOSING WORDS

HO'I I KA PIKO: RETURNING TO THE CENTER

NDN Collective's relationships and campaigns span across Turtle Island, the Pacific, and the globe. As we continue to broaden our reach, we turned to the ǃeSápa to ground this work in ceremony, returning to the piko, or center, of why we do what we do as an organization. We continue to prioritize the importance of building pilina (relationships) from this center, and then work within our relationships to address the unique challenges of different Indigenous communities.

Indigenous Peoples know what our needs are. And we know what we're up against—white supremacy, the erasure of our communities, the exploitation of our lands, and the relentless system of racial capitalism. NDN Collective has rejected the ineffective methods used by dominant nonprofits and philanthropy organizations, and continues to build a radically different way to fund and support Indigenous communities. Rather than use predetermined, cookie cutter approaches, we operate in ways that truly allow our people to lead and determine what is needed to do transformational work within their communities.

One of our major focuses is on building up local organizers, especially in our home base of Rapid City, South Dakota, because we know we have to strengthen our collective organizing capacity in order to sustain our movements. The effort to get Indigenous

people into decision-making roles over our lands, resources, and communities is an uphill battle—but we believe in the power of numbers and strong, expansive relationships to disrupt business as usual.

At our core, NDN Collective is a movement infrastructure organization. NDN Collective presents a flexible model for what infrastructure could look like in diverse communities, always taking into account the political histories, specific needs, and geographies of the people involved.

The power-building in our community here in Hawai'i is a big part of the Regional Deep Dive program, which invests deeply in partners that have shared values, a demonstrated commitment to action, and a willingness to build community and take risks. This year, we're looking at how we can leverage different campaigns and issues that might affect one organization right now, but will have long-term effects for the movement as a whole over a longer period of time.

What we don't see in the numbers and the reports are all the seeds that grow from initial groundwork, such as introductions to other funders and relationships between partners that continue to build and grow independently of NDN Collective. This snowball effect is how we know our work is functioning the way it's meant to. We consider the network of relationships being built an important marker of our organizational success, even if it's not easily measurable.

I believe that NDN Collective taking the lead to provide necessary support for Indigenous leaders to thrive aligns with our commitment to fulfilling our kuleana (responsibility). That kuleana not only comes from what you're born with—it can also come with the work that you've done and the knowledge you've built up. You might not be someone from here, but you can bring knowledge, skills, and support that can empower the people here. What's most

important as we work to fulfill our collective kuleana is that we stay true to our values and intentions of ensuring the communities we work in and with, are centered and supported.

A big part of NDN Collective's impact is shifting our collective mindset away from scarcity and towards collective abundance, self-determination and sovereignty. We have a solid track record of what it looks like to support the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples, and what providing critical infrastructure can do to transform communities. Further, we will continue demonstrating to the world how supporting Indigenous self-determination is critical for the survival of the planet and human life on Earth.

While we are often deep in the day-to-day work, we try to pause to share a collective vision of a future where Indigenous people—and all people—are truly free. There is a massive amount of work going on right now, which can feel disjointed or piecemeal—but I would encourage all of us to look at these projects as stepping stones for a better future. And we must have patience. It's going to take time to reconnect and redirect the forces within us as we continue to build towards the future.

As Indigenous people, we've come a long way. Right now, we're in a resurgence of reclaiming our cultures, lifeways, and lands, returning to our piko in all different ways, shapes and forms in order to live in the present and navigate our future. As we do so, we have to be gentle and patient with ourselves and each other and recognize the trauma, death, and loss of skills and knowledge that our people have and continue to experience today. Indigenous Peoples have 'ike, deep knowledge of and kinship with the land, that carries through to today. Now, we're reawakening and finding this knowledge—and finding where we need to grant or be given some grace as we reconnect to our roots, reclaim our histories, and relearn our traditions and skills. Along the way, we're teaching these skills to the next generation, so that they can continue to carry the light of liberation and justice.

—Camille Kalama, NDN Collective Board Member

TO SUPPORT OUR WORK, DONATE AT

[NDNCOLLECTIVE.ORG](https://ndncollective.org)



NDN Collective is an Indigenous-led organization dedicated to building Indigenous power. Through organizing, activism, philanthropy, grantmaking, capacity-building and narrative change, **we are creating sustainable solutions on Indigenous terms.**



NDNCOLLECTIVE.ORG