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The photos included in this report feature members of Cohort 12 of our Native Nation Rebuilders program, and members of our Indigenous Leaders in Governance program from the Lower Sioux Indian Community. Photos by Nina Francine (Cherokee Nation) and Jacob Laducer (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians), respectively.

Original cover artwork created by Holly Young (Thizáptaŋna/Wičhíyena Dakota) for Native Governance Center.



A YEAR OF GROWTH + RENEWAL

The depths of the COVID-19 pandemic felt like a long winter. After several years of reflecting, persevering, and surviving, we finally experienced the spring thaw we'd been waiting for in 2022.

Our organization saw significant growth and renewal in our work; we felt newly energized to creatively deliver on our mission. We convened in-person programming for the first time since late 2019. We added several team members across programs who brought fresh spirit and a passion for our values. Notably, we launched our Tribal Civics program and held the first full year of programming for our new Tribal Finance program.

Within Indian Country, more broadly, we witnessed major expansion related to visibility and funding. Native nations leveraged \$20 billion in federal pandemic aid, the largest-ever investment of federal funding into Indian Country, to further economic development and help future generations thrive. High-level Indigenous appointees brought needed attention to issues like boarding school healing and changing harmful place names. Across sectors in 2022, Indigenous joy felt uniquely palpable.

To honor the year of renewal that was 2022, we've structured our report around the growing process. In the pages that follow, we communicate the impact of our work using categories that reflect the intention and dedication required to cultivate beautiful change. We invite you to join us on this journey!





WHO WE ARE

NATIVE GOVERNANCE CENTER is a Native-led nonprofit dedicated to assisting Native nations in strengthening their governance systems and capacity to exercise sovereignty. We serve Native nations that share geography with Mni Sota Makoce, North Dakota, and South Dakota. We're working to cultivate a Native nation rebuilding movement so that all Indigenous people can thrive on their own terms.

CORE PROGRAM AREAS:

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We provide leadership development training for Indigenous changemakers through our Native Nation Rebuilders program.

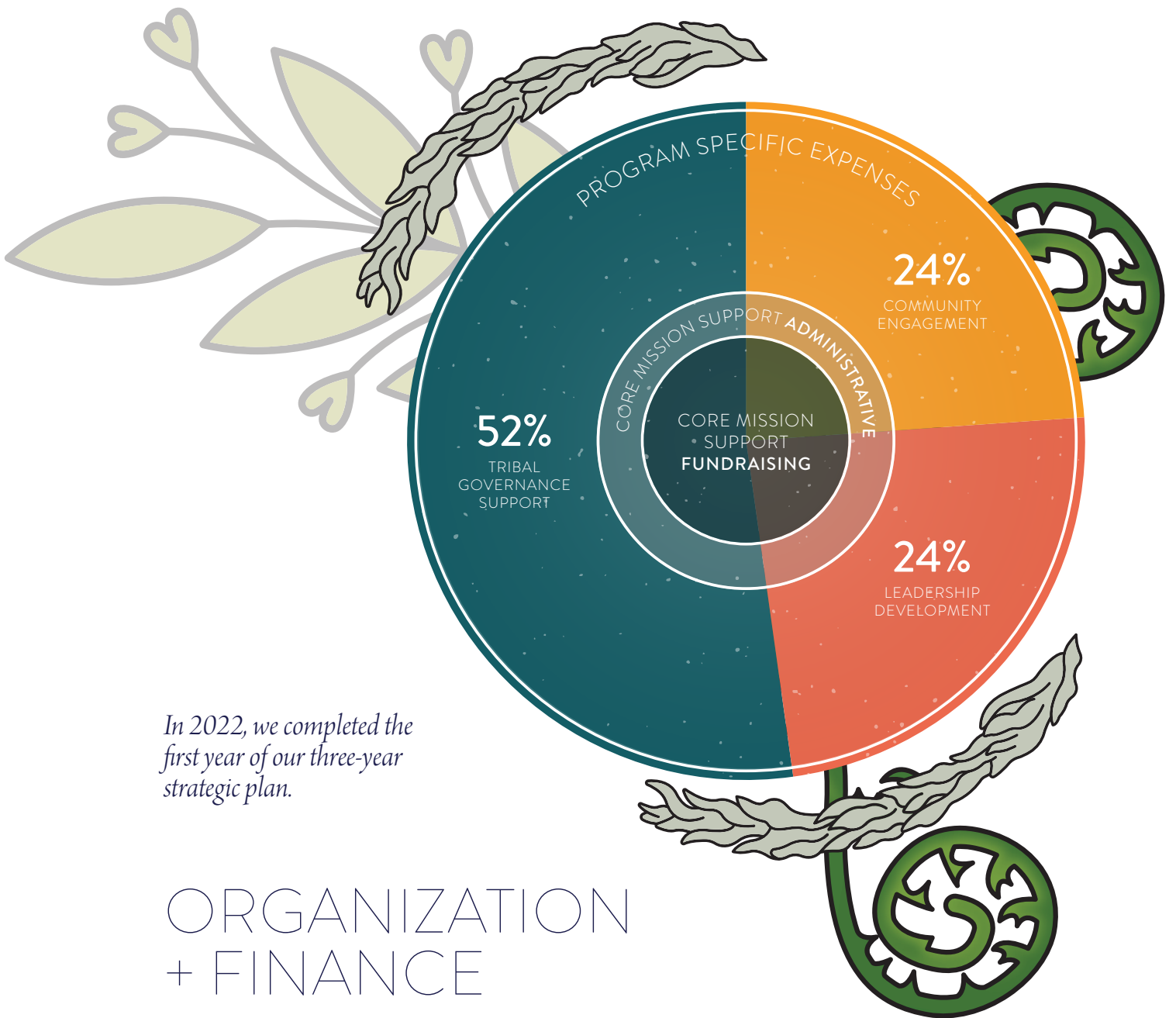
TRIBAL GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

We engage elected Tribal leaders, administrators, and citizens in strengthening their Tribal governance systems.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We bring mission-driven, accessible, educational content to the broader community.





In 2022, we completed the first year of our three-year strategic plan.

ORGANIZATION + FINANCE

In 2022, we completed the first year of our three-year strategic plan. Our priorities are simple: increase Native nations' capacity to exercise sovereignty, nurture and cultivate a nation rebuilding movement, and create a cohesive and effective organization, all while staying aligned with our organizational values. We've designed (or redesigned) and expanded our programming to be strategic, sustainable, and have more impact, which you'll see woven throughout the following pages.

Programmatic growth doesn't come without organizational growth. To allow for maximum impact, we grew our staff and nurtured our organizational culture by leaning into our values. We dressed as Jim Carrey characters for Halloween (yep, ten Jim Carreys in a Zoom meeting), celebrated wins, spent time together in community, and strengthened our frameworks to prepare for our ambitious plans. We wouldn't be able to do all of this without your support. Thank you for supporting this team and organization so we can support Native nations.

OUR VALUES

HONOR SOVEREIGNTY

We honor the inherent sovereignty of every Native nation. We show respect for and learn from each nation's unique history, culture, and insight.

PRACTICE HUMILITY

We recognize that we will not always know the answer. We embrace moments that humble us, seeking knowledge and wisdom to move forward.

BE A GOOD RELATIVE

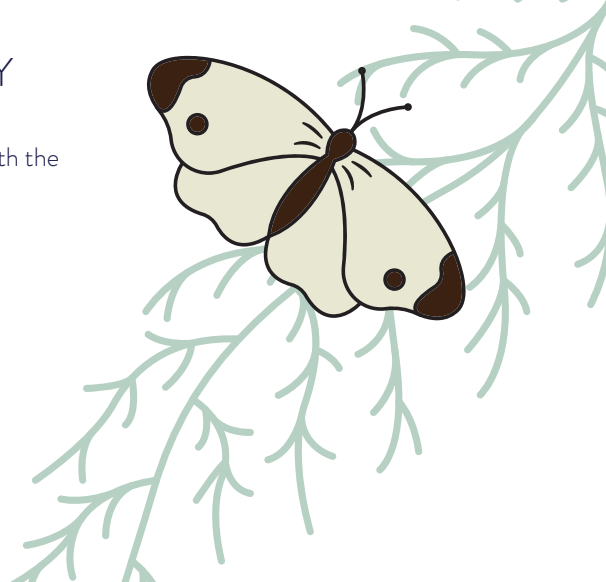
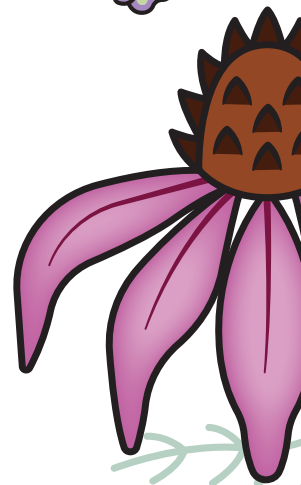
Being good relatives is foundational for how we work. We build kinship through trust, mutual respect, and mindful listening.

CENTER INDIGENEITY

We embody and ground ourselves in Indigenous worldviews, uplifting Indigenous culture and practices across our work.

EMBRACE FUN, UNAPOLOGETICALLY

We balance the hard work of decolonization with the good medicine of laughter and fun.



PREPARING + PLANTING

TRIBAL CIVICS PROGRAM CURRICULUM

In 2022, using Cohort 9 Rebuilder Levi Brown's action plan work to guide our efforts, we collaborated with Indigenous leaders from the nations we serve to publish our open access Tribal Civics Guidebook. The Guidebook equips Indigenous youth, educators, knowledge keepers, and leaders with a process for implementing a Tribal civics engagement plan within their nation. We also planted seeds for our Tribal Civics program by creating a virtual workshop series based on our guidebook and piloting the series with leaders from Turtle Mountain Community College.

WINGS WITH WAYNE

We prepared for and released a new sovereignty-focused video series called Wings with Wayne. Wings with Wayne elevates Indigenous issues and contributes to Native narrative change while simultaneously aligning with our organizational value of "Embrace Fun, Unapologetically." Our three episodes received 14,362 total views across platforms and received media attention from ICT (Indian Country Today).

Thoughtfully and intentionally laying the groundwork for upcoming initiatives

WE ARE STILL HERE MINNESOTA K-12 EDUCATION PROJECT

We Are Still Here Minnesota (WASH-MN) is a special project of Native Governance Center. The WASH-MN K-12 Education subcommittee strategically pivoted and planted new seeds in 2022 in response to the Minnesota Legislature denying the Indigenous Education for All bill. WASH-MN partnered with the Minnesota Indian Education Association to convene almost 700 educators around carrying forward the spirit of the bill outside of the legislative process and navigating potential roadblocks.

TRIBAL FINANCE PROGRAM PILOT

We wrapped up preparations for and launched the first year of our Tribal Finance Pilot program. We onboarded three Native nations to participate in our first cohort. Cohort activities included two week-long in-person trainings held in community, assessments, mentorship, and attending the Native American Finance Officers Association three-day conference. We also planted seeds for our 2023 Tribal Finance programming, including developing guidelines and processes for our grantmaking and future in-person convenings.



14,362
total views across platforms
of the *Wings with Wayne*
video series in 2022.



101
total hours of training
completed by Cohort 12
Rebuilders in 2022.

NURTURING SEEDS

VIRTUAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

We continued to nurture the seeds of our ongoing virtual community engagement event series, hosting four events and drawing a combined live audience of almost 900 community members. 92% of virtual participants stated that they planned to take action and/or share information with others after attending one of our 2022 events.

INDIGENOUS LEADERS IN GOVERNANCE

We sustained our growing Indigenous Leaders in Governance (ILG) program by delivering content related to nation rebuilding, sovereignty, and governance to 65 Tribal leaders and staff from three Native nations. Prior to conducting our 2022 workshops, we presented to all three Tribal Councils to provide information and receive support to engage in the work. Each participating nation completed four virtual workshops and will complete in-person action planning sessions in 2023.

*Sustaining our core efforts
to promote growth*

WASH-MN FOUNDATION EDUCATION SERIES

WASH-MN continued their funder education series in partnership with the Minnesota Council on Foundations, delivering sessions on Indigenous grantmaking and #LandBack in an effort to increase funders' awareness of Indigenous issues. More than 100 funders attended the sessions.

REBUILDERS LEADERSHIP SESSIONS

Cohort 12 Rebuilders participated in 101 hours of leadership and governance training with our team in 2022, joining us for two virtual modules and three multi-day, in-person sessions. The cohort learned directly from NGC staff and 15 community practitioners, visiting three different Native nations for their on-location sessions and various Native businesses/organizations. The 17 Rebuilders from Cohort 12 will join a network of 186 other Rebuilders who are enacting positive change across our region and beyond.

MEASURING + GATHERING

Evaluating our work to foster responsiveness and transparency

PRESENTATIONS, INTERVIEWS, AND RESOURCES

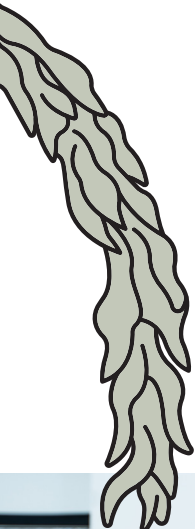
In 2022, we tracked the impact of the community engagement resources we created and content we delivered. Our team facilitated 25 external presentations, wrote 13 original news stories, created two animated explainer videos, and participated in 15 media interviews to raise awareness about governance and sovereignty. We also released 11 original resources, which received over 59,000 unique pageviews and inspired the creation of a children's book and six-week land acknowledgment curriculum, among other impacts.

TRIBAL FINANCE ASSESSMENTS

We collaborated with our Tribal Finance partner, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, to assess the financial structure, processes, and systems of each of the three nations participating in our Tribal Finance Pilot program. After visiting the nations and interviewing 57 staff and elected Tribal leaders, we generated tangible recommendations to help each nation strengthen its finance infrastructure. Participants in our Tribal Finance program then worked to implement these recommendations and their nations' future visions for financial governance during our 2022 sessions.

UPDATING THE REBUILDERS CURRICULUM

We made several improvements and changes to the Rebuilders curriculum based on participant feedback and evaluation data. We increased the number of convenings from four to five and added in additional opportunities for experiential learning, such as a plant medicine walk with Mni Wiconi Health Circle and site visits to Native-owned businesses. We also incorporated hands-on cultural learning practices like beading and new topic areas including fundraising and Indigenized research methods.



57
interviews conducted
with Tribal leaders and finance
staff to create Tribal Finance
assessments.



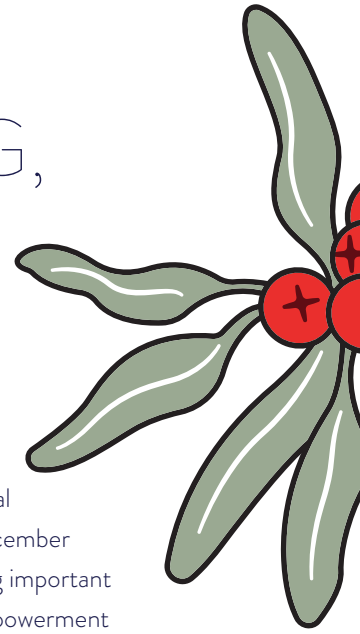


GTMD 2022

Our 2022 Give to the Max Day campaign was cause for celebration. Compared to previous years, we raised the most amount of money (\$35,629) from the largest number of donors (192). Our Sovereignty's Best Friend theme celebrated Rez dogs and the role they play in helping Indigenous changemakers stay grounded.

Celebrating and reaping the benefits of our hard work

PROCESSING, PRESERVING, + CELEBRATING



INDIGENOUS LEADERS IN GOVERNANCE FEEDBACK

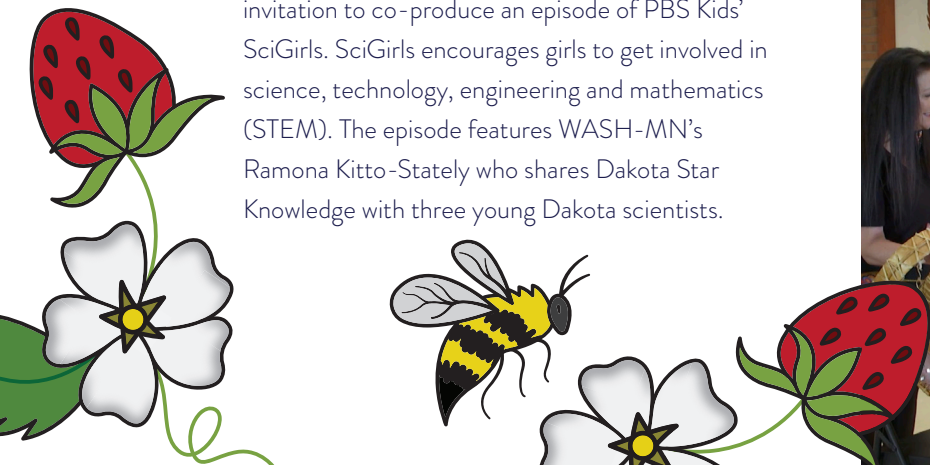
We asked participants in our Indigenous Leaders in Governance (ILG) program to reflect on their first year of training. **100% of 2022 attendees** stated a newfound ability and desire to implement Native nation rebuilding principles within their specific governmental role. Participants also mentioned wanting to “improve their nation’s Tribal/state/ federal relations,” “involve the community in department-level strategic planning,” and “incorporate culture into programming,” among other positive outcomes.

REBUILDERS COHORT 12 FINAL IN-PERSON SESSION

We celebrated our Rebuilders at our final in-person session with Cohort 12 in December 2022. Rebuilders mentioned developing important connections, feeling a new sense of empowerment around governance and sovereignty, increasing their leadership confidence, and feeling motivated to carry out community change as outcomes of their participation. At the session, Rebuilders shared their intentions for their upcoming community action plans, which include a mobile Indigenous Montessori classroom and community financial resource development.




WASH-MN SCIGIRLS EPISODE

WASH-MN’s Media and Pop Culture subcommittee’s 2022 efforts culminated in an invitation to co-produce an episode of PBS Kids’ SciGirls. SciGirls encourages girls to get involved in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The episode features WASH-MN’s Ramona Kitto-Stately who shares Dakota Star Knowledge with three young Dakota scientists.





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