

**MIGIZI**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2022

**MOVING FORWARD**

**MOVING TOGETHER**



## **This annual report is in honor of Laura Waterman Wittstock, one of MIGIZI's founding members.**

I first met Laura 22 years ago at MIGIZI's old building on 31st and Lake Street. I remember walking into the room and meeting her for the first time. I was nervous and scared to be in the room with roughly 6 leaders in the community that I had looked up to since I was a young adult. That day she asked me where I was from, where I went to school, and who my family was. I saw a spark in her eyes and a beautiful smile; she told me that I belonged in that room.

From that day forward, Laura mentored me, loved me, and loved my family. We successfully raised an enormous amount of funding together for the Tiwahe Foundation and other non-profits. She taught me not to be afraid to ask for what we needed.

Laura was a mentor to countless young women and men in the community. A true leader, educator, and innovator, she founded MIGIZI and countless other Native-serving nonprofits in the Twin Cities community. Her memory and legacy lives on in the countless spaces she carved out for her community and in the opportunities she worked so hard to provide them.

Laura is a testament to what it means to be a leader, mentor, and good relative and I will forever be grateful that she instilled the courage in me to change my life.

She is missed, always.

**Kelly Drummer,  
President**



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## A Message from Our President

As I reflect on the past 4 years at MIGIZI there is a floodgate of emotions: happiness, sadness, frustration, generosity and joy. MIGIZI has gone through tremendous changes that we never anticipated or had the capacity to deal with all at once. It has been a slow journey. Since my arrival at MIGIZI, we have celebrated the joy of a new building, a pandemic of extraordinary impact on our youth and the loss of our building by fire due to the racial injustice that continues to affect our community.

One can never express the gratitude, hope and peace that the support of the community has brought to MIGIZI. This report highlights all the great work we have done over the past 4 years for our youth and community. We are resilient, strong and have risen from the ashes stronger, brighter, and more focused than ever before. We hope you enjoy our first ever Annual Report.

Pilamaya (thank you),

**Kelly Drummer, President**

## A Message from Our Board Chair



### What Does MIGIZI Mean to You?

“Our programs provide cultural, educational, and career guidance and support, but I believe it goes beyond that. We envision the youth as strong, positive leaders within the Native community and greater society as a whole. “MIGIZI”, or Bald Eagle in the Ojibwe language soars above all. We want our youth to soar like the Eagle and always remember to be proud of who they are and where they come from.

MIGIZI was founded with the goal of countering the misrepresentations and inaccuracies about Native people in the media and has a long history of amazing, strong Native women like the late Laura Waterman Wittstock, MIGIZI’s first president and co-founder, to Elaine Salinas and now Kelly leading the way. MIGIZI provided a voice for the Native community when other media outlets refused to, and considering how much growth we have experienced since then, I couldn’t imagine the organization never existing.

I’m in my second term and it’s been an honor to serve on the board here at MIGIZI, and most recently as board chair. While our work here is done behind the scenes, there has been nothing more impactful to me than to witness our youth being recognized and honored for their growth and accomplishments. I want them to know how proud we are of all of them! They are the reason we dedicate our time, because they are worth it!”

**Kendrick Buffalo, Board Chair**

# Moving Forward, Moving Together

We are thrilled to share our newly adopted mission, vision, values, and strategic plan, developed collaboratively with all MIGIZI staff and board members in 2020 with the guidance of David Cournoyer and LeMoine LaPointe.

## Our Mission

MIGIZI provides a strong circle of support that nurtures the educational, social, economic and cultural development of American Indian youth.

## Our Vision

We envision a society where American Indian youth are acknowledged and honored for their sacred gifts and boundless potential, which they share – as leaders – with their communities and nations



# Our MIGIZI Values

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## We take care of ourselves and each other

We are self-aware and reflective. We constantly work on holistic wellness. We believe in each other.

## We are positive and honest

We assume the best and believe everyone has a positive core. We speak our truth and use positive words and framing. We focus on what we want, not on what's wrong, and take the initiative to be part of the solution.

## We value innovation

We are forward-thinking and always learning. We capitalize on our diversity to be more creative and innovative.

## We believe our culture protects and strengthens us

We encourage our youth to be fiercely proud Indigenous people who know their cultural lifeways and perspectives and use culture as a sustaining resource to thrive in the world. We are spirits in human bodies, centered in a web of interrelationships.





Indigenous Pathways

## First Person Productions

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First Person Productions is a paid media internship aimed at empowering our young people to be the next generation of Native storytellers. From filmmaking and podcasting to social media marketing and graphic design — FPP pays young people to learn the mechanics of media while increasing the visibility of Native peoples and ensuring accurate and authentic portrayals of our community.



“MIGIZI introduced me to filmmaking and how much it was a real career possibility for me.”

**Binesikwe Means** | Former Intern, Current Lead Media Instructor





**Indian**  
HEALTH BOARD

Like a Herd of Bison  
Protecting Their Vulnerable,  
Herd Immunity Protects Our Vulnerable.

**#PROTECTTHEHERD**

**GET VACCINATED**

612-721-9800 | [IndianHealthBoard.com](http://IndianHealthBoard.com)

MIGIZI Minneapolis Health Department

## Program Highlights

In the summer of 2021, our youth designed the #ProtectTheHerd campaign. They developed 20 public service announcements in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Health, which were key to increasing vaccination rates and general COVID-19 outreach.

“This program and the people there showed me that my dream of being a director and screenwriter can come true.”



**Kija Deer** | 2022 First Person Production Intern



Indigenous Pathways

## Green Jobs Pathway Program

MIGIZI's Green Jobs program exposes youth to numerous professional career experiences, equipping them with tools and knowledge to launch a specialized career in the energy and construction sectors. Our students provide communities with sustainable and eco-friendly solutions while gaining hands-on experience.



“Learning about Indigenous sustainability practices and solar energy inspired me to pursue a career in Environmental Law.”

**Keeli Siyaka** | 2018 Green Jobs Intern



## Program Highlights

Past interns have completed community projects like building solar powered phone chargers for our unhoused relatives as well as solar little free libraries.

“I joined Green Jobs in 2020. MIGIZI helps connect science with my culture and it’s my favorite place to be!”



**Shawn Wakanabo** | MIGIZI Intern 2020–Present



After School Programs

## **Culture, Language, Academics, Well-Being (CLAW) After School Program**

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MIGIZI's CLAW program integrates cultural practices with academic studies to provide Native young people with a relatable and engaging time of learning. Each day we provide a safe space where students can enjoy a meal, focus on culture, learn about educational and career opportunities, and complete their homework and school projects. Students receive personal, one-on-one academic support in the classroom and in-person or online tutoring four days per week after-school.

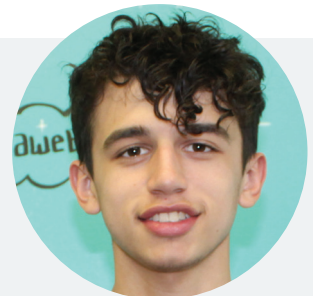


## Program Highlights

Native Youth Council members were able to participate in the Close Up program that sent students to Washington, D.C.. While in D.C., our youth had the opportunity to meet several legislators and senators.

“Migizi has become a timeless river in my heart, representing the intentional love of my ancestors and determination for the next 7 generations.”

**Wakan Austin** | MIGIZI Intern 2020 - Present





## 2018

MIGIZI purchased a new building at 3017 27th Avenue South. Long time President Elaine Salinas retires and Kelly Drummer starts.

## 2019

MIGIZI renovates the space and moves in mid-July and celebrates grand opening in September.



## 2020

On May 25th 2020, amid civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis Police, MIGIZI lost our newly constructed building by arson.

On May 30th, we watched our community band together, clean out our fallen building, and donate more than we could ever imagine. On June 5th we hosted a community healing event.



## 2021

8 months after the fall of our building, we bought our new home in January at 1845 E. Lake St. and began our youth design process. We secured temporary space in March 2021 to continue programming and begin our capital campaign. On May 29 we held a memorial walk and blessing for our new home.



## 2022

The Capital Campaign raises over \$5.5 million and construction begins at 1845 E. Lake Street.

MIGIZI begins Water Sovereignty summer program, and worked with 30 youth.

Our deepest gratitude to American Indian OIC, Division of Indian Work and Minneapolis American Indian Center for opening up their facilities in June 2020 to help MIGIZI fulfill its promise of employing and providing services to 50 youth that summer.

# Our Impact In Numbers

In the past 4 years, amidst a global pandemic and the loss of our home, MIGIZI has strived to provide exceptional support in the form of youth employment and in-school and after-school academic and cultural support.



**7**

schools districts  
engaged



**864**

youth  
engaged



**85%**

American  
Indian



**133**

youth interns  
employed



**\$177K**

put back into the  
homes of  
American Indian  
families



**1,728**

hours of training  
provided





# School Districts Engaged

We work in 7 different school districts and are honored to be able to directly provide Indigenous-led curriculum in a convenient and effective process to students who would not have been able to access such resources otherwise.



MINNEAPOLIS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Urban Education. Global Citizens.



A World-Class Community of Learners



FARMINGTON  
AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**Cathryn  
Timmers**

“My philosophy is to give locally and at a level that will make a difference. I want to make an impact on the education efforts of Native youth and MIGIZI is the best organization to do this with.”

**Guided by our new strategic plan,** we implemented new financial systems, debuted a brand new donor and program database, and added full-time development and marketing personnel along with program support staff. All of these changes have meant improved programming and support for those who matter most, our youth!



**Prior to 2021,** approximately 85% of our funding came from two large federal grants administered by the Administration for Native Americans. Today, our finances look vastly different with funding that is diversified and comes from state grants, foundations, contracts, and individuals.

**Over the past 4 years,** MIGIZI has grown our organizational budget from \$1 million to \$1.7 million, received over 18,000 donations from individuals across the world following the loss of building, and completed a \$5.5 million dollar capital campaign

	2019	2022
<b>Individual Donors</b>	<b>\$8.2K</b>	<b>\$270K</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>\$997K</b>	<b>\$1.05M</b>
<b>Foundations</b>	<b>\$394K</b>	<b>\$3.4M</b>

**MIGIZI Communications, Inc.**  
Statements of Financial Position  
December 31, 2022 and 2021

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,414,932	\$ 5,503,979
Pledges receivable	100,550	-
Grants receivable	1,354,119	268,151
Prepaid expenses	46,437	72,706
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>6,916,038</b>	<b>5,844,836</b>
<b>Property and Equipment</b>		
Land, building, and building improvements	3,916,298	836,013
Furniture and equipment	10,799	10,799
Total Property and Equipment, Cost	3,927,097	846,812
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(10,799)	(10,799)
Total Property and Equipment, Net	3,916,298	836,013
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 10,832,336</b>	<b>\$ 6,680,849</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 78,584	\$ 17,094
Accrued liabilities	33,874	30,005
Deferred revenue	24,633	9,817
Loan payable, current portion	3,303	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>140,394</b>	<b>56,916</b>
<b>Noncurrent Liabilities</b>		
Loan Payable, noncurrent portion	296,697	-
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>437,091</b>	<b>56,916</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Without donor restrictions		
Undesignated	8,500,417	3,737,730
Board designated	1,000,000	2,205,000
Total without donor restrictions	9,500,417	5,942,730
With donor restrictions	894,828	681,203
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>10,395,245</b>	<b>6,623,933</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 10,832,336</b>	<b>\$ 6,680,849</b>

## New and Continued Foundation Supporters

Bergerson Family Foundation  
Cargill Foundation  
Common Counsel Foundation  
Cotyledon Foundation  
Delta Dental Foundation  
Estee Lauder  
National Urban Indian Family Coalition  
HRK Foundation  
Huntington Bank  
John & Denise Graves Foundation  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
Leuthold Family Foundation  
Manitou Fund  
Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies  
McKnight Foundation  
Minneapolis Foundation  
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization  
MN Council on Foundations  
MN Humanities Center  
MNLEND  
Mortenson Foundation  
NDN Collective  
Northwest Area Foundation  
Opus Foundation  
Pohlad Foundation  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community  
Thrivent Charitable  
Verizon Wireless Foundation  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Women's Foundation of MN



## Miigwech Phidamayaye Pinagigi

Thank you to our new  
and continued partners  
and supporters

## Community Partners

American Indian Movement  
AMPERS Radio Network  
Apadana Technologies  
Campfire Minnesota  
Center for Energy and the Environment  
Centro Guzman  
City of Minneapolis - Health Department  
City of Minneapolis Renewable Energy  
Clean Energy Resource Team (CERTS)  
Collective Measures  
Development Institute  
Dream of Wild Health  
FamilyWise  
GoSolar! Kidz  
Heart of the Beast Theater  
Hennepin County - Trusted Messenger  
Hennepin County Green Partners  
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Huntington Bank  
Indian Health Board  
Institute on the Environment  
JUST B SOLAR  
KRSM Radio / DJ Storytelling  
Listen Up Youth Radio  
Lower Phalen Creek Project  
Minneapolis Community College  
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center  
Minnesota Public Radio  
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization  
MN Indian Business Alliance  
MN Renewable Energy Society  
Mni Ki Wakan  
Native American Community  
Native American Community Clinic  
PaddleBridge Collective  
Porky's Sugar Bush  
Right Track Saint Paul  
Rob Greenfield  
Spark - Y  
Step Up Minneapolis  
Ticket for Kids  
Tiwahe Foundation  
Twin Cities Youth Media Network  
University of Minnesota  
Vision Maker Media  
Wilderness Canoe Base



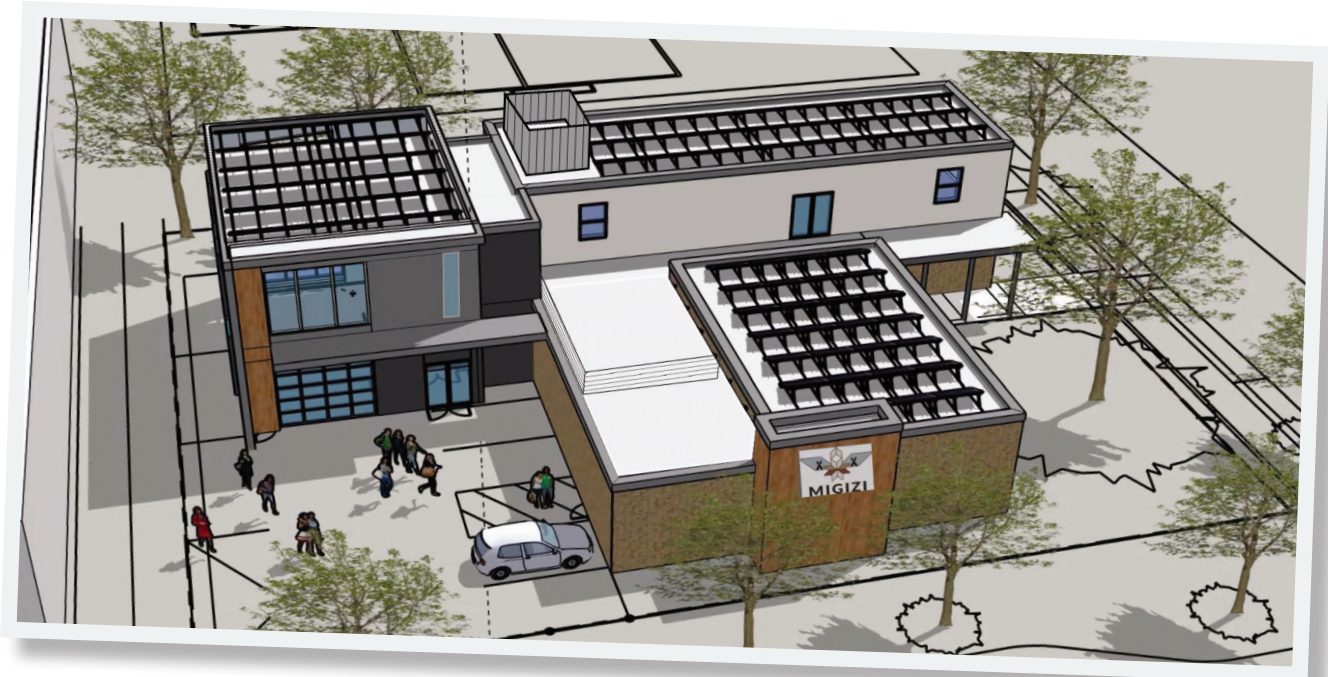
Photo Credit: Bruce Silcox

## A Look at Our New Building

As we approach 2023 we will be moving into our new building on 1845 E Lake Street. Along with our young people leading the vision for what this space will be, we are bringing to our community a building that will represent the values of the next generation of leaders.

Nestled in the heart of the community, our building will feature a range of exciting amenities that we hope will inspire visitors of all ages. Our Best Buy Teen Tech Center will be a state-of-the-art space where youth and community members can explore the latest technology. Our First Person Productions internship will have their

very own top-of-the-line recording studio, while our Green Jobs internship will enjoy their own makerspace garage. We are also excited to include a kitchen and a main gathering space for our youth to meet, do homework, and work on art projects. The building is designed to honor our teachings as Native people and will be surrounded by our medicinal plants. In addition, we will also have solar panels to help us reduce our carbon footprint. We can't wait to see you there you there!



CULTURALLY  
INSPIRING



SPARKS  
CURIOSITY



VALUES  
INNOVATION



REPRESENTS  
COMMUNITY



HONORS  
THE EARTH



**Miigwech – Phidamayaye – Pinagigi –**

Thank you to our capital campaign supporters  
who have helped us raise \$5.9 million!

# GET INVOLVED

## DONATE TO SUPPORT



Migizi.org/support-us  
to donate

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Migizi.org  
to sign up for our  
monthly newsletter

## FOLLOW US



Facebook, Instagram,  
Tiktok @migizimn



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