ANNUAL REPORT
2019–2022

MOVING FORWARD

MOVING TOGETHER
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
Our Mission and Values

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

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.
First Person Productions

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
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
Our Programs

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.

Indigenous Pathways

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

Keeli Siyaka | 2018 Green Jobs Intern
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

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.
“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

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

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

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.
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.

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.
“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.”

Cathryn Timmers
**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Donors</td>
<td>$8.2K</td>
<td>$270K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>$997K</td>
<td>$1.05M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$394K</td>
<td>$3.4M</td>
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</table>
### MiGIZI Communications, Inc.
**Statements of Financial Position**
**December 31, 2022 and 2021**

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$5,414,932</td>
<td>$5,503,979</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pledges receivable</td>
<td>100,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants receivable</td>
<td>1,354,119</td>
<td>268,151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>46,437</td>
<td>72,706</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>$6,916,038</td>
<td>$5,844,836</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Property and Equipment</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land, building, and building improvements</td>
<td>3,916,298</td>
<td>836,013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment</td>
<td>10,799</td>
<td>10,799</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Property and Equipment, Cost</strong></td>
<td>3,927,097</td>
<td>846,812</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>(10,799)</td>
<td>(10,799)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Property and Equipment, Net</strong></td>
<td>3,916,298</td>
<td>836,013</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$10,832,336</td>
<td>$6,680,849</td>
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#### Liabilities and Net Assets

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$78,584</td>
<td>$17,094</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued liabilities</td>
<td>33,874</td>
<td>30,005</td>
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<td>Deferred revenue</td>
<td>24,633</td>
<td>9,817</td>
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<td>Loan payable, current portion</td>
<td>3,303</td>
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<td><strong>Total Current Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>140,394</td>
<td>56,916</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Noncurrent Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Loan Payable, noncurrent portion</td>
<td>296,697</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td>56,916</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Without donor restrictions</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Undesignated</td>
<td>8,500,417</td>
<td>3,737,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board designated</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>2,205,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total without donor restrictions</strong></td>
<td>9,500,417</td>
<td>5,942,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>With donor restrictions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>894,828</td>
<td>681,203</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>10,395,245</td>
<td>6,623,933</td>
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</table>

| **Total Liabilities and Net Assets**          | $10,832,336 | $6,680,849 |
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

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

Miigwech Phidamayaye Pinagigi
Thank you to our new and continued partners and supporters
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!

Miigwech – Phidamayaye – Pinagigi –
Thank you to our capital campaign supporters who have helped us raise $5.9 million!