



# OUR FUTURE IS TOGETHER



**NA'AH ILLAHEE FUND  
ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

Serving Indigenous Communities  
from the Arctic to the Rockies.



Photo Credit: Canoe Journey Herbalists  
Cover Photo Courtesy: Daybreak Star

## NA'AH ILLAHEE

Our name, Na'ah Illahee, is Mother Earth in the Chinook jargon language. Our organization was established in 2005 with the vision of powerful Native female-centered activism and leadership.

Na'ah Illahee Fund is a Native-led community-centered organization that advances sustainable Indigenous cultures throughout the northwest region of Turtle Island, from the Arctic to the Rockies.

We support and promote the ongoing regeneration, wisdom and successes of Indigenous communities by providing funding and support to Native women-led organizations and projects, youth training, and environmental justice activism that helps advance sustainable Indigenous cultures and collective capacities.

We are teachers and learners, grant makers and conveners, committed to remembering and revitalizing traditional values and practices rooted in Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

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Photo Credit: Na'ah Illahee Fund – Sovereign Futures

BROOKE PINKHAM Nimiipuu | Board of Directors, President

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As Indigenous people, we are historically inclined to rise in the face of hardship. At Na'ah Illahee Fund, we represent both the hardship and the strength of our people, and we are fortunate to be able to contribute to the process of lifting our relatives.

For more than two years, the pandemic has brought hardship and strain into our communities. It's been the cause of a significant amount of stress, worry, loss of income, loss of mental stability and, worst of all, the loss of many loved ones.

We can read the statistics about how the pandemic has unevenly impacted our communities, but this is something we already know because we are connected to our relatives and our communities, and we hear their stories.

Although we are diverse in the ways we practice our culture, we share a common bond of overcoming incredible grief. More importantly, we carry an incredible amount of strength, intelligence and drive.

What inspires me about our work at Na'ah Illahee Fund is how quickly our staff and board pivoted, adjusted and rose up to address community needs—needs we were uniquely situated to address because of the deep relationships we have with our communities. Now, we carry on that work with slightly less urgency but with no less dedication and commitment.

Na'ah Illahee Fund began as an organization intent on protecting our lands and upholding values stemming from a matriarchal-centered way of life. Under the



incredible leadership of Susan Balbas, our board and staff have maintained that vision for over a decade. Yet on top of the tough work as professionals serving our people, we also turn to face our communities back home.

Na'ah Illahee staff and board are uniquely positioned, like most Native-run organizations serving their people, we can sit easily on either side of the decision-making process as givers or receivers. There is no better way to know our people, in that we share a commonality of strength. The very communities we serve as professionals are the very communities that raised us into positions of leadership.

We have a responsibility as caretakers to protect our lands, our people, and our culture, but we must also care for ourselves if we are to maintain the historical strength we have always had.

Q'ci'yew'yew to all the dedication, hard work and sacrifice of our staff and our incredible leader Susan. While we are not yet on the other end of the pandemic, we are always ready to serve.

Brooke Pinkham | Nimiipuu  
President, Board of Directors

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# GRANTMAKING

## CREATING PATHWAYS for COMMUNITY HEALING

Canoe Journey Herbalists (CJH) had a busy year in 2021, and Na’ah Illahee Fund was happy to partner with them for part of it—along with the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, Center for Indigenous Midwifery, and Black Star Farmers—to create and distribute more than 1,000 first foods container gardens.

With the help of its collaborators, CJH collected plants from nurseries, farms, and volunteers, planted containers, and coordinated distributions to urban Native and BIPOC communities.

The three pickup days at the Native Sharing Garden were fun days for families at the farm during which

Food Sovereignty Grant  
Grant Award \$12,500

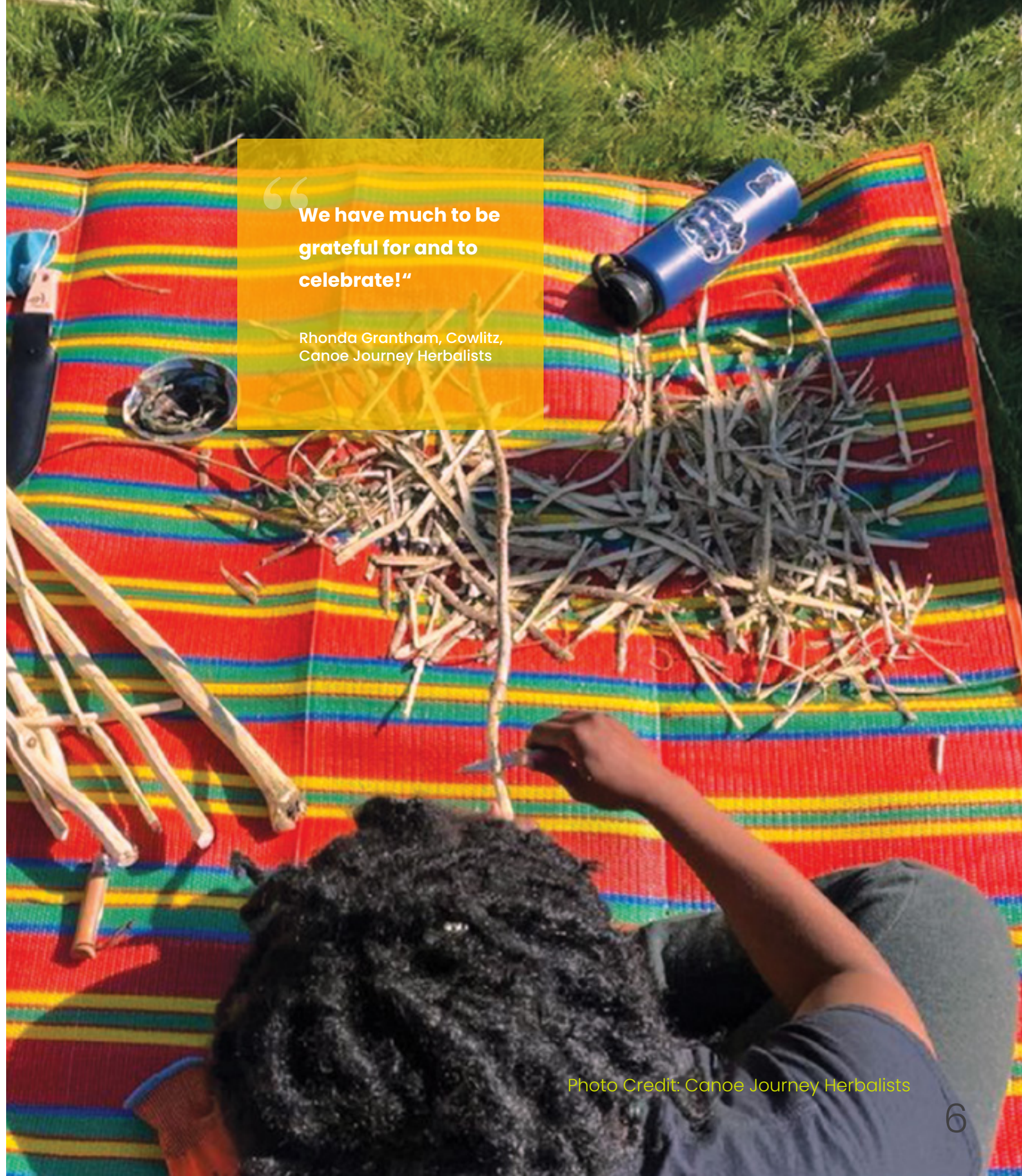


they were able to pick vegetables from the garden and experience the medicine of being with plants before taking their own foods and medicines home with them.

To read more about the work of this growing organization, including their recent purchase of a 29-acre parcel of land that will become “a place to heal together,” visit them online at: [www.canoejourneyherbalists.org](http://www.canoejourneyherbalists.org)



GRANTEE STORY



“We have much to be grateful for and to celebrate!”

Rhonda Grantham, Cowlitz,  
Canoe Journey Herbalists

Photo Credit: Canoe Journey Herbalists



Photo Credit: Na'ah Illahee Fund Sovereign Futures

## WISE ACTION CAPACITY BUILDING

# AMPLIFYING INDIGENOUS VOICES

Wise Action is environmental justice, just transition, and policy advocacy.

Wise Action builds power and capacity in Native and BIPOC communities to lead dynamic movements for social change through Indigenous leadership of community-based strategies and priorities.

By aligning thought and action with Indigenous principles, Wise Action advances traditional ways of knowing and place-keeping.

## Sovereign Futures

In 2021, Na'ah Illahee hosted two cohorts of Indigenous leaders and activists from Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. These Sovereign Futures cohorts met weekly to hear from subject matter experts and learn new skills and information about regenerative economies, food sovereignty, community organizing, project management, policy analysis and development, community based fundraising, and philanthropic relations.

Cohort members also built deep relationships with one another and used the culturally safe space provided by Na'ah Illahee Fund staff to hold conversations and share perspectives in response to their reading of *The Red Deal: Indigenous Action to Save Our Earth* by The Red Nation.

Cohort member projects included Indigenous community gardens, the re-building of food systems, revitalization of ceremonial spaces and public lands, park and trail restoration, the creation of a Pacific Northwest native plant harvesting calendar, and more, with an emphasis on developing green infrastructure.

CAPACITY BUILDING

# GRANTMAKING

## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES to SUSTAIN TRADITIONAL FOODS

In 2021, Na’ah Illahee Fund began a partnership with the Interior Salish Traditional Foods Project that continued in 2022.

The project was designed to serve families connected to the Salish School of Spokane with cultural harvests of traditional foods, first foods ceremonies for root and berry seasons, food preparation and preservation workshops,

Food Sovereignty Grant  
Grant Award \$12,500



and the incorporation of traditional foods into the school’s menus and programming.

Although the project is ongoing, it began in earnest in September 2021, when six secondary students from the school began learning basic botanical science including plant physiology, structures and identification.

In addition, the group conducted a broad survey and collection of a variety of mushrooms and other fungi during the late fall, including two fieldwork outings—one to the Dishman Hills Natural Area and another to Mount Spokane State Park. Students then learned to do plant and fungi identifications and segmentations, and they learned to create sample slides for microscopes in order to examine a plant cell and its component parts.

We are excited to see the next stage of this project. Stay tuned!



### GRANTEE STORY



“We introduced a mycology unit in October and November of 2021, and the students really enjoyed collecting and studying mushrooms and other fungi.”

LaRae Wiley, Colville Confederated Tribes Arrow Lakes Band, Salish School of Spokane

Photo Credit: Salish School of Spokane



“...connecting to our vision of a more healthy and just future for communities and the planet.”

Na’ah Illahee Fund,  
Sovereign Futures Cohort

# GRANTMAKING

## FEEDING THE SPIRITS DINNER

### HONORING OUR MISSING LOVED ONES

On the Winter Solstice, a day to embrace hope for the New Year, grantee partner Beverly Owens and her team prepared a meal with traditional foods to honor Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & People and their families. For ancestors, this day held a strong spiritual meaning for survival dependent upon knowledge of the seasonal cycles.

Over 75 people attended the event and shared stories and information

### Let's Help to End Gender Based Violence & MMIWP Grant

Grant Award \$5,000



about how to seek help in locating their missing loved ones. A counselor and law enforcement officer attended to help with the questions and issues brought up by participants addressing issues in Indian Country. A spiritual healer helped families with the loss of their loved ones.

Preparation of the food began two days earlier, and enough food was prepared to feed all of the attendees and provide three plates apiece to feed their loved ones' spirits. Families gathered to share stories about their missing or murdered loved ones, followed by an eight-hour ceremony to feed the spirits.

During dinner, families sat around a fire to make sure all of the food that was offered up to loved ones was taken care of and to share more stories, tears, laughter, and songs until all food was offered and the fire was completely burned out.

Most of the food for the dinner was gifted. The menu of traditional foods was from the Four Directions: Mother Earth, Water, Sky, and Land.



GRANTEE STORY



### 4-DIRECTIONS

## MENU

#### EARTH

- Farm Grown Organic Potatoes
- Farm Grown Organic Squash
- Farm Grown Organic Corn
- Farm Grown Organic Vegetable for Soup
- Wild Camas, Mt. Rainier
- Farm Grown Organic Salad
- Blue Bird Flour for Fry Bread
- Wild Blackberry Pie
- Wild Huckleberry Pie
- Farm Grown Organic Strawberry/Rhubarb Pie
- Wild Blueberry Pie

#### WATER

- Alaska King Salmon
- Puget Sound Clams
- Puget Sound Oysters
- Puget Sound Dungeness Crab
- Hood Canal Shrimp
- Puget Sound Geoduck for Chowder

#### SKY

- Wild Duck, Eastern Washington
- Wild Goose, Eastern Washington
- Wild Turkey, Eastern Washington
- Wild Grouse, Eastern Washington

#### LAND

- Wild Elk from Forks, Washington
- Wild Deer from Forks, Washington
- Wild Buffalo, Wyoming
- Wild Moose, Alaska

# GRANTMAKING

## INCREASING ACCESS TO FRESH FOOD

While the pandemic exposed deep inequities in our country's food supply and distribution systems, it also accelerated efforts by Indigenous communities to create long-term food security.

Na'ah Illahee Fund was pleased to partner with the Swinomish Community Environmental Health Program to support their efforts to increase access to fresh and

Covid Crisis Relief Grant  
Grant Award \$25,000



healthy foods for members of the Swinomish community. With grant funds, the program was able to increase the number of self-serve fresh food carts located around the Swinomish Village from two to five, which were restocked weekly.

They also purchased much-needed supplies to maintain their 13 Moons community gardens. When these gardens mature, they will provide enough fresh produce to supply the portable produce carts.

As a new way to engage community members during the pandemic, the group also posted videos to Facebook demonstrating how to prepare traditional teas and medicines made from the plants they harvested. You can visit them there to find out more: [www.facebook.com/13MoonsatWork](http://www.facebook.com/13MoonsatWork)



### GRANTEE STORY



“With the funds we received, we were able to cover the costs to:

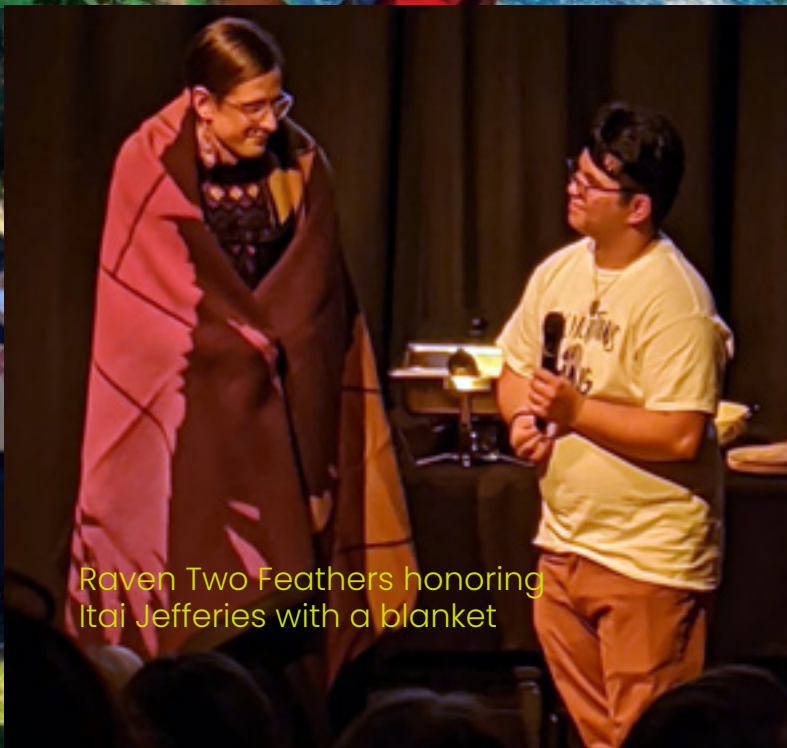
- provide fresh produce to Swinomish community members
- provide garden supplies for our 13 Moons community gardens
- purchase teaching supplies for 13 Moons workshops
- allocate staff time to facilitate activities

Jamie Donatuto, Swinomish Community Environmental Health Program

Photo Credit: Swinomish Community Environmental Health Program



Trail Restoration



Raven Two Feathers honoring Itai Jefferies with a blanket

YOUTH PROGRAM SUMMER | FALL 2021

## LIFTING UP YOUNG INDIGENOUS LEADERS

### HIGHLIGHTS

After a year of isolation and virtual programming, the Youth Program spent the last year strengthening existing partnerships and creating exciting new ones to support Indigenous youth.

We are helping to build leaders for the growing movement of Indigenous people fighting for the health of Mother Earth and Native communities.

- Food sovereignty was our focus with partners Black Star Farmers and Young Women Empowerment, and we soaked up the knowledge they shared with us, as well as the institutional knowledge of Na’ah Illahee staff.
- Working with Red Eagle Soaring and Totem Star, we created space for BIPOC youth to share their voices and their stories.
- We supported our Two-Spirit relatives, working with facilitators to dive into deep conversations about community, community care, identity and relationships.

- Through our partnership with Black Star Farmers, we were able to distribute food from community gardens to our families, Chief Seattle Club, Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, Seattle Clearsky Native Youth Council members and their families, Soup for Love, and the Melo Cafe.
- We held the first three sessions of our Youth Grantmaking Council cohort—an exciting new direction for our Youth Program in the coming year.

CAPACITY BUILDING

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As I think back on the past year and a half, I realize that I can't tell our community the story of 2021 without placing it into the context of the year that preceded it.

Although COVID-19 seems to be with us for the long term, we are less afraid now. We now know so much more. We know about the effectiveness of social distancing, mask wearing, and vaccines to prevent serious disease.

But back in the early unknowns of 2020, fear and a sense of urgency were some of our primary emotions. It became quickly apparent to those of us working in Native communities that COVID was having a disproportionate and devastating impact on Indigenous communities. Elders—so often the primary language and culture keepers of tribes—were especially vulnerable to the disease. Supply chains—inconsistent during the best of times—broke down completely, leaving communities without adequate food and other necessary items. Youth—isolated from members of their tribes and other social supports—experienced an increase in depression, and suicide rates rose.

At Na'ah Illahee Fund, we were most concerned in the early days

of COVID that we respond to the crisis by meeting

the most urgent needs of our communities. Thankfully, our own funders helped our efforts by streamlining their own processes. I'd especially like to mention The Seattle Foundation, who went above and beyond the call of duty, and their coordination of the All in WA campaign. Through them, we had new funders contacting us, wanting to know how they could join us in getting money and resources to Native communities.

And because we have practiced Indigenous-led philanthropy for years, we already had in place the deep relationships with our Native communities that allowed us to move resources quickly where they were needed the most. Our involvement in collaboratives such as Seattle Urban Native Nonprofits (SUNN) played an essential role in the rapid response we collectively were able to deploy. We distributed food boxes, supported community and container gardens, invested in Indigenous businesses by purchasing food and safety items like masks from them, and then hired community members to distribute



[continued on page 20...](#)

SUSAN BALBAS, Executive Director, continued...

these resources where the needs were greatest. As an organization, responding to the urgent needs brought on by COVID resulted in tremendous growth as we fine-tuned our internal operations and became more efficient and as we leveraged partnerships to distribute money and resources across our service area.

When 2021 arrived and the immediate crisis abated somewhat, we began to think more long term and strategically about supporting our Indigenous communities. We asked ourselves how we could best help them to be more resilient and prepared for future crises. We began to focus on addressing the lack of infrastructure that caused COVID to have such a disproportionate impact.

The result was several new programs and grant opportunities designed to increase the resilience, sovereignty and security of the Native communities we serve.

Our Yahowt Indigenous Foods Program focused projects and cohorts on building traditional and modern knowledge, skills and networks to develop community-based solutions for environmental and climate justice. Our Food Sovereignty Grants supported projects to develop and strengthen Native food systems.

Our Green Infrastructure Capacity Building Grant funded the development of renewable energy, sustainable buildings, and clean waterways.

Our Let's Help to End Gender-Based Violence & Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & People fund aimed to raise awareness and develop key partnerships to end the tragedy of gender-based violence and the ongoing crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and people. And our Red Blanket Fund provided direct support to families or individuals who were leading the search for missing loved ones.

While none of us knows what the future holds, the last two years have taught us important lessons about the necessity of supporting the long-term health of our Native communities. As we move forward, we will continue to listen to them and to think strategically about the ways we can partner with them to create strong, resilient, and sustainable systems for the future.

Susan Balbas | Cherokee | Yaqui  
Executive Director

# FINANCIALS

## REVENUE

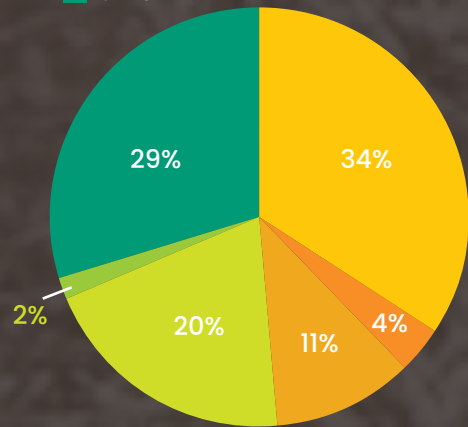
Grants .....	\$1,060,474
Individuals.....	\$108,364
Government .....	\$333,958
Donor Advised Funds.....	\$613,691
Corporate .....	\$54,346
Other .....	\$908,982
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,079,815</b>

## EXPENSES

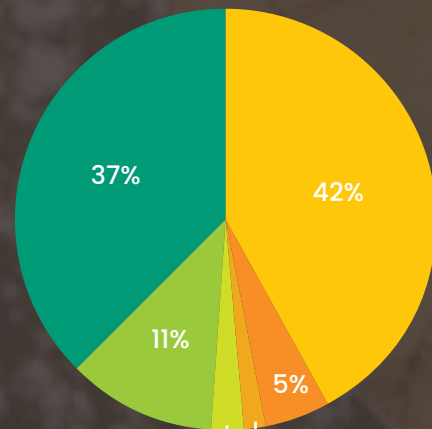
Grants Awarded .....	\$1,269,083
Community Programs .....	\$149,408
Occupancy .....	\$50,760
Operating .....	\$73,960
Consultants .....	\$343,685
Staff .....	\$1,121,536
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,008,432</b>

## REVENUE

- Grants
- Individuals
- Government
- Donor Advised Funds
- Corporate
- Other



## EXPENSES



- Grants Awarded
- Programs
- Occupancy
- Operating
- Consultants
- Staff



# GRANT RECIPIENTS

## Food Sovereignty Grant

\$250,000 | 15 Awards | 30 Applicants

Native Youth Leadership Program:	
Foods to Heal .....	\$25,000
hannac vaci? Im Im	
(in honor of mis'p).....	25,000
Alaska Native Birthworkers .....	25,000
Nisma Garden .....	25,000
Tribal Museum Native Plants	
Education Project .....	25,000
Native Sharing Garden .....	12,500
weleb?altx Native Garden	
Expansion.....	12,500
Maqlaq̓s Geet'kni Food	
Security Project.....	12,500
Skewk'Lelum (Raven House) .....	12,500
7 Waters Food Sovereignty	
Project .....	12,500
Chief Seattle Club Sovereignty	
Farm & ?al?al Cafe.....	12,500
Sts'ailes Food Security Initiative.....	12,500
nexwqiyt nexws^ayem Traditional	
Seasonal Rounds Book.....	12,500
Canoe Journey Herbalists .....	12,500
Interior Salish Traditional	
Foods Project.....	12,500

## Covid Crisis Relief

\$187,954 | 9 Awards | 9 Applicants

Duwamish Tribal Services.....	\$25,000
Center Pole Food Bank .....	25,000
Shoshone Bannock Tribe .....	25,000
Sakari Farms.....	4,434
Young Warrior Society .....	25,000
Day Eagle Hope Project.....	25,000
Nez Perce Food Bank.....	25,000
13 Moons Tribal Garden .....	25,000
Little Shell .....	5,000

## GRANT RECIPIENTS, continued...

### Let's Help to End Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIWP)

\$219,778 | 17 Awards | 20 Applicants

Carrying the Message - Paul Frank.....	\$10,000
Yoyot Sp'q'n'i An Indigenous Safe Shelter.....	5,000
Judylee Guthrie Memorial Totem Carving .....	20,000
STOP Violence Program .....	10,000
Data For Indigenous Justice.....	25,000
Beverly Owens .....	5,000
House of the Moon Holistic Empowerment &	
Self Defense Training.....	10,000
Missing & Murdered Indigenous People & Families .....	10,000
#AmINextCampaign .....	5,000
War Cry Podcast.....	10,000

### Green Infrastructure

\$270,700 | 11 Awards | 17 Applicants

Center Pole's Sustainable Indigenous Design Model .....	\$25,000-2 year awardee
Preservation of the Nimiipuu Traditional Root.....	25,000-2 year awardee
Lhaq'temish Foundation .....	25,000-2 year awardee
Metlakatla Composting Program.....	25,000-1 year awardee
Native Kelp Alliance.....	25,000-2 year awardee
Salish School of Spokane - Solar Power Project.....	25,000-1 year awardee
River Walkers Program & Habitat Enhancement.....	20,700-2 year awardee
Presevation of St. George & Unangan Marine	
& Cultural Heritage .....	25,000-2 year awardee
Tribal Water Security Project.....	25,000-2 year awardee
Kotzeue Electric Analysis.....	25,000-2 year awardee
Yakutat Tlingit Compost Facility.....	25,000-2 year awardee

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## OUR COMMUNITY

### Responding to the Crisis of COVID-19

Na'ah Illahee Fund responded quickly to the needs of Native communities in the Northwest region of Turtle Island with the onset of COVID-19. We saw how systemic inequities created dire circumstances for Native individuals and families in quarantine.

With the support of key funders, we were able to launch the Native Community Crisis Response Fund (NCCR), a multi-faceted resource rooted in the shared priorities of community groups, Tribes, and partners.

- With a significant focus on food security, NIF and community members delivered more than 1,200 Indigenous Food Bundles, which included food and medicines from Native producers, staples, and safety items directly to Native homes across Washington State.
- We built a collection of container garden beds for home and community spaces to generate local food sources.

- To support artists whose work and income came to a halt, we created an Indigenous artist grant program to support the livelihood of 40 artists in Seattle.
- We re-granted funds to Native nonprofits and Tribal Domestic Violence Programs to support families in crisis.

In 2020, NCCR became the largest grantmaking platform to date for NIF, through which we distributed more than \$800,000 back into Native communities.



## NA'AH ILLAHEE FUND COMMUNITY IMPACT, continued...

## GRANTMAKING

### Supporting the long-term health of indigenous communities

Built upon the expanded and trusted partnerships we established through the Native Community Crisis Response Fund, Na'ah Illahee is positioned to grow our role as an Indigenous-led public fund. We see this work as a vital path toward a Just Transition, or the needed shift from extractive to regenerative economies.

Our vision is multi-faceted and includes both immediate and long-term support for our communities rooted in Indigenous values and beliefs. In 2021, we established five funding areas and expanded our service area to include communities across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia, and the surrounding Pacific Northwest. Cohort members from all throughout the region. In Seattle we partnered with United Indians.

These community determined initiatives include:

- **Community Crisis Relief** – support for Tribes and Native groups to provide financial assistance to individuals and families in crisis due to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. In 2021, NIF funded nine Native groups and Tribes for a total of \$184,000.

- **Food Sovereignty** – support for projects such as family and community gardens, sacred seed saving and sharing, traditional food and medicine workshops with skills sharing, the re-establishment of cooperatives and Native food systems, food sovereignty assessments, and project planning. In all, 15 projects were funded for a total of \$250,000.
- **Green Infrastructure** – support for projects that include the development of renewable energy, sustainable buildings, and clean waterways, including the restoration of cultural spaces to gather in nature. In all, 11 projects were funded for a total of \$270,000.
- **Let's End Gender-Based Violence and Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & People** – support for innovative solutions, funding gaps and the Red Blanket Fund for families of the missing, as well as organizations, groups, and individuals to strengthen collaborative movements that will raise awareness and monitor policy implementation.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT, Continued...

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS Building Capacity

Na' ah Illahee Fund continued to work as a capacity builder in 2021 through programs working in tandem with our strategies as a fund, connecting to our vision of a more healthy and just future for communities and the planet.

#### Sovereign Futures Cohort

These cohorts brought together urban and rural Indigenous leaders from all around our service area, the Northwest region of Turtle Island, for nine months through a project-based curriculum to share and build knowledge, skills, and networks as they explored, identified and developed environmental and climate solutions.

Cohort members throughout the region received \$2,000 as part of the program to support their projects, which included community gardens and the re-building of food systems, the revitalization of ceremonial spaces

### Food Sovereignty & Land Restoration

Over the past two years, Na'ah Illahee Fund has developed and strengthened partnerships in the community to help advance food sovereignty and land restoration.

- We established community gardens in partnership with Black Star Farmers at the University of Washington Botanic Arboretum. We harvested and distributed more than 400 pounds of food to Indigenous and Black communities.
- We worked with partners Canoe Journey Herbalists and Garden Raised Bounty to build home and community gardens for our relatives to grow food and medicines in Quinault and Skokomish communities.
- In Quinault, we worked with youth and other community members to create 20 garden beds.
- In Seattle we partnered with United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and community members to restore the trails, grounds, and wildlife of the 20-acre lands adjacent to the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center, aligning use of the park with Indigenous cultural values and practices. This ongoing project involves working with Indigenous youth to restore trails, who participate in tending to the land while also gaining ecological knowledge.

### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE Investing in People and Land

In our homebase community of Seattle, where most of our staff lives, there is a strongly held wish for the urban Native community to have a home base within Seattle to live, work, gather, learn and share in traditional cultural practices. This is connected to the wider need for Indigenous peoples to be restored to the decision-making and stewardship roles of urban and rural lands, to bring healing and regeneration to Indigenous communities and Mother Earth.

To fulfill that vision, Na' ah Illahee Fund is working on a long-term goal to launch the E'Lip Tilikum Land Conservancy, where together with Indigenous-led groups and Nations we can restore, preserve and protect land, waterways, plant and animal relatives—and Mother Earth herself.

The Native Neighborhood Project is a capital campaign in partnership with the Indigenous Seattle Coalition that will raise funds to make the Native Neighborhood a reality – a multi-acre, multi-use space that will include space for nonprofits, Tribal Nations, and

businesses; gathering areas for arts, culture and celebration; housing for community members; and outdoor spaces for ceremonies and growing traditional foods and medicines.

Read more about the Native Neighborhood Project at: [www.naahillahee.org/community-programs/nn](http://www.naahillahee.org/community-programs/nn)



# DEVELOPMENT

## Tremendous Growth

### GRANTS AND MAJOR GIFTS

The past year was one of tremendous growth for Na'ah Illahee Fund. Coming out of a very challenging year, we set a goal to establish long-term financial stability for the organization. To accomplish this, we continued to build the internal infrastructure needed to support both immediate and long-term fundraising strategies, prioritize unrestricted support, and diversify our contributed revenue.

We made significant progress in several areas.

### GRANTS AND MAJOR GIFTS

- We submitted more than 60 grant proposals to foundations and secured approximately \$1.5 million for 2021.
- We received multi-year gifts from both foundations and major donors.
- The majority of secured funds are for general operations and broad program support.

Serving Indigenous Communities of the Northwest Region of Turtle Island from the Arctic to the Rockies.

### INDIVIDUAL GIVING

- We launched a monthly giving program with the goal of growing our donor base through sustained support. By year's end, we had 24 monthly donors.
- We raised funds from individual donors in the second half of 2021.
- We identified over a dozen returning major donors and created a stewardship plan for each of them.
- We launched our second end-of-year fundraising campaign—"Our Future is Together"—on Giving Tuesday to highlight the impact of NIF grantmaking.

## DEVELOPMENT, continued...

### DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS

- We worked to better integrate reconciliation processes between development and finance departments by updating the process for all gift entries and acknowledgements, tracking grant agreements, pledges, and more.
- We drafted a gift acceptance policy that reflects both standard policy requirements as well as a value-based screen for soliciting and receiving gifts. Our long-term goal is for these values to be more customized to the values, vision and needs of Na' ah Illahee Fund, which will result from our strategic planning process.

### THANK YOU TO OUR MULTI-YEAR FUNDING PARTNERS

 **NoVo  
Foundation**  
\$300,000  
over three years

ANONYMOUS  
INDIVIDUAL  
DONOR  
\$300,000  
over three years

 **Satterberg  
foundation**  
\$450,000  
over three years

 **CEDAR TREE  
FOUNDATION**  
\$150,000  
over three years

 **BILL &  
MELINDA  
GATES  
foundation**  
\$150,000  
over three years

 **meyer  
MEMORIAL TRUST**  
\$180,000  
over two years

WITH DEEP GRATITUDE TO OUR BOARD

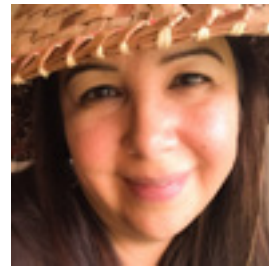
# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



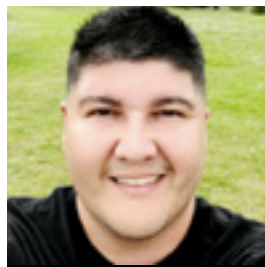
**Brooke Pinkham**  
President  
Nimiipuu  
she | her  
Seattle, WA



**Bernadette Zambrano**  
Vice President  
Chicana  
she | her  
Oakland, CA



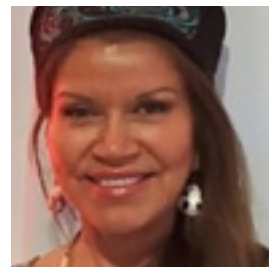
**Jeanne Jackson McMinds**  
Secretary  
Quileute | Quinault  
she | her  
Olympia, WA



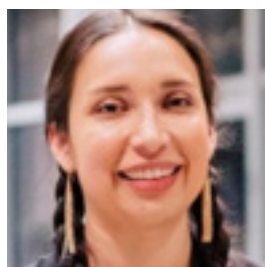
**Tim Lehman**  
Treasurer  
Northern Arapaho  
he | him  
Seattle, WA



**Asia Tail**  
Member at Large  
Cherokee  
she | her  
Seattle, WA



**Charlotte Coté**  
Member at Large  
Nuu-chah-nulth  
she | her  
Seattle, WA



**Kimberly Deriana**  
Member at Large  
Mandan | Hidatsa  
she | her  
Seattle, WA

## WE RAISE OUR HANDS TO YOU!

Thank you to our Board of Directors. Your service to our Native communities helps them thrive.

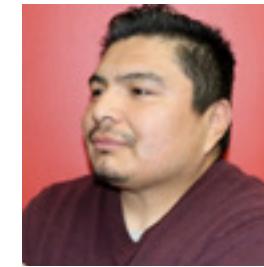
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OUR DEDICATED STAFF

# STAFF



**Cece Hoffman,**  
Environmental Justice  
Program Coordinator  
Umatilla | Nimiipuu | Ojibwe  
she | her  
Seattle, WA



**Johnny Buck, WISE**  
Action Program Director  
Wanapum | Yakama  
he | him  
Bellevue, WA



**Yireidi Valencia-  
Martinez, Youth  
Program Coordinator**  
Hnahn (Otomí Nation) |  
Hidatsa they | them  
Seattle, WA



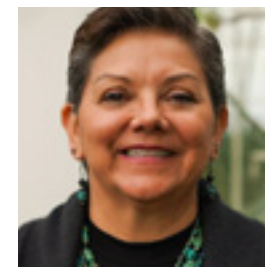
**Sajid Al Sanai**  
Finance and  
Contracts Specialist  
he | him  
Seattle, WA



**Shanoa Pinkham**  
Food & Land Restoration  
Coordinator  
Yakama | Southern Cheyenne  
she | her  
Seattle, WA



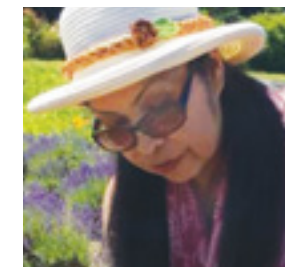
**Susan Balbas,**  
Executive Director  
Cherokee | Yaqui  
she | her  
Clinton, WA



**Joni Crines**  
Grants Program Officer  
Agai | Dicutta (Walker River  
Paiute Tribe) she | her  
Seattle, WA



**Shawn Peterson**  
Community  
Partnerships Manager  
Nuu-chah-nulth she | her  
Seattle, WA



**Shelly Vendiola**  
Program Manager  
Swinomish | Visayan  
she | her  
Anacortes, WA

STAFF

OUR GRATITUDE

# THANK YOU!



**Susan Welsh**

Dine | Mohave | Chemehuevi

We are grateful for your time as our Board of Directors Secretary – Susan is currently an independent consultant in organizational development on her home reservation in Arizona.



**Tawna Sanchez**

Shoshone-Bannock | Ute

We raise our hands to you! Thank you for your time as our Board President. Tawna is the Director of Family Services at the Native American Youth and Family Center in Portland, Oregon and serves in the Oregon State House of Representatives for District 43.



**BRIDGET RAY**

Ojibwe | Michif

Thank you for your time as Director of Strategic Partnerships for Na'ah Illahee Fund. Bridget is currently stewarding two Native nonprofits developed under Na'ah Illahee Fund. She is on the Board of Directors of Yarrow Project and is the Director of the Salish Sea Collective.





## NA'AH ILLAHEE FUND

[www.naahillahee.org](http://www.naahillahee.org)

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[info@naahillahee.org](mailto:info@naahillahee.org)

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Seattle, WA 98122

Mailing Address:  
Na'ah Illahee Fund  
PO Box 17844  
Seattle, WA 98127

EIN: 05-0630992