



**NATIVE  
ORGANIZERS  
ALLIANCE**



# LETTER FROM JUDITH LE BLANC

Executive Director of Native Organizers Alliance

It has never been more important to resist the dismantling of our democracy, to reclaim our inherent human rights, and to rebuild what has been taken from our communities. It has also never been more evident that our Indigenous traditional practices—caring for our communities, and raising our voices against injustice—are critical to creating the kind of world we deserve to live in.

As we stood alongside our Native relatives, community groups, and neighbors on the very cold, snowy streets of Minneapolis, my heart was full of pride and hopefulness. People led with their hearts and their humanity. Tens of thousands of people proved that our traditional practices have stood the test of time: when we take the initiative to work together to create a safer community, and focus on the well-being of our neighbors, we all benefit.

In the fourteen years since the Native Organizers Alliance was formed, we have stood side by side with our relatives in the movements for social justice, the protection of sacred places, and sovereignty. Following the leadership of Tribes, Native community organizations, and spiritual leaders, we have fought for an inclusive democracy, a safer, more just world, and the protection of the land and waters. Whether it is standing with Tribes and communities against fossil fuel extraction contaminating our resources, or standing in solidarity with immigrant communities against the illegal detention of our neighbors, we are guided by the traditional values passed down by our ancestors who taught us to stand together and form circles of care and protection for Mother Earth and for all who live on Turtle Island.

The heart of our work is to help Tribal and Native communities do what they have done in the neighborhoods of Minneapolis: organize the grassroots to realize the power they hold to resist injustices, reclaim our human rights and rights of the natural world, and rebuild systems of governance. In a time of uncertainty, disruption, and seemingly insurmountable challenges, NOA is playing a vital and unique role in supporting tribal and grassroots leaders and organizers to learn, organize, and live to be good ancestors for all generations to come.

*Judith Le Blanc*

**Judith Le Blanc (Caddo)**  
Executive Director

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

-  **About Native Organizers Alliance** ..... **4**
-  **Our impact** ..... **8**
-  **Building resilience through organizing** ..... **10**
-  **Training the next generation of change makers** ..... **12**
-  **Knowledge-sharing with community leaders and organizers** ..... **14**
-  **Coalition building strengthens our collective power** ..... **16**
-  **Investing in our communities** ..... **20**
-  **About the cover art** ..... **23**



# ABOUT NATIVE ORGANIZERS ALLIANCE

Native Organizers Alliance leans into the political power of our people and the wisdom of our ancestors to strengthen tribes and Native communities' ability to uphold sovereignty, protect sacred places, and build a more inclusive democracy. We provide organizing trainings, resources, and networking opportunities that help build powerful grassroots movements in Indian Country.



## MISSION

We support and mobilize Indian Country to protect our treaty, civil, and human rights for generations to come.

## VISION

We believe that Native peoples and sovereign nations will lead us with traditional Indigenous values towards a future where all people, lands, waters, and resources are healthy and thriving.

## MEET OUR NEW TEAM MEMBERS



**Taylor Gibbs**  
(Mvskoke/Cherokee)  
Data and Systems  
Manager



**Iko'tsimiskimaki 'Ekoo' Beck** (Blackfeet/Métis/Ojibwe)  
Fellowship Program  
Manager



**Sidney Kabotie**  
(Crow/Hopi/Pueblo)  
Organizing Training  
Manager

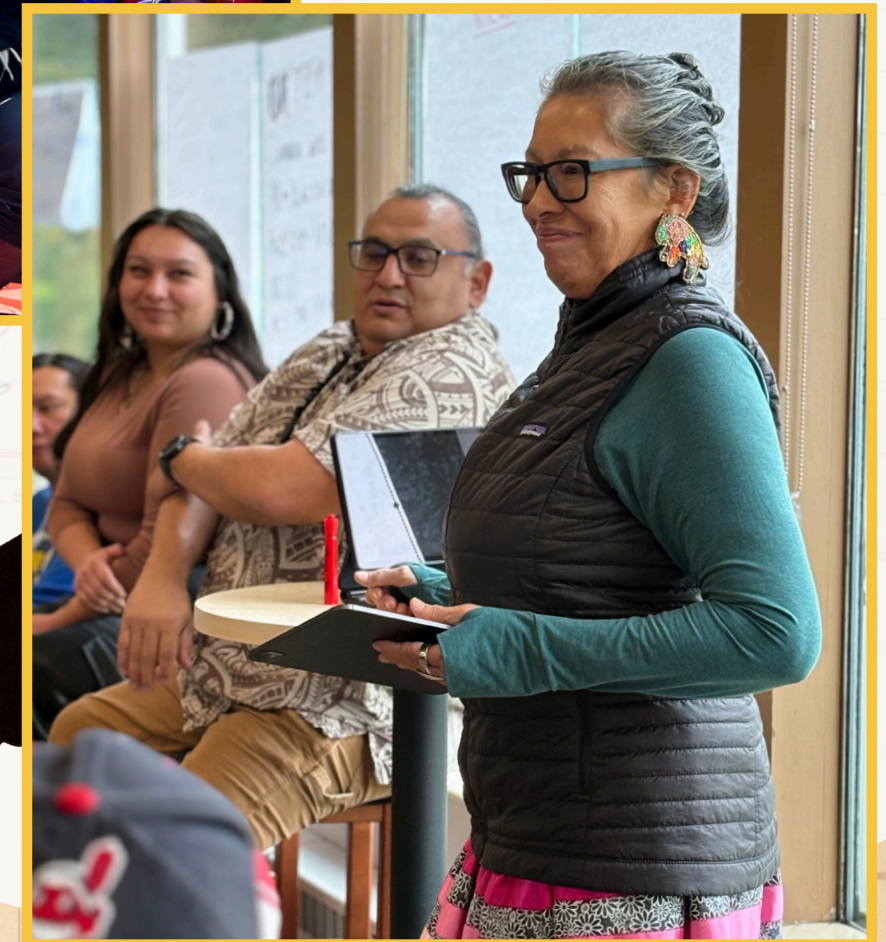


# OUR WORK REFLECTS THE STRENGTH OF OUR COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

For over a decade, we've built relationships, shared knowledge between our partners, and formed powerful alliances to serve as a solid foundation for what's ahead.

In 2025, **we prioritized big investments that built new relationships and strengthened old ones through organizer trainings, coalition work, and idea and expertise sharing via conference panels, critical community conversations, and more.**

Now, our network is even stronger and ready to do the essential work. From seeking policy change, to ensuring that our unique Indigenous perspectives are heard and valued, we aren't just focused on today, but the change we want to see so that the next generations can thrive.



# OUR IMPACT: BY THE NUMBERS

95

Native organizing training participants

19

Organizing fellows

334,592

email subscribers

1,713,108

people reached on social media

7.7 BILLION

people reached via media\*

\* Estimated combined reach of online, mobile, broadcast, and print media.



# BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH ORGANIZING

**Organizing has never been more important in this century than it is now.** Since 2010, NOA has been building an ecosystem of organizers who are leading with their traditional values. We've conducted national, state, local, and community trainings with tribal leaders, Native grassroots organizers, community leaders, and others across Turtle Island, to equip them with the skills and tools needed to mobilize their communities and build resilience to the ever-changing political and social conditions we find ourselves in today.



## 2025 NATIVE ORGANIZING TRAININGS

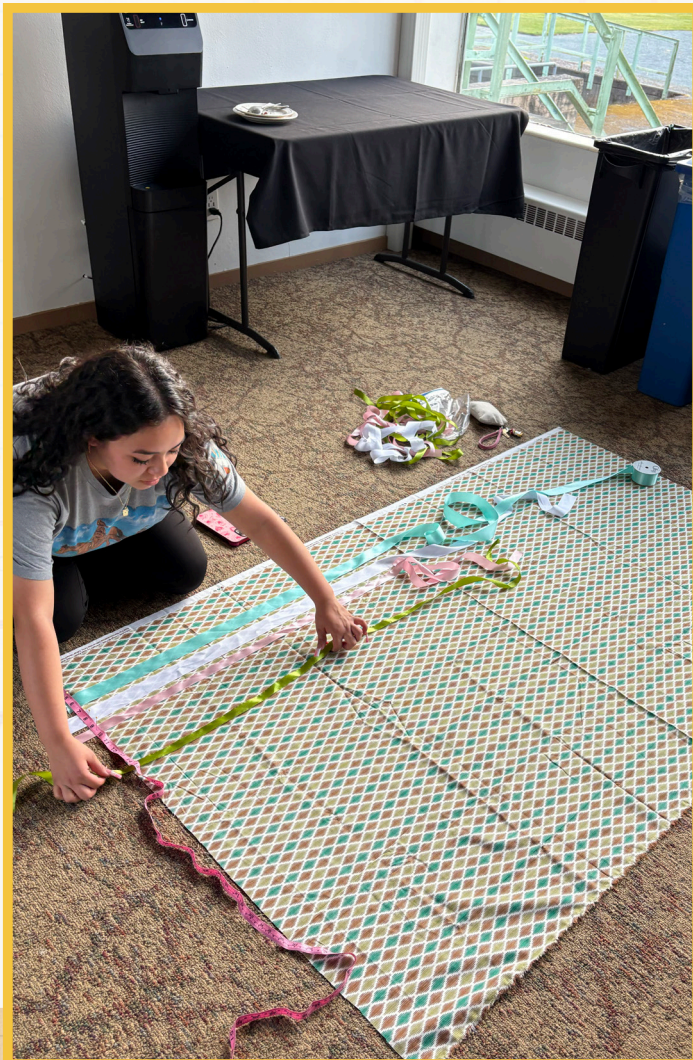
In 2025, we conducted three Native organizing trainings, two nationally focused trainings and one community training on the Wind River Indian Reservation. **These trainings provided hands-on learning opportunities** where participants shared their insights, learned from each other, and discussed real-world examples of how the tools provided during the training, and our traditional values, can guide effective grassroots movements.



# TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHANGE MAKERS

NOA's 12-week organizing fellowship is unlike any other in Indian Country. Our fellowship **supports organizers across the country in their work to affect change and amplify their voices.**

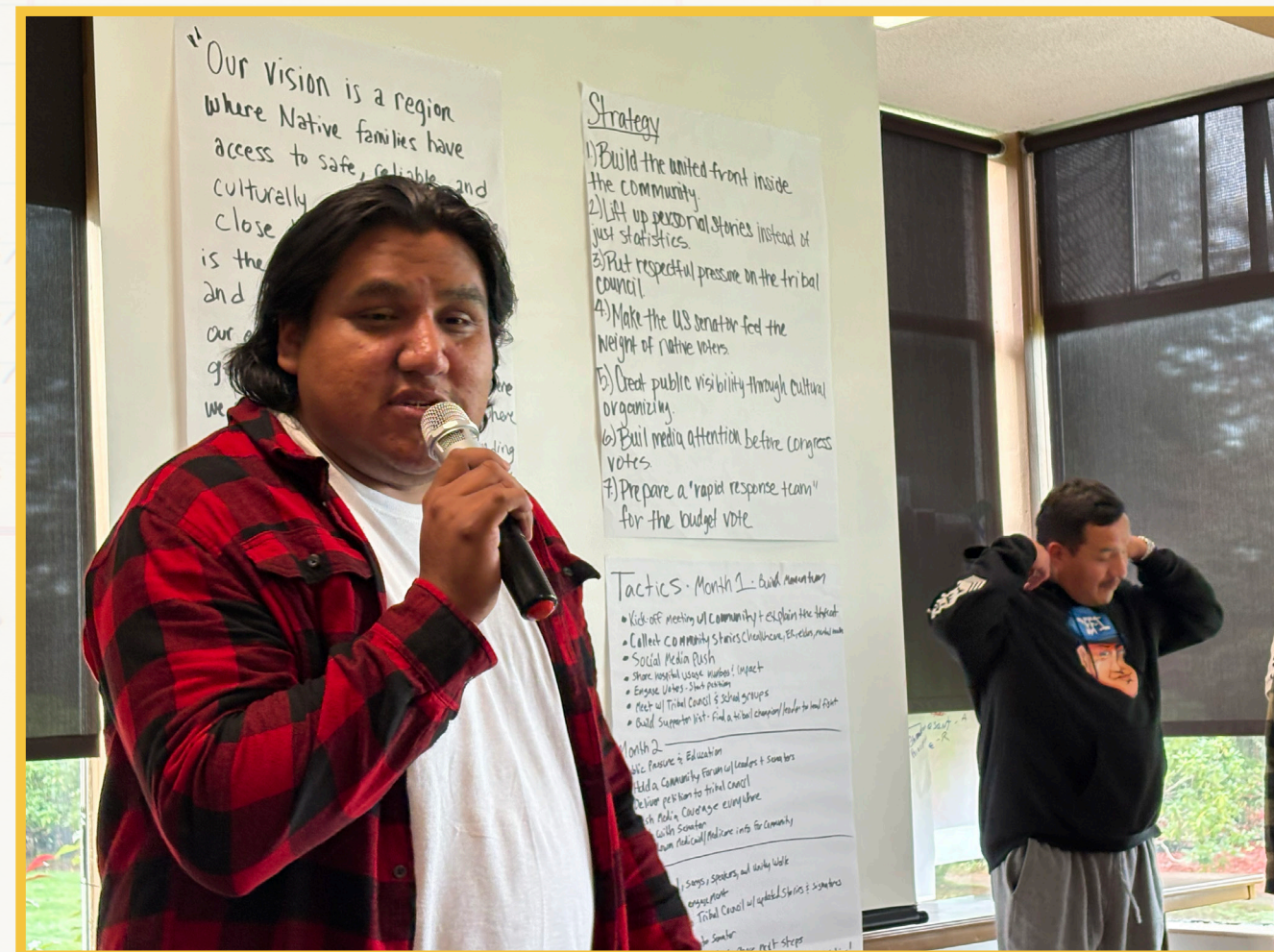
Whether a fellow wants to educate the community about the impacts of a new mining operation near treaty-protected waters or work with Native youth to better understand tribal governance, we provide hands-on support from helping them define their goal and establishing benchmarks to measuring success and collaborating with them to address any issues that arise along the way.



## 2025 ORGANIZING FELLOWSHIP

Our 2025 fellows saw real diversity in their scopes of work, from protecting sacred places to supporting youth programs and furthering Native parent engagement in urban public schools.

Participants in our 2025 program included: Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, Native American Women's Dialog on Infant Mortality, Protect the Sacred, Make Voting a Tradition/Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI), and Arizona Native Vote.



# KNOWLEDGE SHARING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS AND ORGANIZERS

Conferences and panels provide opportunities for community building and knowledge sharing between tribal leaders, elected officials, philanthropic entities, community organizers, and strategists. **In 2025, NOA participated in nine conferences and panels covering a diverse range of topics**, from tribal sovereignty and LGBTQ+ rights to civic engagement and crisis communication strategies.

## 22ND CENTURY CONFERENCE

In June, Judith Le Blanc, NOA's executive director, attended the 22nd Century Conference and hosted a session titled "Resist the Divide: Uniting for Sovereignty, Equity, and Human Rights" alongside United We Dream, Transgender Law Center, and the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.

This session explored **the powerful role that collective action plays** in protecting treaty rights of border tribes, Two-Spirit LGBTQ+ relatives, and immigrants as part of a strategy to confront the systemic injustices that threaten our shared global future.



## 2025 NATIONAL UNITY CONFERENCE

In July, NOA attended the National UNITY Conference, a five-day youth-led event that provides leadership development opportunities to more than 2,500 Native youth annually.

NOA brought 20 Native youth from nine Tribal Nations and villages across the U.S. to the conference and hosted a session for conference attendees that **equipped them with the tools to engage and organize their communities to respond to the political moment.**

## ADDITIONAL 2025 CONFERENCES AND PANELS:



- Brave Heart Society's Field School
- Alliance for Indigenous Environmental Stewardship Summit
- Democracies Under Attack: From Crisis to Strategy gathering
- DC Pride bipartisan congressional briefings
- Funders' Committee for Civic Participation (FCCP) conference
- Hispanics in Philanthropy (HIP) and Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP) joint conference
- Protect the Sacred's Youth Summit



COALITION BUILDING  
STRENGTHENS OUR  
COLLECTIVE POWER

Coalitions are an important tool for advocacy and organizing as they create effective collaborations between individuals and entities with aligned priorities and goals. Coalitions also provide opportunities for relationship building and shared amplification of coordinated strategic messaging. **Each year, NOA participates in a number of coalitions that share a focus with our organizational priorities—upholding tribal sovereignty, protecting sacred places, and organizing for a multiracial democracy.**



## NATIVE AMERICAN VOTING RIGHTS COALITION (NAVRC)

NAVRC is a nonpartisan alliance of national and grassroots organizations, scholars, and activists advocating for equal access for Native Americans in the political process. NOA has been a member of the coalition since 2018. In 2025, we attended the annual NAVRC gathering hosted by the Native American Rights Fund (NARF).



# COALITION FOR OUTDOOR RENAMING AND EDUCATION (CORE)

CORE is a coalition of organizations and individuals who are committed to restoring justice through an inclusive process of reconciliation by renaming offensive places. Our mission is to **address harmful, racist, and derogatory place names through educating with honest narratives, healing through holistic connection to place, and planting seeds for a future that supports all communities.**

NOA is a part of the coalition's steering committee and helps guide their policy and communications efforts. In 2025, we partnered with CORE on their campaigns to re-Indigenize national parks and fight against efforts to erase Indigenous history and connections to the land.



# ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE COALITION

In 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which oversees the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), announced its plan to repeal the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. This move would take away crucial environmental protections for more than 45 million acres of public forests, including sacred places, such as the Badger Two-Medicine area in Montana and the Tongass National Forest in Alaska.

In September 2025, NOA partnered with The Wilderness Society and Sierra Club to uplift the **two-week totem pole journey led by Se'Si'Le and Lummi Nation's House of Tears Carvers in support of keeping the Roadless Area Conservation Rule intact.**

## ADDITIONAL COALITION PARTICIPATION:

- Black Liberation-Indigenous Sovereignty (BLIS) Collective
- Climate Justice Alliance
- Rising Majority
- Women's March



# INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

NOA believes in the power of partnerships to amplify the voices of our communities. **Each year, NOA partners with Tribal Nations, Native-led organizations, and others around a variety of issues that impact Indian Country.** We support our partners by offering strategies and communications support and leveraging our national reach to engage new audiences.



## PROTECTING SACRED PLACES WITH THE MICCOSUKEE TRIBE

NOA previously worked with the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians to uphold their treaty-protected access to Big Cypress Natural Preserve in 2024.

In 2025, the Miccosukee Tribe faced yet another threat to this sacred place when the U.S. opened an immigration detention center, nicknamed "Alligator Alcatraz", inside Big Cypress in violation of the Tribe's sovereignty and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. **NOA supported the Miccosukee Tribe's strategic communication efforts opposing the detention center, including earned media and digital activation to garner bipartisan support to close the facility.**



©Big Cypress National Preserve; Miccosukee Tribe

# ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY DIALOGUE WITH THE UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE

In 2025, NOA partnered with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's 100 Years of Silence Project for a two-part webinar series titled "100 Years of Silence and Reclamation of History."

A project spearheaded by Ute community leaders, storytellers, and artists, 100 Years of Silence aims to **enhance understanding of Indigenous values and history, and encourage community dialogue** by breaking the silence around the Aniknuche Incarceration of 1923 under which members of the Ute Tribe, men, women, and children, were removed from their traditional Ute land in the Bears Ears area of southeastern Utah and incarcerated in barbed wire cages.

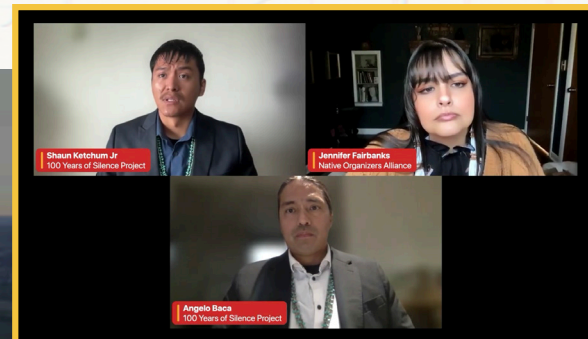
This webinar series was part of a broader arts and public education campaign to enhance public understanding of Native American history and lived experience, and encourage community dialogue.

## TEAM MEMBERS:

MALCOLM LEHI, SHAUN KETCHUM, JUANITA PLENTYHOLES, FORREST CUCH, GAVIN NOYES, ALISHA ANDERSON, JEDEDIAH ROGERS, SHELLI WITT, ALISHA ANDERSON, GENA PEONE, ANGELO BACA

## 100 YEARS OF SILENCE HISTORY PROJECT: 1923-2023

### "THE ANIKNUCHE INCARCERATION OF 1923"



## ABOUT THE COVER ART

"Uplifted" by Blackfeet artist John I. Pepion is a tribute to those who reach the summit, carried by the strength and sacrifices of those who came before but never made it there themselves. It honors the journey upward not as a solitary climb, but as one shared with others, past and present, whose presence makes the ascent possible. Magpies, a favorite bird of John's, appear as symbols of watchfulness, intelligence, and connection, moving between worlds and witnessing the path from below to above.

**John I. Pepion (Blackfeet Nation) [www.johnisaiahpepion.com](http://www.johnisaiahpepion.com)**





**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT**



**LEARN MORE**