



Northland Foundation awards 18 Maada'ookiing grants to Indigenous individuals for community projects

Members of the Maada'ookiing board approve \$45,000 in funding for diversity of creative, grassroots work

(November 18, 2021)

The Northland Foundation is pleased to announce the individuals and projects being supported with Maada'ookiing grants awarded in October. The [Maada'ookiing board](#) recommended full funding for 18 applications, for a total of \$45,000 – an increase over the \$32,300 awarded in June.

“The projects awarded grants this round show the breadth of Indigenous cultural strategies in action across Northeast Minnesota,” said LeAnn Littlewolf, Senior Program Officer, “with creative efforts to strengthen community, continue Indigenous cultural practices, and deepen cultural knowledge across generations.”

Maada'ookiing grants are funded by the Northland Foundation's grant program. The foundation initially set aside \$25,000 for each grant round this year but is committing additional resources based on the higher-than-expected quantity of applications received.

"With nearly 40 applications in the first two rounds we are seeing the enormous amount of work being done at the grassroots level to strengthen Indigenous communities in our service area – the kinds of projects that were happening anyway but unsupported by philanthropy. We are grateful for and honored to help fund the work of these grantees," stated Erik Torch, Director of Grantmaking.

[Maada'ookiing](#) (“the distribution” in Ojibwe) is an effort by the Northland Foundation to strengthen relationships with Indigenous community, build partnerships with Native nations, and offer support for community members to expand capacity in northeastern Minnesota. A [grant opportunity](#) will be offered three times per year, awarding up to \$2,500 per grant for Tribal citizens, descendants, or those have kinship ties or affiliation to Indigenous communities within the foundation's geographic service area. Grant applications are accepted anytime through an online grant portal. The next application deadline is February 15, 2022.

The October 2021 grantees are:

Collette Pederson: \$2,500

To capture Elder's stories of their lives and knowledge to share the history of Grand Portage community.

Rebecca Gawboy: \$2,500

To host a weekend gathering of Native women to make their own hand drums, ribbon skirts, bond, pray, and be in ceremony.

Muriel Deegan: \$2,500

To offer weekly evening sessions for community members to bead, hear traditional winter stories, and learn cultural teachings at Vermilion Social Center.

Briand Morrison: \$2,500

To create and perform original music, Anishinaabe Blues, with three live performances in Grand Portage at the Elders Powwow, on a live radio show, and at Wabaan, a healing circle.

Billy Blackwell: \$2,500

To capture and retain the stories of the history and culture of the Grand Portage Anishinaabe before the stories are lost. This project will record stories on video and digitally so they can be made available to all people who want to learn.

Janis Fairbanks: \$2,500

To create a book that highlights traditional Ojibwe beadwork design and techniques featuring the life work of Ralph Fairbanks, a traditional Ojibwe Elder (1948 - 2020), with pictures of his work and commentary on the artistic, spiritual, and cultural importance of his legacy to pass this knowledge to future generations.

Alexander Kmett: \$2,500

To create an informational video that highlights the importance of both food sovereignty and language revitalization, and how they are both relevant in developing our way of relating to the natural world as Indigenous peoples.

Linda Newman: \$2,500

To educate, support, and empower young women (ages 12+) of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa through opportunities to work with traditional sled dogs, paddle into the BWCA, learn to make beeswax candles, and immerse themselves in off-grid activities.

Brian Stillday: \$2,500

To teach children in the Duluth area traditional singing basics, back-up singing, and the responsibility of handling a drum.

Maija Stillday: \$2,500

To teach ribbon skirt and regalia making to youth in Duluth and host a fashion show in a round dance style to display the youths' work.

Tashia Hart: \$2,500

To make narratives of healthy, healing portrayals of love, body, and relationships easily accessible to uplift Native communities of Minnesota and beyond. Free copies of the novel Native Love Jams will be distributed to tribal libraries, women's shelters, and other locations.

Patra Wise: \$2,500

To host a workshop to teach Native youth the art of preserving culturally significant herbs, in partnership with the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Community Center and American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO).

Jordan Gawboy: \$2,500

To offer drumming and regalia making classes for youth ages 8-18 years old at Bois Forte Tribal Nation communities of Lake Vermilion and Nett Lake in a community center setting.

Ryan Bajan: \$2,500

To hold drum circle once a week in after-school programming on the Bois Forte Tribal Nation with youth 6-18 years old.

Airlea DeFoe: \$2,500

To host an event to raise awareness, funds, and resources for Indigenous peoples who are unhoused, in emergency shelter, and spotlight issues that cause Native homelessness.

Ashley Ammesmaki: \$2,500

To create a MMIW (missing murdered indigenous women)-MMIS (missing murdered indigenous survivors) Beaded Mural to educate on these movements to help MMIW and MMIS families and survivors, raise awareness, and generate more resources.

October Allen: \$2,500

To add cultural components to a successful recovery/wellness group within a housing support program and bring awareness to the needs of Indigenous women and the importance of cultural activities.

Danielle Pieratos: \$2,500

To create a Farmers Market Manager for the Ode-imini Giizhis (Strawberry Moon) Farmers Market on Bois Forte Tribal Nation to increase healthy, local, fresh food access.

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