



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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## The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Relatives,

As the 2024 election results have brought forward the next chapter, we wish to offer words of encouragement to sustain, uplift, and remind our community that NABS will continue to seek truth, justice, and healing from US Indian boarding schools. While presidential leadership transition can often bring uncertainty, we are confident that relationships we have cultivated on both sides of the aisle will be essential in the continued truth-telling of the forced removal and coercion of Native children from their families and their nations.

NABS has always been strategically responsive when National leadership shifts have occurred, understanding the necessity for ensuring the alignment with our vision and advocacy for boarding school Survivors, their families, and their nations. During some of the most challenging times, we have continued to stand in our resilience, arm and arm with boarding school survivors and their descendants.

NABS will continue to uplift our work in a bipartisan manner, as we always have, ensuring that the voices and concerns of boarding school survivors and descendants transcend party politics. We continue to value our strength among the relationships that we have built within our communities, across political parties, and most importantly among each other. We will continue to seek truth, justice, and healing, continuing to stand in solidarity with you.

tígʷicid,

  
**DEBORAH PARKER**

(Tulalip Tribes)  
Chief Executive Officer



## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ruth Anna Buffalo  
(Mandan Hidatsa Arikara  
Nation)  
President



Ramona Klein, Ed.D.  
(Turtle Mountain Band of  
Chippewa)  
1st Vice President



Juana Majel-Dixon, PhD  
(Pauma-Yuima Band of Luiseño  
Indians) 2nd Vice President



Travis Miller  
(Stockbridge-Munsee Band  
of Mohicans)  
Treasurer



Rochelle Ettawageshik  
(Little Traverse Bay Bands  
of Odawa Indians)  
Secretary



Agnes Attakai, MPA  
(Diné/Navajo Nation)



James LaBelle Sr.  
(Inupiaq)



Chief Benjamin Barnes  
(The Shawnee Tribe)





# 2024 SNAPSHOT



57

GUEST SPEAKING  
PRESENTATIONS



1

LAUNCHED THE  
FIRST OF ITS KIND  
NATIONAL  
INDIGENOUS  
BOARDING SCHOOL  
DIGITAL ARCHIVES  
(NIBSDA)

[HTTPS://BOARDINGSCHOOL  
HEALING.ORG/NIBSDA](https://boardingschoolhealing.org/nibsd)

1,602

NABS COALITION  
MEMBERS AND  
GROWING

20

HEALING  
CIRCLES HELD  
FOR BOARDING  
SCHOOL  
SURVIVORS  
AND  
DESCENDANTS



11,000+

ENGAGED IN NABS ORGANIZED  
EVENTS, LISTENING SESSIONS,  
AND SOCIAL MEDIA



# POLICY & ADVOCACY

The Truth and Healing Commission (S. 1723/H.R. 7227) gained significant bipartisan momentum, with 80 co-sponsors in the House and 32 in the Senate. The bill achieved a critical milestone by passing the House Education and Workforce Committee with strong bipartisan support (34-4) and securing waivers of jurisdiction from the House Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce Committees. S.1723 passed the Senate committee on Indian Affairs and unanimously passed the US Senate.

Throughout the year, NABS actively collaborated with congressional leaders, staff, lobbyists, and partners to advance this legislation toward passage. NABS staff traveled to Washington, D.C., throughout the year, engaging in advocacy efforts and educating to build bipartisan support.

In September, the NABS Communications team led a National Day of Remembrance in Washington, D.C. with supporters and key partners, including Secretary Deb Haaland. The event amplified national awareness and energized stakeholders. Our Tribal Leaders Campaign has been pivotal, showcasing widespread support across Indian Country through compelling quotes, photos, and endorsements shared on NABS' social media platforms. Additionally, Tribes, organizations, and religious entities have passed resolutions formally supporting the Truth and Healing Commission Act.



## HEALING



*Serene Thin Elk*  
*Director of Indigenous Mindfulness*

Over the past year, NABS has expanded its impact by integrating Indigenous healing practices in all our work and hiring a Director of Indigenous Mindfulness to join the Elder in Residence for a culturally grounded healing team. In Minnesota's Twin Cities, NABS hosted 20 healing circles for boarding school survivors and descendants, fostering community connections and cultural reconnection. A pottery workshop allowed survivors to create vessels featuring their ancestors' images, supporting healing and relationship-building.

Additionally, all boarding school survivors interviewed through the Oral History Project received care packages filled with culturally relevant Indigenous-made items to enhance well-being. In December, NABS collaborated with the National Institute of Health (NIH) Tribal Health Research Office (THRO) to host the Federal Indian Boarding School Healing Summit, a landmark event advancing NABS and NIH efforts to address the intergenerational harms caused by the Indian Civilization Act and federal Indian boarding school policies on American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities.



# ORAL HISTORY PROJECT



In September of 2023, NABS entered into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of the Interior to create a permanent oral history collection of federal Indian boarding school survivor testimonies that will be made publicly available at the completion of the project. This historic multi-year project is led by the NABS oral history project team, along with Sky Bear Media from Washington. The oral history project anticipates visiting twenty states over the course of two and a half years.



As of December 2024, NABS' Oral Historians conducted 168 interviews during visits to Oklahoma, Alaska, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Utah, Michigan, and Hawai'i. The project anticipates visits to another nine sites for the year 2025.

***"Telling my story has been a weight lifted off my shoulders. The world needs to know." - Dr. Ramona Charette Klein, Indian boarding school survivor and NABS Board 1st Vice-President***



INTERVIEWS  
CONDUCTED WITH  
INDIAN BOARDING  
SCHOOL  
SURVIVORS/ATTENDEES  
ACROSS THE U.S.

9 STATES VISITED  
FOR THE ORAL  
HISTORY  
PROJECT IN  
2024

OPENING/  
CLOSING  
CEREMONIES  
HELD

18

762  
RELATIVES  
ATTENDED  
OPENING/CLOSING  
CEREMONIES



# DIGITAL ARCHIVES

A significant outcome of NABS in the past year was launching the National Indian Boarding School Digital Archives (NIBSDA), a first-of-its-kind digital asset management system to organize and make publicly accessible the historical records and materials for every identified federally funded Indian boarding school institution. NIBSDA was conceptualized to serve as a national digital repository and searchable database for boarding school archival collections throughout the United States. As part of truth-telling and healing, access to boarding school records for survivors and descendants is paramount to understanding this history and its consequences on Tribal Nations. NABS' Digital Archives team is working diligently to retrieve, scan, and catalog records so they are permanently accessible, which is a long-term effort.

The Digital Archives team has engaged in multiple listening sessions to ensure the development of NIBSDA is community centered. NABS organized listening sessions in partnership with Indigenous communities and Tribal Nations, including the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota, Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, and Chickaloon Traditional Village with the Alaska Native Heritage Center in the Anchorage area.



*"We believe that expanding access to these records is essential for raising public awareness of these issues and ultimately driving a national movement toward truth, justice, and healing." - Fallon Carey (Cherokee Nation) Digital Archives Manager*

## RESEARCH & EDUCATION



The Research & Education Team has been working diligently to complete the Boarding School Institution (BSI) Narratives. As of September 2024, approximately 272 narratives have been finalized, representing just over half of the 523 BSI's documented in 2023. We will continue updating and incorporating the newly identified 526 BSI records to ensure all necessary information is captured.

- During the Research Webinar on Hawai'i Boarding Schools held on May 9, 2024, we saw participation from over 250 individuals across the country, demonstrating the wide-reaching impact of NABS' work on a national scale.
- Our second Research Webinar on Epidemics in Boarding Schools was held on September 25, 2024, and over 425 individuals from across the country participated.
- NABS is collaborating with Dr. Amy Fish to facilitate an online healing group. This project launched in November 2024.
- Noteworthy collaborations over the past year include partnerships with the Division of Indian Work, Wisdom Steps, Carleton College, Native Americans in Philanthropy, Sicangu Youth Council, USD Native American Student Services, Haskell Indian Nations University, and the Minnesota Indian Education Association.



**Deidre Whiteman**  
Director of Research and Education

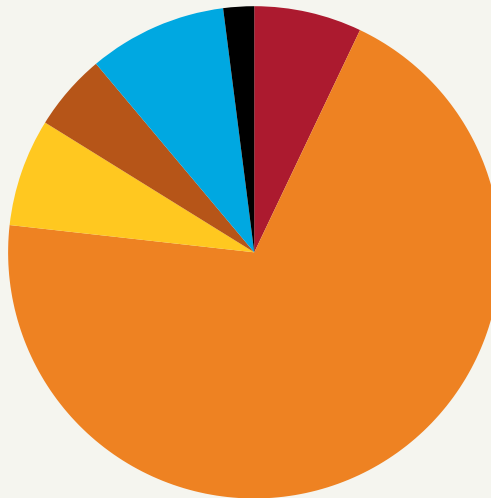
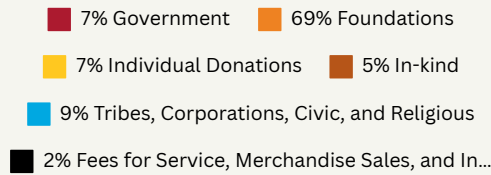


# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

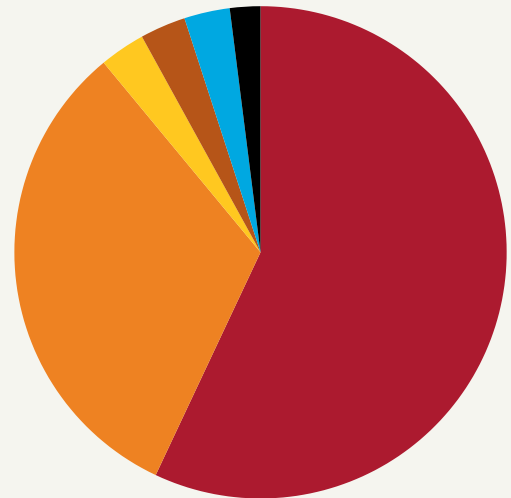
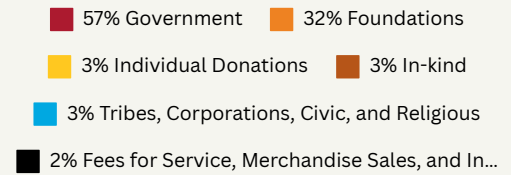
## FISCAL YEAR-END SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

This year has been one of growth and progress for NABS. Expenses for FY23-24 totaled \$4,303,379 compared to \$2,396,324 in FY22-23, showing a growth of 79.6%. With growth comes opportunities to expand our national strategy, increase public awareness and cultivate healing. The greatest change in funding was a shift to 57% of funds coming from government sources with a lesser percentage from foundations and other sources compared to the previous year.

### FY22-23 SOURCE OF FUNDS



### FY23-24 SOURCE OF FUNDS



## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,732,219
Restricted Cash	794,837
Certificate of Deposit	3,000,000
Accounts Receivable	11,250
Contributions Receivable, net	489,473
Prepaid Expenses	113,148
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>6,188,718</b>
Contributions receivable, long-term, net	
Right of use asset, net of accumulated amortization of \$27,216	60,302
Equipment, net	57,557
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$6,306,577</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$ 213,321
Accrued Expenses	107,318
Refundable Advances	380,405
Lease Liability	29,958
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>731,002</b>
Lease Liability, long-term portion	32,198
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>763,200</b>
<b>Net assets:</b>	
Net assets without donor restrictions	4,688,465
Net assets with donor restrictions	854,912
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>5,543,377</b>

**Total liabilities and net assets \$6,306,577**



Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
Chicago Community Foundation  
Council on Library and Information Resources  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
Rudayna Ghubash Charitable Fund  
Give Lively Foundation  
Herbert T. Weston Jr and Marian S. Weston Foundation  
Joyful Heart Foundation  
Amalgamated Charitable Foundation  
Lotus Education and Arts Foundation  
Mighty Cause  
National Park Foundation  
Native Voices Rising  
NoVo Foundation  
Omidyar Network  
Our Change Foundation  
Paypal Giving Fund  
Philanthropi Charitable  
Reis Foundation  
Costa-Levinson Family Donor Advised Fund  
The Benci & Lerner Family Giving Fund  
The Kendeda Fund  
Vanguard Charitable  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
UK Online Giving Foundation  
Bonfire Fund  
The Thompson-McCouch Family Reporative Fund  
Anonymous Donor Advised Fund  
Two Cranes Donors Advised Fund  
Players Philanthropy Fund  
American Online Giving Foundation  
Krupman Family Foundation  
Calvert Balanced Fund  
Kuhn Lefferts Charitable Fund  
Craigie Charitable Fund  
Betty Baker Alexander Charitable Fund  
St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation  
The Patrick & Alice Rogers Family Foundation  
The Buchanan Family Foundation  
Hopa Mountain Foundation

Benevity (Apple, Google & Ceridian)  
Custom Ink Platform  
FrontStream  
LaxStraps  
Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker LLC  
National Lacrosse League  
Wileybros & Partners LLC  
Mercedes Benz  
Breckinridge Capital Advisors  
National Medical Reviews Inc.  
Bremer Bank  
Quickbooks  
Impact Assets

National Endowment for the Humanities  
National Historic Publications and Records Commission  
United States Department of the Interior

Prairie Island Tribal Council  
Saginaw Chippewa Tribe  
Snoqualmie Indian Tribe  
Tulalip Tribes

Adelphi Friends Meeting  
Benedictine Sisters  
Boulder Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
Diocese of Southern Ohio Christ Church Cathedral  
Downers Grove Friends Meeting  
Friends Historical Association  
Holy Cross Church  
Macalester Plymouth United Church  
National Religious Vocation Conference  
Native American Ministry Council of Christ Church Cathedral  
New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
Port Townsend Friends Meeting  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
The Episcopal Church in Western Washington  
Schertz United Methodist Women  
Sisters of the Divine Savior  
Sisters of St. Dominic  
Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
The United Parish in Brookline  
Catholic Mobilizing Network  
Lopez Island Friends Meeting  
First Congressional United Church of Christ, MN  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Episcopal Society of Christ Church  
The Episcopal Church  
Sisters of St. Joseph



**692 INDIVIDUAL DONORS  
GAVE A TOTAL OF  
\$81,108.96!**



Miigwech - Wado - Wopila Tonka - Ny'tra - Ɂra -  
Kúdaawóháa - Piwadaye - t'igwiciid - Ahéhee

THANK YOU!



## The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition

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