



December, 2021

Greetings Relatives!

As we come to the end of our calendar year and enter winter solstice, we are honored to share with you a look back on 2021 and what we were able to do together in service to Native lands, peoples, and cultures. With the support of our partners and funders, it has been an incredible year of growing our team, tending land, and serving local, national and international Indigenous communities.

2021 was an exciting and productive year for The Cultural Conservancy! This year we grew our team, increased our Foodways donation and distribution, and released a handful of new work in Native Media. In addition, our land base Heron Shadow, the 7.6 acres of land we steward in Sonoma County on the ancestral territories of the Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo, created incredible opportunities for us to slowly and safely open back up to community engagement amidst the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

Here is a quick review of some of our great work through the 2021 seasons!



Annual Report

This year we produced our first ever Annual Report! We are proud to share our [2020 Annual Report](#) which demonstrates our accomplishments, partnerships and good circles of work with community. From Native food justice work to our Native-to-Native reciprocity through our Mino-Niibi Fund regranting, we are honored to celebrate the strength of our circle of kin and community networks.

Mino-Niibi Fund

Since 2012, the [Mino-Niibi Fund for Indigenous Cultures](#) has provided small grants through re-granting to Indigenous organizations and groups across Turtle Island and Abya Yala (Americas) and Moananuiākea (Pacific). We launched our 2021-2022 giving cycle this year which will include over \$150,000 in grant-making, and we are in the process of awarding our first round to groups in support of Native youth networks, Indigenous land practices, traditional women's circles and more. Please keep an eye out for our full 2021-2022 MNF Awards coming soon!



Native Media

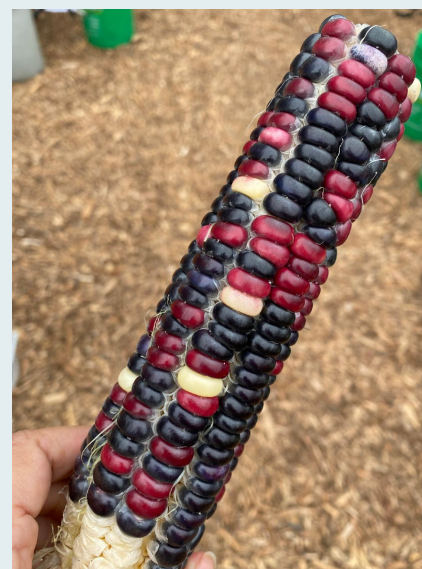
Have you seen our website lately? This past year we re-designed our website and launched our new online [Resource Library](#). We also released a handful of new videos, including co-producing the short film [Seed Mother: Coming Home](#) with the Indigenous Seed Keepers Network and a new educational Native Foodways cooking video and recipe kit with American Indian Cultural Center. We also continue to document and chronicle the ongoing transformation of the land and her people at Heron Shadow as part of sharing our land project and learnings with community.

Native Seed Pod

Season 3 of the Native Seed Pod has sprouted! In partnership with Rowen White and the Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance we have produced a trilogy of episodes focused on seed rematriation podcasts with Becky Webster, Shelley Buffalo, and Jessika Greendeer to launch the new season, which continues to unfold through the winter months. [Listen to the Native Seed Pod here.](#)

Native Foodways

This year our Native Foodways team grew, facilitated, donated, and distributed over 7,400 pounds of fresh produce, 275 plant starts supporting at home and community gardens, gave 27 quarts of ground *Onëogen* corn flour, and handed out over 40 native seed packets to community. This year the gift of land also allowed us to safely partner with small community groups to begin to hold outdoor in-person gatherings again while remaining safe. We also hosted a handful of educational workshops and land tending activities in partnership with California Indian Museum & Cultural Center's Tribal Youth Ambassadors summer program, Sogorea Te' Land Trust's circle of families and community, and the American Indian Child Resource Center's intertribal youth group, and American Indian Cultural Center SF's circle of elders among others.



Heron Shadow

We have been busy building up our land base at Heron Shadow and are quickly turning this land into the Indigenous Biocultural Heritage Oasis we envision to protect and restore Indigenous lands, cultures, and lifeways. This year we historically broke ground on our first acre of cultivation, grew our fruit orchard and

launched our California Native ethnobotanical restoration. We finished our upgraded water filtration system with a new pumphouse, and 16,200-gallons of water storage tanks. We've even started on the pond restoration by redirecting our recent rainwater to fill the pond! Please check out our new [Heron Shadow campaign video](#) to learn more about what we're doing.



Chi-miigwech, Chioke utte'esia, Yakuzhonday, Yawalko, Áho, to each of you for your connection, inspiration, partnership, kindness, investment, collaboration, and kinship! Please consider [making an end of year gift](#) in support of the work we do and the communities we serve.

Thank you, to all our circles, for joining us in protecting and revitalizing Indigenous cultures and ancestral lands. We wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy continued winter solstice season!

In Kinship and Gratitude,

The TCC Team



Images

- 2021 team fall harvest day at Heron Shadow
 - TCC team Maya, Ben and Sara with community gift food basket
 - Acorn harvesting with community families
 - Native Media team filming Native Foodways cooking video with American Indian Cultural Center SF
 - Seed Mother Coming Home video release notice
 - Growing Quapaw Red Corn at Heron Shadow
 - 2021 squash harvest at Heron Shadow
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The Cultural Conservancy | 415-561-6594 | tcc@nativeland.org | www.nativeland.org

Connect with us

