MISSION (what good we do and for whom)

MIGIZI provides a strong circle of support that nurtures the educational, social, economic and cultural development of American Indian youth.

VISION (the impact we seek)

For our youth: American Indian youth are acknowledged and honored for their sacred gifts and boundless potential, which they share—as leaders—with their communities and nations.

For our organization: MIGIZI’s circle of relationships is part of a broader movement that advances success, well-being and social justice.
MIGIZI VALUES (what guides our decision making)

We take care of ourselves and each other.

We are positive and honest.

We value innovation.

We believe our culture protects and strengthens us.
MIGIZI Founding

- MIGIZI was founded in 1977 by Laura Waterman Wittstock and Roger Buffalohead.

- First Person Radio was the longest running American Indian national radio program.

- MIGIZI owns the historical radio archives and recently completed a digitization process that will make this history available in the future.
Cultural Connections and Academic Support in school and after school

MIGIZI seeks to improve the educational trajectory of Native young people, their understanding and sense of cultural identity, and to develop community connections across generations.
70% of youth will achieve one academic goal each quarter
65% of youth will achieve two academic goals each quarter
60% of youth will achieve three academic goals each quarter
70% of youth will accomplish a cultural/well-being goal each quarter
50% of youth will be credit on track by the end of the 30-month grant period

Due to the pandemic and civil unrest in Minneapolis, American Indian 9th graders ended the 20-21 school year with only 30% of students credit on track to graduate on time.

Only 11% of K-8 Al Indian students are proficient in reading and math
MIGIZI’s Indigenous Pathways program offers Native American youth hands-on opportunities for culturally responsive career exploration and job training that nurtures self-confidence and self-efficacy.
• 70% of youth gain exploratory and hands-on experience and training in media or green energy careers
• 70% of youth complete a training cohort and receive wages of $13.25/hr. for training and projects
• 70% of youth complete a project that their cohort is responsible for implementing
• 60% of youth complete a certification based on their Indigenous Pathways program
• 20% of youth move into short to longer term internships at MIGIZI or a partner organization
New Building

JUNE OF 2018 PURCHASED NEW BUILDING FOR $865,000 AND RAISED ADDITIONAL $1 MILLION TO RENOVATE THE SPACE - TOTAL COST ALMOST $2 MILLION

RENOVATED BUILDING AND MOVED IN LATE JULY 2019

MIGIZI INSURED THE PROPERTY FOR $1.5 MILLION
MIGIZI Loss of Building
Insurance Challenges

- Our challenges with insurance started in May 2020 with the renewal of our policies.

- Our previous insurer for many years dropped coverage because MIGIZI was the only American Agency account written with Berkley. They would not renew the coverage for MIGIZI with American Agency for only one account at the agency.

- On May 7, 2020 MIGIZI established coverage with EMC insurance company to insure our property, liability and auto insurance.
• May 29 we filed a claim for our loss.

• June 2 building was declared a total loss.

• Our coverage on the property for was $1.5 million and inventory coverage at $500,000.

• Based on an assessment the cost to rebuild a similar building would be $5 to $6 million

• This was not our understanding of insurance as it is with many small business on Lake Street. We were underinsured
Skyrocketing Demolition Costs for Riot Damaged Properties Delay Rebuilding

• Demolition bidding was only possible with the help of colleagues in construction. They put together the RFP for the bids for demo. Our insurance did not guide, advise or help in this process.

• MIGIZI led effort to bid on all connecting properties of our building.

• MIGIZI and others were victims of price increases/gouging by demolition companies.

Inventory Issues

- Almost everything in our entire space was brand new.

- Insurance provided actual replacement cost on our new items without depreciation. The older items were based on ACV and our claim remains open.

- MIGIZI had a rare and historical art and artifacts collection donated throughout our 44 years. Every item is not replaceable within this collection.

- This included a Dakota tapestry, Cloud family portraits, AIM materials, Frances Densmore Ojibwe language tapes with written transcription, pipestone, films productions and photographs.

- We did not have appraisals on items and have had to accept what insurance estimate value was on items at this time.
MIGIZI Business Expense Losses

- We are still fighting for the business expense losses

- MIGIZI received over $2 million dollars over the past 18 months in donations which shows a gain in our financials

- Furniture and equipment was donated to our leased space totaling $150,000. Since these items were donated - we we did submit ACV replacement
Insurance Increases

- As our policy was up for renewal in May 2021 we were informed insurance would go up up as much as 50-80%.

- Our overall insurance costs increased by 26% and our property insurance went up 51%.

- We are concerned as we complete our new project what those costs will be and if they will continue coverage.
Concerns for Future

• Lake Street Businesses - Seward Redesign

• MIGIZI new property on 1845 Lake Street

• Insurance Coverage for new renovated property and rates
**Highest Hopes**

We are greeted by the smell of herbs and sage. There is artwork on the wall as you walk in, you see our signature. The students work is celebrated, alive, and plentiful (works that are in process and completed). This is a place of creation, creativity, and recharge, a place for nourishment of the soul and earth. There is a technology room to share Native American languages and dialogue. Stories are made and captured here through podcasts and video.

We can see sustainability happening, water captured from the roof feeds the food that is grown on site and is part of the care of the earth and sustenance of the body. Photo-voltaic panels are built in the workshop and stand on the roof to generate the energy we use. Community members are welcomed to teach their skills and specialties to each other.

Migizi is a place to foster life-time connections: socially, spiritually, and as a community.

**Axonometric**