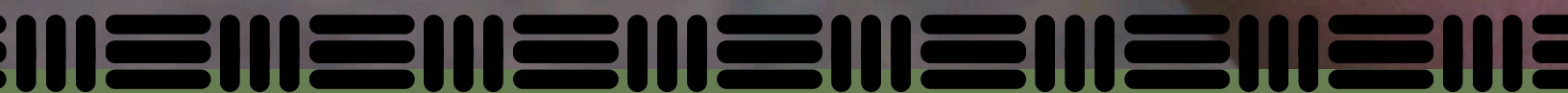


COMUNIDAD MAYA

PIXAN  IXIM

# IMPACT REPORT 2024



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                 |                                                     |   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---|
|                                 | REFLECTION FROM<br>STAFF LEADERSHIP                 | 2 |
|                                 | REFLECTION FROM<br>BOARD OF DIRECTORS<br>LEADERSHIP | 3 |
|                                 | CMPI TEAM                                           | 5 |
|                                 | BOARD OF<br>DIRECTORS                               | 6 |
| INDIGENOUS<br>PEOPLES SUMMIT    | 8-9                                                 |   |
| CMPI PROGRAM<br>AND INITIATIVES | 10-15                                               |   |
| FINANCIAL<br>TRANSPARENCY       | 16                                                  |   |
| THANK YOU TO<br>OUR PARTNERS    | 17                                                  |   |
| CONNECT<br>WITH US              | 18                                                  |   |
|                                 | Q'ANJOB'AL MAYA<br>PARLIAMENT                       | 7 |





## ***Reflection from staff leadership***

### **Luis Marcos, Maya Q'anjob'al, Co-Founder & Executive Director**



In 2023-2024, CMPI's goals have shifted since emerging from the pandemic. While the world has become more challenging for most nonprofits, we at CMPI have found a path to success by combining forces with a local environmental nonprofit and internal restructuring. Consequently, CMPI has emerged stronger and more sustainable than we were before.

In January of 2023, I stepped away from CMPI to lead the creation of a land-holding company within CMPI; the Maya Economic Development Corporation or (MEDC). MEDC was created in 2023 to establish a Maya Chamber of Commerce which creates and supports agricultural entrepreneurship opportunities. After stepping away from CMPI for over a year, the CMPI Board of Directors voted to reinstate me as CEO in August 2024. CMPI and MEDC restructured in August of '24 with a newly appointed indigenous-led Board of Directors prioritizing indigenous sovereignty as a guiding principle. As an incorporated nonprofit, MEDC has acquired 20 acres of urban land in Omaha Nebraska and another 45 rural acres in western Belize.

As our programming has shifted more towards Indigenous agricultural entrepreneurship and land ownership over the past few years, so too has much of our funding has shifted from Pandemic-related funding to Indigenous Land stewardship and business-building financial support. All new funding coming to CMPI represents the ambitions of MEDC. For example, we are enrolled with a 4yr USDA grant for agricultural entrepreneurship. This and other enrollment-based federally-funded programs will provide financial support while we create and activate business plans for each parcel of land under MEDC ownership.

After recently emerging as a restructured organization with slightly different goals, we are reimagining our strategic plan for the next phase of growth. We have identified evidence-based strategies to provide real significant opportunities for the Maya living in the United States and Maya Territory in Central America. Purchasing and acquiring land assets proved crucial for this phase. Thanks to federal financial support, we can now imagine a path forward to creating larger indigenous-led agricultural systems. As identified from our 2022 CMPI Strategic plan, our newest program called the Maya Regeneration Project is in the final stages of acquiring a larger piece of arable Nebraska farmland near our offices in Omaha.

Our strategic goals are land stewardship, housing, entrepreneurship, food production in addition to health, arts, culture and social services. CMPI continues to receive funding that allow us to provide robust human-rights work for the Maya people in Nebraska and Maya Territory in Central America.

Thanks to the recent creation of MEDC, merging with another nonprofit, restructuring underneath CMPI and then staffing cuts, we can now see a direct path towards Indigenous financial sovereignty through land ownership and land entrepreneurship.



## ***Reflection from board of directors leadership***

### **Ilse Ramirez Palin, Maya Q'anjob'al, President of the Board**

I am honored to serve my Maya Q'anjob'al community at Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim here in Omaha, Nebraska. I am originally from Guatemala where much of my family still resides. I was elected to lead the Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim Board of Directors in October 2024. As a Q'anjob'al Maya woman living in the United States, I have been fortunate to find a group of fellow Maya who have a strong desire to express our culture and realize economic sovereignty here in the United States. We appreciate the support of our Indigenous brothers and sisters as we seek to establish ourselves on land of Omaha ancestors. We work together with our Indigenous brothers and sisters to realize a healthy and safe place for our community members. Our indigenous community is facing new hardships related to a dramatic change in federal policies from the new administration.

I met Executive Director Luis Marcos in 2009. I admire his leadership as he has led Comunidad Maya to achieve growth and effective representation for our people over these last 20 years. Our people need daily assistance as they navigate through a foreign ecosystem that doesn't understand and relate to our very unique language and culture. Most of us Maya do not speak Spanish; but rather one of 23 different Mayan languages. I am inspired by our mission and vision to establish a council of elders that speak for our people and represent our best interests in government policies. As the world faces new challenges, we are highly motivated to activate new land we acquired over the last year into economic opportunities for our Q'anjob'al community.

Ownership of 20 acres in urban Omaha Nebraska and over 45 acres in the ancestral Maya territory of rural Belize gives us many opportunities to create successful models of economic sovereignty. Please consider supporting our mission to become a thriving Indigenous community that is becoming self-sustaining.



# MISSION

**TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MAYA PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA, THE UNITED STATES, AND MAYA Q'ANJOB'AL TERRITORY CONSISTENT WITH THE MAYA Q'ANJOB'AL SYSTEM OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, IN HONORABLE RELATIONSHIPS WITH U.S. SOVEREIGN TRIBAL NATIONS, AND THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (UNDRIP).**

# VISION

**WE ENVISION THAT THE MAYA COMMUNITY IN NEBRASKA, THE UNITED STATES, AND MAYA Q'ANJOB'AL TERRITORY WILL BE PROSPEROUS AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL PROSPERITY OF OUR SHARED WORLD.**



# CMPI TEAM



**LUIS MARCOS  
MAYA Q'ANJOB'AL,  
CO-FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**



**GUS VON ROENN  
STRATEGIC OPERATIONS  
DIRECTOR**



**LIZANDRA MATEO LORENZO  
MAYA Q'ANJOB'AL,  
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER**



**LUCERO GONZALEZ ALVARADO  
MAYA Q'ANJOB'AL,  
PROGRAM MANAGER, MIHRP**



**JENNY E. FIMBRES-GONZALEZ  
COMMUNITY SUPPORT &  
SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGER**



**LUCAS PEDRO  
MAYA Q'ANJOB'AL  
URBAN AGRICULTURE MANAGER**



**PLACIDO CUNIL  
MAYA YUCATEC  
SO PILAR SITE MANAGER**





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**ILSE RAMIREZ PALIN,  
MAYA Q'ANJOB'AL,  
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD**



**LORENZO PEDRO LUCAS,  
MAYA Q'ANJOB'AL,  
MEMBER AT LARGE**



**MARIA ANTONIO GASPAR,  
MAYA Q'ANJOB'AL,  
MEMBER**



**DAVID MANZANARES,  
CHINANTECO FROM  
OAXACA,  
CO-SECRETARY**



**LESLIE KWASNIESKI,  
CO-SECRETARY**



**EULALIA PEDRO,  
MAYA Q'ANJOB'AL,  
MAYA PARLIAMENT,  
MEMBER**



**ROSE GODINEZ,  
MEMBER**



**CHERYL MARTINEZ,  
TEWA, ZAPOTEC, SPANISH  
AND ENGLISH ANCESTRY,  
MEMBER**



**MARIA GASPAR,  
MAYA Q'ANJOB'AL,  
MAYA PARLIAMENT,  
MEMBER**

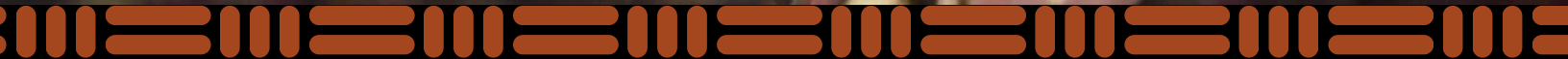
CMPI BOARD OF DIRECTORS LISTED REFLECTS MOST CURRENT BOARD AS OF APRIL 2025





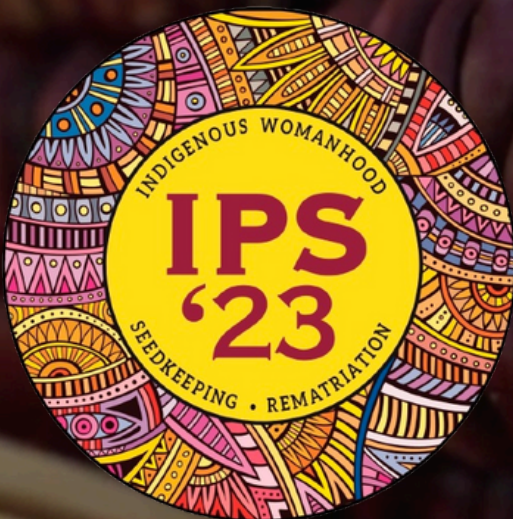
# Q'ANJOB'AL MAYA PARLIAMENT

The Maya Parliament is a council of Q'anjob'al Maya Elders who meet monthly with the Maya community to set priorities for the Q'anjob'al Maya Nation. The Maya Parliament works with the Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim Board of Directors. Executive Directors and Administrators will change over time, but all major decisions regarding the long-term goals of the organization are determined by a governing council of elders.





# OVER 10 YEARS OF SOLIDARITY - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SUMMIT -





# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SUMMIT

“

The 2024 Indigenous People's Summit brought together people from all Nations. The energy between all the presenters and all the participants was magnificent. We focused on finding solutions to address climate change by creating relationships. I look forward to this year's summit!

”

**-Renee Sans Souci**





# **CMPI PROGRAM AND INITIATIVES**





# MAYA REGENERATION PROJECT

The Maya Regeneration Project began in 2022 when the Maya community living in Omaha, Nebraska identified the need to reconnect with their roots in agriculture. In the warm jungles of Central America, Three Sisters and Milpa plantings were practiced for thousands of years. As displaced Indigenous people now living in a cold climate, the Nebraskan Maya people are acclimating to a very different growing environment. The native tribes of the Omaha, Winnebago, Iowa, Ponca and Sioux are teaching each other how to identify and harvest the natural plants growing in this region. The Maya are taking guidance from our Indigenous Relatives. The Maya people in Nebraska are also learning techniques from the non-native people of Nebraska such as how to farm and achieve commodity-crop, scale yields of real food and value-added products. All of these practices are building on a multi-thousand year expertise of the Milpa cycle as a 40 year agroforestry plan that directly mingles with annual plantings.

CMPI acquired 65 acres of land in 2024. The 20 acres in North Omaha will serve as a Mayan community center and the 45 acres in Belize will serve as a diplomatic center for the Central American Maya tribes.

CMPI is positioned to purchase 250 of land in rural Nebraska. This will allow the Maya to practice urban and rural agriculture in ways that regenerate water, soil, and human health. Agroforestry and Milpa system with animal integration will be part of the Maya agriculture program. This inspirational program is an integral component of our organization's future.







## MAYA ARTS & CULTURE

CMPI conducted Maya Youth programming aimed at revitalizing Indigenous seeds, food pathways, and enhancing food sovereignty by educating Maya Youth about the agricultural traditions of the Maya Q'anjob'al, other Maya nations, and Nebraska tribes, while also examining modern approaches of regenerative agriculture. Maya Youth engaged in hands-on agricultural experiences that integrated Maya cosmovision, contemporary and traditional agricultural expertise, and the Maya Q'anjob'al language, thereby reinforcing their cultural connection. We will connect these ancient traditions to contemporary concerns confronting Nebraska and the globe concerning the effects of industrialized agriculture on soil, water, animal, and human health.



## THE MAYA & INDIGENOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM (MIHRP)

The MIHRP primarily concentrates on intersectional and collective advocacy, as well as community-centered social services, and is currently overseeing the preparation and implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Summit for the forthcoming year. CMPI is committed to the Welcome With Dignity #WWD Campaign, and we are also privileged to serve on the Advisory Board. We also are members of the Value Our Families Committee (VoF). We have the distinct privilege to contribute to and participate in the now concluded, Defund Hate campaign and collective approaches to communication. CMPI is grateful to the irreplaceable partners and colleagues we encountered in our efforts to protect indigenous rights, increase indigenous language access, and protect indigenous lands.



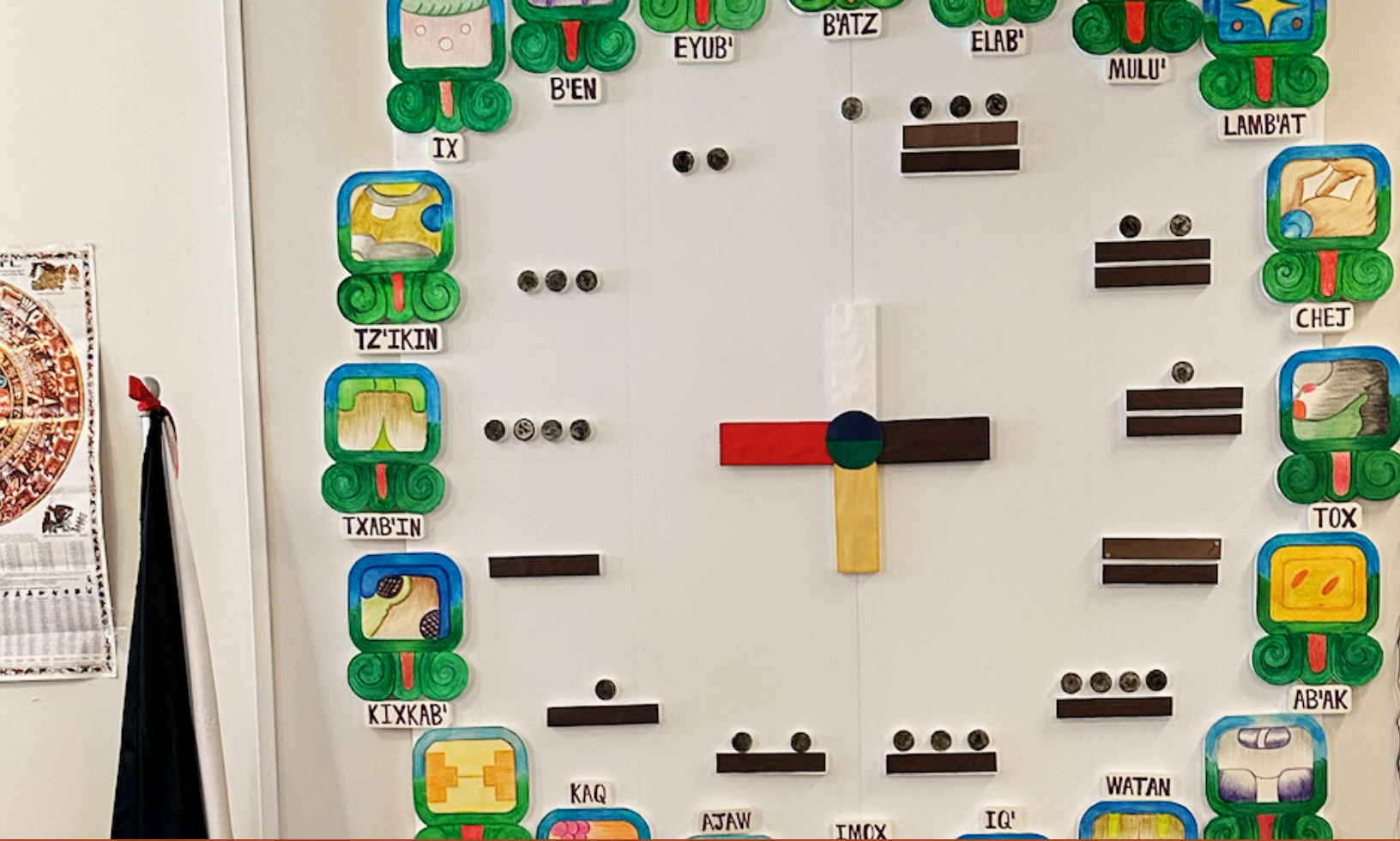




## MAYA HEALTH INITIATIVE

The Maya Health Initiative houses two initiatives Empowered Women, Healthy Families (addresses domestic abuse intensified by COVID-19 in Maya communities) and the second is the Maya Housing Roots Planning Initiative (aimed to comprehend the needs for affordable housing and solutions in collaboration with our Maya community). Direct services include diaper banks, food pantries, domestic abuse relocation resources, and local legal resources. CMPI also connects interpreters to local hospitals, law offices, schools, social care agencies, and legal systems to ensure Maya indigenous families have equal access to resources and services. CMPI is also grateful for the completion of the affordable housing survey in 2024 for the community, and you can read the study's conclusions on our website!





## MAYA EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The Maya Education Initiative is a program aimed at individuals of all ages, advocating for the preservation of culture through stories, languages, oral traditions, literature, and ancestral philosophies of the Maya. The initiative encompasses services like educational support and family assistance, which includes a small computer lab for the community. CMPI facilitated computer literacy workshops. The computer literacy workshops focused on utilizing Microsoft software (including tools for incorporating music, video, and animation), as well as Excel, Word, email, Zoom, Google Meet, and Google Drive.

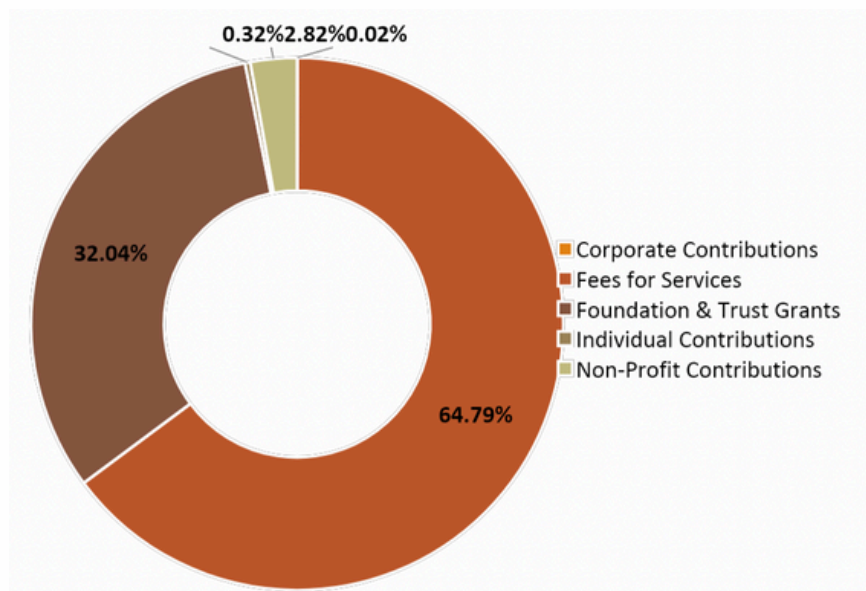
**Community members may continue to access community computers with prior notification to our office.**



# FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY

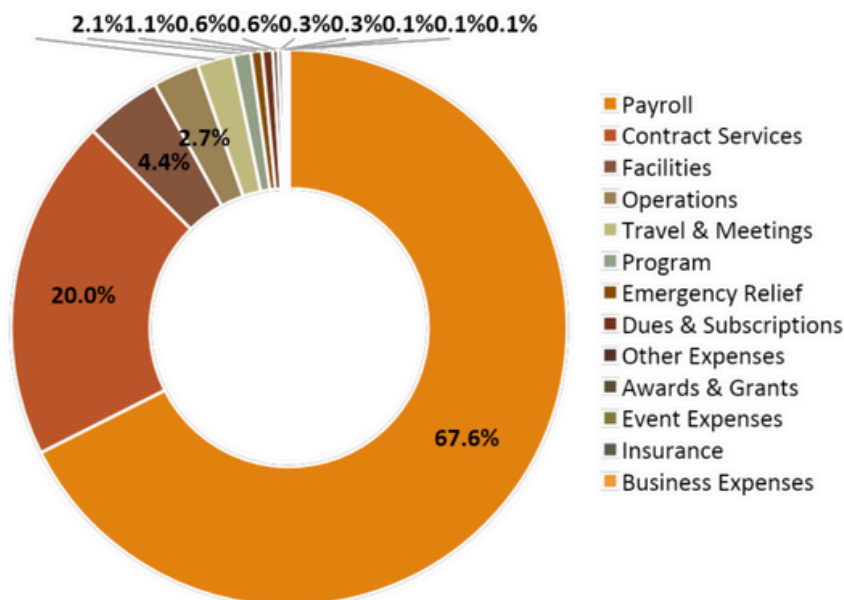
## REVENUE OVERVIEW

IN 2024 REVENUE WAS \$994,238



## EXPENSES OVERVIEW

IN 2024, EXPENSES WERE \$984,128



# THANK YOU FROM THE CMPI TEAM TO DONORS, COMMUNITY PARTNERS, AND COMMUNITY:



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FOR WOMEN



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TRUST



**CHI Health**



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ARTS & HUMANITIES



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