



Endangered
Languages
Project

Annual Report

2024–2025





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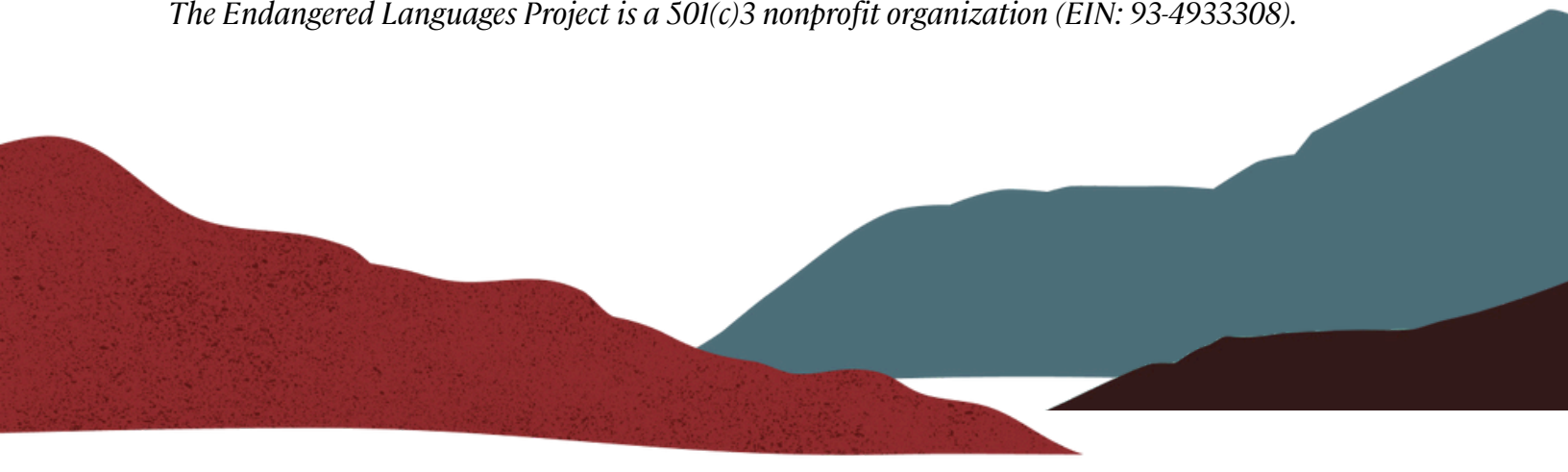


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and Thanks



*Toroga Breda (Ready to Revitalize, 2024)
teaching Khoekhoe at a preschool in
Klapmuts, South Africa*

Our Mission

Our mission is to build networks, mobilize capacity, research and share knowledge to sustain language diversity worldwide, and provide access to evidence-based data on language vitality. By facilitating collaboration between Indigenous, endangered, and/or minoritized language communities, and by supporting language revitalization & documentation, we help build a world where languages and their communities thrive.

Our Vision

Our vision is a world where Indigenous, endangered, and minoritized language communities are thriving, and where language diversity is valued, respected, and protected.

Our Values

Integrity: We conduct ourselves in ways that honor our relationships with language communities, individuals, and organizations. We keep our word, act with accountability, communicate transparently about our work, and fulfill our commitments.

Respect & Support: We respect and support Indigenous and endangered-language communities. We affirm the inherent value of every language variety and community, the self-determination of Indigenous peoples, and the rights of every community to use, promote, and pass on their languages.

Sharing & Accessibility: We share knowledge, resources and tools to support language work at no cost. We aim to make our work accessible to all, regardless of language, funding, or geography.

Collaboration & Relationship: We believe that the movement to sustain language diversity is much stronger when we work together. We prioritize collaboration with, and between, Indigenous, endangered, and/or minoritized language communities worldwide.

Optimism: We believe in the possibility of positive outcomes for languages and their communities, and take a positive stance on the potential of language revitalization. We stay solution-focused in the face of challenges, foster wellness in language work, and honor the ways language can heal and nourish.

Informed Action: We conduct and share research that meaningfully contributes to language work. We honor the many kinds of knowledge that can sustain language diversity.

Governance Council

Tracey Herbert, First Peoples' Cultural Council, Canada (Chair)

Nicholas Barla, Adivasi Samanway Manch Bharat, India

Dr. Craig Cornelius, Google Internationalization, U.S.

Dr. Madoka Hammine, Meio University, Japan

Dr. Gary Holton, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, U.S.

Dr. Mary S. Linn, Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, U.S.

Oliver Loode, URALIC Centre for Indigenous Peoples, Estonia

Dr. Emmanuel Ngué Um, University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon

Dr. Gabriela Pérez Báez, University of Oregon, U.S.

Staff

Dr. Anna Belew, Executive Director

Dr. Amanda Holmes, Director of Storytelling

Dr. Pius Akumbu, Language Revitalization Mentor

Yulha Lhawa, Language Revitalization Mentor

Yazmín Novelo, Language Revitalization Mentor

Alexandra Philbin, Language Revitalization Mentor

Institutional Partners



Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i ma Mānoa

UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MĀNOA



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL FOUNDATION



SILR

From the Executive Director

Dear ELP Community,

As I reflect on ELP's first year as an independent nonprofit, I'm filled with gratitude.

It's been a big year for ELP. After 12 years as a joint project of the First Peoples' Cultural Council and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, ELP had grown so much we needed our own operational home. In 2024, ELP "left the nest" and became an independent nonprofit, opening new pathways to grow and sustain our work.

This has, of course, been a year of significant challenges. But in challenging times, the ELP community has come together to continue this work with renewed dedication and resolve. I am deeply grateful for the *relationships* that ELP builds and nourishes – and for the sense of connection, solidarity, and care that is present in all of ELP's work. One of our guiding values is *collaboration and relationship*, and that value is at the heart of all that you will see in this Annual Report.

ELP's relationships are broad, reaching all around the world. This year, ELP's programs reached people in **102 countries** who are working to revitalize, document, and sustain Indigenous and endangered languages. More than **a thousand people** participated in our online courses and workshops; the Language Revitalization Mentors had **104 mentoring sessions**; and our website's traffic reached more than **a million views**. And this impact ripples out to the communities of each of those language champions, as people share their knowledge and grow their work.

But our relationships are also deep. As you will read in the following pages, in the words of just a few of the people we work alongside, ELP's impact is not only about quantity: it's about the *quality* of the gathering spaces, learning opportunities, resources, and networks we foster. People who are working to sustain their languages, often in contexts of repression, conflict, and isolation, find a welcoming gathering place at ELP – a space where they feel **seen, heard, and supported** to continue their crucial work. They find a **global community**. And it is in community that we find strength, resilience, and paths forward.

On behalf of the whole ELP team, **we are so grateful to you** for being part of our shared work. Together, let's continue building a world where all languages and their communities thrive.



Dr. Anna Belew
Executive Director, ELP

Warmly, Anna



Strategic Priorities

2023-2026

Advocacy and Awareness



ELP raises awareness of and advocates for Indigenous and minoritized languages and language communities, and communicates the importance, value, and feasibility of language revitalization.

Tools and Resources Development



ELP collaboratively develops and responsibly shares tools, resources, learning opportunities, and knowledge to support language revitalization on a global scale.

Community Building

ELP is a supportive community for facilitating connection, building relationships, and sharing experiences with people and communities doing language work, across borders and boundaries.



Organizational Wellness

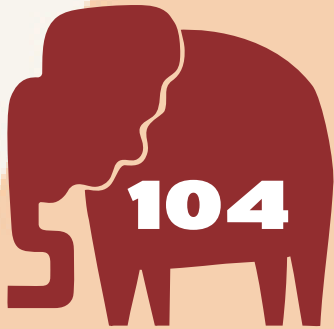
ELP enriches its health, effectiveness, and stability as an organization. ELP is a sustainable organization that attracts investments and donations from a diverse base of funding sources.



Impact at a *Glance*

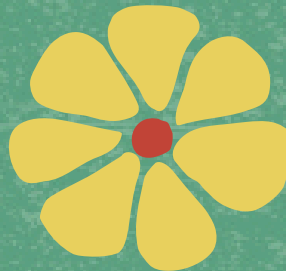


Public Events
and Workshops



Mentoring
Appointments

1000+
Program Participants



102
Different Countries



Language
Documentation
Webinar Participants



Website Pageviews

Ready to Revitalize



133

Meeting of “Ready to Revitalize the Dumi Language” project team in Kathmandu, Nepal

Applications

20

Participants

\$9,500

Grants Awarded

100%

of participants felt
more confident in
language revitalization

Building community and solidarity in language work is at the heart of everything ELP does – and ELP’s Ready to Revitalize program is an important part of this collective work. From January through March 2025, ELP held the second annual Ready to Revitalize, a 10-week project-based learning course on language revitalization. Each week, a cohort of 20 language champions from around the world came together for collective learning sessions and small group discussions with the goal of growing their skills in language revitalization. Sharing their own experiences and perspectives across borders, they found inspiration and support from their peers. They all had one thing in common: a deep commitment to uplift their languages and communities.

Over the 10 weeks of the course, participants gained firsthand experience in envisioning, planning, and carrying out a revitalization project. They got hands-on practice in writing grant proposals, getting experience and feedback to build their capacity in future work for their languages. The participants designed innovative and inspiring projects to work toward revitalizing their Indigenous and marginalized languages, supported by mini-grants from ELP. Just as importantly, they built relationships of collaboration and community that will support their work for years to come.

Ready to Revitalize: **Community Spotlight**

Dorothy Cheruto Ogiek, Kenya

“The Bead to Speak Project I developed through Ready to Revitalize created a safe space for the Ogiek community, particularly **women and girls, to connect, learn, and heal through traditional beading** while learning the Ogiek language. Through beading sessions intertwined with language learning and **Indigenous medicinal knowledge**, the project rebuilds the intergenerational connection that was nearly lost. Girls not only learn words but also reconnect with the **land, nature, and the wisdom of their Elders**.

The **Ready to Revitalize experience has been transformative**. It gave us not only financial support but also training, moral encouragement and global recognition of the Ogiek struggle to reclaim language, identity, and land. It reaffirmed that revitalizing a language is not just about words – it is about restoring **dignity, connection, and memory**.”



Ready to Revitalize: **Community Spotlight**

“For our community of North Azovian Greeks, whose 76 settlements in Donetsk Oblast of Ukraine are now under Russian occupation, **our languages Urum and Roumean have become a form of resilience.** Through the project I developed in Ready to Revitalize, we created a space where native speakers, all displaced from Donetsk Oblast due to the war, could connect with linguists and **see their knowledge recognized** as vital cultural heritage.

Ready to Revitalize helped us **reimagine what language revitalization means in times of war.** It helped us better structure our work, connected us with other language activists and researchers, and showed us that our work is part of a broader global effort to reclaim and revitalize endangered languages. It also encouraged us to move from the idea stage to concrete action – **building bridges** between native speakers, linguists, and institutions even in conditions of war and displacement. This program showed that **even under the hardest circumstances, community and knowledge can stay resilient.**”



Urum & Roumean, Ukraine **Olya Tsuprykova**

Digital Storytelling

A story is a powerful thing. Stories share experiences, shift perspectives, and create possibilities for change. Indigenous communities around the world have always known the transformative power that storytelling holds. Now, in the digital age, digital storytelling creates bridges across boundaries and borders; it gives storytellers the power to reach global audiences with human, personal narratives. To strengthen community-led storytelling in support of language revitalization, ELP held its first online digital storytelling workshop in partnership with [StoryCenter](#) over six weeks in 2024.

The workshop brought together ten language champions from around the world who gave voice to their stories of language and community. Storytellers gained skills in digital audio/video production and editing, honed their narratives in community with other storytellers, and learned how they could use participatory media in service of language reclamation. Above all, they created space together to speak, be heard, and tell their own stories about their languages and communities – to transform dominant narratives *about* them into narratives of their own.

The short films they created share their experiences of working to revitalize their languages, through deeply personal reflections on the strength and resilience held in the relations between Indigenous languages, lands, communities, and memories. After the workshop, ELP hosted two public screenings to share these digital stories with the wider world, and the impact on audiences was profound: “Previously, I saw language revitalization as a battle you’d eventually lose. But after seeing these stories, I get that it’s about doing your part for the next generation,” said one attendee. “I’m on team language revitalization now.”

**Digital Stories
Created**

18

**People Reached
by Digital Stories**

36k

Image from “Panja Paaniyaan da Tagga /
Thread of Five Waters” by Mandeep Dhillon

Digital Storytelling: Community Spotlight

Esraa Alrasheed Nubian, Sudan



“The workshop **empowered** me by using the digital tools that can help me **express my voice** and **send my message**. Network and internet connection was really an **obstacle at war time**, I wasn’t able to attend most of the sessions live. But each time I show up even for 2 seconds it **feels like a celebration**. Their support was not only during the workshop, and it was personal, kind, and caring.

ELP gave us the opportunity to **share our story** in international spaces and that’s made a huge impact on us as individuals and language communities. **You’ve got to meet people who are on the same path**, and also the ones who were two steps ahead of you. All of them together are ready to **support and help each other**, and this is due to environment created by ELP. They have made it possible for us to share our voices with international spaces and **feel seen, heard and recognised** by other people. I am grateful for the people who’ve been following with me personally and send so much love and prayers for Sudan.”

Digital Storytelling: **Community Spotlight**

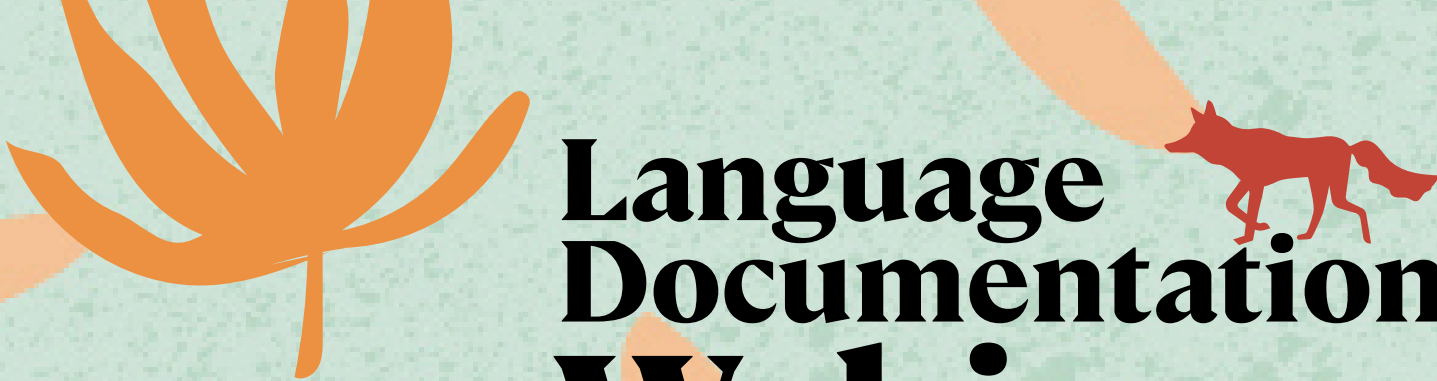
Amazigh (Tarifit), Morocco **Lamiae Zeriouh**

“My participation in the ELP Digital Storytelling program has been a **profoundly transformative experience**. For me, storytelling became an act of **epistemic justice**. My Amazigh village has often been depicted only as a picturesque backdrop, stripped of people, language, culture, struggles, memory, and wisdom. Through digital storytelling, I was somehow able to **reclaim that narrative**; to show that our coastal village is not merely a space for summer visits, but a living archive of songs, rituals, and ecological knowledge.

The process allowed me to **honor my ancestors**. Their stories were often lost in translation or erased by dominant languages and systems of power. Every clip I edited, every word I recorded, felt like an act of remembrance; a way of saying, *we are still here, still speaking up, still resisting erasure*. I now see beyond digital storytelling as an art form; I see it as a method of **preservation, survival and renewal**.”



Language Documentation Webinars



The 2024 learning series welcomed 849 participants from 72 countries – our largest group ever.

2024 marked ELP's sixth annual Language Documentation Webinar series, hosted in collaboration with the Language Documentation Training Center at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Each fall, this free 8-week online course teaches the basics of language documentation. The course is designed to be accessible and welcoming to everyone, no matter their training or background. Learners gained skills in creating and working with language recordings, analyzing their language's sounds and grammar, creating language resources, and more – all while building connections with other language champions around the world.



"The webinars boosted my confidence in language documentation while making me feel comfortable and welcomed throughout the sessions; I appreciated the collaborative atmosphere and the valuable discussions."

Dr. Saul Bichwa
igiHa, Tanzania

Language Lodge



In spring 2024, ELP collaborated with the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage's Language Vitality Initiative to host the second annual Language Lodge, a free six-week program of workshops and social media challenges. The workshop series guided language activists through the process of creating social media content in their Indigenous and minoritized languages, and offered space for them to connect and collaborate globally.

This year's Language Lodge was hosted by Ekpeye language activist Franca Umasoye Igwe (pictured above), co-founder of the "Speak Ekpeye Fluently" initiative.



Language Revitalization Mentors



"My mentor was incredibly empathetic, knowledgeable, and inspiring. She truly understood the challenges of working with an under-resourced language like Indus Kohistani. Her insights on community engagement, youth involvement, and strategic planning for language documentation gave me both clarity and motivation. The way she blended practical advice with encouragement was especially helpful."

Saif Ullah
Indus Kohistani, Pakistan

Language revitalization is complex, challenging, and oftentimes lonely. For many people worldwide, it can be hard to know where to find resources, learning opportunities, or a helpful and knowledgeable mentor. No one should have to do this work in isolation – but too many people around the world face these obstacles alone.

The ELP Language Revitalization Mentors program breaks through isolation and builds language champions' capacity, confidence, and connection. This program offers free one-on-one mentorship to anyone working to revitalize their language, anywhere in the world. ELP's Mentors are a group of knowledgeable, experienced, and empathetic scholar-practitioners from around the globe. They offer guidance and ideas, and connect people with resources, learning opportunities, and a global network of language revitalizers – as well as offering support and encouragement in contexts where it is deeply needed.

This year, demand for the Mentors program increased 20% over last year, and we expect continued growth as the UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages continues.

104

**Mentor
Appointments**

64

**Languages
Supported**

31

Countries

Mentors Program: Community Spotlight

Tani Language Foundation India

The Tani Language Foundation is a collective of Tani students and language advocates working to sustain the Tani languages in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam states, India. Luke Rimmo Lego, co-founder of the Tani Language Foundation, shares about his experience in the ELP Mentors program:

“ELP’s **Language Revitalization Mentors** program made it possible for us to **train community members** in practical documentation and facilitation skills. Guided by ELP, we designed simple, robust tools, conversation circles, low-tech elicitation prompts, and clear ethical guidelines, that work in low-resource and displacement settings, and **respect the needs of vulnerable speakers**.

Those trainings and methods have **transformed how we work** on the ground. We were able to move from theory to practice quickly and sustainably due to the practical focus of ELP’s support. The **technical mentorship** by ELP and the **connections** you facilitated with other endangered-language projects enhanced our technical capacity and morale.

During periods of displacement and uncertainty, **ELP’s sustained involvement created a safe, hopeful space for the continuity of language work**.

The relationship has been both tactical – helping us adopt tools that work in difficult circumstances – and **deeply human**, offering **encouragement and solidarity when we needed them most**. We are so thankful. ELP’s mentorship transformed timid volunteers into dynamic language maintainers, and assisted us in developing habits that will **sustain language and community relationships during any crisis**.”

Four members of the Tani Language Foundation, left to right: Taba Domina, Migom Pamegam, Pakbi Lombi, and Nyayi Lombi.



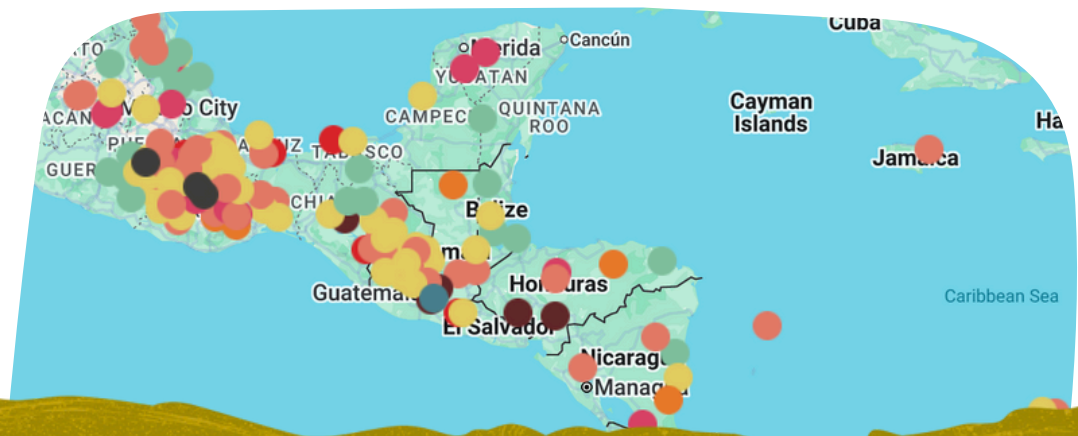
Research

Catalogue of Endangered Languages

The *Catalogue of Endangered Languages* (ELCat) is a unique reference work which provides comprehensive, reliable, and up-to-date information about the current status of the more than 3,400 endangered languages worldwide. It provides a freely accessible database of language vitality information at a global scale, which is actively updated on an ongoing basis.

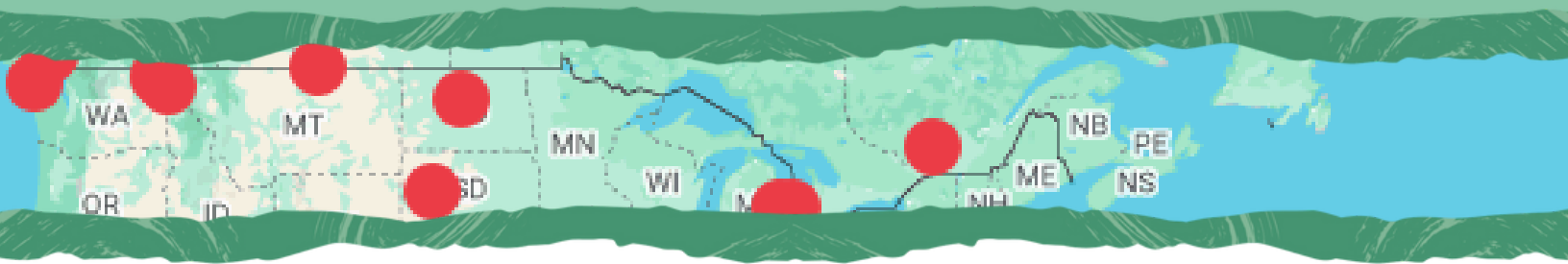
The *Catalogue* is developed, published, and maintained by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) Department of Linguistics, under the direction of Dr. Gary Holton, and published through ELP, which has partnered with UHM since its launch in 2012. ELP works with UHM to gather information about language vitality, invite input from communities and scholars, and share this resource with educators, researchers, and the general public.

This year, in addition to the *Catalogue*'s ongoing work to add and update information about language vitality, the *Catalogue* team prepared the underlying database for migration to ELP's new website, which launched in September 2025.



Research

Global Directory of Language Revitalization



Language revitalization is growing around the world, and communities on every continent are developing programs to strengthen and sustain their languages. Sharing knowledge, practices, and ideas between communities is an important part of developing effective and sustainable revitalization efforts – but until recently, there was no global gathering place for communities to share their work with each other, and very little research about language revitalization worldwide.

ELP's Global Directory of Language Revitalization, developed in partnership with the scholars who conducted the only *Global Survey of Revitalization Efforts*, is a participatory directory of language revitalization programs around the world. It is designed to create an online space where people involved with language restoration, renewal, and revitalization efforts around the world can connect and share with each other, learn from each other, and support each other in their work. This year, 11 programs were added to the Directory, bringing the total number of programs submitted to 197. The Directory launched to the public in September 2025.



2024-25 Intern Reflections

Each year, ELP welcomes a small group of interns from around the world to gain hands-on professional experience in language revitalization. Interns work closely with each other and the ELP team to create materials and programs to support language work, in their communities and others. The internship program helps young language champions grow their skills, knowledge, and networks – and share them with each other – in order to nourish their current and future work in language revitalization.

Elwin Huaman:

“I learned tons during my Digital Resources and Web Community internship, but I also got to share it with others. In under-resourced languages and communities, we’re facing the same issues – I understood that we cannot do it alone. We need to teach each other, to connect with other ideas, and at the same time to be supportive of each other. Every time I go home to my community, I bring ideas and skills that I built during my internship. All the things I learned at ELP are going to my community. What we are building, it’s deeper than just an internship. It’s giving people the necessary skills to continue growing with their communities. It’s changing the world.”

Maison Ole Nkurrurah:

“Our Maasai language is a repository of environmental and biocultural wisdom. Being a Storytelling and Communications intern at ELP has given me a platform to collect and relearn knowledge through my Elders, and publish it for future generations of Maasai people. This internship helped me develop new skills for ensuring our language continues, and not just Maasai, but other communities near us whose languages are endangered. This internship has really opened me up with a network of resources and meeting new people who are working to revitalize their languages. I’m really grateful for this opportunity.”

Riathung Kyong Naga:

“My role as a Storytelling and Communications intern allowed me to go back to my native ancestral village and observe what would be lost soon, encourage my people to treasure what they have, and relearn those traditions myself to revive them. As an intern, I had fellowship and connection with language preservationists, researchers, scholars, and individual champions. In these times, global collation of shared voices is indeed hope-giving, and my ELP experience did just that.”

Communications & Outreach

ELP continued to share knowledge, stories, and ideas in support of language revitalization through our communications and outreach work. Communications highlights this year included:

- Igbo localization of *Culture Camps for Language Learning: An Immersion Manual*
- “Taking the Train to Dublin City: A Journey to Speaking Irish in Ireland’s Capital”, published in Smithsonian *Folklife* magazine
- An annual collection of video messages from Indigenous communities around the world for International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples
- Growing the ELP social media audience to more than 34,000 followers across 5 platforms



Interpretation Rights Series

In 2024, ELP hosted a two-part panel series spotlighting Indigenous language access and interpretation for migrant communities in the United States, titled “**Building Community Networks of Dignity and Solidarity: Indigenous Language Interpretation is a Human Right**”. The events spotlighted grassroots organizations in four U.S. cities, and their crucial work to support Indigenous migrant communities through language access: the Concejo de los Pueblos Originarios (New York City, NY), Pueblo Unido PDX (Portland, OR), the International Mayan League (Washington, DC), and Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project (Los Angeles, CA).

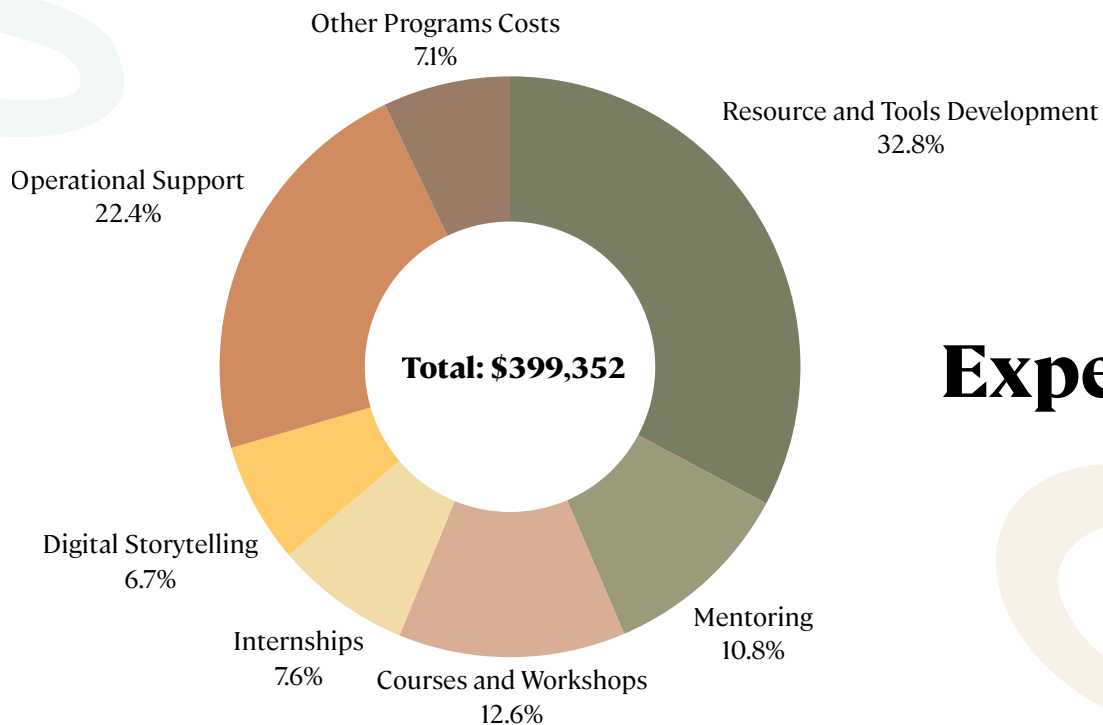
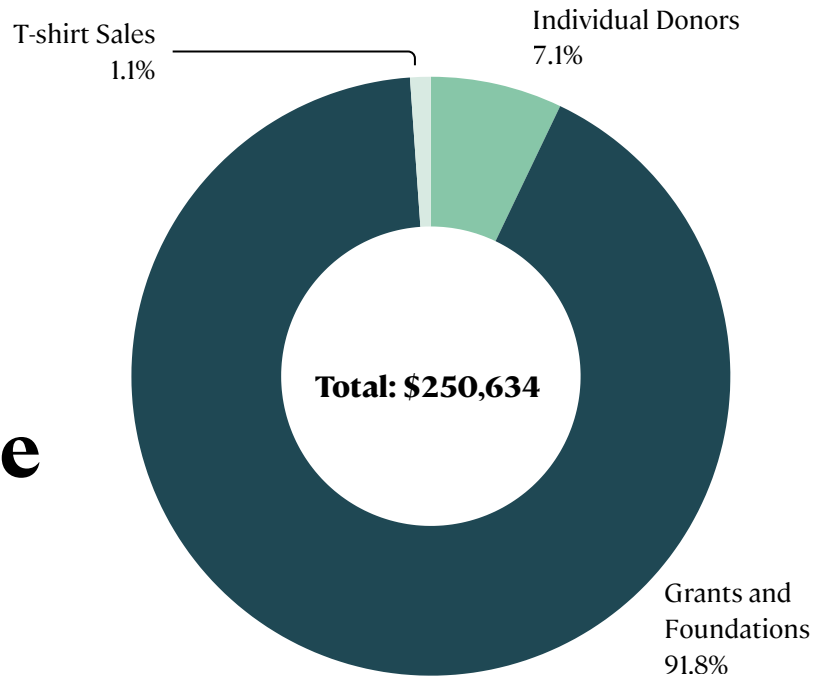
“We mustn’t stop speaking our language. It would mean that we lose our identities and lose ourselves in the process.”

Saúl Rivera

Concejo de los Pueblos Originarios

Financial Overview

Income



Expenses

Financial Overview

Other Items

23-24 FY Income	\$222,635
23-24 FY Expenses	\$2,649
Net Assets at End of 23-24 FY	\$219,986
Net Assets at End of 24-25 FY	\$71,268

Acknowledgments and Thanks

We offer our gratitude to the following additional people and organizations who contributed their time, abilities, knowledge, and effort to ELP this year:

- Johnson Adewale Akano
- Dr. Emma Asonye
- Ender Black and Althea Billings, KBOO
- Jillian Breithaupt
- Dr. Lyle Campbell
- Onyinye Favour Chibueze
- Concejo de los Pueblos Originarios
- Constructive
- Julie Doerfling
- Eco Interpreters
- Amy Ede
- Barbara Fillion, CCUNESCO
- Eden Fineday
- Anando Ghosh
- Kelly Hall
- Rachel Herring
- Dr. Kavon Hooshier
- International Mayan League
- Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino
- Nicaela Leon
- Lush Handmade Cosmetics
- Dr. Erin McNulty
- Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project
- Mosaic Bookkeeping
- NightOwl Custom Apparel
- Chinedu Daniel Okeke
- Lorilyn Parmer
- Danielle Paradis
- Aliana Parker
- Rene Oswaldo Gonzalez Pizarro
- Lydia Prince
- Pueblo Unido PDX
- Rational Unicorn Legal Services
- Dr. Tasos Rovithakis
- Armando Silva
- Dr. N. Ha'alilio Solomon
- Joe Lambert and Andrea Spagat, StoryCenter
- Translators Without Borders
- Olivia Waring
- Chad Whitford
- Jim Yoshioka

All members of the ELP community, for their ongoing support, presence, and care.

And all language keepers, learners, teachers, reclaimers, scholars, activists, advocates, and allies, all over the world, who are working towards a world where all languages and their communities can thrive.



Endangered Languages Project

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