

2023

ANNUAL
REPORT



Archaeology Southwest

EXPLORING & PROTECTING HERITAGE PLACES WHILE HONORING THEIR DIVERSE VALUES

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Cover: Ancient technologies expert Allen Denoyer and potter Andy Ward at a public pottery firing. **IMAGE:** KATHLEEN BADER
Above right: Replica adobe room block at our field school headquarters in Cliff, NM. **IMAGE:** ALLEN DENOYER
Right: **IMAGE:** SKYLAR BEGAY

Dear Friends,

It may seem odd that I am writing the introduction to an annual report for the year before I arrived. At first, I even thought so. But then I read the draft text, found myself grinning with vicarious pride, and knew just what to share with you.

I have been in awe of Archaeology Southwest for a long time. I've shared its values and its vision. I've always been inspired and astonished by what this organization achieves, the forward and empathetic gaze it has. I've always thought of Archaeology Southwest in terms of superlatives: Unbelievably productive. Constantly dedicated. Uniquely creative. Always collaborative.

And now, to be here? To be helping continue this excellence? Mind-boggling. An honor. A solemn trust.

The highlights in this report are exactly why I want to be here. I observed them from the side, and now I see them from the inside as they continue to evolve in 2024. I get to work with these amazing, dedicated, passionate people. People who, with partners and friends, and through your support, affected real change by

- » Helping get Chaco Canyon National Historic Park and immediate environs protected from new oil and gas drilling for at least the next 20 years
- » Documenting vandalism and looting at archaeological sites in Tribal Lands across the country and creating a children's activity book, with Indigenous artists and educators, on those topics

- » Partnering to set the stage for the introduction of new federal legislation to create the Great Bend of the Gila National Monument southwest of Phoenix
- » Expanding a Tribal Working Group to enhance the cultural depth of our long-running cyberSW archaeological research database
- » Joining the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Tohono O'odham Nation, and Center for Biological Diversity in a lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management challenging its failure to fulfill legal obligations with respect to construction of the SunZia power line through the San Pedro River Valley east of Tucson, sacred to many Tribal Nations
- » Continuing to acquire highly competitive federal grants for archaeological research from the National Science Foundation and Bureau of Land Management
- » Publishing an influential position paper, *A Model for Tribal Collaboration*
- » Continuing our beloved Archaeology Café series and *Archaeology Southwest Magazine*

And that's not even all. When you read our 2023 highlights, you'll be thinking in superlatives as well. And we hope you take pride in helping us get this meaningful work done.

With profound gratitude,

Stephen Nash
President, & CEO

I've always been inspired and astonished by what this organization achieves, the forward and empathetic gaze it has.



Landscape & Site Protection



1 Emmy award-winning video exploring the significance of the Greater Chaco Landscape to Tribes

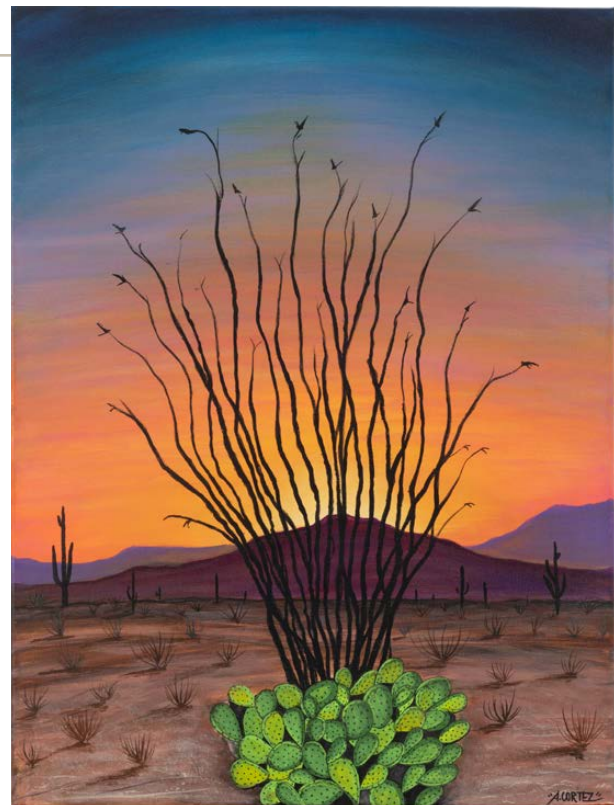
5 Indigenous artists featured in a nationally recognized educational publication

24 possible archaeological resource crimes reported through the Save History website and tip line

Skylar Begay, Archaeology Southwest's Director of Tribal Collaboration in Outreach and Advocacy, did a masterful job of summarizing the case for the Great Bend of the Gila National Monument at a press conference in DC with members of Congress. IMAGE © CHRIS FERENZI

Respect Great Bend

Archaeology Southwest is a founding member of **the coalition seeking national monument designation** for an enduring yet fragile southern Arizona cultural landscape known as the Great Bend of the Gila. Designation will provide better and more permanent protections, as well as the opportunity for the **13 Tribes** whose stories these lands hold to be directly involved in the monument's management. Over the course of 2023, **Skylar Begay** (Diné, Mandan and Hidatsa), co-director of the Respect Great Bend campaign, worked with leaders of the San Lucy District of the Tohono O'odham Nation to secure their support for the monument. The San Lucy District is adjacent to the proposed monument boundaries, and the community's deep history is integral to the monument's meaning and purpose.



Through **Cahokia PHX**, an Indigenous-led collective in Phoenix, campaign co-lead Skylar Begay met Akimel O'odham artist **Angelo Cortez**, who created a series of paintings celebrating the Great Bend of the Gila. That relationship led to an invitation to participate in the annual **Indigenous Peoples' Day Festival** on October 9, 2023. Respect Great Bend was joined by the Save History team.



Our rock imagery graffiti-removal collaboration with the Hopi Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps, Gila River Indian Community Cultural Resources Management Program, Navajo Nation, and Hopi Tribe was one of several restoration, assessment, and protection projects **Shannon Cowell's** team managed in 2023 at the request of Tribes.

Archaeological Resource Crime Response & Prevention

In addition to undertaking fieldwork and hosting training sessions throughout 2023, **we referred more than 20 possible violations** to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Cultural Resource Unit (BIA-CRU) and Homeland Security: 16 reports through SaveHistory.org and 8 from the 1-833-ENDLOOT tip line. Through our online monitoring program, we identified more than 173 cultural item auction listings and shared those with BIA-CRU for review.



Saving the San Pedro Valley

For more than a decade—because of **our long and collaborative history of documenting, protecting, and celebrating the valley's history**—we worked hard to show the Bureau of Land Management and a renewable-energy project sponsor exactly **how to avoid damage to culturally and naturally sensitive and sacred lands**. As 2023 drew to a close, however, it became clear that the transmission line opposed by Tribes, the local Cascabel community, ourselves, and other conservation groups was barreling toward groundbreaking. We are fortunate that Cascabel resident **Alex Binford-Walsh**, whose background is in landscape conservation and environmental policy, joined our staff as San Pedro Community Steward earlier that year. His assistance to project lead John Welch has been invaluable in our opposition to this new industrial corridor.



On January 17, 2024, the **San Carlos Apache Tribe** and the **Tohono O'odham Nation**, joined by Archaeology Southwest and the Center for Biological Diversity, **filed suit** against the US federal government. Our complaint alleges the Bureau of Land Management failed to complete steps required by the **National Historic Preservation Act** prior to authorizing construction of the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project. IMAGES: ALEX BINFORD-WALSH



Greater Chaco Cultural Landscape

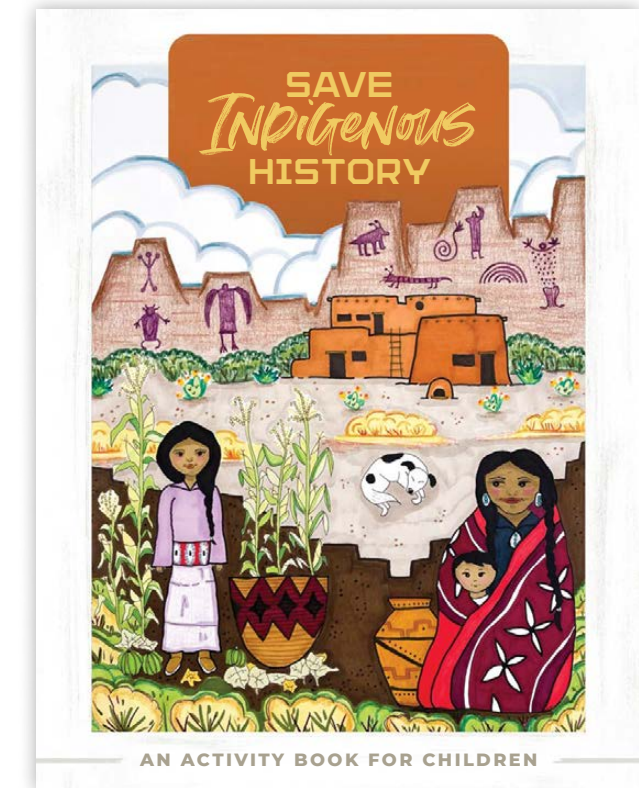
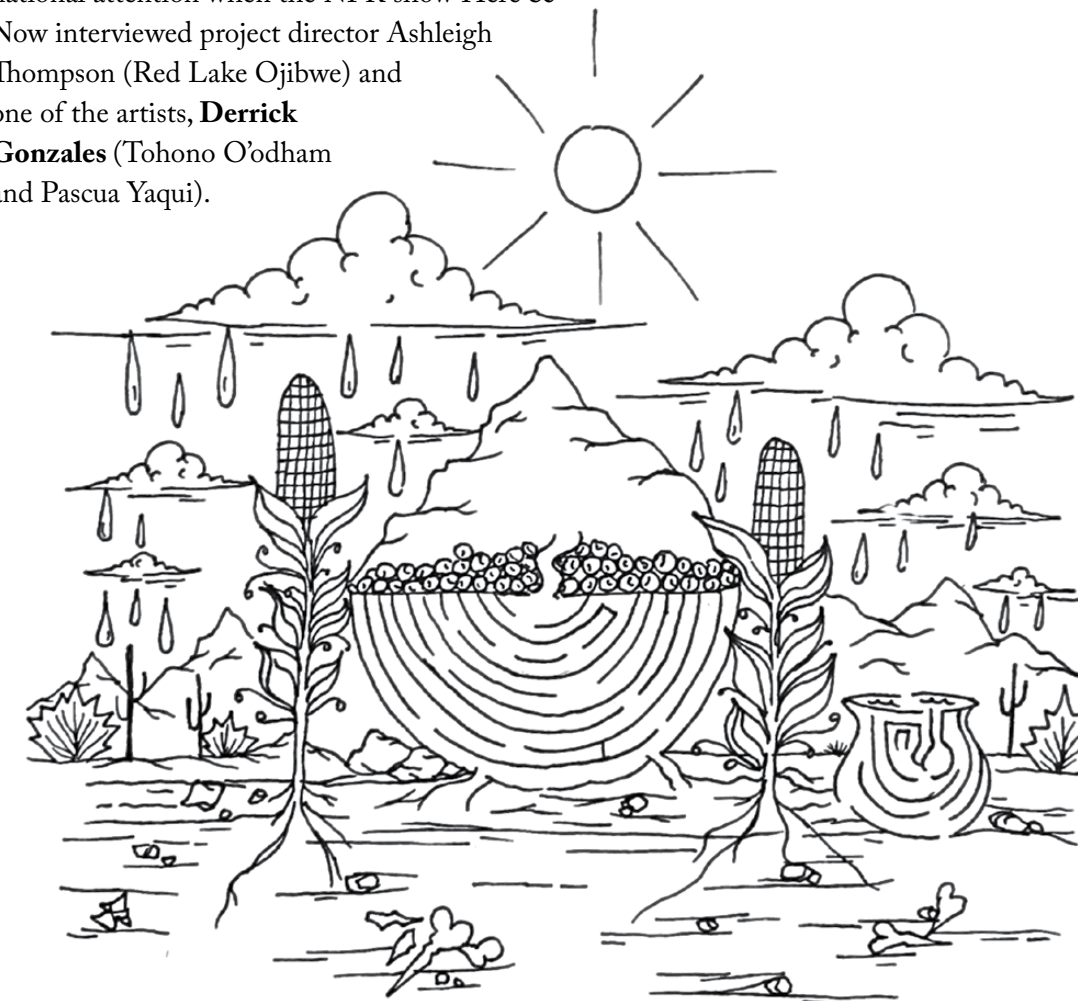
A decade of hard work with Pueblo, Diné, and conservation partners paid off in June 2023, when the US Department of the Interior approved a 20-year mineral withdrawal of federal lands and minerals within a **10-mile protection zone around Chaco Culture National Historical Park**. The withdrawal **prohibits new oil and gas leasing** on roughly 336,400 acres of public lands surrounding the park. The next step is for Congress to pass legislation making the withdrawal permanent. New Mexico Program Director **Paul Reed's** long commitment to Greater Chaco, and specifically to the care and use of existing archaeological collections from the region, were recognized with the New Mexico Archaeological Council's **2023 Lucy C. Schuyler Award**.



In November 2023, we became the first **Emmy-winning** archaeology nonprofit! (At least, we are pretty sure that is true.) The award for Historical/Cultural Content (Rocky Mountain Division) went to the short documentary **"Protecting Chaco's 10-Mile Zone" (2022)** produced by Archaeology Southwest and **David Wallace Visuals**. The film showcases Tribal leaders' broad support for protecting public lands surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park in their own words. IMAGE ABOVE © DAVID WALLACE | BACKGROUND IMAGE: PAUL VANDERVEEN

Save History

Our campaign to **end archaeological resource crime** on Tribal lands educates people through our website, social media, videos, comic book, advertising, and in-person outreach. Our most impactful project in 2023 was **Save Indigenous History: An Activity Book for Children**. Featuring illustrations by 5 Indigenous artists, the book received national attention when the NPR show *Here & Now* interviewed project director Ashleigh Thompson (Red Lake Ojibwe) and one of the artists, **Derrick Gonzales** (Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui).



Indigenous artists Xenia Berejnoi (cover illustration, above), Natalya Nez, Derrick Gonzales (illustration at left), Kayla Shaggy, and Angelo Cortez helped create this free activity book. Widely distributed to Tribal education programs, it is also popular at public outreach events. Download yours at SaveHistory.org

Research & cyberSW

23,000

Indigenous ancestral settlements and more than 17 million artifacts and architectural features in the cyberSW database

54 miles of

Indigenous trails that have been documented in Sonoran Desert National Monument

176 existing

collections from previously excavated archaeological sites contributing to new research questions in an NSF-funded study

cyberSW

We were pleased to add members to the **Tribal Working Group** that guides development of the cyberSW platform to include data of interest to Indigenous communities. One new person at the table is **Native American Fellow Caitlynn Mayhew** (Diné), who came on board to develop a digital field guide for bird species important to O’odham peoples. Also in 2023, we began adding information about archaeological plant & animal remains, stone & bone tools, and items of personal adornment to the database, and we built out new layers so that users can access information from rooms and other features within a site.



cyberSW is a freely available online gateway to regional archaeological and expert cultural knowledge that supports big-picture research. Its development has been funded by a series of grants from the National Science Foundation. In addition to the Tribal Working Group, project partners include the **University of Arizona, Arizona State University, UC Boulder, and University of New Mexico.**

Cultural Uses of Plants and Animals in the Southern Southwest, 1000–1450 CE

In September 2023, **Karen Schollmeyer, Jeff Clark, and Mike Diehl** (Desert Archaeology, Inc.) received a **National Science Foundation** grant (BCS-2312349) to study how people used animals and plants during a period of dramatic social change. The project uses existing collections and data from 3 different case-study areas from the periods before, during, and after migrants from the Kayenta area in what is now northeastern Arizona moved south to join existing communities in southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. It will also rely on and contribute to information in cyberSW.



A small **turtle plastron**, the flat “belly” part of the shell, from our field school’s work at the Dinwiddie site. Our project will examine common animals and plants people probably used as everyday foods, as well as less-common species used for special purposes and occasions.



Documenting Indigenous and Historical Trails

A 2023 grant from the Bureau of Land Management put **Aaron Wright** and crew on the ground documenting trails in the **Sonoran Desert National Monument**. The objective is to evaluate the relationship, if any, between a historic wagon road (the **Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail**) and existing Indigenous trails traversing the Great Bend of the Gila, such as the Komadk Trail. If the team can show the wagon road used existing Indigenous trail infrastructure, as historical records suggest, that will further underscore the depth and vibrancy of this landscape’s history and contribute to more robust interpretation.



For his long-term research in the lower Gila River region of Arizona—including almost a decade pursuing the Komadk Trail (pictured here) with the backing of the Gila River Indian Community—as well as his public outreach work, Aaron Wright received the **2023 Professional Archaeologist Award** from the Arizona Archaeological Society. IMAGES: SKYLAR BEGAY

Outreach & Education



600 virtual attendees of the 2022–2023 Archaeology Café series

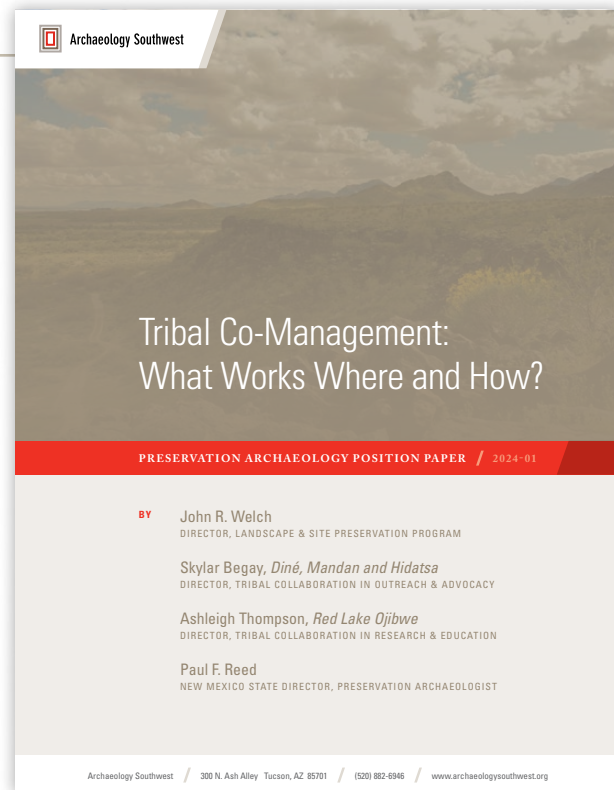
3 Preservation Archaeology Position Papers created to help establish the foundations for the future of Preservation Archaeology

2,100 volunteer hours logged in the Robinson Project

Ancient technologies expert Allen Denoyer teaches a Hands-On Archaeology class at Tucson's Mission Garden. IMAGE: SARA ANDERSON

Preservation Archaeology Position Papers

We kicked off our new position papers series in 2023 with two outstanding, far-reaching, and plain-speaking contributions by Tribal Collaboration directors Skylar Begay (Diné, Mandan and Hidatsa) and Ashleigh Thompson (Red Lake Ojibwe): **A Model for Tribal Collaboration at Archaeology Southwest** and **Our Living Land Acknowledgment**. Both are available on our website at archaeologysouthwest.org/about.



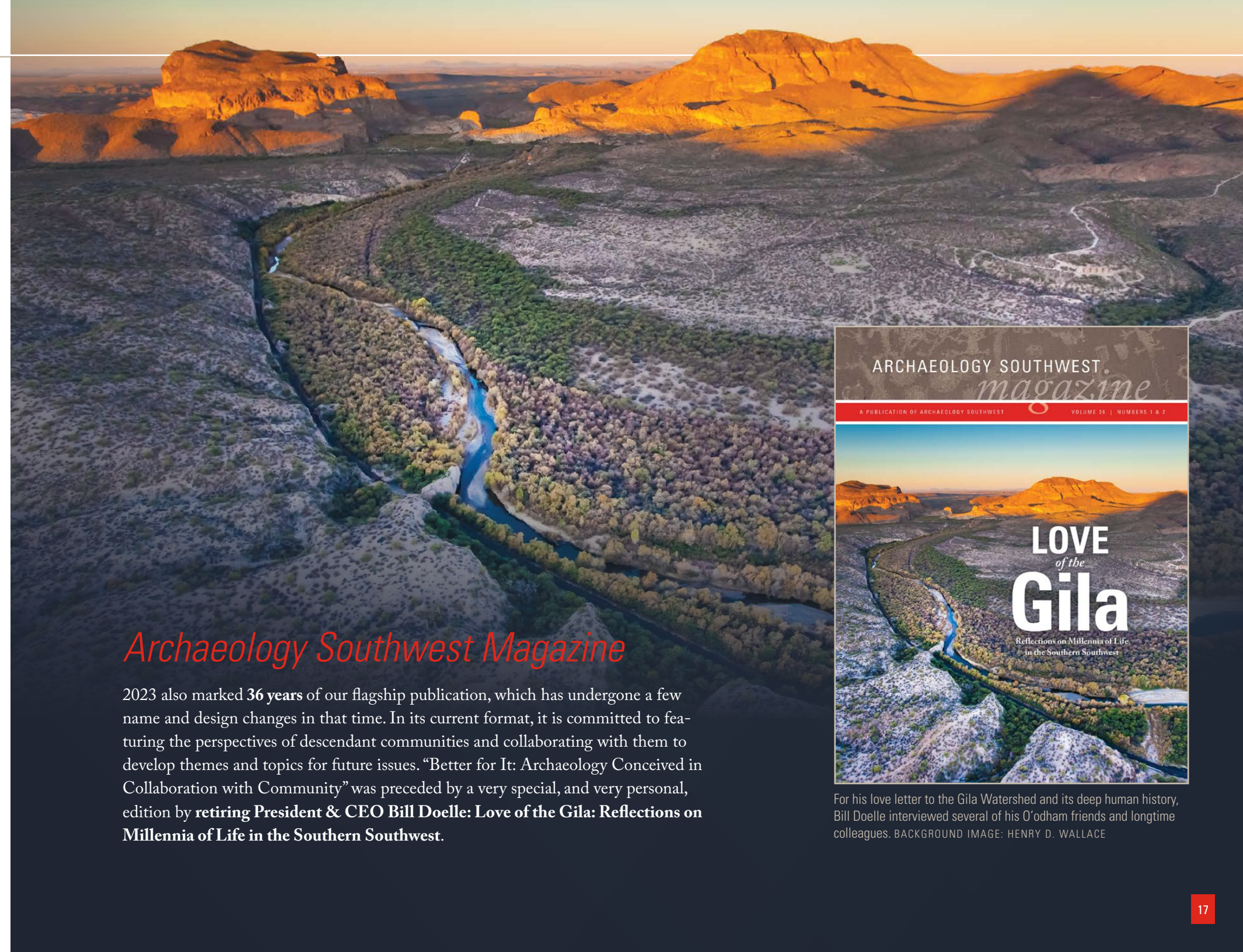
In 2024 we added **Tribal Co-Management: What Works Where and How?** (Welch, Begay, Thompson, and Reed) to the series. The next installment will be on Indigenous data sovereignty and its implications for our work, especially cyberSW.

Archaeology Café

2023 marked **15 years** of welcoming lifelong learners to the beloved program, which shares perspectives on people's lives in the past and how those experiences and ways of knowing resonate today. The 2022–2023 season, **Better for It: Research Conceived in Collaboration with Community**, attracted well over 600 viewers nationwide via Zoom. A companion volume of *Archaeology Southwest Magazine* followed. The 2023–2024 season, **Nourishing Body, Soul, & Earth: Traditional Foods & Foodways**, was a mix of online and in person, equally well attended.



Archaeology Café brings experts and audiences together in conversation. After 3 years largely online, the series returns to **all in-person** gatherings in autumn 2024.



Archaeology Southwest Magazine

2023 also marked **36 years** of our flagship publication, which has undergone a few name and design changes in that time. In its current format, it is committed to featuring the perspectives of descendant communities and collaborating with them to develop themes and topics for future issues. “Better for It: Archaeology Conceived in Collaboration with Community” was preceded by a very special, and very personal, edition by **retiring President & CEO Bill Doelle: Love of the Gila: Reflections on Millennia of Life in the Southern Southwest**.



For his love letter to the Gila Watershed and its deep human history, Bill Doelle interviewed several of his O’odham friends and longtime colleagues. BACKGROUND IMAGE: HENRY D. WALLACE

Hands-On Archaeology

Allen Denoyer and **Sara Anderson** took the show on the road for 30 community events reaching 100s of people at various locations, including Mission Gardens, Town of Oro Valley Steam Pump Ranch, Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, Presidio San Agustín del Tucson Museum, and the Tucson Festival of Books. In addition to teaching 8 ancient technologies workshops at our headquarters throughout the year, Allen also collaborated with **Gary Owens**, director of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's **Huhugam Ki Museum**, to teach 4 community classes in spring 2023.



Allen Denoyer's "Hands-on How-to" blog posts are an entertaining way to connect all of us with daily life in the distant past. In September 2023, he outdid himself with a lesson on how to make jewelry from iridescent beetle legs.

Volunteer Programs

As ever, our sincere thanks go out to everyone in our mighty volunteer corps! One of our longest-running endeavors, the **Robinson Project**, led by **Jaye Smith**, logged more than 2,100 hours in 2023! The team is analyzing and preparing a legacy archaeological collection for curation at the Arizona State Museum. A similar project, **Roadrunner Vista**, led by **Sharon Miller** and destined for curation at the Amerind Foundation, made substantial progress over the course of the year. In the fall, a dedicated group of 30 people walked long transects and camped under stars for Aaron Wright's **Desert Trails Survey** (page 13).



Harlow Sires (pictured) and **Mary Graham** (photographer) are among the indomitable members of the Robinson Project crew led by **Jaye Smith**. Archaeology Southwest has long been committed to the care and use of legacy archaeological collections, many of which have been recovered from less-than-ideal storage conditions.

Archaeology Southwest Welcomes New Leadership



When Bill Doelle told me he would be stepping down as CEO of Archaeology Southwest, I knew this would present a real challenge, as well as a tremendous opportunity. As the founder of Archaeology Southwest and its CEO for the past 35 years, Bill has left an indelible mark—we simply would not have such a vibrant and dynamic nonprofit if not for him and his vision. I've said it before and I will certainly say it again: Thank you, Bill, for your tireless passion and dedicated leadership. Although he is stepping back from his day-to-day involvement with Archaeology Southwest, know that Bill will continue to serve in an advisory capacity and help ensure the longevity of our great organization.

The opportunity to welcome new leadership to Archaeology Southwest brought us **Dr. Steve Nash**, who began serving as the new CEO in early 2024. Steve immediately rose to the top of our nationwide search. His credentials are exceptional, but what impressed us most were his intrinsic grasp of and fundamental alignment with Archaeology Southwest's values, mission, and vision, as well as how to build on those going forward. Bill, others on the Board and Staff, and I agree Steve's sincerity, enthusiasm, and quick sense of humor make him a great fit with our Archaeology Southwest team.

Steve returned to Tucson, where he had received his doctorate in Anthropology at the University of Arizona in 1997, from the Denver area, where he had served

in a number of senior leadership roles at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS) since 2006. At DMNS, Nash led significant collaborative projects to return belongings to Indigenous North American communities and Indigenous peoples internationally. Born and raised in Chicago, he returned there for a postdoctoral position at the Field Museum in 1997 and subsequently served as Head of Collections for the museum's Department of Anthropology from 1999 to 2006. His archaeological research includes dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) in the American Southwest and fieldwork at Indigenous heritage sites in the highlands of west-central New Mexico and east-central Arizona.

Upon accepting the position, Steve said, "I have been a keen observer of Archaeology Southwest's work for more than a quarter century—I even told Bill some 15 years ago that I would love to work there someday! Archaeology Southwest has long been at the forefront of conserving cultural landscapes, collaborating with Tribes, and sharing the joy of learning more about humanity and the places and belongings that help tell all our stories. It has been a thrill to see as a longtime supporter, and now I get to be in on the action."

Even though change can be bittersweet, we look forward to a new era at Archaeology Southwest—exploring its limitless potential while also respecting and honoring all the work that brought us to where we are today.

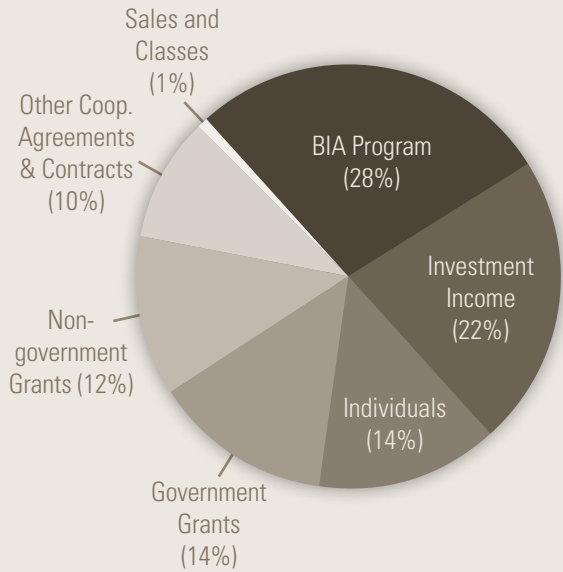
—Dan Kimball



Bill Doelle and Linda Mayro (Pima County) retired in early 2024. Have fun, kids! IMAGE: ALEX BINFORD-WALSH

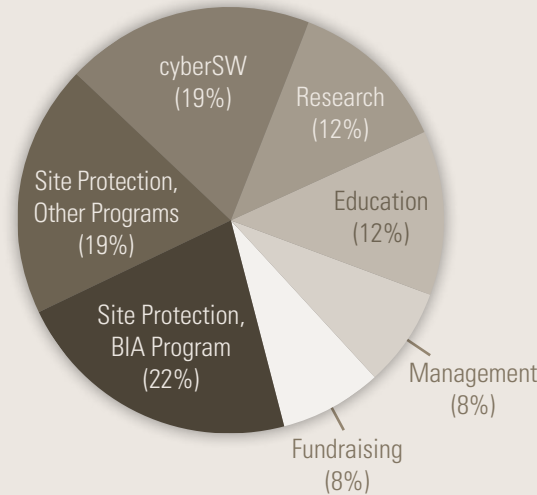
2023 Operating Revenue

Total: \$3,058,863



2023 Operating Expenses

Total: \$3,069,020



Statement of Financial Position

Assets	\$12,413,134
Liabilities	\$1,110,829
Net Assets <i>without donor restrictions</i>	\$2,987,723
Net Assets <i>with donor restrictions</i>	\$8,314,582

2023 Board of Directors

William H. Doelle, *President and CEO*

Dan Kimball, *Chair*

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