“Just a few months ago, the idea of revitalizing our language seemed impossible. In a short time, Wikitongues has made the difference. Because of Wikitongues, I am confident that our dream of becoming fluent speakers again is well within reach.”

— Windy Goodloe on revitalizing the Afro-Seminole Creole language in Brackettville, Texas, USA
The Challenge

We’re living through an age of unprecedented loss.
7,000 languages are spoken or signed today, but 3,000 languages could vanish this century as the communities that speak them collapse.
In one generation, centuries of cultural, historical, and ecological knowledge will be erased as the last speakers of endangered languages die.
Language loss creates and reinforces poverty. People lose their mother tongues to economic exclusion, political oppression, and genocide.
Our Solution

Wikitongues supports language revitalization on a global scale.
With the right resources, anyone can learn the language of their ancestors, teach the next generation, and keep their culture alive.

Wikitongues-backed activists documenting and teaching their languages in India, the United States, and D.R. Congo.
Our Language Revitalization Accelerator gives annual training and grants to the leaders of new mother-tongue projects. We help you:

- Identify your community’s long-term and short-term language needs
- Build a measurable plan to meet those needs for the next generation
- Gather resources and implement that plan in your community
The Impact

Language revitalization accelerates education and alleviates poverty.
From Australia to North America, language revitalization has been shown to drive higher school attendance and graduation rates.
In Europe, language revitalization created jobs and increased GDP, leading to stronger economic development and prosperity.

Switzerland attributes 11% of its GDP to policies that protect multilingualism. Language revitalization in Catalonia and Basque Country grew local media and created jobs.
At scale, revitalization would drive growth. Up to 50% of all endangered languages are spoken in just 10 of the largest emerging markets.
Case Studies

In three years, we’ve seeded 40 language projects across every continent.
Chanka language

Revitalized by Floro Ortiz Contreras in Ayacucho, Peru.

Floro leads a team of young Andeans who are reawakening Quechua Chanka to sustain Indigenous ecological knowledge. He partnered with Wikitongues to:

- Pair Andean students with native-speaking elders
- Organize an ecolinguistic documentation competition
- Launch a database of mother-tongue terms for local flora and fauna
- Participate in a nation-wide Quechua revitalization program
Raji language
Revitalized by Tulsi Rajbaar in Chakarpur, Uttarakhand, India.

In 2022, we supported Tulsi’s effort to promote mother-tongue language immersion for children of the Raji culture. To date, she has:

- Organized five pop-up centers for early-childhood immersion
- Built an additional curriculum for mother-tongue literacy
- Created a children's book containing five Raji-language poems
- Launched an active WhatsApp group for Raji speakers to communicate daily
Khwededam language
Revitalized by Moshe Kxoegoe
Maghundnu in Southern Africa.

Moshe leads the Southern African San Development Organization, which supports Indigenous peoples in Southern Africa. He partnered with Wikitongues to:

- Compile accessible Khwededam dictionaries for early childhood education
- Publish the first-ever children's books in the Khwededam language
- Host community language workshops in South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana
- In the long-term, Moshe plans to build a cultural museum for his community
Our Vision

We're building social infrastructure for cultural and linguistic diversity.
By 2024, Wikitongues will help reawaken at least 40 endangered languages, standardizing an open approach to language revitalization.
Once standardized, we will rapidly scale 10X, enough to support revitalization for a majority of endangered languages by 2032.
On average, it costs $10,000 to kickstart a new language revitalization project, with 64% going to funding and training local language leaders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Language cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program admin</td>
<td>$2,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic and technical support</td>
<td>$720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community language grants</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program discretionary</td>
<td>$740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational overhead</td>
<td>$3,635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-year total</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About Wikitongues

Our financial numbers, team, and partners
In 2022, our operation budget was $180,190, against $226,714 in revenue, approximately 75% of which came from foundations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Breakdown</th>
<th>Revenue Breakdown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation grants</td>
<td>$ 49,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct individual donations</td>
<td>$ 25,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect individual donations</td>
<td>$ 68,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube ad sale</td>
<td>$ 2,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous revenue</td>
<td>$ 34,169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 226,714</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 180,190</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Daniel Bögre Udell  
Executive Director  
Wikitongues Cofounder

Kristen Tcherneshhoff  
Programs Director  
Linguist

Tochi Precious  
Wikimedian-in-Residence  
Moleskine Foundation

Frederico Andrade  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Wikitongues Cofounder

Kamal El-Wattar  
Board of Directors  
Earth Codes Observatory

Jamie Joyce  
Board of Directors  
Society Library

Menghis Bairu  
Board of Directors  
Proxenia Venture Partners

Casson Trenor  
Board of Directors  
Ocean conservationist
We work with the American Folklife Center at the U.S. Library of Congress to preserve language resources.

We make it easier for communities to add their languages to the Wikimedia Commons and Wikipedia.

Together, Wikitongues and Living Tongues publish free resources for language revitalization.

Wikitongues and 7000 Languages work together to support mother-tongue education projects.

We're working together to preserve and promote endangered languages from the Jewish diaspora.

Each semester, linguistics students from the University of Pittsburgh join Wikitongues as for-credit interns.

Major Partners

Major Funders

1,000+ donors
In 7,000 languages, thank you.