

BRANDI LIBERTY

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www.luakgroup.com 

Professional Bio



Brandi Liberty **Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska/United Houma Nation**

Brandi Liberty, enrolled member of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and descendant of the United Houma Nation, is the owner and CEO of The Luak Group and provides tribal consulting services for Tribes and Tribal entities. With over 17 years of experience, she is one of the top five grant writers in Indian Country and has over \$137 million in federal and state level grant awards for projects and program serving Indian Country. Her specialties include funding strategy architecture, competitive grant development, program design, and capital readiness, with deep expertise in Indian Housing/NAHASDA systems, tribal housing strategy, human resources consulting, and grant-integrated owner's representation. She aligns funding strategy with field-level implementation, helping Tribal Nations and Native-led

entities move from concept to capital, compliance, construction readiness, and measurable community impact.

Ms. Liberty is the co-author of *"Womanhood: Identity to Intimacy and Everything in Between"*, published in 2023 through She Rises Studios, and is currently writing her second book. She was the keynote speaker for the *Healing the Circle in Our Tribal Communities Symposium* hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida in 2019, the *Families Are Sacred Summit* hosted by the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma in 2023, and the MMIP Symposium hosted by the Yakama Nation Awtnei Shixwit Iniit in 2025. In 2024, she was invited to speak on the *Legislative Priorities for the 119th U.S. Congress* panel at the NAIHC Legal Symposium, where she shared the stage with leadership from HUD, NAIHC, and the National Congress of American Indians. She has also been interviewed by *High Country News* about harassment in the BIA and by the *Associated Press* on the confirmation of Deb Haaland to the Department of the Interior. Currently, Ms. Liberty is a monthly columnist for *Verite News* in New Orleans, LA, addressing Indigenous culture, issues, and events for the Tribes located in the state.

She currently serves as Treasurer of the Board of Directors for the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and as a Board Member for the Women's Leadership Academy. Her past board service across Indian Country includes the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska Election Board, the IPAI Community Loan Fund Board for the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, and Vice President of Research Wild. She was also an Enterprising Woman of Color, a Minority Business Development Agency program that supported women of color in expanding their businesses.

Ms. Liberty graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a BA in History. She holds a master's degree from the Center of Indigenous Nations Studies at the University of Kansas, where her focus was Tribal Human Resources. She has also obtained an Executive Leadership Certificate from Harvard Business School's Leading People and Investing to Build Sustainable Communities Program through Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA), an Executive Leadership Certificate from the Indigenous Leadership Academy from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, the National Congress of American Indians Media and Journalism Fellowship at Arizona State University, and a Professional Certificate from the Women's Leadership Academy at Loyola University New Orleans.

Experience and Qualifications

The Luak Group | Native Woman-Owned Consulting Firm

Established 2016

www.luakgroup.com

Chief Executive Officer

Founded by Brandi Liberty, The Luak Group is a Native woman-owned consulting firm providing high-trust, expert-driven services to Tribal Nations, Tribally Designated Housing Entities, Native nonprofits, and Indian Country partners. Established in 2016, the firm consolidates the legacy, technical expertise, and client service infrastructure of three previously distinct companies—Morning Star Consultants, Heroda Bikax^e Consulting, and Ugisa Tribal Consultants—into one unified, full-service consulting entity.

The Luak Group specializes in Indian housing systems, competitive funding strategy, grant development and management, tribal governance, organizational capacity building, human resources consulting, strategic planning, and grant-integrated project implementation. The firm's work is rooted in tribal sovereignty, federal compliance, culturally grounded planning, and measurable community outcomes.

As Chief Executive Officer, Brandi Liberty leads all operational, strategic, fiscal, and client-facing aspects of the firm. She personally oversees contract execution, client strategy, funding architecture, service integration, regulatory compliance, technical assistance delivery, strategic partnerships, and quality control across all engagements. Her leadership ensures that every project is designed not only to secure funding, but to move from concept to capital, implementation, compliance, construction readiness, and closeout.

An enrolled member of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and a descendant of the United Houma Nation, Brandi brings more than 17 years of experience working with more than 100 Tribal Nations and Native-led entities across the United States. With more than \$137 million in awarded federal, state, foundation, and competitive grant funds, she is nationally recognized as one of Indian Country's leading grant writers, Indian housing strategists, and funding-to-field implementation experts.

Brandi's executive role extends beyond traditional consulting. She functions as a funding strategy architect, Indian housing systems expert, grant-integrated owner's representative, compliance strategist, program designer, technical assistance provider, and capacity-building partner. Her work helps Tribal Nations and TDHEs develop fundable projects, align scope and budget, prepare for capital readiness, strengthen internal systems, reduce compliance risk, and implement sustainable housing and community development solutions.

The Luak Group's mission is to strengthen Indian Country by delivering solutions that enhance capacity, protect sovereignty, improve compliance, support long-term self-determination, and help Native communities move from vision to implementation.

Core Executive Leadership Functions

- Lead a Native woman-owned consulting firm serving Tribal Nations, TDHEs, Native nonprofits, and Indian Country organizations nationwide.
- Direct firmwide strategy, operations, business development, fiscal performance, client relations, contract management, and service delivery.
- Integrate the legacy services of Morning Star Consultants, Heroda Bikax^e Consulting, and Ugisa Tribal Consultants into one comprehensive consulting platform.
- Provide senior-level strategy for Indian housing, NAHASDA compliance, competitive grants, program design, governance, workforce systems, and implementation planning.
- Develop and manage federal, state, foundation, and discretionary grant strategies resulting in more than \$137 million in awarded funding.
- Design fundable housing, infrastructure, economic development, justice, education, cultural preservation, and community development initiatives.
- Serve as a grant-integrated owner's representative by aligning scope, budget, schedule, compliance, procurement, reporting, and implementation readiness.
- Represent the firm in national policy forums, tribal advocacy spaces, media platforms, conferences, and strategic partnerships.

- Provide direct technical assistance to Tribal Nations and TDHEs experiencing organizational transition, leadership change, compliance challenges, growth, crisis, or major project development.
- Develop repeatable systems, tools, templates, policies, SOPs, workplans, budgets, and implementation roadmaps that strengthen long-term tribal capacity.

Core Service Areas & Expertise

Tribal Housing Development, NAHASDA Compliance & Housing Systems

Formerly Heroda Bikax'e Consulting LLC

- Lead strategic Indian Housing Plan and Annual Performance Report planning, development, review, and implementation support.
- Provide expert guidance on NAHASDA, ONAP housing systems, IHBG formula funds, IHBG Competitive, ICDBG, Title VI, and related HUD funding programs.
- Develop housing policies, procedures, workflows, compliance tools, and monitoring-readiness systems aligned with NAHASDA and 2 CFR Part 200.
- Conduct housing needs assessments, feasibility reviews, site planning support, and development-readiness analysis.
- Support residential, rental, elder housing, homeownership, rehabilitation, infrastructure, and community facility development initiatives.
- Coordinate with architects, engineers, project managers, construction managers, housing staff, boards, and tribal leadership to align project scope, funding, budget, schedule, and compliance obligations.
- Support Davis-Bacon, procurement, environmental review, documentation, and contract file readiness.
- Deliver housing board, executive leadership, staff, resident, and tenant training designed to strengthen governance, operations, and compliance.

Funding Strategy, Grant Writing, Research & Grants Management

Formerly Morning Star Consultants LLC

- Provide competitive grant strategy, NOFO analysis, scoring architecture, proposal development, and full application packaging.
- Develop fundability architecture for complex projects, including evidence strategy, conceptual budgeting, cost reasonableness, implementation sequencing, and attachment alignment.
- Write and submit federal, state, foundation, and discretionary grant applications across housing, infrastructure, economic development, education, justice, cultural preservation, and community development sectors.
- Build defensible budgets, workplans, logic models, timelines, performance measures, staffing plans, and compliance narratives.
- Conduct grant research and funding pipeline development to support short-term opportunities and long-term capital strategy.
- Provide post-award support, including grant modifications, reporting, closeout preparation, performance tracking, compliance updates, and funding expansion strategies.
- Develop internal grant tracking tools, reporting systems, and staff capacity-building processes to improve grant administration and reduce implementation risk.

Tribal Governance, Strategic Planning & Organizational Consulting

Formerly Ugisa Tribal Consultants LLC

- Facilitate strategic planning for tribal councils, housing authorities, TDHE boards, departments, programs, and Native-led organizations.
- Develop mission, vision, values, goals, objectives, implementation roadmaps, performance measures, and accountability structures.
- Conduct organizational assessments, governance reviews, capacity assessments, workflow analysis, and compliance-risk scans.
- Support tribal code, policy, procedure, and organizational structure review and development.
- Provide restructuring support for tribal departments, housing authorities, boards, and programs seeking improved accountability, authority, and operational clarity.
- Align governance systems with sovereignty, program performance, federal compliance, funding requirements, and long-term sustainability.

Human Resources, Workforce Systems & Organizational Capacity

- Develop tribal and TDHE-specific HR policies, handbooks, position descriptions, evaluation tools, onboarding systems, and supervisor toolkits.
- Support performance improvement planning, corrective action, staff coaching, conflict resolution, and documentation protocols.
- Provide workforce planning, retention strategy, organizational restructuring, role clarification, and chain-of-command development.
- Advise leadership on personnel matters involving compliance risk, operational disruption, employee accountability, and workplace conduct.
- Build HR systems that reflect the realities of tribal governance, housing operations, limited staffing capacity, federal funding requirements, and culturally grounded leadership.
- Deliver leadership training, staff development, workplace communication training, and board/executive coaching.

Training, Technical Assistance & Federal TA Services

- Serve as a certified technical assistance provider and subject matter expert under HUD's Community Compass Program.
- Deliver virtual and onsite training and technical assistance to Tribal Nations, TDHEs, housing boards, executive leadership, staff, and Native nonprofits.
- Provide more than 270 training and technical assistance engagements across Indian Country.
- Develop customized training curricula, facilitation materials, compliance tools, templates, and implementation guides.
- Training topics include NAHASDA compliance, Indian housing program management, strategic planning, governance, 2 CFR Part 200, federal procurement, fraud prevention, communication strategies, board roles and responsibilities, executive leadership, tribal justice systems, and trauma-informed organizational response.

Selected Results & Differentiators

- Secured more than *\$137 million* in federal, state, foundation, and competitive grant awards.
- Supported more than *100 Tribal Nations and Native-led entities* across the United States.
- Delivered more than *270 training and technical assistance engagements* across Indian Country.
- Built a unified consulting platform integrating grant writing, Indian housing, compliance, governance, HR, strategic planning, and implementation support.
- Known for converting limited project concepts into complete, defensible, fundable, and implementation-ready applications.
- Recognized for developing award-ready applications, monitorable workplans, buildable scopes, and repeatable systems that strengthen tribal capacity beyond the life of the contract.
- Provides senior-level, solo executive delivery from strategy through submission, adoption, implementation, and closeout.
- Specializes in aligning funding strategy with field-level execution so projects are not only awarded but positioned for successful implementation.

Enterprise Community Partners

August 2022 – December 2024

www.enterprisecommunitypartners.org

Technical Assistance Consultant

- Provided direct technical assistance to Tribes/TDHE's under HUD's **Community Compass Technical Assistance Program**.
 - HUD's Community Compass initiative funds technical assistance (TA) and capacity building activities for HUD's customers, including grantees, public housing authorities, and tribes. Community Compass helps HUD's customers navigate complex housing and community development challenges by equipping them with the knowledge, skills, tools, capacity, and systems to implement HUD programs and policies successfully. The goal of Community Compass is to empower communities so that successful program implementation is sustained over the long term. Activities performed under Community Compass include:
 - Needs assessments.

- Direct Technical Assistance and Capacity Building engagements.
 - Development of products and tools.
 - Self-directed and group learning.
- Provided direct technical assistance to Tribes/TDHE's under HUD's **Distressed Cities and Persistent Poverty Technical Assistance Program**.
 - The Distressed Cities and Persistent Poverty Technical Assistance (DCTA) program is designed to build capacity of local governments experiencing economic distress and assist local governments and their nonprofit partners in alleviating persistent poverty in specific areas (census tracts). Through DCTA, HUD provides technical assistance (TA) directly to entities serving smaller communities with populations under 50,000.

The Project Team (subsidiary of Ho-Chunk Capital)

April 2022 – December 2023

<https://hochunkcapital.com/theprojectteam.html>

Project Manager Consultant

- Provided full-service project management and technical assistance during all phases of a project's life cycle.
- Pre-development & Planning
- Market & Feasibility Studies
- Economic Development Analysis and Consulting
- Financial Modeling and Projections
- Tax Credit and Grant Sourcing

Native Learning Center (Seminole Tribe of Florida)

March 2017 – February 2023

<http://nativelearningcenter.com>

Subject-Matter Expert ~ Training/Technical Assistance Contractor

- Provided onsite and webinar-based training and technical assistance as a NAHASDA subject-matter expert through the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Native Learning Center.
- Assisted and promoted affordable housing activities, ensuring safe and healthy environments, planned for, and integrated infrastructure resources for Tribes and TDHE's, and promoted the development of private capital markets in Indian Country.
- Keynote speaker for the *Healing the Circle in Our Tribal Communities Symposium* hosted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Native Learning Center.
- Planned, coordinated, and presented over 70 webinars, onsite conferences, onsite training/technical assistance, and podcasts for over 2700 Indian Country participants.

Nakupuna Companies (Honolulu, HI)

October 2021 – March 2022

<https://nakupuna.com>

Senior Consultant

The Senior Consultant supports HUD ONAP in leading a major initiative supporting the implementation, management, and monitoring of the CARES Act of 2020. HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all.

- Led deliverable development and delivery independently, or as part of a team, in support of the HUD contract's five task areas (e.g., interviewing clients, leading client teams, creating and delivering presentations, tailoring best practices to HUD context, benchmarking performance, and working with subject experts to develop unique perspectives and insights).
- Assisted ONAP Office of Grants Management (GM) and Grants Evaluation (GE) with the development, review/edit, and finalization of CARES Act policy and funding guidance documents.
- Supported the writing, review, and development of numerous policy and funding documents to align with the ONAP's Program Guidance and Notices.
- Contributed to the original development and progressive elaboration of four comprehensive GM and GE manuals and handbooks.
- Provided input and supported the development of a strategic plan, roadmap, and methodology to test and assess compliance for 15 Tribes and TDHEs CARES Act funding recipients to determine compliance.

- Supported the development of SOP's, checklists, and quality control mechanisms to support PHA's reviews and assessing compliance.
- Conducted numerous remote audio and visual interviews with key stakeholders to carry out assessments.
- Assisted in the development and delivering of a PHA tracking aid that tracks waivers and associated data adopted by PHA's under the CARES Act authority.
- Supported the composition and development of RVI training curriculum and material, technical assistance documentation, troubleshooting responses, and capturing best practices.
- Managed, tracked, and analyzed metrics associated with the roll out of RVI activities.
- Provided recommendations on policy development related to CARES Act expenses.

Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska (White Cloud, KS)

February 2018 – September 2020

<https://iowatribeofkansasandnebraska.com>

Project Manager

The Project Manager for the Comprehensive Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning was responsible for facilitating the planning process with the Department of Justice for the 2017 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation project. Responsibilities included:

- Facilitated the strategic planning process, including forming a strategic team that includes the Tribe's tribal justice system staff.
- Assisted the Department of Justice Technical Assistance Provider with conducting a comprehensive needs assessment of the tribal justice system.
- Identified community strengths and weaknesses through analysis of the comprehensive need's assessment.
- Oversaw the development of strategies to strengthen the tribal justice system and promoted community wellness and safety.
- Assisted the Department of Justice Technical Assistance Provider with completing the final written strategic plan to be submitted to the DOJ.
- Made project management recommendations to the Executive Committee and tribal justice system on grant funded requirements and other identified resources.
- Developed short term and long-range goals and objectives, including project plans and milestones and measures of effectiveness for achieving and accomplishing a successful project.
- Assisted Grant Administrator in preparation of grant narrative and fiscal reporting to the DOJ.
- Provided monthly reports to the Executive Committee on the progress of the project.

Northern Ponca Housing Authority (Omaha, NE)

January 2014 – February 2016

<https://poncahousing.org>

Human Resources and Housing Development Officer

- Organized, managed, coordinated, and directed the operations and functions of employee relations.
- Coordinated and participated as key staff member in employee recruitment process, candidate screening, reference & background checks, including selection (in conjunction with supervising manager), offer and hiring process, preparing position vacancy and activity reports and HR related communications for internal and external distribution.
- Led Northern Ponca Housing Authority managers and supervisors, conducted meetings to provide staff members with clear career goals and criteria for achieving department and organizational goals.
- Monitored job descriptions & salary ranges for industry and market trends. Prepared probation period reviews, annual appraisals, and timelines for completion by respective managers.
- Liaised with Executive Director on schedules and overall employee performance, disciplinary action plans and annual budgeting of salary increases & overtime of the organization.
- Identified, reviewed, and advised on tasks related to recruitment process and employment strategies to meet human resources requirements.
- Planned and implemented a quality assurance system such as monthly and annual client satisfaction reports and liaising with organizational leadership to ensure effectiveness of standards and policies.
- Interpreted, assisted, and advised employees and managers regarding benefit administration, HR procedures and policies within the specified guidelines of the Executive Director.

- Prepared, reviewed, interpreted, analyzed data, information, and reports, and made recommendations based on policy changes and goals of the organization.
- Advised Executive Director, management, and supervisors on human resource issues; investigated human resource related problems and made recommendations to the Executive Director and/or leadership team.
- Led organizational health and safety team, related policies & issues; conducted training, monitored, & provided monthly reporting to Executive Director.
- Supervised Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) program and worked directly with the ROSS Service Coordinator in all functions of the ROSS grant development and implementation.
- Researched grant programs and plans in coordination with grant teams; wrote funding applications and proposals, in tandem with assigned Grant Project Manager; provided follow-up with the grant/funding agencies to enable future funding, as needed.
- Conducted inter-departmental, inter-tribal and inter-agency meetings to identify and prioritize project needs and opportunities being pursued.
- Maintained awareness of funding opportunities from Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Indian Health Service (IHS), and all other federal, state, local, and private funding organizations.
- Provided timely advice and information on funding opportunities, requirements, and procedures; collaborated in defining and implementing project funding strategies.
- Maintained a relationship with contacts within funding organizations for current and future benefit.
- Provided supportive assistance to Administrative department with goals and objective reviews, budget revisions, evaluations, reporting and grant closeouts.
- Maintained files of submitted proposals, record win/loss record (especially feedback for future adjustments and changes for non-funded grant submittals) and maintained files on necessary documentation for Tribal records.
- Assisted in resolving issues and conflicts with funding agencies, as needed.
- Developed and submitted monthly reports to the Board of Commissioners on progress toward and/or needs to complete tasks and address priorities.

Travois Inc. (Kansas City, MO)

January 2010 – September 2010

<https://travois.com>

Compliance Specialist-Asset Management

- Successfully completed LIHTC training and received certification as a Site Compliance Specialist.
- Reviewed tenant file documentation to determine household qualification for Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) occupancy and performed on-site physical inspections in accordance with UPCS guidelines.
- Developed and maintained standardized review/approval forms for Asset Management department.
- Worked with local PHA departments nationwide to update utility allowances for Asset Management clients.
- Updated rent & income limits within the Tax Credit program for Asset Management clients.
- Updated and maintained manuals for LIHTC Compliance Training.
- Provided clients with weekly status to their projects currently in initial rent-up.
- Prepared and submitted quarterly reports to clients, investors, and local and state governments.

Education

Master of Arts ~ Indigenous Nations Studies with emphasis in Human Resources Diversity Management, University of Kansas, 2008

Bachelor of Arts ~ History with minors in Native American Studies and Ethnic Studies, University of Nebraska, 2004

Executive Leadership Certificate ~ Leading People and Investing to Build Sustainable Communities Program, Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA), Harvard Business School, May 2023

Executive Leadership Certificate - Indigenous Leadership Academy from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, March 2024

Executive Leadership Certificate – National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Tribal Leaders Media Training and Communications Fellowship from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism at Arizona State University, May 2025

Certificate ~ Spark Developer Academy, Spark CDI, 2020

Certification – LIHTC Site Compliance Specialist, 2010

Professional Affiliations

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Treasurer, Board of Directors –2023-Present

Research Wild, Vice President/Board of Directors –2023-Present

Minority Business Development Agency, Enterprising Women of Color, 2022-Present

American Indian Chamber of Commerce Oklahoma, 2022-Present

California American Indian Chamber of Commerce, 2022-Present

Native American Indian Housing Council, Member, 2017-Present

National Congress of American Indians, Individual Indian Member, 2021-Present

United Native American Housing Association, Associate Member, 2020-Present

Society for Human Resources Management, 2020-Present

Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska Election Board Member, 2015–2019

San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, IPAI Community Loan Fund Board Member, 2017–2019

One Mom's Battle, Board Member/Chapter Administrator (Indian Country, Louisiana, Nebraska), 2014-2018

National Cervical Cancer Coalition, New Orleans Chapter Administrator, 2017 - 2021

Fashion Experience

2024: Sponsor and Model for the RES Fashion Show, representing Choke Cherry Creek.

2023: Model for the Women's Foundation of the South Crescendeaux Fashion Show, featuring Brocade and Korto Momolu designs.

2023: Sponsor for the RES Fashion Show, sponsoring Choke Cherry Creek.

Indian Preference

