



MICHIGAN ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

"Preserving Michigan Voices."

Ndbaajmowinaanin: "Our Stories"

To increase accessibility of traditional stories, oral histories, and culturally relevant children's books by providing them in multiple digital formats, the **Mzinigangamik (Cultural Library)** at the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) received a Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in 2018. The name of this project is **Ndbaajmowinaanin**, which translates to "Our Stories" in Anishinaabemowin.

The project goals of Ndbaajmowinannin are to increase LTBB oral history collection, increase accessibility to library services for off-reservation and non-local patrons, and to increase awareness of digital library services.

As part of this grant, the Cultural Library was able to hire a Ndbaajmowinaanin Project Assistant, *who* supports the digitization of traditional stories, community-focused preservation and digitization of oral histories, and increased awareness and online accessibility of culturally-themed children's books.

The activities funded by this grant include:

- Recording three traditional storytelling events and making them accessible online and available for library circulation,
- Community outreach for interested Oral History interviewers and Elders interested in sharing their oral histories,
- Training workshops covering oral history
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In June, the LTBB Mzinigangamik hosted an Oral History workshop conducted by the Michigan Oral History Association, with presentations by Billy Wall-Winkel and Cam Amin below. Registered workshop participants were provided information on oral history interview skills and left after a great discussion on how to tackle a community oral history project. The information provided was invaluable, and the Mzinigangamik hopes to carry forward with project Ndbaajmowinaanin for future generations.

