



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

DEEP DIRT INSTITUTE  
PATAGONIA, AZ

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# MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER & PROGRAM DIRECTOR, KATE TIRION

I am thrilled to say that 2019 was a phenomenal year, made possible by hard work, engaged students, and generosity of many people, not least of which are our outstanding board, intern, and recently hired executive director.

The physical infrastructure of our Visitor Welcome Center and tool storage is close to completion; an eroded ditch was reclaimed and productively reinvented. Waste materials were utilized in numerous ways: plant nursery storage (old pallets), trail stabilization (wood chips, old corral fence posts), road repair and rainwater infiltration structures (broken concrete). All designed to functionally support: water infiltration, wildlife habitat, human food needs, soil life and carbon sequestration. We made compost, grew and harvested nutrient dense organic produce, increased our duck flock, hosted camp-outs, worked with Americorps volunteers, initiated a solar installation, and pulled endless tumbleweeds. We officially formed a board of directors who bring diverse talents and skills to our team. Successful fundraisers were held at our campus, in town and on line, and grants made some big things happen.

We toured dozens of individuals and groups and were amazed by our visitor's curiosity and desire to learn. We are part of a movement, a mosaic of restoration activity world wide. Our work inspires, and the fact that most of it has been done by youth participating in our education programs is heartening to all of our visitors. Youth are the future. It is essential that they learn the skills we need to care for our earth and ourselves, and they are hungry for that knowledge and experience. Their passion and commitment often bring tears of hope and I am profoundly grateful. You would be as well.

*-Kate Tirion*

## MISSION

To use hands-on demonstration and inspirational education to empower individuals and their communities to restore the land, restore themselves, and reimagine the future

## VISION

A world where everyone feels a sense of belonging to the earth and to each other.

**150+**

### OVER 150 YOUTH

Were educated at Deep Dirt Campus in 2019 through their participation in tours, hands-on restoration projects, and camp-outs!

**~250**

### NEARLY 250 TOTAL VISITORS

Learned at Deep Dirt this year for workshops, restoration projects, tours, and overnight stays at the Perch and Mulberry House.



During 2019 we hosted visitors from Australia, Canada, China, Dominica, Germany, Mexico, United States, Vietnam, and many more!



# THE YEAR IN PHOTOS...





## DEEP DIRT INSTITUTE'S CORE PROGRAMS

### Women Grow Food



Every Friday morning, a group of lively, fun, and dedicated women gather to learn permaculture techniques for growing organic food. They then get to take home a share of the day's seasonal harvest.

Women Grow Food is an educational, as well as social program, where members receive personal tutorship from Program Director, Kate Tirion. Kate's desire for this program is to create resilience and increase knowledge in Patagonia and surrounding communities. This nurturing space allows women to gain confidence in their food growing and leadership skills.

### Youth Empowerment Program

Our Youth Empowerment Program is an opportunity for Deep Dirt Institute to connect with local and non-local youth. Through our partnerships with high schools, universities, summer programs, and youth groups, young people come to Deep Dirt Institute to learn land restoration skills and feel empowered to take action in their own communities. This is one of our fastest growing programs and we are excited to see so many schools and youth groups feeling inspired to step outside and get their hands dirty!





## DEEP DIRT INSTITUTE'S CORE PROGRAMS

### Permaculture in Action Apprenticeship



Through our hands-on permaculture apprenticeship program, apprentices work with master teachers to fulfill an immersive curriculum that includes watershed restoration, organic food growing, composting, and development of wildlife habitat. Apprentices perform regular on-site tasks, such as irrigation, duck management, and pest control. Curriculum also incorporates individual work including required readings, videos, and journaling.

### Arid Lands Permaculture Training

Deep Dirt Institute offers on-site permaculture training for arid lands through hands-on workshops and restoration projects. Workshop topics vary from biodynamic composting and seed cleaning to adobe building and earth plastering. Our Permaculture Training opportunities provide inspiration and education to people as they join the movement toward restoring the land and relocalizing our economic and food systems.



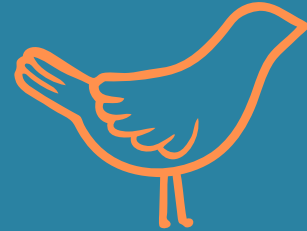


# Wildlife Report



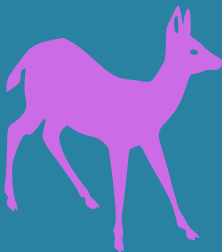
## SSSSSNAKES

Six rattlesnakes were removed from the gardens this year, including five diamondbacks and one black-tailed rattlesnake. We also spotted red coachwhips, gopher snakes, and a yellow ring-necked snake.



## BIRDS

This year we spotted some regular bird sightings, including the curve billed thrasher, red tailed hawks, and phainopepla. We also spotted a bronzed cowbird and the famous rufous crowned sparrows.



## REGULAR VISITORS

From scats, to tracks, and wildlife camera footage, we have gotten to know our regular visitors. This group includes javelina, deer, fox, coyote, and desert cottontail.



## FROGS

One of the most illusive creatures at the farm are frogs. Staff have reported activity in and around the duck pond, but we have not yet identified the species.



## MEET OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS!

### Anita Budhraja, Executive Director



In June 2019, Anita Budhraja joined our team as executive director. As part of her career with other volunteer-driven nonprofits, she managed a high-production farm to food pantry program in Washington, DC and led dry land reforestation in India. In addition to Anita's demonstrated passion for permaculture, she has an impressive record of successful organizational development, strategic planning, program leadership, and community building. She shares our vision and is excited to help transition Deep Dirt Institute into a self-sustaining organization that will live to see the long-term impact of its work.

### Mackenzie Martin, Intern



Mackenzie joined us as an intern in April 2019 and will be with Deep Dirt until August 2020. Mackenzie has a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Linguistics from the University of Victoria, British-Columbia. Her passion for sustainable food systems, food security, and eating nutritious food drove her to seek an opportunity to learn along-side Kate Tirion. She is learning everything from permaculture techniques and facilitation skills, to marketing and fundraising.

### Doni Nicoll, Board Member



Doni Nicoll was born on the Western Slope of Colorado and raised by ranchers and farmers in the Four Corners area. He moved with his family to the Patagonia area in June of 2018 to pursue their dream of being off-grid and self-sustainable. Doni runs his own photovoltaic engineering company, Astraea Design and has his Associates Degree in Experiential Education and Outdoor Studies. Doni has used his degree and overall ethics to institute education programs and teach everybody, from youth to the youthful at heart, about his passion of renewable energy. Doni is also volunteering his time to set up a solar power system at DDI's Visitor Welcome Center.

# Testimonials

At my visit to Deep Dirt Institute, I learned how to prevent erosion on my land. Kate Tirion is a very inspiring woman who helped me to see how you can restore your land cheaply by repurposing materials. I think everybody can benefit from coming to Deep Dirt Institute and seeing how small things have a big impact in nature.

- Santiago D.

Hello! I visited Kate years ago during a retreat held at Windsong! I just wanted to say hello and a huge kudos to whoever is running this [Facebook] account! The frequent and topical posts that are getting shared have been amazing and I really think are getting awareness out about all the amazing work happening at Deep Dirt. I'll be donating for the Holidays but also just wanted to say hi to Kate and the whole team and to say KEEP IT UP.

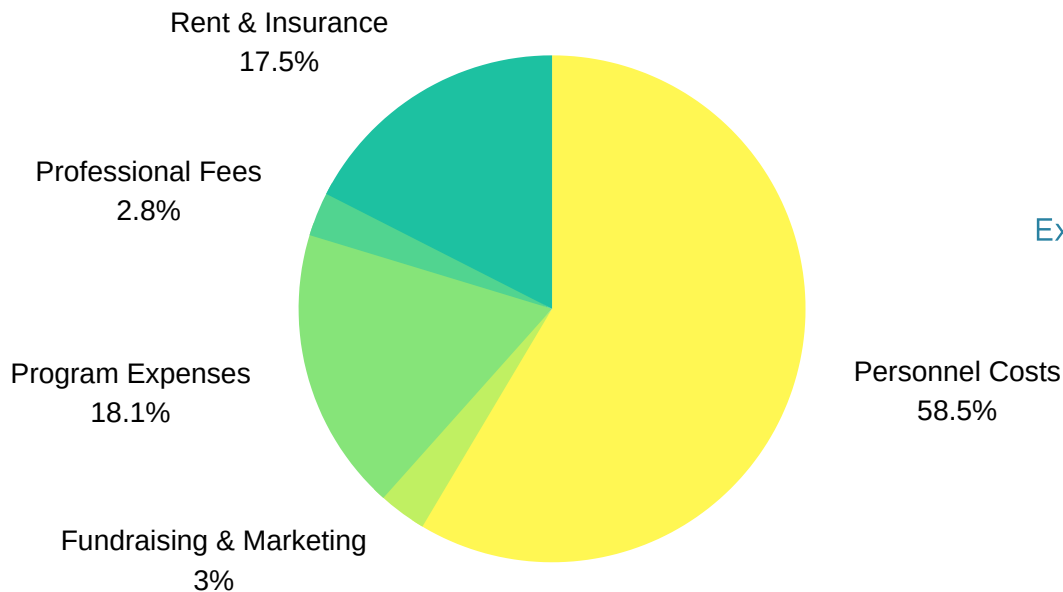
- Leah M, via Facebook

I arrived at Deep Dirt Farm Institute in August 2014. Kate Tirion gave us a tour of her home and land [...] She described how working in the dirt made her come alive, how it gave her purpose, and how each day she woke up to learn more about the land because she loved it. She explained that each time she designed a new water system, planted a new native plant, or invested time in learning the soil on her land, she felt herself come alive. She began to heal her relationship with mother nature, with humanity, and with herself. It was the first time in my life that I considered that my existence on this earth could restore life too. It was my time in Arizona that I learned about the power of pollinators and honey bees. I learned how they are the single most important kinds of creatures on this earth, because wherever they go they spread life. And learning about permaculture showed me for the first time how I could follow the philosophy of the honey bee; how it was possible to create systems and lifestyles in which each of my human breaths and steps would add life nature surrounding me. I learned that I am not separate from mother nature. I learned that I am capable of healing. I learned that I could also be healer. Deep Dirt Farm Institute changed my life. It was there that I felt my soul rest for the first time in years.

- Laura P.

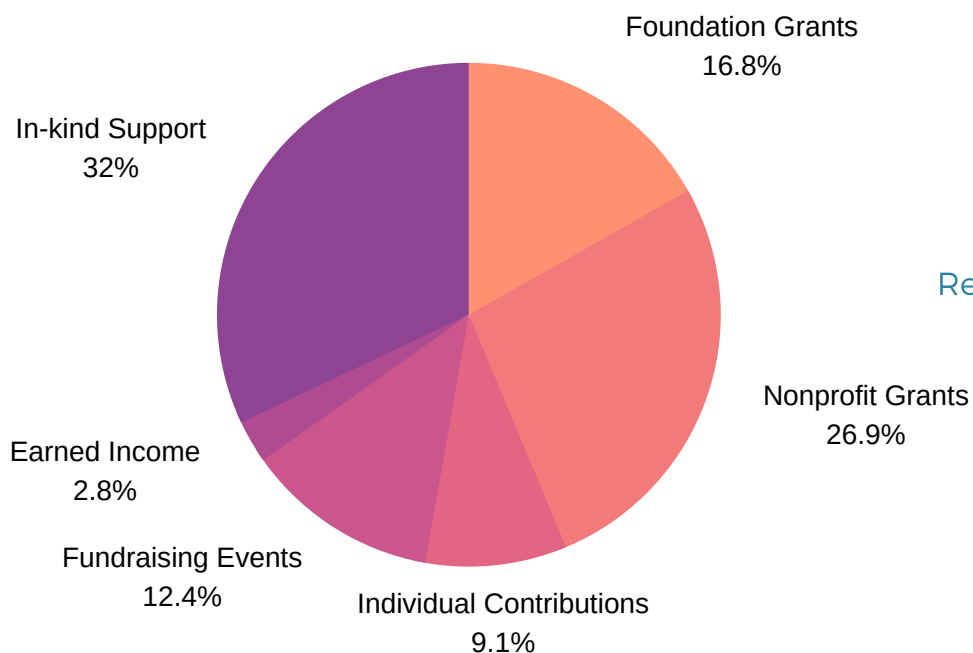


# Financial Report



## Expenses

Expenses for 2019 totaled  
**\$47,791.**



## Income

Revenue + In-Kind Value  
for 2019 totaled  
**\$89,246**

# WHAT'S AHEAD FOR DEEP DIRT INSTITUTE?

As we dive into the new decade, we will be working on raising funds to support our team and grow our programs. Deep Dirt Institute is hiring a part-time Education Intern to work with us for six months to focus on building the Youth Empowerment and Apprenticeship programs. We are thrilled to announce that Deep Dirt is hosting a group of NCCC Americorps youth for six weeks to build two more adobe housing structures! We will also be welcoming groups from Carleton University, Wofford College, Salpointe High School, and Latino Outdoors. As usual, we will be planning quarterly tours and permaculture workshops for the community. Behind the scenes, our board members and executive director will be working tirelessly on fundraising, marketing, and expand our network of supporters. As we reflect on the hurdles, surprises, and gifts of 2019, our team is emboldened to take on the next year. We plan to continue providing education and inspiration to our visitors and students, as well as critically re-examining our approaches to best serve our beneficiaries, community, team and the world. We encourage you to stay engaged, take action, and grow with us.

## 2020 GOALS

- Recruit members for an Advisory Board
- Complete construction of adobe structures to house apprentices and visitors
- Achieve financial sustainability by massively increasing earned income
- Develop the next generation of permaculture leaders through our Apprenticeship Program
- Diversify our team
- Develop maps and kiosks for self-guided tours
- Fundraise and install solar system at the Visitor Welcome Center
- Bring more high schools and universities to DDI through our Youth Empowerment Program
- Build Red Mountain Forge and start offering blacksmithing classes



# THANK YOU!

Dear friends of Deep Dirt Institute,

If what you read sounds like something you want to see more of, please consider supporting our work with a financial donation, a shout out, or a reach out.

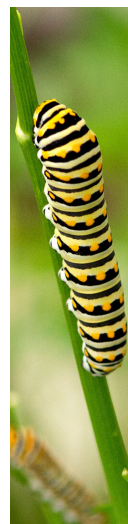
Because of our generous supporters, 250 people gained work experience, knowledge, inspiration, and practical tools to be able to make positive changes in their own lives and in the lives of their communities.

Our Core Supporters include:

*Borderlands Restoration Network*

*Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation*

*Many individual donors*



[www.deepdirtinstitute.org](http://www.deepdirtinstitute.org)

Deep Dirt Institute is a 501(c)3 nonprofit # 82-1550846

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