



Native American Public  
Telecommunications, Inc.

# Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Report

October 1, 2011-September 30, 2012



VISION MAKER  
MEDIA





(left page) SuperFly Filmmaking Experience student Solomon Calvert-Adrea (Seminole/Choctaw) operates the camera for Group 1's filming. Photo by Joshua Saran (Muskogee Creek). (right page) Southern Ponca students participating in "The Meaning of Home" digital media arts camp in correlation with the film *Standing Bear's Footsteps* use their mobile devices to collect information on tribal history and culture. Photo by Tom Fields (Cherokee/Creek).

## Dear Friends,

We are honored to present this annual report for fiscal year 2012. This marks the end of an era, and the beginning of what promises to be a new and exciting third act for Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc.

In January 2013, Vision Maker Media will be our new corporate name. Founded in 1976 as the Native American Public Broadcasting Consortium, we changed our name to Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT) in 1995. "Telecommunications" is about the *transmission* of information, rather than content. The Eagle was selected for the Vision Maker Media logo because, for many cultures, it is the messenger to the Creator. Honesty, truth, strength, courage, wisdom, freedom, and respect are virtues the Eagle brings to the People. Vision Maker Media will follow the legacy of our founders and continue to share Native stories with the world through Public Broadcasting, online, and in the classroom.

Our cover photo is from *Standing Bear's Footsteps*, a co-production with NET Television in Nebraska. A regional Emmy® Award winner, this story documents the life of the Northern Ponca leader, Standing Bear, and the tribe's Trail of Tears that ended in a landmark court decision delivered in Omaha, Neb. With funding from BlackPublicMedia.org and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, we provided workshops for both Southern and Northern Ponca youth. With additional funding from the Nebraska Humanities Council, NAPT and NET Television created an interactive website and standards-based curriculum.

This was one of eight new programs that we delivered to public television stations this year—reaching 270-million American viewers! Along with the creation of original new media content, NAPT continues to be the leader in the delivery of high-quality content by and about Native Americans.

We appreciate your continued support and invite you to turn the pages to learn more about our work.



*Shirley K. Sneve*  
**Shirley K. Sneve, Rosebud Sioux**  
 Executive Director



*Brian Bull*  
**Brian Bull, Nez Perce**  
 Chairman of the Board of Directors





(left page) The *GROWING NATIVE* crew films as Tulalip Tribal Chairman Melvin R. Sheldon, Jr. grants the canoes participating in the 24th Annual Canoe Journey permission to leave. Photo by Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux). (right page) Filmmaker Adrian Baker (Hopi) presents his case study on the short film series *Injunuity* at NAPT's 2012 Producer Development Workshop in Minneapolis, Minn. Photo by Torsten Kjellstrand.

■ **A Safe Place to Talk About Race**

More people want a life free from hate and disparities in education, healthcare, criminal justice, etc., but don't know how to sort it out or where to go. On August 27, 2012, Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux) was a guest on the live Internet radio show discussing the portrayal of Native Americans and Alaska Natives in media.

■ **American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC)**

Rapid City, S.D., was the home for the 2012 AIHEC Student Conference, March 24-27, 2012. This year's theme was "Honor the Drum." NAPT's Executive Director Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux) presented on "Natives in the Movies." Addressing the question "Are we winning the battle of an accurate portrayal of the Native American experience on screen?"

■ **GROWING NATIVE Sneak Peek with host Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/ Arapaho) and Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux) at the National Indian Gaming Association Mid-Year Conference (NIGA)**

NAPT launched production of the seven-part series *GROWING NATIVE*. With his characteristic dry wit, host and well-known filmmaker Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/ Arapaho) takes viewers on a cross-country adventure to discover the efforts of Native communities to relearn these traditional food ways and recultivate their relationship with the land.

■ **Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA)**

Executive Director Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux) presented at IAIA's "The Art Change: Climate Justice & Indigenous Solutions," April 20-21 in Santa Fe, N.M. Sneve spoke about low-carbon diet and renewable energy in local Native communities and Native food movements by presenting and speaking about the upcoming series *GROWING NATIVE*.

■ **National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture (NAMAC)**

From September 5-8, 2012, NAPT hosted 30 of our funded filmmakers for a producer training outlining PBS best-practices, as well as attending the 2012 NAMAC Conference in Minneapolis, Minn. With a theme of creative place-making, arts organizations and artists went beyond their confines, engaging the world around them and making a more profound impact for social change.

■ NAPT's Interactive Media Specialist Eric Martin also moderated a panel at the 2012 NAMAC conference entitled "Creating Equity, Representing Community" featuring Vanessa Graber, Community Radio Director for Philadelphia's Prometheus Radio Project; K.C. Price, Executive Director for Frameline.org and the San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival; and Missy Whiteman (Arapaho/Kickapoo) of Independent Indigenous Film & Media in Minneapolis, Minn. The panel focused on how communities across North America are creating equity, claiming power, and representing themselves by creating their own media and art rather than waiting for someone else to do it for them.

■ **National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA)**

NAPT staff hosted a panel at the 2011 NETA conference October 18-20, 2011, in Kansas City, Mo., to public television general managers, programmers, and outreach coordinators entitled "Beyond the WASP: Meeting the Needs of Your Minority Audience" featuring Christina Hansen (the National Center for Media Engagement), Franz Joachim (New Mexico PBS), Robby Fahey (ITVS' LINC program), Leslie Fields Cruz (BlackPublicMedia.org), and NAPT's Assistant Director Georgiana Lee (Diné).

■ **Native America Calling**

On August 6, 2012, Assistant Director Georgiana Lee (Diné) was a guest on *Native America Calling*, a live radio and web-streamed program. Lee discussed NAPT's funding opportunities for Native journalists covering the election initiative in Indian Country. To view or listen to the 2012 Election Reports, visit [www.visionmakermedia.org/election](http://www.visionmakermedia.org/election).

■ **Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA)**

On June 4, 2012, Executive Director Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux) presented the *Standing Bear's Footsteps* documentary curriculum and interactive website, <http://standingbearsfootsteps.netnebraska.org>, at the 2012 NAISA Mohegan Sun Conference with curriculum writer Larry Wright (Northern Ponca).

■ **SXSW Interactive**

On March 9, 2012, Eric Martin, NAPT's Interactive Media Specialist, moderated a panel at SXSW Interactive entitled "Popping Your Bubble: Stories of the Digital Divide." The primary focus of the panel was on people living and working in rural areas and communities of color and what tactics they can utilize to overcome their limited broadband access in a connected world. Panelists included Allison Aldridge-Saur of the Chickasaw Nation's Division of Commerce; Dee Davis of the Center for Rural Strategies; and Dean Davis of the College of Menominee Nation's Community Technology Center.

■ **UNITY**

On August 4, 2012, Executive Director Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux) was on a panel at the UNITY Journalists convention with Mary Hudetz of the Associated Press and Jeff Jason DeRose, Western Bureau Chief for NPR News, on "Turning Local News into National Stories."

■ **W. K. Kellogg Foundation**

In April 2012, Executive Director Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux) presented at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's New Orleans convening to promote racial healing in communities. The panel "Unpacking Racial Bias in the Media" was moderated by Gregory L. Moore, editor of the *Denver Post*.

# HIGHLIGHTS



# WORKSHOPS & PANELS



(left page) The loveable Navajo singing horse, Ross, in the short film *Horse You See*, winner of the People's Choice Award Winner in 2012 PBS Online Film Festival. Photo by Melissa Henry (Diné).  
(right page) Flutist Cody Blackbird (Eastern Band Cherokee/Dakota) is one of many Native celebrities featured in NAPT's American Graduate public service announcements. Photo by Eric Hasert.

■ **American Graduate Initiative PSAs**

As part of the American Graduate Initiative, NAPT produced PSAs for online use, as well as for interstitials on public television. Embed codes and broadcast-quality downloads for each of the six PSAs were promoted and made available to media entities. Testimonials featured film writer and director Tim Ramos (California Pomo), aboriginal fashion designer Sho Sho Esquiro (Kaska Dene/Cree), actor Zahn McClarnon (Standing Rock Sioux), Native American Music Award recipient Cody Blackbird (Cherokee/Dakota), and film director Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/Arapaho).

■ **The Frank & Ron Show**

In February 2012, to help ring in NAPT's 36th birthday, we launched a new online, seven-part series entitled "The Frank & Ron Show." In the web-series, NAPT Founding Executive Director, Frank Blythe (Cherokee/Dakota), and NAPT Founding Board Member, Ron Hull, talk about the history, as well as, the future of NAPT and public media.

■ **Lincoln Public Schools Short Film Showcases Mentorship Successes & Opportunities**

Lincoln Public Schools (LPS), in Lincoln, Neb., in conjunction with NAPT and the Southeast Nebraska Native American Coalition, created two short video presentations for CPB's American Graduate initiative highlighting the experience of students in the LPS Indian Education Program and Native American role models in the community. The videos feature mentors and students recounting their stories and experiences with the Indian Education Program, and how those experiences have advanced student opportunities. The videos also encourage new mentors to become involved in the program.

■ **National Congress of the American Indians (NCAI) Native Vote Campaign**

NCAI launched a national grassroots media campaign alongside leading national Native media organizations including NAPT to encourage Native people to register to vote and participate in the 2012 national election. Through our Creative Services Department, NAPT created multiple video and audio PSAs for online and broadcast distribution for NCAI.

■ **Native Language Mobile App**

In Spring 2012, NAPT released the Native Language Mobile/Tablet App. The app is a great way for children and adults to learn different Native words from across Indian Country. This fun and interactive approach can help you learn about Indigenous cultures or serve as an introduction to a language you may be interested in becoming fluent in. The current language offerings include Lakota, Mvskoke, Navajo, and Ponca. Download today from the iTunes® store.

■ **PBS Online Film Festival**

*Horse You See* by filmmaker Melissa Henry (Diné) won the People's Choice Award in the first-ever PBS Online Film Festival on April 17, 2012. The short film shares the story of Ross, a horse from the Navajo Reservation, who shares his thoughts as he explains his very essence of being a horse. It's a loveable film for all ages since it artfully combines poetic singing and the Navajo language while capturing the beauty of Mother Nature. Additional NAPT short film submissions included *I Survived* by Kiera Lasiloo (Zuni/Cochiti Pueblo), a firsthand account of Sgt. Samuel Tapia's experience when his convoy hit a roadside bomb during his second tour in Iraq, as well as, *The Migration*, directed by Sydney Freeland (Diné), takes viewers to a future that is wracked by global warming and controlled by an authoritarian government.

# HIGHLIGHTS



## LAUNCHED ONLINE



(left page) Southern Ponca Youth Media Workshop participants answer the question, "What is the meaning of home?" in correlation to the documentary film *Standing Bear's Footsteps*. Photo by Tom Fields (Cherokee/Creek).  
 (right page) Northern Ponca Youth Media Camp students pose for a picture after their first day of learning digital media storytelling in correlation with the film *Standing Bear's Footsteps*. Photo by Princella Parker (Omaha).

### ■ Standing Bear's Footsteps Educational Website

In June 2012, NAPT led project coordination and fund raising initiatives for a comprehensive interactive learning campaign for the Regional Emmy® Award winning documentary film *Standing Bear's Footsteps*, a co-production of NET Television and NAPT. NET Television led the development and launch efforts of the interactive website, <http://standingbearsfootsteps.netnebraska.org>, which houses digital learning objects for PBS Learning Media as part of a Social Studies and Youth Media curriculum offering. Funded through a \$50,000 grant from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota, the site features media responses to the documentary from youth around the country including youth from the Ponca community and youth sponsored by Migizi Communications. Curriculum development and web distribution of the materials have been made possible by a \$7,000 grant from the Nebraska Humanities Council.

Students from the Northern (Nebraska) and Southern (Oklahoma) Ponca Tribe learned filmmaking and video storytelling techniques as part of a multi-grant funded project overseen by NAPT. With \$25,000 in grant funds from the National Black Programming Consortium's (NBPC) Public Media Corps, NAPT funded and equipped the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska for an eight-week training of youth ages eight to fourteen in media skills. The students created digital media stories in response to the film and answered the question, "What is the Meaning of Home?"—a theme central to the *Standing Bear* story.

*Oluluta is a Lakota word for humid. P'o means foggy. To me, these words connect my senses to the land around me. I grew up close to a river giving us misty days and nights. This was near places where my ancestors had been for generations. My mother's people were fur traders that married into the Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and Ponca Tribes in Minnesota and on the Dakota and Nebraska Plains. My father's family homesteaded in Medary Township near Brookings, SD. English was not the first language of any of my grandparents. Family gatherings on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation brought the Lakota language to life through the Episcopal hymn book, **Dakota Odowan**. Christmas with my Norwegian relatives meant lutefisk and lefse.*

*Connection to these lands and traditions remains important to me. My dad's folks were farmers. Mom's father was an Episcopal priest. Her grandparents were ranchers. When I was growing up, we ate vegetables from our garden, and my dad hunted and fished.*

*I was born in Rapid City, SD. I've moved a dozen times since then—to places in South Dakota, Utah, Nevada, Massachusetts, and now Nebraska. I live in Nebraska, but I'm from South Dakota. If I don't LIVE where I'm FROM, where's my home?*

*My story is not unique. Many of us live away from home for employment or school. More than half of Native Americans have left their traditional homelands. From the forced relocations beginning in 1830, to the Urban Indian Relocation programs of the 1950s and 60s, tribal people know what it's like to leave home. We create new communities, without losing our past. The Cheyenne in Montana and Oklahoma, Oneidas in New York and Wisconsin, and the Poncas of Nebraska and Oklahoma are all examples of tribal families divided by war and the politics of Manifest Destiny. These tribes are also examples of resiliency and making the best of bad situation. Learning from new neighbors, tribal people adapt to their new homelands.*

*Generations later, what does this mean? What does "home" mean to European and African peoples who now live on these Indian lands? Now many generations removed from their traditional homes, intermarriages, or separation from grandparents, I meet many people that don't know where they're from. There are no family traditions that have survived. Still, we all need to feel we belong. How do people do that when they don't know where they came from?*

*These are questions are explored in **Standing Bear's Footsteps**, a documentary by Christine Lesiak and Nebraska Educational Telecommunications. We invite parents, students and teachers to further explore "The Meaning of Home" through this interactive educational website. Share your stories with us as well! Post your video, share some artwork, or write a story about "What Home Means to You."*

*The place on the earth dearest to my heart is the Black Hills of South Dakota—the sacred place for the Cheyenne and Lakota. If I don't get back there at least once a year, I get cranky. My spirit doesn't soar. I need to wake-up with the scent of pine trees, I need to walk the trails in the early morning mist, and feel the sun rise and warm my face. I need to hear Lakota songs and language on KILI broadcasting from Porcupine on the Pine Ridge Reservation. I'm lucky and grateful that my parents have returned to live just a couple miles from the Rapid City hospital where I was born. It's full circle for me. I've found my "Meaning of Home."*

—*The Meaning of Home*. Written by NAPT's Executive Director Shirley K. Sneve.

## HIGHLIGHTS



■ "The goal at the Northern Ponca Youth Media Camp was to introduce Ponca children to the idea of media as a career option and to get their hands on equipment—exposing them to media production. My hope was to open them to college and to get actual video experience under their belt. I think they learned that digital storytelling is a real possibility for their future. The class got the students to shake-up their own ideas of what it means to be Native, what it means to be a Ponca tribal member in Nebraska, and how that is a different experience from being a Ponca tribal member in Oklahoma." —Princella Parker (Omaha), Associate Producer *Standing Bear's Footsteps*

## LAUNCHED ONLINE



## MULTIMEDIA INTERNSHIPS & DEVELOPMENT

### ■ CPB/PBS Producer's Academy

WGBH-Boston and NAPT welcomed two Native American producers—Christina King (Seminole/Creek/Sac & Fox) and Raquel Chapa (Lipan Apache/Yaqui/Cherokee)—to the 2011 CPB/PBS Producers Academy, held October 15-21, 2011, at WGBH-Boston.

### ■ Public Television Station Paid Internships

NAPT partnered with three public television stations to offer a paid, multimedia internship at each station. Multimedia intern Jaymee Bird (Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo) at New Mexico PBS, Shawna Begay (Diné) at Vegas PBS, and Terria Smith (Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians) at KVCR in San Bernardino, Calif.—home to FNX: First Nations Experience—all researched and produced video shorts for broadcast and web-streaming about the high-school dropout crisis nationwide and particularly in Indian Country as part of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's American Graduate initiative.

### ■ SuperFly Filmmaking Experience

NAPT was an official sponsor of the 7th Annual SuperFly Filmmaking Experience offered by Longhouse Media in partnership with the Seattle International Film Festival. Five Native youth, sponsored by NAPT, joined 45 other young filmmakers from across the country for a 36-hour, intensive filmmaking challenge from May 31 through June 3, 2012. The workshop exists to expand cinema through education that empowers youth to work collaboratively, communicate ideas, exercise potential, and take positive action in their communities. Additionally, Longhouse Media students produced a "Get Out the Vote" video short for public television interstitials and web-streaming prior to the Presidential election.

(left page) Ramona Emerson (Diné) on location filming *The Mayor of Shiprock*. Photo by Kelly Byars (Choctaw).  
(right page) Carol Rempp (Oglala Lakota), coordinator of multicultural and Native American education for the Nebraska Department of Education and Multicultural Education, speaks to students at their hosted teacher workshop and screening of *Standing Bear's Footsteps* with associate producer Princella Parker (Omaha) at the Merryman Performing Arts Center in Kearney, Neb. Photo by Princella Parker (Omaha).

### ■ National Minority Consortia (NMC) Production

This documentary production, supported by NAPT and fellow National Minority Consortia (NMC) partners, is hosted by Futuro Media Group's Maria Hinojosa who takes PBS's *NEED TO KNOW* viewers to Clarkson, Ga., a town that is a prime example of the kinds of demographic shifts that are happening across America that could have a profound impact on the upcoming 2012 Presidential election.

### ■ Fourth Biennial Vision Maker Film Festival

The fourth biennial VisionMaker Film Festival was held September 30 through October 6, 2011, with screenings at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center, Sheldon Art Museum, NET Television, Film Streams (Omaha, Neb.) and Merryman Performing Arts Center (Kearney, Neb.). With the help of nationally recognized media makers to help shape the festival, the curatorial team helped the festival showcase 37 Native film and video projects. One thousand people visited the festival's webpage during the course of the event. There were over 250 tweets about the festival from over 50 different Twitter handles. NAPT believes that the festival has a positive impact on the community by promoting Native American culture, providing educational opportunities that benefited teachers, students, and the general public in the community. Funding and support were provided by: the Nebraska Arts Council, the Nebraska Humanities Council, NET Television, Lincoln Journal Star, Southeast Nebraska Native American Coalition (SENNAC), University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO), Creighton University, Southeast Community College (SCC), University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), the Nebraska Department of Education, and regional media partners.

### ■ Giving Library Launch

In spring 2012, NAPT was selected as a featured nonprofit for The Giving Library, a newly launched philanthropic website—[www.givinglibrary.com](http://www.givinglibrary.com). The site features an in-depth look at the history, successes, and future plans of our organization. With interactive dialogue, donors can search through the online footage for clips relevant to their interests. For example, you can learn what NAPT's success metrics are, the misconceptions of Native peoples that we address in our programs, our accomplishments over the last 35 years, our challenges, and the road ahead. If you'd like to make a tax-deductible contribution to support Native storytelling, please visit [www.visionmakermedia.org/friends](http://www.visionmakermedia.org/friends).

### ■ National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference Advisory Committee

For a week in June 2012, Lincoln, Neb., became the center of Indian Country as the nation's leading American Indian and Alaska Native advocacy organization, NCAI, hosted its annual Mid-Year Conference and Marketplace, June 17-20. Each year, NCAI chooses a committee comprised of local community figures and Tribal Chairpersons who are actively involved in vital Native American issues to lead efforts in fund raising, planning, and hosting local events to immerse conference guests and the local community in what the state has to offer. NAPT's Executive Director Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux) and Marketing Director Jessica Kinser both served on the committee aiding in all aspects of a welcome celebration, feast, powwow, bus tours, and local press promotion. In addition, NAPT served as the fiscal agent for NCAI's Local Planning Committee.

### ■ Will Rogers & American Politics Educational Website

Hosted by NAPT partner RSU Public TV (KRSC) in Claremore, Okla., the Will Rogers educational website serves as an educational resource directly correlated to the documentary film *Will Rogers & American Politics*. The film, narrated by award-winning journalist Bill Kurtis, explores the life and influential political persuasion of Oklahoman Will Rogers (Cherokee) through some of America's difficult times in the 1920s and 1930s and how his efforts on the political landscape still have a powerful effect on our political system today. The website offers curricula for language arts, social studies, art, and media developed in collaboration with NAPT. Digital learning activities such as research skills and outlined technology demonstrations engage students. More importantly, the educational materials include political commentary, event comparisons, and a time line of Will Rogers' life as structured around the historic events that took place.

## HIGHLIGHTS



## COLLABORATIONS



(left page) Tuba City and Chinle High School Cross-Country teams with their 2008 State trophies in the documentary film *Racing the Rez*. (right page) Tuba City High School Cross-Country Coach Carl Perry and cross-country runner Dennis Klain (Hopi) attend the *Racing the Rez* screening at the Flagstaff Mountain Film Festival's Orpheum Theater where the film won the "Best Action Sport Film Award." Photos by Shaun Martin (Diné) & Brian Truglio.

**America by the Numbers: Clarkson Georgia**



Broadcast Release: September 21, 2012  
 Produced by: Maria Hinojosa & Martha Spaninger  
 Production Company: Produced by Futuro Media Group with the support of the National Minority Consortia (NMC), the Ford Foundation, and the Marguerite Casey Foundation for PBS's *NEED TO KNOW* Election Special  
 Explore what it takes to be inclusive, engaged and living in the "New America." It is a story of a small town of 7,500 people that has gone from being 90% white in the 1980s to less than 14% white today. Located in the shadow of Stone Mountain, Clarkson today is home to thousands of refugees from Vietnam, Somalia, Iraq, and Bhutan—along with some 40 other countries.

**Barking Water**



Broadcast Release: June 9, 2012  
 Produced by: Sterlin Harjo (Seminole/Creek) & Chad Burris (Chickasaw)  
 Production Company: Cinema Purgatorio & Lorber Films  
*Barking Water* uses the weathered and beautiful backdrop of rural Oklahoma to tell the story of Frankie (Richard Ray Whitman), a proud Native American attempting to reconnect with his estranged family. Released from the hospital, but still very ill, he hits the road with his ex-lover Irene (Casey Camp-Horinek), who acts as Frankie's nurse but refuses to allow forgiveness for his past indiscretions. But the journey really begins as they travel to reunite with Frankie's daughter and grandchild, encountering various eccentric personalities along the way.

**Native Waters: A Chitimacha Recollection**



Broadcast Release: April 1, 2012  
 Produced by: Tika Laudun  
 Production Company: Louisiana Public Broadcasting  
 Through a small tribe known as "the People of Many Waters," the film offers an alternative way of recalling Native American history—Chitimacha history. These Native Americans are among the first people of Louisiana, heirs of an unbroken 8,000-year past in their native coastal region of the Atchafalaya Basin of Louisiana. Living off the bounty of one of the richest inland estuaries on the continent, this Indigenous nation persists and rejuvenates its culture without losing its ancestral territory to forces other than conquest.

**Racing the Rez**



Broadcast Release: July 22, 2012  
 Produced by: Brian Truglio  
 Production Company: Wolf Hill Films  
 In the rugged canyon lands of Northern Arizona, Navajo and Hopi cross-country runners from two rival high schools put it all on the line for tribal pride, triumph over personal adversity, and state championship glory. Win or lose, what they learn in the course of their seasons will have a dramatic effect on the rest of their lives.

**PUBLIC TELEVISION**



■ The two head cross-country coaches, Shaun Martin of Chinle High School and Carl Perry of Tuba City High School, recognized the opportunity for harnessing the immense running talent of Navajo and Hopi youth for obtaining more than just school championships. "These teenage years are a crucial and transitional point in their lives—they're on the cusp of adulthood—where they are caught between the traditional and modern worlds and have to come to a decision of whether they should leave the reservation to seek opportunities elsewhere."  
 — Coaches Shaun Martin (Diné) and Carl Perry

**PROGRAMMING**



(left page) Cory Mann (Tlingit) on the search for some salmon in the film *Smokin' Fish*. Photo by Luke Griswold-Tergis & Cory Mann (Tlingit). (right page) Manuel Yellow Horse, Jr. as young Walter Littlemoon in *The Thick Dark Fog*. Photo by Kahlil Hudson (Tlingit).

### Standing Bear's Footsteps



Broadcast Release: July 22, 2011 (Local) | October 15, 2012 (National)  
 Produced by: Chris Lesiak & Princesa Parker (Omaha)  
 Production Company: NET Television

In 1877, the Ponca people were exiled from their Nebraska homeland to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma. To honor his dying son's last wish to be buried in his homeland, Chief Standing Bear set off on a grueling, six-hundred-mile journey home. Captured en-route, Standing Bear sued a famous U.S. army general for his freedom—choosing to fight injustice not with weapons, but with words. The Chief stood before a court to prove that an Indian was a person under the law. The story quickly made newspaper headlines—attracting powerful allies, as well as enemies. Stirring a nation's conscience and challenging the meaning of freedom, the film chronicles an Indian Chief's odyssey, ending in a battle for civil rights unlike any other in American history.

### Smokin' Fish



Broadcast Release: November 1, 2011  
 Produced by: Luke Griswold-Tergis, Cory Mann (Tlingit), & Jed Riffe

Production Company: Luke Griswold-Tergis  
 Cory Mann (Tlingit) is a quirky businessman hustling to make a dollar in Juneau, Alaska. He gets hungry for smoked salmon and decides to spend a summer smoking fish at a family's traditional fish camp. The unusual story of his life and the untold history of his people interweave with the process of preparing traditional food as he struggles to pay his bills and keep his business afloat.

### The Thick Dark Fog



Broadcast Release: June 9, 2012  
 Produced by: Jonathan Skurnik, Randy Vasquez, & Brian Wescott (Athabascan/Yup'ik)  
 Production Company: High Valley Films

Walter Littlemoon, a Lakota author and public speaker, attended a federal Indian boarding school in South Dakota 60 years ago. The mission of many of these schools in 1950 was to "kill the Indian and save the man." The children were not allowed to speak their language or express their culture or Native identity in any way. This is the story of how Littlemoon confronted his past so that he could renew himself and his community.

### Up Heartbreak Hill



Broadcast Release: July 26, 2012  
 Produced by: Erica Sharf, Christina King (Creek/Seminole/Sac & Fox), & Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/Arapaho)  
 Production Company: Long Distance Films, ITVS, POV's Diverse Voices Project, & New Mexico PBS

The hopes and heartbreaks of senior year of high school comprise a defining part of teenage life and lore in America. Graduation marks the end of childhood, partings from family, friends and community, and the start of a future that is both exciting and scary. But for Thomas Martinez (Diné), an academic, as well as athletic star, and Tamara Hardy (Diné), also an athlete and senior-class president, growing up on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico has heightened these tensions in ways particular to Native American history and contemporary Reservation life. The film chronicles one fateful year in the lives of two talented kids who must figure out not only how to become young adults, but what it means to be both Native and modern.

## PUBLIC TELEVISION



## PROGRAMMING



(left page) Laguna Pueblo children grab food items being tossed from the rooftop above. Photo by Idris + Tony. (right) N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa) in Santa Fe, New Mexico, May 2012. Photo by Appaloosa Pictures.

## Bridge the Gap to Pine Ridge

Chris Bashinelli



Follow 24-year-old Brooklynite Chris Bashinelli on his first visit to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Fed up with the constant barrage of negative images portrayed on television and about Native Americans, Chris has decided to get a glimpse of the true Native experience firsthand. He uncovers stories of hope and learns how culture has prevailed in the face of adversity.

## Chasing Voices: John Peabody Harrington & the Language Revitalization Movement

Daniel Golding (Quechan)

When linguistic and anthropologist John Peabody Harrington died in 1961 at the age of 77, few understood the significance of his work. Harrington was an eccentric, paranoid and obsessively driven anthropologist whose life's work became dedicated to preserving Native America's dying languages. (Research & Development)

## Crying Earth Rise-Up

Suree Towfighnia, Beth Sternheimer & Debra White Plume (Ogala Lakota)

A documentary about protecting one of the earth's most precious elements—water. Through characters who oppose and support the expansion of uranium mining over the High Plains/Ogallala—the largest fresh water underground source in North America—and the Arikara aquifers in western South Dakota and Nebraska, audiences learn about the important and timely issue of preserving and protecting the land and water before it becomes too late.

## The Dull Knives: My Father & Me

Eli Cane

A mix of observational documentary and animation explore the experience of growing up on the Pine Ridge Reservation through the eyes of fifteen-year-old George Dull Knife, over the course of a momentous and difficult year.

## GRAB

Billy Luther (Diné/Hopi/Laguna Pueblo)



Narrated by Parker Posey, *GRAB* is an intimate portrait of the little-documented Grab Day in the villages of the Laguna Pueblo Tribe, who annually throw water and food items from the rooftop of a home to people standing below them. Follow three families as they prepare for this annual event which serves as a community wide prayer of abundance, thanks, and renewal.

## GROWING NATIVE

Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/Arapaho), Brandon Verzal, Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux), & Blue Tarpalechee (Muscogee-Creek)

With his characteristic dry wit, host and well-known filmmaker Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/Arapaho) takes viewers on a cross-country adventure to discover the efforts of Native communities to relearn these traditional food ways and recultivate their relationship with the land. The seven, planned episodes introduce viewers to Indigenous cuisines and the food history of the Americas. It also offers viewers an opportunity to learn about sustainability from Native peoples, whose ancestors were the first stewards of our natural resources.

## Indian Relay

Charles Dye, Darren Kipp (Blackfeet) & Montana PBS

This film is an inspiring year-long portrait of three Native American horse-racing families, culminating at the 2011 Indian Relay National Championships in Blackfoot, Idaho. Footage from each season's big relay races are intercut with stories and views from the long off-season.

## Indians: An Unexpected Story

Roberta Grossman, Brian Wescott (Athabaskan/Yup'ik), Deann Borshay Liem & Lisa Thomas

This four-hour series tells the vivid tale of Native Americans in the 20th century and beyond. Comprised of interviews, family histories, archival footage and music, the series provides a greater appreciation of the histories and achievements of contemporary Native American individuals and Indigenous communities.

## Injunuity

Adrian Baker (Hopi)



Covering such topics as Creation, First Contact and the Soul of America, *Injunuity* is a visually stunning, thought-provoking mosaic of reflections on our shared past, our turbulent present and our undiscovered future through animation and music by composer Ras K'Dee (Pomo Tribe of California).

## LaDonna Harris: Indian 101

Julianna Brannum (Comanche)

Comanche activist LaDonna Harris, who has led an extensive life of Indian political and social activism, is now passing her traditional cultural and leadership values to a new generation of emerging Indigenous leaders.

## Losing Ground

Jenni Monet (Laguna Pueblo) | 'nish Media

The North Arctic landscape is changing rapidly—so too are the lives of Inupiat Natives living on the tiny, vanishing island of Kivalina, Alaska. Many believe global warming is to blame, but filmmakers show how one humble village fights to save their homeland under a cloud of doubt.

## The Medicine Game



Lukas Korver

Two brothers from the Onondaga Nation pursue their dreams of playing lacrosse for national powerhouse Syracuse University. The obstacles in their way are frequent and daunting, but their love for the game, each other, and their family's unyielding determination, propels these youth towards their dream.

## Momaday

Heather Rae (Cherokee) & Jill Momaday (Kiowa)

N. Scott Momaday is a significant literary figure, who over a lifetime has created exquisite literary works in multiple genres. These works reflect his mythic roots in Kiowa culture and American Indian Oral Tradition. Primarily considering himself a poet, Momaday is able to articulate his Kiowa culture as well as Euro-American historic and literary narratives.

## My Louisiana Love



Sharon Linezo Hong & Monique Verdin (Houma)

Follow Monique Verdin as she returns to Southeast Louisiana to reunite with her Houma Indian family. But soon, she sees that her people's traditional way of life—fishing, trapping, and hunting in these fragile wetlands—is being threatened by a continuing cycle of social and ecological injustice. Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil leak are just the latest rounds in this century-old cycle that is forcing Monique's clan to adapt in new ways.

## Roadman

Bennie Klain (Diné), Leighton C. Peterson, & Sarah DelSeronde (Diné)

A view of the Native American Church (NAC) through the lens of practicing Navajo roadmen, *Roadman* follows NAC spiritual leaders in Navajo land as they travel to the peyote fields in Texas, dealing with the federal government and protecting their religious freedom from both Navajo and outside forces. (Research & Development)

## Sacred Stick



Michelle Danforth (Oneida of Wisconsin) & Patty Loew (Bad River Ojibwe)

The film examines the historical, cultural, and spiritual aspects of lacrosse. From the ancient Maya to the world famous Iroquois Nationals team, this program explores a uniquely Indigenous sport that, like Native people themselves, adapted and endured within the dominant culture. As lacrosse surges in popularity, it has now become the fastest growing sport in North America. But for Native peoples, it has always been and continues to be much more than a game.

## Sousa on the Rez:

## Marching to the Beat of a Different Drum

Cathleen O'Connell

When you hear the phrase "Native American music" you may not think of tubas, trumpets, and Sousa marches. Yet, this rich musical tradition has long been part of Native American culture. Experience the Native American music scene like never before and get an inside look at contemporary Indian life in this unexpected and engaging half-hour documentary.

## Urban Indians

Lisa Olken & Rocky Mountain PBS

Explore the history of the 1952 Bureau of Indian Affairs Termination & Relocation Act, as well as the modern-day consequences for today's Native Americans, specifically those relocated to Denver, Colorado. Powerful stories of identity, self-determination and healing are shared by Native American scholars and multi-generational families. (Research & Development)

## Warrior Women

Elizabeth Castle & Christina King (Creek/Seminole/Sac & Fox)

*Warrior Women* is the untold history of women's activism in the Red Power Movement shared from the perspective of Native American activist Madonna Thunder Hawk (Two Kettle Lakota). Filmmakers follow Madonna as she moves through her life and encounters the major players of those events that changed the landscape of Indian Country forever.

## Without a Tribe

Cynthia Jeannette Gomez (Genizaro)

This documentary film unlocks the clandestine social, economic and political conditions of the late 1600s when Native youth and women were stolen from homelands and imprisoned, then ransomed into domestic servitude, hard labor and military training only to be labeled with the lowest class identity as Genizaro Indians. Today's Genizaro descendants continue to struggle to maintain their homelands and recognize this Genizaro heritage. (Research & Development)

# PUBLIC TELEVISION



# CURRENTLY IN PRODUCTION



(left page) Isabella Blatchford (Supiaq/Alutiiq, Inupiaq) spent the last part of her life reconnecting with and working to help preserve the language and culture of her people on Kodiak Island. Her powerful story inspired and initiated the film *Finding Refuge*. Pictured here, Alex Sugak (Alutiiq of Old Harbor) along with Isabella's husband Gary Blatchford, help Isabella across the land that connects Refuge Rock to Kodiak Island. Photo by Torsten Kjellstand & Dog Mountain LLC. (right page) Julian Bitsuie (Diné) hauls up another load to the pick-up truck in the documentary *The Mayor of Shiprock*. Photo by Ramona Emerson (Diné).

Each year, NAPT awards up to \$500,000 in production contracts to independent producers and public television stations to produce programming by and about Native Americans for use by PBS stations. Funding can be for film production, film completion, or research & development.

### Across the Creek

Producer: Jon Courmoyer (Rosebud Sioux)

Broken by the legacy of colonialism, the Lakota Tribes struggle for restoration, healing, and rebuilding. This film focuses on mostly the elder generation and their reflections on the youth, specifically to family structure, spirituality, and language to help reclaim their stories, values, and visions for the future.

### Apache Scouts: An Untold Story

Producers: Velma Craig (Diné) & Dustinn Craig (White Mountain Apache/Diné)

The U.S. Army had little to no success subduing Apache bands of the Southwest, until White Mountain Apaches enlisted as Army Scouts. This film explores the complex histories of the Scouts, their relation to Geronimo, and to securing the White Mountain Apache homeland.

### Finding Refuge

Producers: Torsten Kjellstand, Rob Finch, Jamie Francis, & Isabella Blatchford (Supiaq/Alutiiq, Inupiaq)

The efforts of one dying woman to preserve her Native culture don't end when she passes, but prompts a renewal in finding pride in that culture. She confronts the violent event over two centuries ago that began the destruction of her people and the shame that colonialism created.

### Kivalina People

Producer: Gina Abatemarco

This film is an intimate and unique look into the public and private lives of one of America's last Indigenous cultures trying to survive in the modern Arctic, where struggles of poverty, climate change, and culture are inextricably intertwined.

### The Mayor of Shiprock

Producer: Ramona Emerson (Diné)

In the town of Shiprock, New Mexico, the harsh realities of reservation life and the beautiful, reddened landscape of the rock formations build stories of survival and existence. Poverty and corruption have long been a struggle in the community and as the Navajo Nation looks for leadership, it is met with scandal. To make a change, a group of young men and women are taking back their community—led by 21-year-old Graham Beyale. This is the story of how one will make a difference and inspire a generation of leaders to make changes in their own communities. (Research & Development)

## PUBLIC TELEVISION



■ *"The purpose of this funding is to increase the diversity of voices available to PBS viewers," says NAPT Executive Director Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux). "We encourage Native Americans to take on significant creative leadership roles, such as director, producer, and editor. We want Native voices to have creative control, and not just in an advisory capacity."*

## PROGRAM FUND AWARDS



(left page) Carina Vasquez (Cayuse/Walla Walla/Umatilla) on horseback from the film *Spirit in Glass*. She's wearing a dress her Grandmother made for the Pendleton Round.  
(right page) Suzette White Owl Lavadour (Cayuse/Nez Perce/Palouse/Diné).  
Photos by Penelope Phillips.

### **Ohiyesa: The Soul of an Indian**

**Producers:** Sydney Beane (Flandreau Santee Sioux) & John Whitehead  
This documentary follows Kate Beane, a young Dakota woman, as she examines the extraordinary life of her celebrated relative, Charles Eastman (Ohiyesa). Biography and journey come together as Kate traces Eastman's path—from traditional Dakota boyhood, through education at Dartmouth College, and in later roles as physician, author, lecturer, and Native American advocate.

### **Rising Voices/Hothaninpi**

**Producers:** Wilhelm Meya, Jennifer Weston (Standing Rock Sioux), & Lawrence Hott  
This is the story of five young Lakotas who are on a journey to learn their language—representing a new generation transforming their world in the 21st century. Five short films by Lakota filmmakers will be integrated into a 90-minute anchor film. Also, regional Native American filmmakers partnered with PBS stations will develop additional short films about each region's Native American language.

### **Spirit in Glass**

**Producer:** Penelope Phillips  
A celebration of Native American Plateau art and culture, the film emphasizes the origin and remarkable survival of the art form and culture as experienced by Native Plateau bead artists.

### **Yellow Fever**

**Producers:** Sophie Rousmaniere, Jay Minton, & Tina Garnanez (Diné)  
Tina Garnanez, a young war veteran and photographer, begins a personal investigation into the history of the Navajo Uranium Boom, examining its lasting impacts and the potential for new mining in the area. Looking at the cost of cheap energy and the future of the industry, Tina becomes an advocate, lobbyist, and a vocal proponent for environmental justice while healing from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

### **Young Lakota**

**Producers:** Marion Lipschutz, Rose Rosenblatt, & Heather Rae (Cherokee)  
This series of five short videos features leaders addressing Native American women's health. It is an online complement to the documentary *Young Lakota* to be broadcast on "Independent Lens" in 2013. Distributed electronically, the videos are particularly relevant to the contemporary experience of young people, girls, and women in Indian Country. (Community Engagement)

### **We Breathe Again**

**Producers:** Evon Peter (Neetsaii Gwich'in) & Enei Begaye-Peter (Diné)  
One of the most difficult and tragic issues Alaska Native communities face today is suicide—with a rate six times the national average. This feature-length documentary is the story of four Alaska Natives wrestling with the impacts of suicide and illuminating a path towards healing.

## **PUBLIC TELEVISION**



## **PROGRAM FUND AWARDS**



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

During the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, NAPT awarded contracts to producers totaling \$810,773.00. Additionally, NAPT spent \$150,560.02 on producer development, national programming costs, educational services, outreach, and post-production compliance.

The following is a summary of financial information for the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2012, based on the audited financial statements dated December 12, 2012, by Grafton & Associates P.C.

### ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING MONETARY SUPPORT

Black Public Media	Nebraska Cultural Endowment
The Cornhusker Marriott Hotel	Nebraska Humanities Council
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians
Creighton University	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
First Nations Composer Initiative	Southeast Nebraska Native American Coalition
Ho-Chunk, Inc.	Tulalip Tribes
Lincoln Journal Star	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
National Endowment for the Arts	Woodlands National Bank
Nebraska Arts Council	

### REVENUE & SUPPORT

CPB Grant Revenue	\$1,509,545
Contributions & Other Grants	\$295,428
Earned Income	\$164,013
<b>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$1,968,986</b>

### EXPENSES

Programming	\$1,631,549
Management & General	\$400,843
Fund Raising	\$21,944
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,054,336</b>

### NET ASSETS

Net Assets at Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$1,507,343
Change in Net Assets	*(85,350)
<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF FISCAL YEAR</b>	<b>\$1,421,993</b>

### BREAKDOWN OF NET ASSETS

Unrestricted-Undesignated	\$945,124
Temporarily Restricted	\$476,869
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,421,993</b>

\*The financial statements of NAPT have been prepared on the accrual method of accounting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Under the accrual basis, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred, not when received or paid. The negative change in net assets was due to revenue recognized in 2011, with expenses recognized in 2012, and does not reflect an actual loss of net assets.

(left page) *Standing Bear's Footsteps* associate producer Princella Parker (Omaha) applies make-up to actress Renee Sans Souci (Omaha). Photo by Christine Lesiak.  
 (right page) Ron Hull and Rod Bates unveil the new NET sign. Photo by Mary J. Winquest.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brian Bull (Nez Perce), Chairman  
*Ideastream*

Laura Waterman Wittstock (Seneca), Vice-Chair  
*First Person Radio*

Randal P. Hansen, Treasurer  
*NET Television*

Julie Andersen, Secretary  
*South Dakota Public Broadcasting*

Polly Anderson  
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*Indion Group*

Robin Butterfield (Winnebago/Chippewa)

Lyn Dennis (Lummi)

Chris Eyre (Cheyenne/Arapaho)  
*Santa Fe University Arts & Design*

Dustin Owl Johnson (Saginaw Chippewa)  
*Sundance Institute*

Mark Van Norman (Cheyenne River Sioux)  
*VN Consulting, LLC*

### STAFF

Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux)  
*Executive Director*

Georgiana Lee (Diné)  
*Assistant Director*

Jessica Kinser  
*Marketing Director*

Eric Martin  
*Interactive Media Specialist*

Blue Tarpalechee (Muscogee-Creek)  
*Project Coordinator*

Mary Ann Kohler  
*Business & Projects Manager*

Rebecca Fauver  
*Contract/Accounting Assistant*

Rachel Danay  
*Department Assistant*

Brendan McCauley  
*Department Assistant*

Ann McKeighan  
*Department Assistant*

### STUDENT WORKERS

Lila Byron (Omaha)  
 Toan Chu  
 Alex Epperson  
 Danny Fast  
 Tobias Grant (Omaha/Dakota/Cherokee/Diné)  
 Leah Jensen  
 Ben Kreimer  
 Benito Sanchez (Mixtec)  
 Stephanie Shipp (Cherokee)



The late Jack McBride built a statewide public-media institution called NET based at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where his longtime co-creator, production chief and ambassador to the legislature, Ron Hull, still works today as a Senior Advisor. On September 9, 2011, Ron Hull and NET General Manager, Rod Bates, presented NET friends, supporters, and Vision Maker Media staff with the unveiling of the updated NET sign, with a dedication to Jack McBride as he joined Terry M. Carpenter, a former Scottsbluff, Neb., senator on the sign. For 43 years, from 1953-1996, Jack McBride guided the development of what has become Nebraska's public media service and initiated the partnership of housing the corporate office of Vision Maker Media at NET.

## MEET THE TEAM

Copy: Jessica Kinser, NAPT  
Design: Lisa Chavanothai Craig, NET Television

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