



2017

Fiscal Year
annual
report



VISION MAKER
MEDIA

VISION MAKER MEDIA
www.visionmakermedia.org



OUR WORK

We are honored to present this annual report for fiscal year 2017. We invested \$504,072 in 26 projects in all stages of production. We also presented:

- Ten new documentaries to PBS stations;
- Five new media projects;
- Produced seven Viewer Discussion Guides and provided content for PBS Learning Media;
- Curated and produced one film festival.



IN THE BEGINNING WAS WATER AND SKY

Released to PBS Digital
Produced by Mackenzie Gruer
Heart Shaped Moves, Inc.
Distributed by PBS

A haunting fairy-tale drama that blends the horrors of fantasy and real life historical events. The short film follows a girl in the 1700s and a boy in the 1960s who are both trying to find their way back home.



RED POWER ENERGY

Released Oct. 30, 2016
Produced by Lisa Olken
Pacific Mountain Network
Distributed by APT

A provocative film from the American Indian perspective that reframes today's controversial energy debate while the fate of the environment hangs in the balance. Red Power Energy illustrates the complex realities of Indian reservations grappling with how to balance their natural resources with their traditional beliefs.



WHAT WAS OURS

Released Jan. 6, 2017
Produced by Mat Hames
Alpheus Media
Distributed by Independent Lens

An Eastern Shoshone Elder and two Northern Arapaho youth living on the Wind River Indian Reservation attempt to learn why thousands of ancestral artifacts are in the darkness of underground archives of museums and churches, boxed away and forgotten. Like millions of indigenous people in many parts of the world, they do not control their own material culture. It is being preserved, locked away, by 'outsiders' who themselves do not know what they have.



OHERO:KON - UNDER THE HUSK

Released Feb. 25, 2017
Produced by Melissa Katsitsionni Fox (Mohawk)
Two Row Productions
Distributed by NETA

"Ohero:kon - Under the Husk" follows the challenging journey of two Mohawk girls as they take part in their traditional passage rites to becoming Mohawk Women. Kaienkwinehtha and Kasennakohe are childhood friends from traditional families living in the Mohawk Community of Akwesasne that straddles the U.S./Canada border. They both take part in a four-year adolescent passage rites ceremony called ohero:kon "under the husk" that has been revived in their community. This ceremony challenges them spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically. It shapes the women they become.



BADGER CREEK: A Year in the Life of a Blackfeet Family

Released May 6, 2017
Produced by Jonathan Skurnik
Skurnik Productions and High Valley Productions
Distributed by NETA

The film profiles family life through four seasons in the magnificent and traditional territory of the Pikuni Nation. We witness family interactions between the three generations, who live under one roof, work hard, laugh, play, love and support each other through the good and hard times. *Badger Creek* allows the viewer to witness contemporary Native resilience on the reservation, as seen through one



METAL ROAD

Released Aug. 26, 2017
Produced by Sara Del Seronde (Diné)
Aboriginal Lens
Distributed by NETA

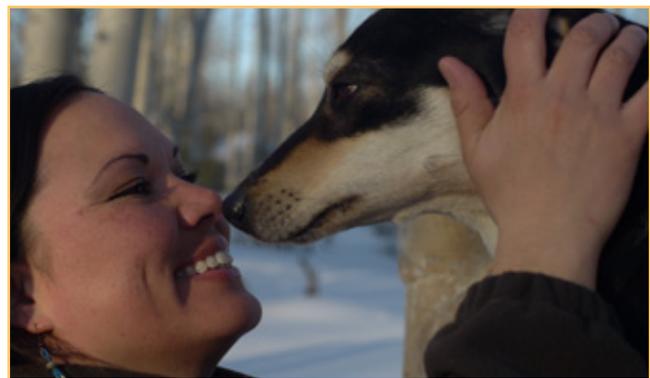
For decades, thousands of Navajos worked the railroads, maintaining the trans-continental network. *Metal Road* explores the dynamics of livelihood, family and the railroads through the lens of a Navajo trackman. The film follows three Navajo railroaders from the 9001 Heavy Steel Gang as they leave their homeland to replace aging railroad tracks from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean under extreme weather conditions.



FAMILY INGREDIENTS

Released Sept. 15, 2017
Produced by Heather Giugni, Renea Veneri Stewart,
Dan Nakasone and Ty Sanga
Rock Salt Media
Distributed by PBS

Family Ingredients is an innovative PBS lifestyle series that features food, travel, culture and family. Based in Honolulu and hosted by Chef Ed Kenney, the series aims to showcase the many cultures that have shaped the unique islands of Hawai'i. *Family Ingredients* is an executive production of Rock Salt Media and Pacific Islanders in Communications and is produced for PBS by Rock Salt Media. From the creative team of Heather Giugni, Renea Veneri Stewart,



WE BREATHE AGAIN

Released Sept. 26, 2017
Produced by Evon Peter (Gwich'in/Koyukon), Marsh Chamberlain and Enei Begaye Peter (Diné)
Crawl Walk Run, LLC
Distributed by WORLD

For centuries survival was difficult for Alaska Native peoples, but they lived full lives. Today survival is easier, but they are dying young. Alaska Native peoples sustained their way of life through a social, cultural and spiritual balance, but the traumatic ramifications of colonization have left many scars that continue to be passed down from generation to generation.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Vision Maker Media: October 2016 – September 2017

During the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2017, Vision Maker Media awarded production grants totaling \$504,072.24 and spent an additional \$12,956.13 on producer development, workshops and national programming costs.

The following is a summary of financial information for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2017, based on the audited financial statements.

Revenue and Support

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| CPB Grant Revenue..... | \$1,563,591 |
| Other Grants & Contributions..... | \$364,190 |
| Earned Income..... | \$174,669 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Revenue & Support | \$2,102,450 |

Expenses

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Programming | \$1,011,681 |
| Management & General | \$402,827 |
| Fundraising | \$96,598 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Expenses | \$1,511,106 |
| Net Assets Beginning of Fiscal Year | \$1,292,074 |
| Change in Net Assets..... | \$591,344 |
| <hr/> | |
| Net Assets End of Fiscal Year | \$1,883,418 |

Breakdown of Net Assets, End of Fiscal Year

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Unrestricted | \$1,030,792 |
| Temporarily Restricted..... | \$852,626 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Net Assets | \$1,883,418 |

Board

Chair
Mark Trahant
(Shoshone-Bannock)

Vice Chair
Maya Solis
(Pascua Yaqui/Blackfeet)

Secretary
Roy Clem
(Eastern Band of Cherokee)

Treasurer
Randal P. Hansen

Joni Buffalohead
(Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota)

Robin Butterfield
(Winnebago/Chipewa)

Brian Gunn
(Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation)

Franz Joachim

Mary Kathryn Nagle
(Cherokee Nation)

Joely Proudfit (Luiseño)

Elizabeth Weatherford

Staff

Executive Director
Shirley K. Sneve
(Rosebud Sioux)

Assistant Director
Georgiana "George" Lee
(Navajo)
(October -- June)

Assistant Director
Rebekka Schlichting

Documentary Producer
Charles "Boots" Kennedye
(Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma)

Director of Communications
Susan Hartmann

Development Coordinator
Dawn Amory

Business & Projects Manager
Mary Ann Koehler

Contract/Accounting
Assistant
Stacy Price

Department Assistant
Ann McKeighan

Archives Assistant
Alana Stone
(Rosebud Sioux)

Intern

Edmund Frazier Myer

Student Workers

Rachel Kent

Faraz Mohd



Growing Native

Expected release: Fall 2018

Produced by Charles "Boots" Kennedye (Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma)

Vision Maker Media's *Growing Native* film project is aimed at generating interest in traditional indigenous food ways and healthier diets. Explore how Native communities across the country revive traditions by growing gardens, building self-sustenance and cooking food that is both delicious and healthy. Find us on Facebook: @growingnative

Contact us: 402-472-3522 or visionmaker@unl.edu for more information.