

2015 Annual Report

Advancing Native causes through the power of digital storytelling

Cante Waste ya Nape Ciyu zape ye—my Lakota greeting to you—I shake your hand with a good heart!



On behalf of the Vision Maker Media staff and Board of Directors, I am honored to present this Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2015 (Oct. 1, 2014-Sept. 30, 2015).

Next year, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of our incorporation. To honor the legacy of our founders, we want to expand our services to meet the changing needs of Indigenous digital storytellers. The media is a powerful tool that can help solve some of the toughest issues Tribes face. Stories of hope and overcoming adversity can shine light in dark places.

Four new directions will help meet the needs of Indigenous storytellers:

- 1. Care for the Legacy of Indigenous Media.** Preserving and re-purposing media in Indian Country helps us honor our elders by hearing and sharing their stories so that they will be available for future generations.
- 2. Invest In Our Future.** Utilize media to inspire a positive generational shift in Native youth, to encourage them to make wise choices and inspire them to learn, honor and celebrate their Tribal identity.
- 3. Build Opportunities for Filmmakers.** There are few opportunities for Indigenous filmmakers to network, learn from each other and develop skills. Bringing Indigenous storytellers together on-line or in-person will build a supportive community and build new partnerships.
- 4. Create an Indigenous Media Fund.** With nearly 40 years of experience in supporting the production of high quality programming for Public Broadcasting, we are poised to expand our scope of support to attract investment in a wide variety of projects.

Pilamaye,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shirley K. Sneve". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Shirley K. Sneve
(Rosebud Sioux)
Executive Director



15 hours
of programming
delivered

90%
of public
television stations
broadcast
our content

34,000
telecasts of our
programming

Producing
classroom tools

Preserving Tribal
media archives

Providing
contemporary
and historic stories

Focusing on health,
language, suicide
and cultural
misappropriation

*"Good storytelling
transcends race
and gender."*

— Shirley Sneve
Vision Maker Media
Executive Director

Documentaries explore our environment



Watchers of the North

Released Oct. 17, 2014
Produced by David Finch (Cree)
Picture This Productions
Distributed by NETA

An action-packed six-part documentary adventure series following the training, patrols and search and rescue missions of Canadian Rangers in two Nunavut communities.

Our Fires Still Burn

Released Oct. 24, 2014
Produced by Audrey Geyer
Distributed by NETA

This exciting and compelling one-hour documentary invites viewers into the lives of contemporary Native American role models living in the Midwest. It dispels the myth that American Indians have disappeared from the American horizon, and reveals how they continue to persist, heal from the past, confront the challenges of today, keep their culture alive and make great contributions to society.



Horse Tribe

Released Oct. 24, 2014
Produced by Janet Kern
Pupcake Film
Distributed by NETA

Legendary as one of America's greatest horse tribes, the 21st century Nez Perce decided to bring horses back to their land and lives with the unlikely help of a charismatic Navajo horseman, Rudy Shebala.



Spirit in Glass

Released Oct. 24, 2014
Produced by Penny Phillips
Mimbres Fever Productions
Distributed by WORLD

Celebrates the spectacular beadwork of the Northwest Plateau People, providing a rare opportunity to experience Plateau culture through the eyes and hearts of artists who share their history, motivation and the beadwork that plays an important role in binding their culture together.



Across the Creek

Released Oct. 31, 2014
Produced by Jonny Cournoyer (Rosebud Sioux)
Ten Rounds Pictures
Distributed by PBS Plus

The story of the Lakota tribe in South Dakota and their struggle to reclaim their culture through language, dance, working with the land and participating in cultural activities.

LaDonna Harris: Indian 101

Released Oct. 31, 2014
Produced by Julianna Brannum (Comanche)
Naru Mui Films
Distributed by PBS Plus

LaDonna Harris: Indian 101 chronicles the life of Comanche activist and national civil rights leader LaDonna Harris and the role that she has played in Native and mainstream American history since the 1960s.

Honor our past, celebrate today



Standing on Sacred Ground

Released March 30, 2015
Produced by Christopher (Toby) McLeod
Sacred Land Film Project
Distributed by NETA

Indigenous communities around the world and in the United States resist threats to their sacred places—the original protected lands—in a growing movement to defend human rights and restore the environment. In this four-part series, Native people share ecological wisdom and spiritual reverence while battling a utilitarian view of land.



Yellow Fever

Released March 31, 2015
Produced by Sophie Rousmaniere
Issue Television
Distributed by WORLD

A young Navajo woman, Tina Garnanez, begins a personal investigation into the history of the Navajo Uranium Boom, its lasting impacts and the potential for new mining. Tina's examination of the cost of cheap energy and the industry's future prompts her to become an advocate, lobbyist and vocal proponent for environmental justice.

Crying Earth Rise Up

Released April 4, 2015
Produced by Suree Towfghnia
Prairie Dust Films
Distributed by NETA

Through those who oppose and support the expansion of uranium mining over the High Plains/Ogallala and the Arikara aquifers in western South Dakota and Nebraska, audiences learn about the importance of protecting land and water.



My Louisiana Love

Released April 5, 2015
Produced by Sharon Linezo Hong
Within A Sense, LLC
Distributed by APT

Traces a young woman's quest to find a place in her Native American community as it suffers from decades of environmental degradation. Monique Verdin returns to Southeast Louisiana to reunite with her Houma Indian family. But soon she discovers that her people's traditional way of life is threatened by a cycle of man-made environmental crises.

The Medicine Game

Released April 28, 2015
Produced by Lukas Korver
Distributed by APT

Two brothers from the Onondaga Nation pursue their dreams of playing lacrosse for Syracuse University. Their dream nearly in reach, the boys are caught in a constant struggle to define their Native identity, live up to their family's expectations and balance challenges on and off the Reservation.

Native Media Archives Project

It's a crossroad for many of us in the media industry. Remember Reel-to-Reel audio and VHS tapes?

Well, they may not play anymore, and those memories may be lost! With funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, we have created a Native Media Archives Guide to assist individuals and Tribes to keep these memories safe.

Included are instructions and examples of best practices for saving your archives for future generations. Also included are suggestions on how to inventory and organize a variety of media materials and available resources. Native Media Archives:

<http://www.visionmakermedia.org/films/archives>

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Vision Maker Media: October 2014 – September 2015

During the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2015, Vision Maker Media expended production grants totaling \$556,900 and spent an additional \$49,056.69 on producer development, workshops and national programming costs.

The following is a summary of financial information for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2015, based on the audited financial statements.

Revenue and Support

CPB Grant Revenue.....	\$ 1,358,591
Other Grants & Contributions.....	\$189,314
Earned Income.....	\$143,002
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Total Revenue & Support	\$1,690,907

Expenses

Programming	\$1,199,731
Management & General	\$339,517
Fundraising	\$113,048
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Total Expenses	\$1,652,296
Net Assets Beginning of Fiscal Year	\$1,446,368
Change in Net Assets	\$38,611
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Net Assets End of Fiscal Year	\$1,484,979

Breakdown of Net Assets, End of Fiscal Year

Unrestricted	\$1,015,570
Temporarily Restricted.....	\$469,409
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Total Net Assets.....	\$1,484,979

Board

Chair
Robin Butterfield
(Winnebago/Chippewa)

Vice Chair
Mark Trahant
(Shoshone-Bannock)

Secretary
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(Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota)

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Roy Clem
(Eastern Band of Cherokee)

Brian Gunn
(Colville)

Rosemary Morillo
(Soboba Band)

Mary Kathryn Nagle
(Cherokee Nation)

Tina Osceola
(Seminole)

Jim Pagliarini

Maya Solis
(Pascua Yaqui/Blackfeet)

Mark VanNorman
(Cheyenne River Sioux)

Staff

Executive Director
Shirley K. Sneve
(Rosebud Sioux)

Assistant Director
Georgiana "George" Lee
(Navajo)

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

Students

William Booth

Sydney Boyd

Payton Canku
(Crow Creek Sioux)

Alex Epperson

Garett Ordway

Bari Pearlman

Alana Stone
(Rosebud Sioux)

Miranda Wiczorek

Creative Services

Vision Maker Media is proud to work with like-minded nonprofits in the creation of professional media. Clients like the Lincoln Indian Center, Creighton University and the Center for Great Plains Studies contracted with us to develop Public Service Announcements, promotional videos and event coverage. Charles "Boots" Kennedye (Kiowa), an award-winning documentary producer, leads this division.

Our goal is to diversify our income and provide valuable services to our partners. Other staff can be available for keynote speeches and workshops. Shirley Sneve has presented at the National Education Association and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

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