Navajo Math Circles
Released November 2015
Celebrating 40 Years of Providing Native Content

Vision Maker Media celebrated 40 years by partnering with the American Archive of Public Broadcasting and the Library of Congress to stream 40 films in 40 weeks through August 2017. We invested $900,000 in 38 projects in all stages of production. We also presented:

- Seven new documentaries to PBS stations;
- Three new media projects;
- Curated and produced two film festivals.

A total of 38 filmmakers participated in workshops or technical assistance. We produced six Viewer Discussion Guides and provided content for PBS Learning Media.

The biennial Vision Maker Film Festival brought 22 films and a dozen filmmakers to Lincoln, Nebraska. The premiere of Medicine Woman, a film by Christine Lesiak and Princella Parker-Red Corn (Omaha), opened the festival.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha third annual Native American Film Festival featured a retrospective of work by Cherokee filmmaker Heather Rae and her husband, Russell Friedenberg.

Boarding Schools Stories is an on-line oral history project from the producers of The Thick Dark Fog. The Medicine Game II: Four Brothers, One Dream web series featured Lyle and Miles Thompson—professional lacrosse players from Onondaga. Work continues on Blackfeet Flood—a memorial to the tragedy that struck the Montana Tribe in 1964.

Finding Refuge

Released Oct. 3, 2015
Produced by Torsten Kjellstrand
Dog Mountain LLC
Distributed by NETA

The efforts of one dying woman to preserve her Native culture don’t end when she passes. Instead, she renews her quest to find pride in her culture by confronting the violent event over two centuries ago that began the destruction of her people and the shame that colonialism created.

The Road to Andersonville

Released Oct. 17, 2015
Produced by David Schock, Ph.D.
penULTIMATE, Ltd.
Distributed by NETA

The first film to document the story of Michigan’s Native Americans in the Civil War who served in Company K of the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters. During the Civil War a regiment of sharpshooters was being recruited to fight for the Union. Since Michigan’s Native Americans were famous as skilled hunters, it was decided to recruit one company—Company K—from among the tribes in Michigan.
Swift Water Place
Released Oct. 25, 2015
Produced by Robin Kornfield
Piksik LLC
Distributed by APT

For over 50 years, archaeologist Dr. Douglas Anderson, of Brown University, studied the Iñupiaq Natives of Northwestern Alaska. When one of the last excavations of his career shuts down due to the discovery of human remains, he must rely on the relationships he has built with the Iñupiaq. Policy dictates that archaeological excavations on National Park Service land must stop when remains are found and all living descendants be notified. Will they allow the dig to proceed as the continuation of Anderson working with Natives to examine their cultural history?

Rising Voices
Released Oct. 30, 2015
Produced by Wil Meya
Florentine Films/Hott Productions
Distributed by APT

Lakota youth in particular are eager to re-appropriate the language and its embedded concepts of place, ethics, action and purpose—on their own terms, sometimes in ways that clash with others’ expectations or the status quo.

Navajo Math Circles
Released Nov. 2, 2015
Produced by George Csicsery
Zala Films
Distributed by PBS Plus

Navajo Math Circles follows Navajo students in a lively collaboration with mathematicians. Using a model called math circles, the students stay late after school and assemble over the summer at Diné College in Tsaile, Arizona, to study mathematics. The math circles approach emphasizes student-centered learning by putting children in charge of exploring mathematics to their own joy and satisfaction.

Walking in Two Worlds
Released April 6, 2016
Produced by Steve Michelson
Bo Boudart Productions
Distributed by NETA

Walking in Two Worlds journeys to the Tongass to reveal its splendor and shed light on the devastation and division resulting from the Settlement Act. The Tongass is rich with old-growth trees, salmon-filled rivers and wildlife. Alaska’s Tlingit and Haida Indian tribes have depended on this forest for their culture and survival.

During the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2016, Vision Maker Media expended production grants totaling $637,720 and spent an additional $34,158.76 on producer development, workshops and national programming costs.

The following is a summary of financial information for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2016, based on the audited financial statements.

Revenue and Support
CPB Grant Revenue .................. $1,358,591
Other Grants & Contributions .......... $203,634
Earned Income ................................ $221,222

Total Revenue & Support .................. $1,783,447

Expenses
Programming .......................... $1,517,571
Management & General ............. $78,781
Fundraising ............................... $380,000

Total Expenses .................. $1,976,352

Net Assets Beginning of Fiscal Year ...... $1,484,979
Change in Net Assets .................. <$192,905>

Net Assets End of Fiscal Year ........... $1,292,074

Breakdown of Net Assets, End of Fiscal Year
Unrestricted .................. $972,445
Temporarily Restricted ................. $319,629

Total Net Assets ................... $1,292,074

Board
Chair
Robin Butterfield (Winnebago/Chippewa)
Vice Chair
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Franz Joachim
Mary Kathryn Nagle (Cherokee Nation)
Tina Osceola (Seminole)
Maya Solis (Pascua Yaqui/Blackfeet)

Staff
Executive Director
Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux)
Assistant Director
Georgiana "George" Lee (Navajo)
Documentary Producer
Charles "Boots" Kennedy (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)

Students
Rachel Kent
Kate Kupidonova
Faraz Mohd
Bari Pearlman
Sandy "Macky" Scott (Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska)
Aaliyah Turner

Growing Native

Expected release: Fall 2017
Produced by Charles "Boots" Kennedy (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.