



VISION
MAKER
MEDIA

ANNUAL REPORT
2023



One Vision Maker's Legacy: A Tribute to Vision Maker Media's First Leader

In 2006, Frank Blythe, Executive Director of Vision Maker Media, announced his retirement. He had served as the organization's first executive director since its establishment as the Native American Public Broadcasting Consortium (NAPBC) in 1976. Upon his retirement, the board of directors created the "Frank Blythe Award for Media Excellence" to recognize outstanding contributions by an individual or organization in creating opportunities engaging and empowering Native American and Alaska Native vision makers. Based on his broadcasting career and national public media achievements, Frank Blythe set the standard for this recognition.

Frank Blythe's career in public media and his legacy as first Executive Director of what is now Vision Maker Media (VMM) – building the infrastructure and resources to support, develop, distribute, and produce programming by and about Native Americans and Alaska Natives for public radio and television broadcasting – is extraordinary to say the least. With his broadcasting experience in radio and tv, Frank Blythe's vision and goals for a new Native media organization seemed destined.

As a graduate of Arizona State University (ASU) in broadcasting, Frank Blythe began his career in country radio as a disc jockey for KOOO in Omaha, Nebraska. The passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Public Broadcasting Act in 1967 establishing the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) provided opportunities for educational stories, as issues related to sovereignty, leadership and treaties, civil rights, and racism against Native Americans were increasingly addressed, consequently propelled by the national American Indian Movement (AIM) in Minneapolis in 1968. The Public Broadcasting System (PBS) incorporated in 1969 and shortly thereafter, Frank entered public television broadcasting at his alma mater ASU, KAET-TV.

In 1972, Frank Blythe and five Native American public media producers, managers, and programmers held their first convening at the Wingspread Foundation in Racine, Wisconsin to discuss forming a public television membership organization, network, and production house to create and distribute Native American programming. They received a grant from CPB to convene more meetings to further develop a concept and conversations with public media television stations,¹ among the stations were KAET and NET Nebraska.

Several years after that initial convening, the Native American Public Broadcasting Consortium (NAPBC) took physical shape. In 1976, NAPBC opened its offices at NET Nebraska (now Nebraska Public Media) on the campus of the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, incorporated as its own 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and received its initial major funding from CPB. NAPBC became public media's first "minority consortium," later joined by four other cultural public media consortiums: Center for Asian American Media, Black Public Media, Latino Public Media, and Pacific Islanders in Communications. In 1987, these five independent national organizations formed a collective called the National Minority Consortia (NMC) supported by CPB to fund and bring more varied stories and content to public television stations. The NMC renamed as the National Multicultural Alliance (NMCA) in 2019.



¹ "Native American Media is in His Blood" by Zoe Olson ("Living Well," 2014)



Through Frank Blythe’s collaborative thinking and his vision to fulfill the need for Native media networking and building talent, NAPBC grew, and its influence and impact resulted in the first ever national convening of Native media talent hosted by NAPBC as the National Indian Communications Conference in 1983. Another major marker Blythe launched was a public-media-producer grant in 1993, now called the Public Media Fund. He also created production partnerships with PBS stations, namely the first contemporary Native topic series in 1976, called “American Indian Artists.” Blythe also envisioned the American Indian Radio on Satellite System (AIROS as it was nationally known). He developed AIROS with CPB funding, along with a live Native talk show program called “Native America Calling,” which premiered in 1995 and was first distributed by AIROS. Today, Koahnic Broadcasting Corp. produces the talk show and is “the nation’s longest-running talk show that focuses on American Indian issue” according to a Washington Post article published in 2000². The live talk-radio program received the 2021 National Humanities Medal from President Biden.



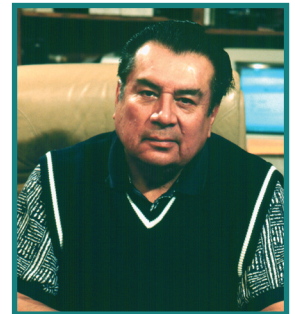
Since inception, and to keep relevant and significant with changing and advancing media, the organization has unveiled two rebrands from its original Native American Public Broadcasting Consortium (NAPBC) to Native American Public Television (NAPT) in 1995, to the current Vision Maker Media in 2013.



In more recent years, several Native American and Alaska Native trailblazers who collaborated with Frank Blythe’s vision have passed away, including Michael Smith, founder of the American Indian Film Institute and Festival and the first recipient of the “Frank Blythe Award for Media Excellence.” Much of what American audiences see today regarding Native American and Alaska Native talent and content in both commercial and public media sprang from 30 years of foundational groundwork started by Frank Blythe at Vision Maker Media, along with his collaborators and supporters.



Frank Blythe’s success would not have been possible without the major support of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and public media stations. CPB’s support made his vision possible to create an infrastructure and resources to produce, distribute, and train Native American and Alaska Native vision makers for public media radio and television broadcasting that advanced opportunities, strengthened Native communities and communications, and increased America’s educational awareness of Native American cultures and lives by “empowering and engaging Native peoples to share their stories”—VMM’s everlasting mission.



October 16, 2023, the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting adopted a resolution honoring the extraordinary life and work of Frank Blythe and his many contributions to public media, as “The CPB Board of Directors marks Frank Blythe’s leadership, vision, and extraordinary service to public media and the American public with deep respect and appreciation and offers our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues.”

Frank Blythe died July 21, 2023.

Photos from VMM Archives

² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/2000/08/04/for-indians-talk-radio-renews-a-tradition/8a576227-ee6a-45cc-9fcc-0edaccc129ed/>

Welcome from our Executive Director



Since the launch of Vision Maker Media’s 5-year Strategic Plan on October 1, 2022, the plan has been an excellent guidepost in directing focused, purposeful, and meaningful planning and implementation of our work efforts this past year.

We diligently worked to increase our e-commerce profit sharing with our SHOP Film Catalog on our website. VMM splits profits with the producers who license their films for educational distribution to educators nationwide. December 2022, we also launched our first Christmas animation short films program for children, families, and teachers on VMM’s YouTube channel, which saw 28,000+ views that month. We continue to focus on short films that are entertaining for students K-8 and have named this new program, *iNATIVE Shorts for Kids*. The purpose of the program is for Native

American Youth (K-8), guardians, and educators to learn more about Native American culture in their own community and other Native Nations. Youth can discover their own, and different Native cultures through VMM’s YouTube channel. Check out *iNATIVE Shorts for Kids*, as we continue to build this program with some fun educational activities and new learning.

To support more Native storytellers in media and new content, and to help build the media field, we are now making two open calls each year, instead of just one. We are optimistic that this will bring more new Native talent and content into filmmaking via our Native Youth Media Project, Creative Shorts Fellowship, and Public Media Fund.

All this past year, Vision Maker Media has been meaningfully out in the field attending numerous Native American and public media assemblies to improve our visibility. In doing this outreach and networking, we attended sixteen (16) different conferences and convenings in 2023. Our participation at these events helped develop new long-term strategic partnerships with PBS, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Koahnic Broadcasting, MIGZI Native youth training center, Alaska Native Initiative, Southern California Tribes, FNX (First Nations Experience), Washington D.C.’s Politics & Prose, Jackson Wild, and then some. We also built staff capacity with a few new positions in 2023, which will allow us to further build our reach and impact with Native youth.

In May of 2023, we acknowledged Syd Beane (Flandreau Santee Sioux) filmmaker, historian, documentarian, and Dakota Elder in the Twin Cities, with the Frank Blythe Award for Media Excellence. This award was created to recognize outstanding contributions by an individual or organization in creating opportunities engaging and empowering Native American and Alaska Native media makers. As Vision Maker Media’s founding Executive Director in 1976, visionary leader, and based on his public media achievements, Frank Blythe set the standard for this prestigious Native American award. Sadly, Frank Blythe (my father) passed away this summer, leaving a legacy in Vision Maker Media—from a concept to a nationally recognized organization—that continues to provide training and financial support for hundreds of Native media producers. Hence since inception in 1976, creating the largest archive of US Indigenous films and media in the United States.

Vision Maker Media Board of Directors and staff are proud of the work we’ve accomplished this year, and we plan a rewarding year in 2024 for Native talent and content with our new 7 circle cycle of VMM programs and projects. Our new 2023 single voice messaging to collective voice branding propels us forward as we proclaim, “Together, we are Vision Makers.”

Ahéhee’, Mado, Pidamaya (Thank you in my Native languages, Diné, Tsalagiyi Detsadanilvgi, and Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota (or Navajo, Cherokee and Sioux) respectively),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francene Blythe-Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "F" and "L".

Francene Blythe-Lewis
Executive Director
Vision Maker Media





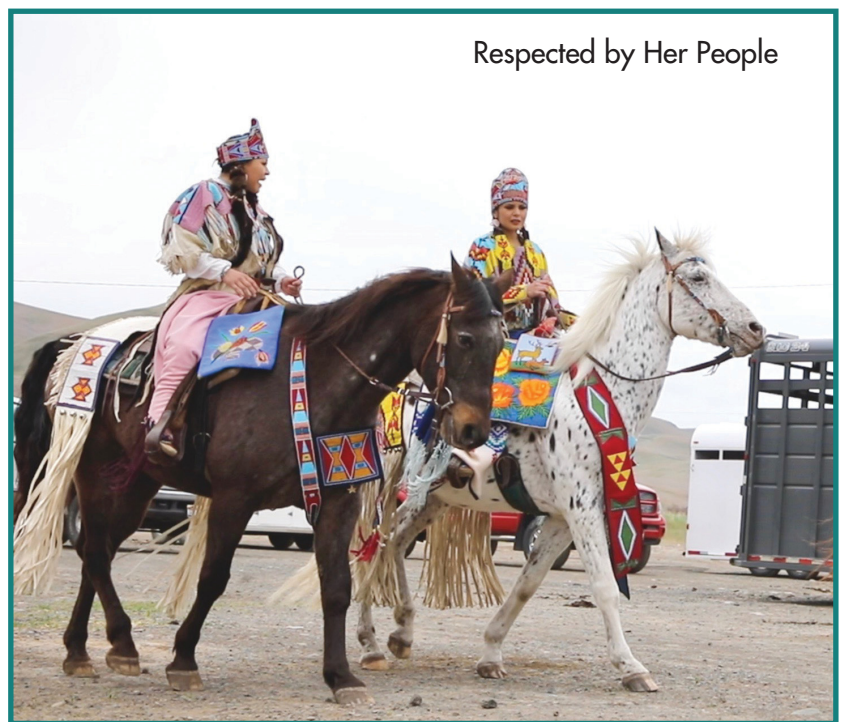
Native Youth Media Project

The Native Youth Media Project collaborates with Native youth programs in Native communities to facilitate filmmaking training for youth ages 15-24 years with VMM career public media film producers as trainers. The finished shorts are then to be shared within the community and the intention of the NYMP is to build sustainable media training programs in Native communities for Native youth. To attain this goal, VMM may partner for up to 5 years.

One highlight training was VMM's partnership with KSUT Tribal Media Center. Students learned about the ethics of story development, video production, and post-production practices in their training. The project produced two short videos that premiered at the Durango Independent Film Festival on March 4, 2023. VMM public media producers, Brooke Swaney (Blackfeet/Salish) and Colleen Thurston (Choctaw Nation) trained students, and the Center provided space and support. VMM plans to partner for a second year with KSUT Tribal Media Center.

iNative
7G
 seventh generation
 the nation's first network

**VISION
 MAKER
 MEDIA**



Photos courtesy of Filmmakers.



Creative Shorts Fellowship

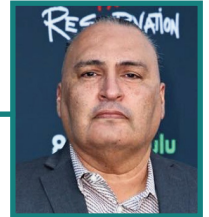
Vision Maker Media funded six emerging filmmakers in the Creative Shorts Fellowships in 2023. Each fellow is funded to produce a creative short film in any genre and artistic style under the mentorship of a career film professional of their choosing throughout the production of their short film. Films are expected to be completed within 12 months.

FELLOW

MENTOR

Stolen Home

Fellow: **Steven H. Tallas** (Navajo)
Mentor: **Jon Proudstar** (Yaqui)



Goat Song

Fellow: **Alana Tiikpuu Walker** (Nez Perce)
Mentor: **Neil Mukhopadhyay**



Ghost Dance

Fellow: **Dave Swallow** (Lakota Sioux)
Mentor: **Aja Duniven**



Buffalo Spirit

Fellow: **Ivy MacDonald** (Blackfeet)
Mentor: **Daniel Glick**



Lumbee Land

Fellow: **Malinda Maynor Lowery** (Lumbee)
Mentor: **Cynthia Hill**



The Love for the Game

Fellow: **Josiah Jones** (Chickasaw Nation)
Mentor: **Jeremy Charles** (Cherokee Nation)





Public Media Fund

Summary of Native Films Aired On Public Television

Ongoing
**Projects
Active**
Films in Contract

34

TOTAL
Broadcast Airings

58,108

**TOTAL FILMS
In Broadcast** **32**

Total Acquisitions for
**Broadcast
Premiere**

2

**TOTAL
PBS Station Coverage**

97.61%



Public Media Fund

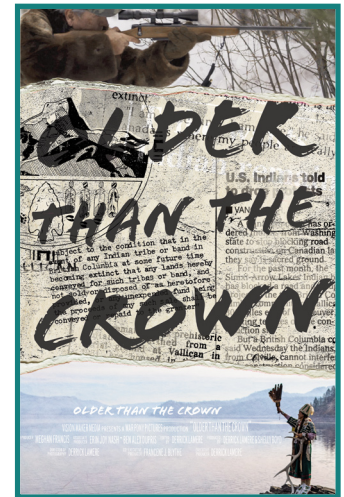
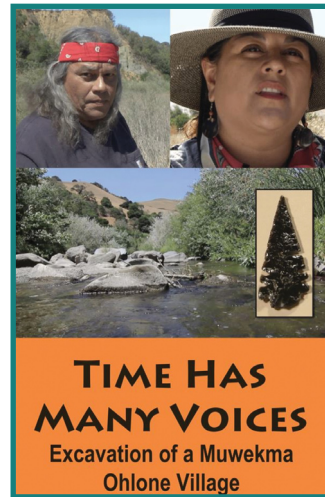
Films Released for Broadcast Premiere

Older Than the Crown

Premiered: Nov. 5, 2022

Distributor: National Educational Telecommunications Association

Producers/Directors: Derrick Lamere (*Colville Indian Reservation*)



Time Has Many Voices

Premiered: Nov. 5, 2022

Distributor: National Educational Telecommunications Association

Producers/Directors: Phil Gross, Brian F. Byrd, PhD (*Shawnee Tribe*),

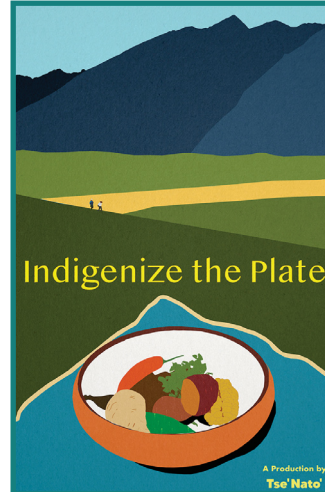
Monica Arellano (*Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area*)

Indigenize the Plate

Premiered: Oct. 20, 2023

Distributor: American Public Television

Producers/Directors: Natalie Benally (*Navajo*), Ernie Zahn



Something Inside Is Broken

Premiered: Oct. 28, 2023

Distributor: National Educational Telecommunications Association

Producers/Directors: Jack Kohler (*Hoopa, Yurok and Karuk*),

Alan Wallace (*Nisenan Maidu, Washoe*), Simon Wilson

Photos courtesy of Filmmakers.

Acquisitions

• Something Inside Is Broken • Time Has Many Voices



Public Media Fund

Each year, Vision Maker Media funds up to 10 long and short documentaries intended exclusively for public media television broadcasting from research and development to production, and then to post-production/completion. The documentaries authentically represent the cultures, experiences, lives, and values of Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Nine new documentaries were newly supported for 2023 with 58% being Native-Led and having significant Native involvement in the production work.

New Films Funded in 2023

1. Woman in the Nation

Long Documentary, Research & Development

Gemma Lockhart (Ojibwe, Rosebud Sioux Tribe), Director

2. Nampeyo: American Modernist

Long Documentary, Research & Development

Steve Larence (Hopi/Assiniboine), Executive Producer

3. Reservation Redemption

Long Documentary, Research & Development

Brenda Fisher (Yakama Nation Descendent), Director/Producer

4. Spirit Plate with Pyet DeSpain

Episodic (Series), Research & Development

Charles Perry (Prairie Band Potawatomi), Executive Producer

5. Red Power: The Clyde Warrior Story

Long Documentary, Production

Marial Martyn, Co-Producer

6. Native Horse

Long Documentary, Production

James Anaquad Kleinert (Onondaga), Producer/Director/Writer/Cinematographer

7. Nihunavea: My Heart, My Center

Long Documentary, Production

Colin Rosemont, Co-Director/Producer

8. Justice Delayed

Long Documentary, Production

Mary Katzke, Co-Producer/Co-Director

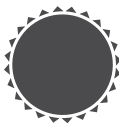
9. She Cried That Day (Working Title)

Long Documentary, Post-Production

Amanda Erickson (San Carlos Apache), Director/Executive Producer



Photos courtesy of Filmmakers.



Professional Development for Vision Makers

America's Native storytellers greatest need is both funding and networking support that bolsters Native talent in film and media. Thus, Vision Maker Media developed three objectives to address this need for a future film professional development program.

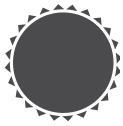
1. Support Vision Maker professional development in partnership with media allies.
2. Support mentorship opportunities.
3. Foster networking to inspire and deliver high quality content.

Many media organizations have opportunities for media training, networking, and/or fellowship programs that Vision Makers can attend. Significant challenges for Native talent to participate, however, is that many Vision Makers are the primary income earners and caregivers of their families. Their financial ability to attend and participate in these opportunities is nearly 100% cost prohibitive for them. Covering participation costs for a Vision Maker supports their expressed eagerness and willingness for professional development opportunities with media allies in the field. Hence, Vision Maker Media is building a Vision Maker Professional Development fund, where Vision Maker Media can supplement the cost to attend. VMM comprehends the field would see substantial filmmaking skills gained, professional networking growth with more accessibility to resources, and aspiration and inspiration to produce more technically advanced storytelling in film and media.



NIEA Conference -
(left to right)
Maya, Francene,
and Kanesia

Photos courtesy of Greene Photography LLC



Professional Development for Vision Makers

TOGETHER WE ARE VISION MAKERS



Training Session

VISION MAKER MEDIA

2ND ANNUAL
PRODUCERS SUMMIT

REGISTER TODAY

WED, MAY 10, 2023
VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON
FILM TRAINING | PUBLIC FORUM

tpt TWIN CITIES PBS MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER cpb Corporation for Public Broadcasting



Public Summit Panel Discussion

PANELISTS

Mark Blaine Producer "And Knowledge to Keep Us" Qayaq Stories, LLC	Torsten Kjellstrand Producer "And Knowledge to Keep Us" Qayaq Stories, LLC	Mike Wilson Co-Director "Whose Land? O'odham Land!" Open Lens Productions
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Moderated by Jeremy Charles, PURSUIT FILMS

Photos courtesy of Greene Photography LLC



Distribution Report



SHOP Film Catalog:

79 titles available for digital download



First Nations Experience (FNX) a national Native broadcast television network:

Airing 46 VMM titles

Digital Presence

Website: **146,031 Page Views**

Website Demographics:

VISITOR AGES:			VISITOR GENDER:	
18 - 24: 25%	35-44: 19%	55-64: 10%	Female: 61%	Male: 39%
25 - 34: 22%	45-54: 14%	65+: 10%		



YouTube: 150,000 Views

Hours of Watch Time: **3,700 (hours)** Subscribers: **+800**



Instagram:

Followers: **10,215**



Facebook:

Followers: **13,928** Total Page Likes: **12,323**



Educating Audiences

VMM’s annual Producers Summit occurred May 2023 in Saint Paul, MN. The first evening, VMM honored Syd Beane (Flandreau Santee Sioux), career media maker, trainer, educator, elder, with the “Frank Blythe Award for Media Excellence” at a community reception co-hosted with Twin Cities PBS. The training was for newly supported producers from the Public Media Fund and the Creative Shorts Fellowship preparing to create content for public media platforms. Day one was the ins-and-outs of public media production. Day two was a series of hybrid filmmaker panel discussions that were free to the public around thematic topics such as triumph, environment, social and land justice.

Fall 2023, VMM partnered with PBS WETA-TV to present a panel discussion at the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) conference that exemplified successful collaborations and approaches that actively engaged

Native communities with local public television stations. The panel included Alaska PBS, Wisconsin PBS, and Nebraska Public Media.

Vision Maker Media collaborated in the promotion of PBS’s national 4-part series, “Native America Season 2.” Each part explores a core tenet of Native American heritage: the power of Indigenous design, how language and artistry fuel the soul, the diverse ways Native women lead, and the resilience of the warrior spirit. This was a national promotion to all audiences, and through VMM’s network of connections to Native communities and organizations, the promotion successfully penetrated deeply into Native America via national Native conferences, local Native media, national Native media, and public television collaborations with many local Native communities. The series premiered in October 2023.



Syd Beane Receives “Frank Blythe Award for Media Excellence”. Photo courtesy of Greene Photography LLC



Syd Beane and Family. Photo courtesy of Alana Stone

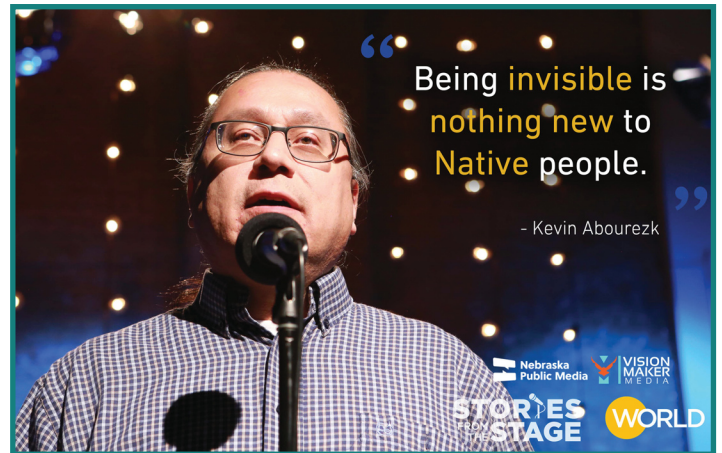
HONORING GENERATIONAL VISION MAKERS



Educating Audiences

Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month 2023

Vision Maker Media teamed up with Nebraska Public Media (NPM) to present two public events for Native American and Alaska Native Heritage month. One was with WORLD Channel to present two episodes of WORLD's "Stories from the Stage" show. The first episode, *Sacred Circle*, and the second *On Sacred Ground*, both streamed in November. VMM invited six storytellers from five nearby Native Nations from and around Nebraska before Nebraska became an unceded statehood—the Lakota, Nakota, Potawatomi, Sac and Fox, and the U-Mo'n-Ho'n (Omaha)—to share their intriguing stories of courage, resilience, and triumph.

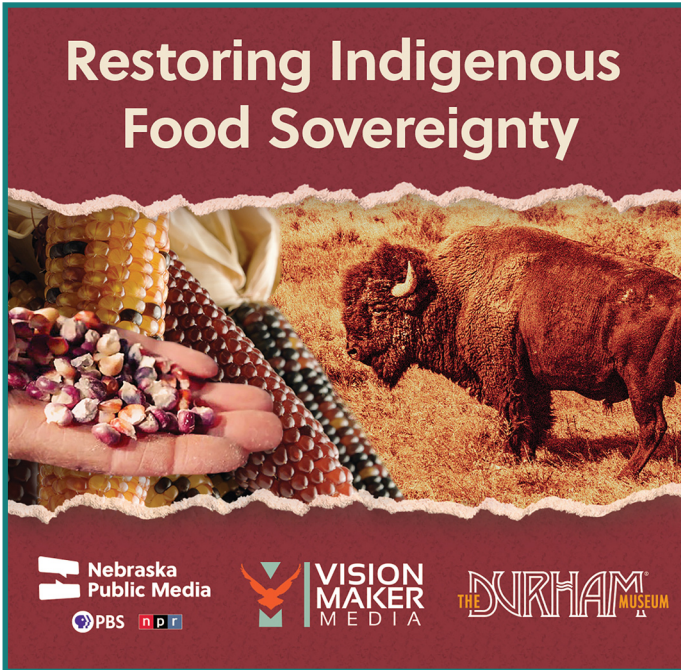


Photos courtesy of Patricia Alvarado Núñez/WORLD



Educating Audiences

The second event with NPM for Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month 2023 included an evening at The Durham Museum in Omaha to present a panel discussion that explored rematriation - the restoration and revitalization of Indigenous foodways, lifeways and cultural knowledge. Panelists included an Indigenous Conservation Specialist, a farm-to-school director for the Umó'ho' Nation Public School, owner of Wild Idea Buffalo Ranch and author of "Great Plains Bison," owner of Native Storytelling Nation and film director, and an Indigenous Educator and Cultural Consultant.



Photos courtesy of The Durham Museum

EMPOWERING NATIVE STORYTELLERS



iNative Shorts for Kids

Vision Maker Media launched a new program called, iNATIVE Shorts for Kids on its YouTube Channel. Young students (K-8), guardians, and educators looking to learn more about Native American culture in their own community and other Native Nations can view short 1-5-minute video clips from a selection of VMM finished films. The short clips are to help further the understanding and practice of Native languages, arts, Indigenous science, traditional knowledge, and many of America's Native American and Alaska Native tribes, and some provide educational children activities.

The first program was A Very Native Christmas, which transposed a familiar Christmas song into a Native voice called, *The Twelve Days of Native Christmas*. Since the launch, December 2022, three other short clips have been added. Average views reached nearly 6,500 and hours watched averaged 31 among the four short clips.

Free Streaming To Kick off the Holidays!

We are **thankful** for our board of directors, our staff, VMM viewers, and VMM donors! To show our appreciation, we are offering two holiday titles for **free viewing** on [Vision Maker Media's YouTube Channel](#).

Who Doesn't Enjoy Free Streaming?



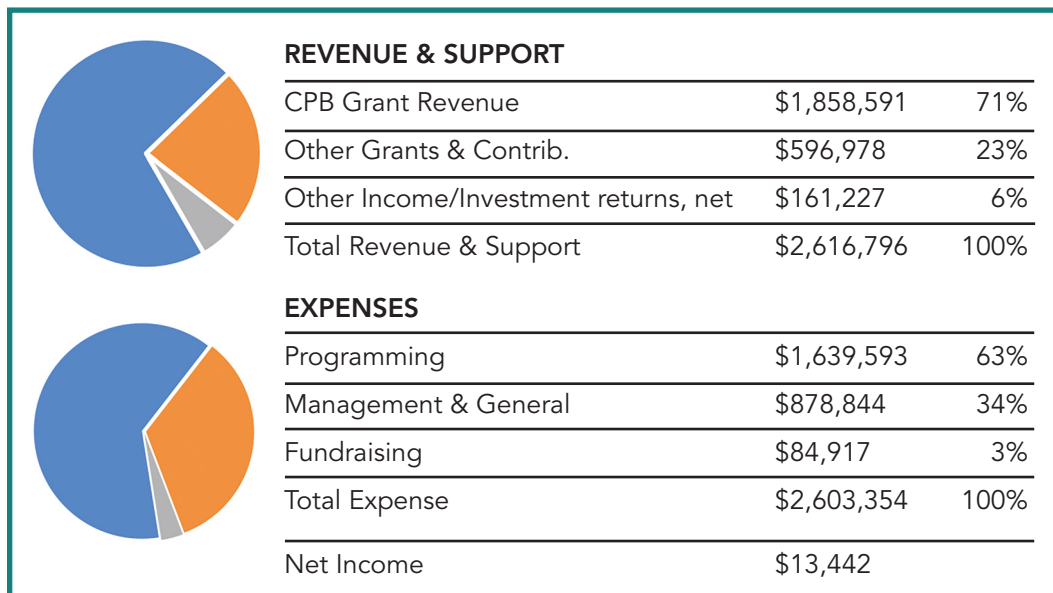
Image from *A Native American Night Before Christmas*



Image from *The Twelve Days of Native Christmas*

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Financials

(October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023)



GRANTS 2023

Acton Family Giving
 Cotyledon Fund
 Marin Community Foundation
 NoVo Foundation
 The Kresge Foundation
 The Reis Foundation
 The Reva and David Logan Foundation

SPONSORS 2023

Cherokee Nation Film Office
 Minnesota Historical Society
 Twin Cities PBS

Donor List 2023

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Adam Armstrong | Christine Lesiak | Gildin Family Foundation | Kate Beane PhD | Montoya Whiteman | Sharon Wahl |
| Alicia Vasquez | Clay Hathaway | Hannah Kaytonah | Katherine Racette | mitheory | Sherry Macgregor |
| Alison Ryland | Colette Eastman | Heather Milne Barger | Kathleen Rutledge | NAC-State of | Sonja Gundersen |
| Allison Starr | Connie W. Smith | Helen Schmierer | Kathleen Smith | New Mexico | Spor Media |
| Amy Hensen | Courtney Hermann | Helen Schmierer | Kathryn Wild | Nancy and John Comer | Steven Swanson |
| Anastasia Scangas | Dave Dister | Holdfast Collective | Kathy M'Closkey | Nancy Bavis | Susan Cooper |
| Andrew Fuller | Dave Mesenbring | Ilana Gershon | Katie McCollum | Nancy Ernst | Susan Kus |
| Anita R. Ducey and | Dawn Marie Lemonds | Irene Van Slyke | Kerry Semrad | Nancy Finken | Susan Reynolds |
| Michael J. Duggan | Deborah DiPlacido | Jack Hoyer | Larry Pelter | Nancy Ghertner | Tami Pfeiffer |
| Baltimore Dakota | Deborah Stone | Jack Kohler | Laura Hunter | Nichole Prescott | Tereasa Lenius |
| Learning Camps | Delynn Hay | Jackie Larner | Lawrence Forte | Nolan Tredway | Theodora Kramer |
| Barbara Friedman | Demi Edwards | Jacqueline Smith | Leduina Armijo | Pam Schneider | Theresa Ullerich |
| Barbara Lynn | Denise Hinds | Jake Kirkland, Jr. | Legacy Film Festival | Pat Becker | Thomas L Macchia |
| Barbara Nieveen | Dennis Dohner | Jane Berthet | on Aging | Paul Haluszczak | Tia Graham |
| Barbara Witemeyer | Dennis Yonemura | Jane Preston | Legia Spicer | Paul Hunton | Tim McCanna |
| Belyna Bentlage | Diane Horn | Janice Deeds | Les Tate | Paulette Molin | Timothy Remple |
| Beth Brownfield | Diane Horn | Janice Rae Wishnow | Leslie Rosenberger | Peggy Diggs | TisBest Philanthropy |
| Beth Harrington | DM Anderson | Janie Wentz | Lisa Morenoff | Peggy Olson | Tracey Janzen |
| Blake Thurman | Dorothy Jo Lower | Jason Booth | Lori Gottula | Peter Crockett | Uma Harini Valverde |
| Blythe Reis | Dr. Helen Bishop | Jaune Quick-to-See Smith | Louis Goldich | Rebekka Schlichting | Valerie Saidman |
| Brookedge Family | Dr. Susan Jennys | Jean L. Eden | Lucinda Emerson | Rhonda Robles | Vance and |
| Charitable Fund at | Duncan H. Maitland | Jeanne Brown | Madelon Bolling | Richard Silbert | Virginia Sneve |
| Schwab Charitable | Eileen Maxwell | Jeff Sulzbach | Malcom Miles | Richard Weise | Vanessa Julye |
| Buffy Sainte-Marie | Ellen Ferguson | Jenn Lee Smith | Marilyn McNabb | Roberta Grossman | Verna Ehret |
| Cameron Johnson | Ellen Moore | Jennifer Smith | Marion Martinez | Ruby Phillips | Victor and Joanne |
| Carl Costanzi | Eric and Ruth Brown | Jennifer Watts | Marissa Kemp | Russell Relethford | Chandler |
| Carlotta Hayes | Ernie and Ellen Williams | Jerry W. and | Mark and Quita Sullivan | Ruth Tonachel | W. Jean Richmond |
| Cassandra Gaines | Felicia Kongable | Norma C. Wilson | Martha R Stampfer | Sande Zeig | Walter Lehmann |
| Charlene D. Henninger | Firespring Foundation | Jo Anna Dale | Martha Salyers | Sandra Pedlow | Ward Romer |
| Charlotte Wells | Forrest Boyd | John Andrews | Martin Harper | Sara Kukkonen | Wilma Jeanne |
| Cheryl Alberts Irwin | Foster Collins | John Haworth | Mary C | Sarah Howell | Perry-Jones |
| Cheryl Tolley | Frances Kay | Juanita J. Rice | Marissa Kemp | Sarah Lieberman | Yvonne Bushyhead |
| Chicken Ranch | Franz Joachim | Judy Sinner | Mark and Quita Sullivan | Sarah Sweeney | Yvonne Leung |
| Rancheria of Me-wuk | Georgia Stevens | Julie Kaplan | Martha R Stampfer | Scott Sackett | Zucchini Toast |
| Indians of California | Gilana Lobel | Julie Wilde | Martha Salyers | Serena Sampler | |
| Christine Davis | | Karen Hutt | Martin Harper | | |
| | | | Mary C | | |
| | | | Max Licher | | |
| | | | Mia Allen | | |
| | | | Molly Ashford | | |
| | | | Monica Armstrong | | |

Our Mission

Empowering and Engaging Native People to Share Stories.

Our Vision

We envision a world changed and healed by understanding Native stories and the public conversations they generate.



Vision Maker Media (VMM) is the premier source of public media by and about Native Americans since 1976. We work with VMM funded producers to develop, produce and distribute programs for all public media. VMM supports training to increase the number of Native Americans and Alaska Natives producing public broadcasting programs. A key strategy for this work is in partnerships with Native Nations, Native organizations, and communities.

Staff in 2023

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Francene Blythe-Lewis
(Diné, Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota,
Eastern Band Cherokee)

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

Georgiana Lee (Navajo/Diné)

DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING & FINANCE

Gregg Jablonski

CONTRACTS & ACCOUNTING ASSOCIATE

Brittany Grove

PROJECT MANAGER

Alana Stone (Sicangu Lakota)

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Kris Stanley

ADMINISTRATIVE PROJECT COORDINATOR

Ann McKeighan

DIGITAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

Whitney Jakimowicz



VisionMakerMedia.org

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Lincoln, NE 68508-2532
402-472-3522 info@visionmakermedia.org

Board Members in 2023

BOARD CHAIR

Joely Proudfit (Luiseño/Payómkawichum) - Director
California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center

VICE CHAIR

Kate Beane (Flandreau Santee Sioux) - Executive Director
Minnesota Museum of American Art

SECRETARY

Paul Hunton - General Manager Texas Tech Public Media

TREASURER

Randal P. Hansen - Chief Financial Officer
Nebraska Public Media

Jason Booth (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa)
Windward Engineers & Consultants

Yvonne Bushyhead (Eastern Band Cherokee)
Retired Educator

Dr. Phil Hoffman - Assistant Dean and General Manager
Ball State Public Media

Dr. Laura Hunter - Chief Operating Officer and Station Manager
Utah Education and Telehealth Network/KUEN

Andrew Okpeaha MacLean (Iñupiaq) - Assistant Arts
Professor; Academic Director New York University – Tisch School
of the Arts

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