

# NAPT funds 7 documentaries that explore American Indian perspective

Native American Public Telecommunications Inc. (NAPT) recently awarded more than \$460,000 to seven projects by filmmakers across the nation to produce documentaries for PBS stations.

"The goal of the open call is to increase the diversity of voices available to PBS viewers," said Shirley K. Sneve (Rosebud Sioux), NAPT executive director. "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."

Funding for the projects comes from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The seven films explore American Indian perspectives of history and the social, economic and political conditions that depicted it; the preservation of today's environmental resources; present-day contemporary stories about the competitive sport of horse racing; and how one man's legacy is coming to light as his lifelong career dedication to preserve Native languages now helps others unlock dozens of all-but-forgotten California Indian languages.

"NAPT is encouraged to see more independent producers teaming up with local public TV stations to produce their films," said Sneve. "We like to promote that because it creates partnerships and often leads to more projects. Then stations always have go-to Native filmmakers to work with."

NAPT invites proposals for projects intended for public broadcasting that helps us reach our mission to share Native stories with the world. Find out more at [www.nativetelecom.org/2011\\_napt\\_public\\_television\\_program\\_fund](http://www.nativetelecom.org/2011_napt_public_television_program_fund).

## Games of the North comes to PBS

Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT) proudly announces the release of a new documentary that examines four modern Inuit athletes' ties to the Arctic Winter Games – an event that draws hundreds of athletes from the northern territories of the Arctic Circle.

Held biennially for a week in March, participants compete in strengths of endurance, agility, mind, body and spirit in front of large crowds composed of family, friends, supporters and media.

Produced by Starseed Media, Inc. in association with the Alaska Native Heritage Center and presented by NAPT and KCTS Television/Seattle, *Games of the North: Playing for Survival* is a personal journey for many athletes past and present. The Arctic Winter Games connect athletes living in very distinct worlds and each character featured in the film reveals a unique relationship to the games.

"When a friend first showed me the Native Games, I was blown away by the level of athleticism and the grueling strength of these athletes. I became immediately drawn in as both an athlete and filmmaker," said Jonathon Stanton, *Games of the North* producer.

## The 7 films

### Indian Relay

Producers: Charles Dye, Wayne Smith (Blackfeet/Crow) and KUSM-TV/Montana PBS  
Status: Production

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

### Something's Moving: Legacies of the American Indian Boarding Schools

Producers: Randy Vasquez, Jonathon Skurnik and Brian Wescott (Athabaskan/Yup'ik)  
Status: Production

Through the perspective of the small Chitimacha Indian Tribe of Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin – known as "the people of the many waters" – the film explores the different ways of knowing and remembering American Indian history and offers alternative accounts.

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

Producer: Daniel Golding (Quechan)  
Status: Research and development

Linguist and anthropologist John Peabody Harrington died in 1961 at age 77. He was an eccentric, paranoid and obsessively driven anthropologist whose life's work became dedicated to preserving Native America's dying languages. Today, Harrington's legacy is now regarded as the "Rosetta Stone" that unlocks dozens of all-but-forgotten California Indian languages.

### Indians: An Unexpected Story

Producers: Roberta Grossman, Brian Wescott (Athabaskan/Yup'ik), Deann Borshay Liem and Lisa Thomas  
Status: Production

This four-hour series tells the vivid tale of American Indians in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond. Composed of interviews, family histories, archival footage and music, the series provides a greater appreciation of the histories and achievements of contemporary American Indian individuals and indigenous communities.

### Crying Earth Rise Up

Producers: Suree Towfighnia, Beth Sternheimer and Debra White Plume (Oglala Lakota)  
Status: Production

This is 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.

### Urbanizing the American Indian

Producer: Rocky Mountain PBS  
Status: Research and development

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

### Without a Tribe

Producer: Cynthia Jeannette Gomez (NM Genizaro)  
Status: Research and development

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 lowest class identity as Genizaro Indians. Today's Genizaro descendants continue to struggle to maintain their communal homelands and recognize this Genizaro heritage.

Native American Public Telecommunications, Inc. (NAPT), a nonprofit that receives major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, shares Native stories with the world by supporting the creation, promotion and distribution of Native media.

Founded in 1977, through various media – public television, public radio and the Internet – NAPT brings awareness of Indian and Alaska Native issues.

NAPT operates AIROS Audio, offering 24/7 downloadable podcasts with Native filmmakers, musicians and Tribal leaders. VisionMaker is the premier source for quality American Indian educational and home videos.

All aspects of NAPT programs encourage the involvement of young people to learn more about careers in the media – to be the next generation of storytellers. NAPT is located at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

NAPT offers student employment, internships and fellowships. Reaching the general public and the global market is the ultimate goal for the dissemination of Native-produced media.

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## Imprints Print Shop

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