

# Documentary explores Plateau beadwork

*Spirit in Glass: Plateau Native Beadwork* provides a rare opportunity to experience Plateau culture through the eyes and hearts of the artists themselves.

The film focuses on bead artists from the Warm Springs, Yakama, Nez Perce and Umatilla reservations.

Narrator for the film is Nez Perce storyteller Nakia Williamson.

The talented individuals behind the spectacular beadwork share their history and motivation, and the key role that beadwork plays in binding their culture together.

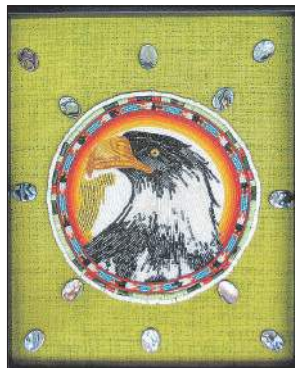
The program will air on Public Television stations nationwide with broadcast rights beginning October 24.

This half-hour documentary is from Mimbres Fever Productions and Vision Maker Media.

### Beadwork tradition

This is truly an American story: The very essence of this art form, and its story of survival, is a glimpse at the heartfelt tradition of a people.

The documentary was filmed throughout the culturally rich northwest Plateau and mid-Columbia River regions with the mission of celebrating the Plateau People, while respecting the vital role that their adaptability has played in their cultural diversity and maintaining of a tradition.



Warm Springs beadwork by Shayleen Macy (above) and Anita Davis (right).

The beadwork tradition began to flourish during the restrictive times of the Reservation Period. Deeply rooted in the basketry traditions, skilled artists moved from geometric basket designs to floral motifs.

“Creativity and individuality is a shared Plateau cultural value,” says Penny Phillips, director and producer of the film.

“It is expressed in the woven flat bags and other artistic traditions.”

Adventurers, traders, and settlers began traveling through the area in the 1840s, bringing small glass beads in a variety of colors to trade for Native goods.

Grandmothers started using

beads as a medium to create and offer gifts to family members and trading partners, reinforcing traditional values while developing a new, artistic tradition.

to show identity and to maintain culture. One of the more memorable aspects of beadwork is the uniqueness of each beaded piece. Each beadwork creation holds special meaning for the person who made it and for the person for whom it was made.

“In the Indian way, when you give that special piece, it’s a way to heal your heart,” said Rose Scott, Warm Springs bead artist.

Pictorial beadwork is unique to the area. Since this style of beadwork started in a time of catastrophic upheaval, it serves as a metaphor for the vibrancy and survival of the Native culture. In order to keep their culture alive, the elders adapted by beading individual images and stories. And today, many artists have made a particular beadwork creation their specialty—as a contribution to their generation.

*Spirit in Glass: Plateau Native Beadwork* received major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Vision Maker Media.

The film is an offering of the National Educational Telecommunications Association.

This program is suggested for scheduling for Native American Heritage Month. For viewing information in your area, please visit:

[visionmakermedia.org/watch](http://visionmakermedia.org/watch)

## Film showings at academy

Next month the Warm Springs community will welcome the people from the Bend Film Festival.

They will show two Native-theme movies at the Warm Springs k-8 Academy.

On Friday, October 10 they will show the documentary *Return of the River*. This is about the removal of the dam on the Elwa River in Washington state.

The showing will be at 6 p.m.

On Saturday, October 11 they will show *Winter in the Blood*, produced by Sherman Alexie, from the book by the Native American author James Welch.

The showings will be free to the public. The trailer for *Return of the River* is on Facebook and Vimeo.

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# WARM SPRINGS TELECOM

The last day to register to vote in November’s general election is **October 14**. KWSO and Spilyay are hosting a voter registration day on Wednesday, October 1, from 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

If you are 18 or older by election day – you can register to vote in Oregon.



## Flu shots

The Warm Springs Community Health nurses are giving flu shots at the clinic.

They will also be at the Warm Springs Post Office this Friday, Oct. 3; and at the Early Childhood Education Center in the morning on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

Next Thursday, Oct. 9, they will be at Simnasho from 9 a.m. till noon; and at Kah-Nee-Ta on Friday, Oct. 10. On Tuesday, Oct. 14, the nurses will be giving flu shots at the k-8 academy.



Alyssa Macy/Spilyay

**Geo Quiz** Do you recognize this area of the reservation? Answer in the next Spilyay Tymoo.

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