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### FINANCIAL SUMMARY
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I am honored to present to you the 2018 Fiscal Year Annual Report from Vision Maker Media. We continue to fulfill our mission to empower and engage Native People to share stories. We envision a world changed and healed by understanding Native stories and the public conversations they generate.

We presented 12 titles (9.5 hours) to Public Broadcasting. Four of these featured Native leaders who made significant contributions to history, including Wilma Mankiller, Dr. Charles Eastman (Ohiyesa), Scott Momaday and his daughter, Jill; and Guy Dullknife and his son, George.

Through the Repellent Fence and Skindigenous explore contemporary and traditional arts. Keep Talking is a personal narrative about the importance of Native languages. Lake of Betrayal explores the history of water rights and a dam that continues to impact the Seneca Nation — 60 years later. The Mayors of Shiprock is a story about youth, their resilience and commitment to change in their Navajo community.

Vision Maker Media programs were broadcast more than 33,000 times last year, and seen by audiences in community screenings and film festivals all over the world.

The Biennial Vision Maker Film Festival brought 35 films and 42 filmmakers to Lincoln, Nebraska in April. Vision Maker Media also partnered with three film festivals in San Francisco, California, Omaha, Nebraska and Rapid City, South Dakota.

We started working on a Native Youth Media Project funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Woods Charitable Fund, to develop curricula standards in conjunction with Migizi Communications from Minneapolis, Minnesota. We helped more than 40 Native filmmakers attend the Getting Real conference, sponsored by the Independent Documentary Association in Los Angeles, California in September.

Thank you,

Shirley K. Sneve
Executive Director
VISION MAKER MEDIA EMPOWERS AND ENGAGES NATIVE PEOPLE TO SHARE STORIES. WE ENVISION A WORLD CHANGED AND HEALED BY UNDERSTANDING NATIVE STORIES AND THE PUBLIC CONVERSATIONS THEY GENERATE.

VALUES

1. Celebrating Native culture, heritage, wisdom, sacred stories, and the storyteller.
2. Educating current and future generations through candid stories that serve as a catalyst for change.
3. Encouraging creativity, quality and innovation.
4. Honoring traditional Native values--courage, respect, perseverance, generosity and integrity in our interactions.
5. Promoting diversity in cultures, peoples and programming.
7. Inspiring the next generation of storytellers.

GOALS

1. Increase awareness and impact of Vision Maker Media.
2. Strengthen and diversify Vision Maker Media program content.
4. Enhance the Vision Maker Media supportive working environment.
5. Sustain and expand the Vision Maker Media funding base.
VISION MAKER MEDIA

OVERVIEW

VISION MAKER MEDIA AT A GLANCE

86
FILMS AVAILABLE
ON DVD

36
FILMS IN
BROADCAST

33,214
APPEARANCES
ON PUBLIC TV

69
FILMMAKERS
TRAINED

369
FILMS PLAYED
ON THE BIG
SCREEN

34
FILMS IN
PRODUCTION

9
NEW FILMS SENT
TO BROADCAST

51
FILMS AVAILABLE
ONLINE
VISION MAKER MEDIA

OPERATIONS

STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

Shirley Sneve
(Rosebud Sioux)
Executive Director

Rebekka Schlichting, MA
(Ioway Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska)
Assistant Director

Dawn Amory
Director of Marketing & Development

Alyssa Ranard
Marketing & Communication Specialist

Alana Stone
(Rosebud Sioux)
Project Coordinator

Mary Ann Koehler
Business & Projects Manager

Stacy Price
Contract/Accounting Assistant

Ann McKeighan
Department Assistant

Mark Trahant
(Shoshone-Bannock)
Chair (2014-2020)
Editor, Indian Country Today

Maya Solis-Austin
(Pascua Yaqui/Blackfeet)
Vice Chair (2014-2020)
Program Manager, Sundance Institute

Roy Clem
(Eastern Band of Cherokee)
Secretary (2015-2018)
Executive Director, Alabama Public Television

Randal P. Hansen
Treasurer (2011-2020)
Assistant General Manager, NET

Joni Buffalohead
(Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota)
Member (2015-2018)
Sr. Strategist for Tribal Health

Robin Butterfield
(Winnebago/Chippewa)
Member (2011-2020)

Brian Gunn
(Calville)
Member (2015-2018)
Principal, Powers Plyes Sutter & Verville PC

Franz Joachim
Member (2016-2019)
General Manager & CEO, New Mexico PBS

Mary Kathryn Nagle
(Cherokee Nation)
Member (2013-2020)
Partner, Pipestem Law

Joely Proudfoot
(Luiseño)
Member (2017-2020)
Director, California Indian Culture & Sovereignty Center

Elizabeth Weatherford
Member (2017-2020)
Indigenous Media Initiatives
RETURN TO RAINY MOUNTAIN
Distributor: New Mexico PBS
Release Date: 10/26/2017
Produced by: Jill Momaday

*Return to Rainy Mountain* is a feature length documentary film that tells the story of N. Scott Momaday. It is a personal account of his life and legacy told in his own voice, and in the voice of his daughter Jill. Momaday speaks of his Kiowa roots, family, literature, oral tradition, nature, identity, and the sacred and important things that have shaped his life.

This biographical film explores the life of poet and author N. Scott Momaday, raised by his Kiowa father and Cherokee mixed-blood mother on Indian reservations in New Mexico and Arizona, who was honored with a Guggenheim Fellowship, Academy of American Poets Prize, Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, National Medal of Arts and election into the Kiowa Gourd Dance Clan.

LAKE OF BETRAYAL
Distributor: NETA
Release Date: 10/28/2017
Produced by: Paul D. Lamont, Scott Sackett

When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attempts to take their land to build Kinzua Dam, the Seneca people stand up to the government and prevailing political forces of the 1950s and 60s to save their culture, their sovereignty, and their way of life to preserve their future. This film explores the history of Kinzua Dam on the Allegheny River in Pennsylvania and its impact on the Seneca Nation. Completed in 1965, it was originally proposed to help mitigate flooding in the City of Pittsburgh—200 miles downriver, but the 27-mile reservoir that formed behind it inundated vast tracts of the Seneca Indians’ ancestral lands, forcing their removal in breach of the United States’ oldest treaty still in effect.

Lake of Betrayal looks at the Seneca Nation’s fight to protect its sovereignty against a backdrop of a federal Indian Termination policy, pork-barrel politics, and undisclosed plans for private hydro-power generation. The documentary takes a long view of the imposed changes on the Seneca’s way of life that have led to major economic benefits and irreplaceable cultural losses.

THE MAYORS OF SHIPROCK
Distributor: Local USA
Release Date: 11/06/2017
Produced by: Ramona Emerson

In the town of Shiprock, New Mexico, poverty and corruption have long been a struggle, and as the Navajo Nation looks for leadership, it is met with scandal. To make a change, a young group of men and women are taking back their community—led by 21-year-old Graham Beyale. This is the story of how one will make a difference and inspire a generation of leaders to make changes in their own communities.
ON A KNIFE EDGE
Distributor: America ReFramed, ITVS, World
Release Date: 11/07/2017
Produced by: Eli Cane

A stunning coming-of-age journey set on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Set against a background of rising tension and protest, a Lakota teenager learns first-hand what it means to lead a new generation and enter adulthood in a world where the odds are stacked against him. Filmed over a five-year period, On a Knife Edge provides a privileged view into the interior world of George Dull Knife as he becomes politically active with the American Indian Movement, confronts the challenges of growing up on the Pine Ridge Reservation, and wrestles with accepting leadership of his storied family from his aging father.

THROUGH THE REPELLENT FENCE
Distributor: America ReFramed
Release Date: 04/24/2018
Produced by: Sam Wainwright Douglas, Julianna Brannum

Through the Repellent Fence follows art collective Postcommodity as they construct Repellent Fence, a two-mile long outdoor artwork that straddled the U.S.-Mexico border. Postcommodity consists of three Native American artists who put land art in a tribal context. In 2015 the artists worked with communities on both sides to install a series of 28 huge inflatable spheres emblazoned with an insignia known as the “open eye” that has existed in Indigenous cultures from South America to Canada for thousands of years. The artwork crossed the border a mile in each direction and symbolized a suture stitching back together cultures that have inhabited the land long before borders were drawn.

MANKILLER
Distributor: PBS Plus
Release Date: 03/01/2018
Produced by: Valerie Red-Horse, Gale Anne Hurd

MANKILLER explores the life of Wilma Mankiller, the first woman Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation who led her people in building one of the strongest Indian Tribes in America. More than a biography, the program delivers an empowering message.
OHIYESA: THE SOUL OF AN INDIAN

Distributor: NETA
Release Date: 06/02/2018
Produced by: Syd Beane

This documentary follows Kate Beane, a young Dakota woman, as she examines the extraordinary life of her celebrated relative, Charles Eastman (Ohiyesa). Biography and journey come together as Kate traces Eastman’s path—from traditional Dakota boyhood, through education at Dartmouth College, and in later roles as physician, author, lecturer, and Native American advocate.

KEEP TALKING

Distributor: PBS Plus
Release Date: 07/02/2018
Produced by: Karen Lynn Weinberg

Keep Talking follows four Alaska Native women fighting to save Kodiak Alutiq, a critically endangered language with only 41 fluent Elders remaining. At language immersion camp, young Sadie is inspired. Over the course of the film, Sadie evolves from painful shyness into a powerful young woman with a strong connection to her culture. “Sadie’s journey demonstrates the powerful impact language revitalization can have on a young person’s sense of self,” says director Karen Weinberg. Alutiq learner/teacher Marya Halvorsen explains: “There are things that don’t translate… I imagine that everybody has part of themselves that would make more sense if you could say it in your language.” Marya is one of the four Alutiq language teachers featured in the film; her tribal affiliation is with the Sun’aq tribe of Kodiak. Armed with incredible determination and grit, these women become community leaders and activists forging new pathways towards sustainable education. Over five years they set their sights on a bright future that may be just over the horizon.

SKINDIGENOUS

Distributor: APT
Release Date: 09/06/2018
Produced by: Jason Brennan

Skindigenous is a 13-part documentary series exploring the art of tattooing as practiced by Indigenous peoples around the world. The art of the tattoo is the lens through which we discover this people’s unique perspective on the world. Each episode features a master tattoo artist who will reveal the secrets of their art. By following a master and one of his or her clients in the process of creating a new tattoo piece, Skindigenous brings us into the origins and purpose that are ascribed to this form of body art in their culture. Episodes document the process of making a tattoo from conception to completion, covering each step of the way from how pigments are made from natural materials to how the ink is injected into the skin using traditional methods. Skindigenous offers an opportunity to explore one indigenous people’s unique cultural life as well as its spiritual beliefs, worldview, and connection with the environment.
“We Are All Related” was the theme of the seventh biennial Vision Maker Film Festival. The theme is a conceptual translation from the Lakota language—Mitakuye Oyasin—a commonly used expression indicating the Lakota’s relationships to each other and in the world.

Buffy Sainte-Marie (Cree) and Harriett Skye, Ph.D. (Hunkpapa Lakota) received the Frank Blythe Award for Media Excellence. Ms. Sainte-Marie was present, and Jessica Skye Paul (Nez Perce/Lakota) accepted the award on her mother’s behalf. Dr. Skye passed away on January 20, 2018.

The reception was followed by RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World, which features a significant interview with Ms. Sainte-Marie. A Q&A with Executive Director Shirley Sneve and Ms. Sainte-Marie followed the screening.
This year, Vision Maker Media expanded our annual producers training to include the National Minority Consortia (NMC). Twelve sessions were held with 16 presenters. Forty-two people attended the lab including the NMC, NMC master filmmakers and fellows, VMM producers and others.

GETTING REAL 2018
Vision Maker Media sent 27 producers and three team members to attend the International Documentary Associations’s Getting Real ‘18 Conference in Los Angeles, California.

“We learned so much and our heads are stuffed to bursting with information and ideas and thoughts.”
- Arming Sisters

“We appreciated the opportunity for peer interaction, new inspiration, meeting the VMM filmmakers and team and so much more!”
- Mary Katzke, And Now We Rise
As part of our Native Youth Media Project and Touring Film Festival, VMM is planning to host an Indigenous Women’s Film Festival at NET on March 8, 2019. We have curated six films that have Indigenous women leads and were made by Native women filmmakers. The films are RETURN: Reclaiming Native American Foodways for Health and Spirit, Daughter of a Lost Bird, After the Apology, MANKILLER, Ohero:kon Under the Husk, and Warrior Women. We plan to have Brooke Pepion Swaney and Kendra Mylnechuk from Daughter of a Lost Bird in attendance, as well as, Elizabeth Castle and Marcella Gilbert in attendance for Q&A’s.

FEATURED FILMS
RETURN: Reclaiming Native American Foodways for Health and Spirit
Daughter of a Lost Bird
After the Apology
MANKILLER
Ohero:kon - Under the Husk
Warrior Women
VISION MAKER MEDIA

DEVELOPMENT

2018 MEDIA EXPANSION

WEBSITE TRAFFIC GROWTH


WEBSITE TRAFFIC SOURCES

- Google: 82.3%
- Direct: 9.7%
- Visionmakermedia.org: 6%
- Others: 6%

SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH

- Instagram: +45% since FY2017, 700 followers
- Facebook: +3% since FY2017, 8K followers
- Twitter: +7% since FY2017, 15K followers

7,611 Subscribers to the Vision Maker Media E-Newsletter
VISION MAKER MEDIA

DEVELOPMENT

FUNDRAISING & GRANTS

DONOR DEMOGRAPHICS

- 24.68% renewing
- 41.84% new
- 11.72% additional gifts
- 21.76% returning

FUNDRAISING

- Goal: 40K
- Received: 41K

AVERAGE DONATION

- $175

DONATIONS

- 239

GRANTS RECEIVED

- Goal: 250K
- Received: 305K

UNDERWRITING RECEIVED

- Goal: 25K
- Received: 26K
Generous support for this fiscal year was provided by the following. If you would like to support more Native stories by Native people, please visit visionmakermedia.org.

GRANTS RECEIVED

- Acton Family Giving
- Cooper Foundation
- Humanities Nebraska
- Lincoln Arts Council
- Lincoln Community Foundation
- Woods Charitable Fund
- National Endowment for the Arts
- National Endowment for the Humanities
- Nebraska Arts Council
- NVo Foundation
- South Dakota Humanities Council

DONATIONS RECEIVED

- Nadema Agard
- AmazonSmile
- Dawn Amory
- Gwen Archer
- Catharine Axley
- Mary Barber
- Rebecca Barker
- Sandra Beasley
- Marla Becknell
- James Berthet
- Melissa Bisagni
- Kenneth Blume
- Frank Blythe
- Gerda Bolhuis
- Freddy Bosco
- David Braff
- Bernardo Bredbenner
- Janet Brown
- Tamzin Brown
- Joni Buffalohead
- Brian & Margaret Bull
- Robin A. Butterfield
- Janet Carlson
- Elizabeth Cheng
- David Ciotti
- Roy Clem
- Tristan Clum
- Alana Cole
- Margaret Conlin
- Elinore Cumings
- Jo Anna Dale
- Anita Davis
- Phyllis Deal
- George Dech
- Jan Deeds
- David C. Dister
- Jill Deoerfler
- Dennis Dohner
- Terry Dugas
- Jean L. Eden
- Judy Eggleston
- Rae Ann Engdahl
- Franklin Falcon
- G Steven Ferris
- Susan Field Waite
- Nancy Finken Ernst
- Bobbi Firebush
- Marguerite Fitch
- Kenneth Flanders
- Lawrence Forte
- Katsitsionni Fox
- Jeffre Frontz
- Jacqueline Gaess
- Judi gaiaashkibos
- Patricia Gallimore
- Tina Garman
- Lydia Garvey
- Margaret Gerard
- Mark Giese
- Louis Goldich
- Erminio Gonzalez
- Glennon Graham
- Tia Graham
- Roberta Grossman
- Nancy J. Guelich
- Chereeze Hall
- Hampson-Medina Family Fund
- Thom Harney
- Susan Hartmann
- Richard Hartzen
- Meg Hayes
- Joanna Hearne
- Heather B. Henson
- Denise Hinds
- Elizabeth Horikawa
- Andrea Horner
- Jack Hoyer
- Ron Hull
- Robert Hungate
- Walter F. Hunter
- Marc Imlay
- Margaret Jacobs
- Jim James
- Franz Joachim
- Irene Kao
- Charles Kapela
- Simon Kilmurry
- Jake Kirkland Jr.
- Torsten Kjell
- Mary Koehler
- Ramona Kohs
- Elizabeth Koopman
- Jamille Kort
- Katie Koskenmaki
- Theodora Kramer
- Danny & Margaret Ladely
- Paul Lamont
- Norbert Larson
- Max Licher
- Aesha Lorenz Al-Saeed
- Jennifer Machiorlatti
- Duncan H. Mailand
- Hayley Marama Cavino
- Kate Mathias
- MATCH-E-BE-NASH-SHE-WISH Band of Pattawatomi Indians
- Angela Maves
- Vivian Mazzeola
- Mark McCloud
- Ann McKeighan
- Joseph Meduna
- Malcom Miles
- Tillie M. Mizrahi
- Alice Nash
- Lynee Neel
- Barbara Nieveen
- Johnny Perna
- Jack M. Perry
- Wilma Jeanne
- Perry-Jones
- Martha Pessaro-Mikmaq
- Jan P. Peterson
- Mary Ann Peterson
- Penelope Phillips
- Frederick Pomper
- Stacy Price
- Charles Quissenne, Jr.
- Lucian Read
- Jane Renner Hood
- Adam Rhoads
- Laurie Richards
- Patricia A. Rickers
- Henry Rikkers
- Kari Ritter
- Ward Romer
- Channette Romero
- Bill & Carla Rowley
- Jeanne Rubin
- Jess Rustad
- Kathleen Rutledge
- Mary Santulli
- Rebekka Schlichting
- Lucy Schmeidler
- Hal F. Schulte III
- Julie Semp
- Kathryn D. Sette
- Jonathan Skurnik
- Bonnie Smith
- Shirley Sneve
- Vance & Virginia Sneve
- Mark Snyder
- Legia L. Spicer
- Ann Sprayegn
- Martha Stampfer
- Georgia Stevens
- Kay Stone
- Steven Swanson
- Brooke Sween-McGloin
- Rashmi Tambe
- Blake Thurman
- Ruth Tonachel
- Mark Trahan
- Celeste Tremel
- Marie Tymrak
- Kasandra VerBrugghen
- Joyce Vincent
- Lois Voseen
- Raymond L. Wagner
- Larry Wainblat
- AI & Rhetta Walter
- Elizabeth Weatherford
- Natalie Welch
- Emily White Hat
- Martin Wieland
- Jerry & Norma Wilson
- Sonja Wingard
- Lisa Wolf Johnson
- LauraLee Woodruff
- Patrick Yack
- Dennis Yonomura
- Zucchini Toast
The following is a summary of financial information for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2018 based on the audited financial statements.

### REVENUE & SUPPORT

- **CPB Grant Revenue**: $1,358,591
- **Other Grants & Contributions**: $570,680
- **Earned Income**: $213,634
- **Total Revenue & Support**: $2,142,905

### EXPENSES

- **Programming**: $1,859,330
- **Management & General**: $365,191
- **Fundraising**: $34,046
- **Total Expenses**: $2,258,567

### Net Assets Beginning of Fiscal Year

- $1,883,418

### Change in Net Assets

- $-115,662

### Breakdown of Net Assets, End of Fiscal Year

- **Unrestricted**: $1,434,153
- **Temporary Restricted**: $333,603
- **Total Net Assets**: $1,767,756