“You can’t understand America in the 21st century if you don’t understand the Native experience. What connects these five films is the resolve of their characters. This country is founded on people striving, being tenacious and moving forward...this is a look at that, through Native eyes.”

— Chris Eyre (Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma),
Director of Episodes 1-3, We Shall Remain
On behalf of the staff and board, we are pleased to share some of the year’s highlights in our Annual Report Fiscal Year 2009 (October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2009).

Since 1977, our work has been built upon the fact that through the sharing of Native media with the world, we can preserve our past, maximize the present and brighten the future for generations to come while symbolizing the importance of culture, family, spirit, mind and body.

While our primary business remains delivering high-quality programming to public television and radio stations, we are invested in technology. Through webstreaming, downloadable podcasts, e-newsletters, interactive webpages, webinars, digital media and social media, we have come to the forefront of reaching our audiences. But there is so much more to be learned and so many more lives that we can touch.

Native American Public Telecommunications continues to be the premier source of Native audio, video and programming for public broadcasting. This year we’ve brought audiences award-winning documentaries, entertaining radio theater programs, and we’ve seen great success with the AIROS Native Network’s music programs. VisionMaker Video continues to be the leader in educational and home video sales of authentic Native programs.

All aspects of our programs encourage the involvement of young people to learn more about careers in media—to be the next generation of storytellers. Through our location at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, we offer student employment, internships and fellowships. Reaching the general public and the global market is the ultimate goal for the dissemination of Native-produced media.

In 2010, you’ll see some of our new campaigns beginning to launch—among them is Festival in a Box. Festival in a Box will be coming to a community near you in Fall 2010. It’s an interactive program designed to bring Native filmmakers to your area. As always, education and outreach is a vital part of our business.

The most gratifying thing about being a part of NAPT is consistently hearing from so many of you about how the programs affect your life and communities. Thank you all so much for contributing to the cultural vibrancy of our Native communities. You are the reason we do this, and we would love to hear from you.

Pilamaye,

Shirley K. Sneve
Rosebud Sioux
NAPT Executive Director

Liohbwana,

Dr. Octaviana Valenzuela Trujillo
Yaqui
NAPT Board Chair

Cover images courtesy of American Experience, Webb Chappell, Mihio Manus (Navajo, Cherokee, Omaha) and Billy Weeks.
Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT) operates the AIROS Native Network, a 24/7 Internet radio station that features music, news, interviews, documentaries and audio theater. We also feature downloadable podcasts with Native filmmakers, musicians and Tribal leaders.

The Red Road

*The Red Road* is a one-woman musical by Arigon Starr (Kickapoo). Verna Yahola’s All Nation’s Café in Sapulapa, Oklahoma, is where all the magic and mayhem happens. Legendary Choctaw country music star Patty Jones has asked Verna if she can do her 10th Anniversary TV Special at the diner. Add a punk rock star from England, mix in a Navajo fry cook, stir in an Indian activist and fold in six more characters to let one of the most energetic productions fulfill you with a dose of laughter, original music and fun. The show was taped in front of a live audience at NET Television and Radio’s studio in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Award-winning BBC producer/director Dirk Maggs flew in from London to serve as the show’s director. A production of Native Voices at the Autry and the Native Radio Theater Project, the show is available from the Native Voice One Radio Network.

Raven’s Radio Hour

A hilarious show hosted by Jack Dalton (Yup’ik) as “Raven”—the trickster/creator character in all Alaska Native traditions—this homage to the radio variety shows of the 1940s features timeless stories, traditional songs and jokes that’ll make you blow moose milk through your nose! Featuring Christina Gagnon (Inupiaq), Yaari Kingeeku (St. Lawrence Island Yup’ik), Ethan Petticrew and Allison Warden, this hour-long Native Radio Theater Production written by Jack Dalton and Ed Bourgeois (Mohawk) celebrates the vast diversity of Alaska Native cultures. *Raven’s Radio Hour* was directed by Brian Price and Randy Reinholz (Choctaw); produced by Jean Bruce Scott and Randy Reinholz; and edited by Brian Price and Kurt Rinke. Writer Ed Bourgeois calls *Raven’s Radio Hour* “A Tundra Home Companion.”

Native Sounds—Native Voices and The Drum

*Native Sounds—Native Voices* and *The Drum* are live weekly shows that NAPT staff broadcasts for Lincoln, Nebraska’s community radio station, 89.3 FM KZUM, and then proceeds to stream on the AIROS Native Network—a 24/7 all-Native content Internet radio station. Interactive Media Specialist Eric Martin works with students in hosting the program. Sina Bear Eagle (Ogalala Lakota/Turtle Mountain Ojibwe) and Aden Marshall (Rosebud Sioux) co-hosted the program until Fall 2009. Sina got an opportunity to study in England, so Tobias Grant (Omaha, Navajo, Sioux and Cherokee) took over the microphone. Tobias also carries on a family tradition—he’s NAPT founder Frank Blythe’s grandson.

The Native Radio Theater Project (NRT)

Funding for Native Radio Theater is provided by the Ford Foundation, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts. Programs are distributed through the Native Voice One Radio Network to public radio stations nationwide. This year, NAPT is proud to partner with Native Voices at the Autry to bring you two NRT projects—*The Red Road* and *Raven’s Radio Hour.*

"The effect I get out of AIROS is the close connection to my people, reminds me how important it is to keep our culture alive. Sometimes I need it to get me through my day.”

— an urban Native Internet listener
**March Point**

*Released November 18, 2008*

*Produced by Tracy Rector (Seminole), Long House Media*

*An Independent Lens Feature*

In the late 1950s, two refineries were built on March Point, an area that was once part of the Swinomish reservation by treaty. This is the story of three boys’ awakening to the destruction these refineries have wrought in their communities. Ambivalent environmental ambassadors at the onset, the boys grapple with their assignment through humor, sarcasm and a candid self-knowledge. But as their filmmaking evolves, they experience the need to understand and tell their stories, and the power of this process to change their lives.

---

**Waila! Making the People Happy**

*Released March 29, 2009*

*Produced by Dan Golding (Quechan), Hokan Media Productions*

Central European immigrants brought polka music to America in the mid-19th century, but the people of the Tohono O’odham Indian Nations in Arizona’s Sonoran Desert have made the mixture of accordions, saxophones and percussion all their own. Taken from the word “baila,” which means “dance” in Spanish, Akimel and Tohono O’odham people have created “waila,” a form of music that embodies polka and Mexican tejano, cumbias and Norteño. One family, the famous Joaquin Brothers, have taken waila (pronounced y-la) all the way to Carnegie Hall to show that “Indian music” is what culture and language make it to be.
**FISCAL YEAR 2009 Programming**

**Waterbuster**

*Released November 1, 2008*  
*Produced by J. Carlos Peinado*  
(Mandan/Hidatsa/Arikara)

A personal story of how a multimillion dollar water project displaced the Mandan/Hidatsa/Arikara Nation in North Dakota. Producer J. Carlos Peinado (Mandan/Hidatsa/Arikara) returns to the Fort Berthold Reservation and discovers stories of the past as he assesses tribal identity. Through interviews and archival footage, a uniquely Native American perspective emerges, giving light to a portrait of resilience and survival in the face of catastrophic change.

**Weaving Worlds**

*Released November 1, 2008*  
*Produced by Bennie Klain (Navajo) and Leighton C. Peterson, TricksterFilms, LLC*

*Weaving Worlds* is a compelling and intimate portrait of economic and cultural survival through art. Navajo filmmaker Bennie Klain takes viewers into the world of contemporary Navajo weavers and their struggles for self-sufficiency. The film artfully relates the Navajo concepts of kinship and reciprocity with the human and cultural connections to sheep, wool, water and the land, showing how indigenous artisans struggle for cultural vitality and environmental sustainability in the face of globalization by creating their textiles and “reweaving the world.”

*Image Courtesy of J. Carlos Peinado.*

*Image Courtesy of Nancy Schiesari.*
We Shall Remain

EPISODE GUIDE

Episode 1: “After the Mayflower”
Episode 2: “Tecumseh’s Vision”
Episode 3: “Trail of Tears”
Episode 4: “Geronimo”
Episode 5: “Wounded Knee”
Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT) worked with American Experience in the award-winning We Shall Remain five-part Native history series. We Shall Remain explores pivotal moments in U.S. history from the Native American perspective.

We Shall Remain spans more than 300 years, revisiting the European settlement of North America and the pivotal historic moments that would follow.

“Non-Native people have a very limited and stereotyped image of Native people,” said Sharon Grimberg, We Shall Remain’s executive producer. “We wanted to give aspects of contemporary Native life, which is something American Experience, a history series, has never done before. Many Native people face real problems but Native communities are doing some interesting things establishing enterprise and sovereignty, and preserving language and culture.”

At the heart of the five-part television series is how Native peoples adapted and fought back from the Wampanoags of New England in the 1600s who used their alliance with the English to weaken rival tribes, to the bold new leaders of the 1970s who harnessed the momentum of the civil rights movement to forge a Pan-Indian identity.

“This is the remain part in We Shall Remain,” added multimedia producer Callie Wiser. “We want to get PBS audiences to see what they don’t see every day—what is going on in Indian communities every day.”

The We Shall Remain interactive site on PBS.org allows visitors to view the five episodes in their entirety and provides a link where the episodes may be downloaded from iTunes.

Coinciding with the online episodes of the We Shall Remain series is the ReelNative Project and Native Now. ReelNative offers a venue for Native Americans to share their stories with a national audience through participating PBS station websites. On the sites, viewers may post content via blog, videos and images to share what’s on their mind. The ReelNative workshops are capturing the attention of leading contemporary art and culture institutions. Native Now is an online resource tool featuring the topics of language, sovereignty and enterprise. Each topic is explored in-depth through video segments of what’s happening in communities today. A complete listing of educational resources and teaching guides broken out by episode are also available for download. A companion public radio documentary series, focusing on contemporary Native issues, was also distributed to public radio and Native broadcasters to coincide with the television series.

The We Shall Remain portion of the PBS.org website continues to get numerous page hits per day, exemplifying what a valuable learning tool that We Shall Remain and PBS has come to be.
Each year, NAPT awards up to $500,000 in production contracts to independent producers and public television stations to produce programming by and about Native Americans for use by PBS stations. Funding can be for film production, film completion, or research and development.

**Breaking the Circle**

*Mark Anthony Rolo*
*(Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe)*

Exploring increasing urban gang activity within tribal communities, *Breaking the Circle* also examines how Indian communities confront violence, drugs and other anti-social behavior that threatens Native American youth and the future of Indian Country.

**Growing Native**

*NAPT*

This 13-part series of half-hour episodes takes viewers on adventures throughout Indian Country to learn how tribes evolved within ecosystems that shaped their cultures and identity. More than 556 Indian Nations continue to maintain traditional lifestyles and live distinctly as First Americans. Recognizing the importance of subsistence foods to the overall well-being of communities, many Indian Nations are working to recover traditional foods and reclaim their cultural connection to lifeways that kept them spiritually strong and physically healthy.

**Jim Thorpe, The World’s Greatest Athlete**

*Tom Weidlinger,*
*Moira Productions*

This is a biography of the Native American athlete who became a sports icon in the first half of the 20th century. This film is the first documentary to tell the story of Thorpe’s life outside of his well-known athletic victories. The film uses in-depth interviews with Thorpe’s surviving children, some simple recreations and images culled from over seventy-five archive sources, both stills and motion picture.

**LaDonna Harris: Indian 101**

*Julianna Brannum (Comanche)*

Comanche activist LaDonna Harris, who has led an extensive life of Native American political and social activism, is now passing her traditional cultural and leadership values to a new generation of emerging indigenous leaders.

**Losing Ground**

*Jenni Monet (Laguna Pueblo), 'nish Media*

The North Arctic landscape is changing rapidly — so too are the lives of Inupiat Natives living on the tiny, vanishing island of Kivalina, Alaska. Many believe global warming is to blame, but filmmakers show how one humble village fights to save their homeland under a cloud of doubt.

**Lost Tribes**

*Bennie Klain (Navajo) & Leighton C. Peterson,*
*TricksterFilms, LLC*

This documentary feature examines the quintessential American issues of free speech and ethnic pride and the ongoing Columbus Day Parade controversy in Denver, Colorado. Tensions rise as Denver’s Native and Italian-American communities publicly fight over race, history and what it means to be an “American.”

**Native American Marching Band**

*Cathleen O’Connell*

The phrase “Native American music” may not invoke tubas and baton twirlers, but brass band music has been a part of Native culture for more than a century. Combining portraits of contemporary bands and archival material, the film offers an unexpected view into this surprising music scene.
River of Renewal
Jack Kohler (Karuk/Yurok/Hoopa), Stephen Most and Steve Michelson
Jack Kohler (Karuk/Yurok/Hoopa) returns to his tribe to discover how politics and economics have impacted tribal fishing and the environment after industry changes the Klamath River’s ecosystem.

Smokin’ Fish
Luke Griswold-Tergis and Cory Mann (Tlingit)
A young Tlingit makes a pilgrimage to his ancestral home and is forced to confront the dichotomy between his history and the world he lives in. His personal life story parallels his culture’s heart wrenching disintegration and struggle to revitalize itself.

Telephone Warriors
Valerie Red-Horse (Cherokee)
In 1918, not yet citizens of the United States, Choctaw tribal members of the U.S. American Expeditionary Forces were asked to use their Native language as a powerful tool against the German Forces in World War I, setting a precedent for code talking as an effective military tool and establishing them as America’s original code talkers.

The Twelve Days of Native Christmas*
Gary Robinson (Choctaw, Cherokee), Tribal Eye Productions
This animated short film written and directed by Gary Robinson (Choctaw, Cherokee) with illustrations by Jesse T. Hummingbird (Cherokee) will be a whimsical adaptation that the whole family will enjoy. Based off the timeless Christmas classic “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” the film recognizes twelve different Native American tribes through lyrics and images.

Video Letters from Prison
Milt Lee (Cheyenne River Sioux), Hollow Bone Films
Video Letters from Prison follows the lives of three Oglala Lakota sisters as they reconnect with their incarcerated father via a series of video letters. Cheyenne River Sioux Producer Milt Lee documents the years that follow as each girl grows into a beautiful, young woman with a strong sense of identity and purpose.

*Acquisition
**R&D
Casino Nation
Terry Jones (Seneca)
Proposed Broadcast: 2011

For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska
Jeff Silverman, Blueberry Productions
Broadcast: November 2009

Games of the North
Steve Alvarez (Mescalero, Apache, Yaqui, Upper Tanana, Athabascan), Star Seed Media
Proposed Broadcast: Fall 2010

Good Meat
Sam Hurst and Larry Pourier (Oglala Lakota)
Proposed Broadcast: Fall 2010

GRAB
Billy Luther (Navajo/Hopi/Laguna Pueblo)
Proposed Broadcast: 2011

Horse Tribe
Janet Kern
Proposed Broadcast: Spring 2011

Losing Ground
Jenni Monet (Laguna Pueblo), ‘nish Media
Proposed Broadcast: Fall 2010

Native Century
Roberta Grossman
Proposed Broadcast: 2011

The Osage Murders
Dan Bigbee (Comanche) and Lily Shangreaux (Oglala Lakota), Big Productions
Proposed Broadcast: 2011

Power Paths
Bo Boudart
Broadcast: November 2009

River of Renewal
Jack Kohler (Karuk/Yurok/Hoopa), Steven Most and Steve Michelson
Broadcast: October 2009

Sacred Stick
Michelle Danforth (Oneida of Wisconsin) and Patty Loew (Bad River Ojibwe)
Proposed Broadcast: Fall 2011

Standing Bear’s Footsteps
NET Television
Proposed Broadcast: Fall 2010

To Brooklyn and Back: A Mohawk Journey
Reaghan Tarbell (Mohawk)
Broadcast: November 2009

The Twelve Days of Native Christmas*
Gary Robinson (Choctaw, Cherokee), Tribal Eye Productions
Broadcast: November 2009

*Acquisition

Image courtesy of Pikiawish Partners.
During the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, NAPT expended production grants totaling $493,000, and spent an additional $57,965 on producer development, workshops and national programming costs.

The following is a summary of financial information for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2009, based on the audited financial statements.

**Revenue and Support**

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<th>Source</th>
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**Expenses**

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<td>Management &amp; General</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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**Change in Net Assets**

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<td>Net Assets at Beginning of Fiscal Year</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets at End of Fiscal Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,742,065</strong></td>
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**Breakdown of Net Assets, End of Fiscal Year**

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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT) receives major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

Generous donors and corporate sponsors vigorously embrace our cause. We count on our supporters for their extraordinary help in accessing places, people and experiences that would not otherwise be possible.

American Indian Graduate Center
American Indian Science and Engineering Society
American Public Television
Annie E. Casey Foundation
Caption Max, Inc.
Center for Asian American Media
Ford Foundation
FOX Broadcasting Company
Grantmakers in Film and Electronic Media (GFEM)
Independent Television Service
Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Institute of American Indian Arts

KNME – New Mexico Public Broadcasting Station
Koahnic Broadcast Corporation
Latino Public Broadcasting
Lincoln Journal Star, a Lee Enterprises Foundation
Mary Riempa Ross Media Arts Center
Media for Health
National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture
National Black Programming Consortium
National Educational Television Association
National Museum of the American Indian
National Native News
Native Americans in Philanthropy

Native American Journalists Association
Native Voice One Radio Network
Native Voices at the Autry
Navajo Times
Nebraska Arts Council
Nebraska Educational Telecommunications
Nebraska Humanities Council
Pacific Islanders in Communications
PBS
The Associations of American Cultures (TAAC)
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of New Mexico
Working Films

NAPT’s Producer Workshop 2009 at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center; Left to Right — Michelle Danforth (Oneida of Wisconsin), Bennie Klain (Navajo), Luke Griswold-Tergis, Jenni Monet (Laguna Pueblo) and Julianna Brannum (Comanche).

Image courtesy of NAPT.
Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT) is a proud member of the National Minority Consortia (NMC). The NMC consists of five organizations—the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), Pacific Islanders in Communications (PIC), the National Black Programming Consortium (NBPC), Latino Public Broadcasting (LPB) and Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT). With primary funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the NMC serves as an important component of American Public Television, by nurturing the next generation of diverse media makers and program managers.

The NMC creates an awareness of the value of public media among communities which have historically been not drawn upon by public television. Through innovative outreach campaigns, communities of color are embraced and focused upon. The NMC’s work in educational distribution further increases the value of public television programming by sharing its works with students nationwide.

In anticipation of the 2008 Presidential Election, the NMC presented Diversity Beat—a multi-platform initiative designed to incorporate diversity in public media when a national news event was being covered and thus signifying the commitment to diversity in public affairs reporting. The goal of the initiative was to reframe the political conversation as viewed through the communities and provide the context and perspectives not covered by mainstream media.

The initiative brought public broadcasting and public radio election-related stories from different communities. The initiative was structured around cross-collaborations with broadcast and online news outlets such as Online Newshour and Frontline/WORLD, as well as community partners such as New American Media, Scribe, Reznet and young, diverse journalists. For more information, please visit nmcmedia.org.

NMC Executive and Managing Directors and Patricia Harrison, President and CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (Left to Right—Jacquie Jones of NBPC, Luis Ortiz of LPB, Patricia Harrison of CPB, Ruth Bolan of PIC, Stephen Gong of CAAM and Shirley K. Sneve of NAPT). Image courtesy of the NMC.

Diversity Beat. Image courtesy of the NMC.
## Board

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Vice Chair

David Cournoyer (Rosebud Sioux)
Secretary

Sydney Beane (Flandreau Santee Sioux)
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Julie Anderson

Rod Bates

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Lyn Dennis (Lummi)

Chris Byrne (Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribe of Oklahoma)

Dustin Owl Johnson (Saginaw Chippewa)

Laura Waterman Wittstock (Seneca)

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Georgiana George Lee (Navajo)
Assistant Director

Kim Baca (Navajo, Santa Clara Pueblo)
Marketing Director

Eric Martin
Interactive Media Specialist

Mary Ann Koehler
Business & Projects Manager

Rebecca Fauver
Contract/Accounting Assistant

Ann McKeighan
Office Assistant

### Diversity Beat Fellows

Tristan Ahtone (Kiowa)

Rhonda LeValdo (Acoma)

## Students Workers

Sina Bear Eagle (Oglala Lakota/Turtle Mountain Ojibwe)
Project Assistant

Alex Epperson
Project Assistant

Angel Geller (Omaha)
Project Assistant

Tobias Grant (Omaha, Navajo, Sioux and Cherokee)
Project Assistant

Melissa Gray
Project Assistant

Nancy Keays (Little River Band of Ottawa)
Project Assistant

Ben Kreimer
Project Assistant

Aden Marshall (Rosebud Sioux)
Project Assistant

Joe Morrison (Rosebud Sioux)
Project Assistant

Interactive Media Specialist Eric Martin.

Student workers Aden Marshall (Rosebud Sioux) and Tobias Grant (Omaha, Navajo, Sioux and Cherokee).
Mission & Vision

The mission of AIROS is to share Native stories with the world through the power of music and the spoken word. The AIROS Native Network distributes programming via webcasts and podcasts to listeners around the globe.

A service of Native American Public Telecommunications (NAPT), our fundamental vision is to broaden the availability and impact of Native media.

The vision includes placement of NAPT as the curator of Native voices in public media in a rapidly changing world.

A sponsorship package delivers your message multiple times on the live webstream (AIROS Native Network—our Internet radio station) and gives you a prominent visual web presence with links to your site.

Station Format

AIROS prides itself on playing all Native content. Indigenous music is our mainstay, but we also feature news and interview segments, as well as stories during the winter months. We cover all musical genres trying to tailor the music to the audiences that we have tuning in. During the work day, we provide a mix of powwow, folk, rock and blues. In the evenings, we mix in some alternative music that appeals to younger listeners.

And AIROS broadcasts 24/7, bringing real-time webstreaming to listeners worldwide.

Drive Traffic to Your Site

- Reach a nationwide audience of Native Americans and non-Native people who strongly identify with Native culture.
- Reach policy makers and leaders on the local, state, federal and tribal levels.
- Target educators, trend setters and other media makers.
- AIROS audiences are already online and can react immediately to your message by easily clicking on the link on our webpages to your website.
- Pre-record your message in Native languages to show your commitment to the revitalization of First Nation languages.
- Support the creation of new content from Native media makers and musicians.

Markets Reached

AIROS has listeners all over the world—from major cities to rural reservation communities. In 2009, we had tens of thousands of listeners from thousands of cities and towns across the U.S.

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For sponsorship inquiries, please contact Eric Martin at 402.472.3287 or airos@unl.edu.