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Academy of Motion Pictures of Arts and Sciences Awards Grant to National Museum of the American Indian Supporting Annual Native Cinema Showcase

The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences awarded the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian a \$5,000 Academy Grant to support the museum's annual Native Cinema Showcase. The grant money will support the 15th anniversary of the showcase, to be shown in August 2015 at the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts (SWAIA) Santa Fe Indian Market.

The showcase highlights an average of 50 films by more than 40 Native filmmakers from across the Western Hemisphere annually. It is considered one of the most significant indigenous film festivals in the United States. To date, screenings have been brought to audiences totaling nearly 30,000 people. The showcase also demonstrates key partnerships with other arts organizations, including SWAIA, the Sundance Institute, Future Voices of New Mexico, imagineNATIVE Film Festival, Film+Media Arts Festival, the Institute for American Indian Art and Vision Maker Media.

“Support from the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences helps the museum highlight the amazing contributions of Native filmmakers and present them to the global audience that attends our Native Cinema Showcase,” said Shawn Termin, Cultural Arts Manager. “The massive success of the showcase is due in large part to the generosity of our sponsors.”

About the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

The Academy Grants program directly supports the overall mission of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: to recognize and uphold excellence in the motion picture arts and sciences, inspire imagination, and connect the world through the medium of motion pictures. The program also supports the Academy's commitment to diversity in the industry. Diversity encompasses artists as well as audiences; the cultural and geographic communities to which they belong; their age, gender, race, ethnicity, disabilities, religious beliefs and sexual orientation. The

Academy seeks to fund proven and rising institutions that open pathways for storytellers from a wide range of backgrounds, and especially those from underserved communities.

About the National Museum of the American Indian

For additional information about the National Museum of the American Indian, visit www.AmericanIndian.si.edu. Follow the museum via social media on Facebook, Twitter (@SmithsonianNMAI) and Instagram (@Smithsonian_NMAI).

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