



## PBS's AMERICAN EXPERIENCE Announces National Community Outreach Campaign Around Native American Issues

--Local alliances part of upcoming Native history series and multimedia project WE SHALL REMAIN--

Boston, MA—PBS's [AMERICAN EXPERIENCE](#), television's most-watched history series, has announced a national community outreach campaign to complement the national broadcast of [WE SHALL REMAIN](#), a groundbreaking mini-series and provocative multi-media project that establishes Native history as an essential part of American history. The expansive outreach initiative includes grants to fifteen public television stations across the country to lead local community efforts centered on partnerships with Indian tribes and other Native organizations, Native radio, universities, museums, schools, and libraries to produce local broadcast programming and educational events. In addition, each of the 17,500 public libraries across the country will receive an event kit to encourage public programs related to WE SHALL REMAIN. Events include book groups featuring Native American authors, film screenings, and cross-cultural programs for teens. Finally, a short film project called **ReelNative** will solicit personal stories from Native Americans around the country through interactive Web features.

An AMERICAN EXPERIENCE production for WGBH Boston, WE SHALL REMAIN is made up of five 90-minute documentaries that span three hundred years and tell the story of pivotal moments in U.S. history from the Native American perspective. WE SHALL REMAIN will premiere nationally on PBS in April 2009. A companion public radio documentary series, focusing on contemporary Native issues, will be distributed to public radio and Native broadcasters to coincide with the television program.

The fifteen public television stations selected to lead coalitions in their communities are: KUED (Salt Lake City, Utah); KAET (Phoenix, Arizona); AETN (Arkansas Educational Television Network); WFWR (Fort Wayne, Indiana); WTCI (Chattanooga, Tennessee); KAKM (Anchorage, Alaska); KCET (Los Angeles, California); KPBS (San Diego, California); WSIU (Carbondale, Illinois); WDSE (Duluth, Minnesota); NET (Lincoln, Nebraska); WXXI (Rochester, New York); OETA (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma); SDPB (Vermillion, South Dakota); KSPS (Spokane, Washington).

In Salt Lake City, KUED's partners include the State Division of Indian Affairs, the Utah Museum of Natural History, the local Humanities Council, the state Department of Education, University of Utah, the Salt Lake City Library and Film Center, the State Division of History, Utah Arts Council, and the statewide

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WE SHALL REMAIN IS AN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE PRODUCTION  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH NATIVE AMERICAN PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FOR WGBH BOSTON.



Native American  
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# WE SHALL REMAIN

library system. The coalition will produce five local documentaries about Utah's five tribes; provide teaching materials to all public schools; launch an exhibit at the Natural History Museum; host a yearlong lecture series and Native American storytelling festival; produce a series of Native film screenings with panel discussions; and create traveling exhibits of Native American folk arts.

In Phoenix, Arizona, KAET's partners include Arizona State University's American Indian Policy & Leadership Center, The Heard Museum, The Intertribal Council of Arizona, Inc., Phoenix Indian Center, Inc., Arizona Humanities Council, Arizona Library Association, Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records, Arizona State University Libraries, Arizona State University at the Polytechnic Campus, Glendale Public Library, Maricopa County Library Council, Northern Arizona University, Cline Library, Phoenix Public Library, and The Postal History Foundation. The Phoenix coalition will produce local public affairs segments for broadcast, focusing on contemporary Native life in Arizona. Other activities include screenings and film discussions around Phoenix, a local Web site to feature unique content, producing teachers guides and other multimedia resources to meet Arizona academic standards for classroom use, and a large public event to be held at the Heard Museum.

In Arkansas, AETN's partners include the Sequoyah Research Center, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Chickasaw Nation, the American Indian Center of Arkansas, the Museum of Prehistory and History/Arkansas Tech University, the Arkansas Department of Education, and Arkansas State Parks. Here, local partners will host film screenings and public discussions, produce a statewide traveling exhibit, develop teacher-training workshops, and produce a five-part local documentary series.

In Fort Wayne, Indiana, WFWA's partners include the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami Indian Alliance for Miami Indians, Allen County-Ft. Wayne Historical Society, Science Central, Allen County Public Library, Indiana University, Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW), and the IPFW Helmke Library. The Fort Wayne coalition will produce a televised panel discussion about the life of Shawnee leader Tecumseh, as well as a four-part film and lecture series about Native Americans in Indiana. The partners will also create a History Center exhibit related to Native life in the Great Lakes region, and host a daylong storytelling festival at the Three Rivers Festival. Fourteen local public libraries will feature reading lists and book discussions of works by Native authors.

In Chattanooga, Tennessee, WTCI's partners include the Department of Education, the Chattanooga Regional History Museum, and the Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park. Here, the partners will produce a local documentary about the Cherokee Nation, and host workshops, screenings, and town hall discussions, timed to coincide with the annual Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride, a program that raises scholarship money for Native Americans in Tennessee. They'll also sponsor an essay and photo contest to engage Native youth around contemporary Indian issues.

The remaining coalitions will produce film screenings and discussion events in their communities, and engage Native populations by participating in local tribal events.

**ReelNative** is a unique short film project that trains Native Americans of all ages to produce personal video stories. The completed films will be distributed to film festivals nationwide, and several will be screened daily at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, DC, throughout

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November 2008, coinciding with American Indian Heritage Month. Beginning in fall 2008, ReelNative films will be showcased online at [pbs.org/weshallremain](http://pbs.org/weshallremain). To include as many Native voices as possible, local public television station Web sites will host an interactive feature that invites Native Americans from all tribes to share their stories.

“Native history is our collective history,” explains Sharon Grimberg, executive producer of WE SHALL REMAIN. “It is our hope to extend the reach of the series and that crucial message in communities across the country. I am excited to be working with all of our partner television stations, who have a proven track record of fostering participation and dialogue, and engaging their audiences.”

“AMERICAN EXPERIENCE has a record of taking on difficult and contested history,” says series executive producer Mark Samels. “In the case of WE SHALL REMAIN, it’s also a history that has also been marginalized, distorted, and often forgotten. In bringing these little-known stories to the forefront for the first time, we want to break through stereotypes that have unfortunately defined Native Americans for centuries.”

WE SHALL REMAIN is an AMERICAN EXPERIENCE production in association with Native American Public Telecommunications for WGBH Boston. Funding for WE SHALL REMAIN provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Ford Foundation, Arthur Vining Davis Foundations and Kalliopeia Foundation. Exclusive corporate funding for AMERICAN EXPERIENCE provided by Liberty Mutual. Major funding provided by Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Corporation for Public Broadcasting and public television viewers.

## ABOUT AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Television’s most-watched history series, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE has been hailed as “peerless” (*Wall Street Journal*), “the most consistently enriching program on television” (*Chicago Tribune*), and “a beacon of intelligence and purpose” (*Houston Chronicle*). On air and online, the series brings to life the incredible characters and epic stories that have shaped America’s past and present. Acclaimed by viewers and critics alike, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE documentaries have been honored with every major broadcast award, including twenty-five Emmy Awards, four duPont-Columbia Awards, and fourteen George Foster Peabody Awards, one most recently for *Two Days in October*.

## ABOUT WGBH BOSTON

WGBH Boston is America’s preeminent public broadcasting producer. More than one-third of PBS’s prime-time lineup and companion Web content as well as many public radio favorites are produced by WGBH. The station also is a pioneer in educational multimedia and in access technologies for people with disabilities. For more information visit [wgbh.org](http://wgbh.org).

For more information about AMERICAN EXPERIENCE and WE SHALL REMAIN visit [pbs.org/weshallremain](http://pbs.org/weshallremain)

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