Tanya Leighton



IDA Pare Lorentz Documentary Fund Supports Three Projects with \$75,000

BY IDA EDITORIAL STAFF



Film still from 'Powwow People,' courtesy of filmmakers. A group of Native American powwow participants sing in a circle as powwow attendees look on.

Powwow People

Director: Sky Hopinka | Producers: John Cardellino, Adam Piron | Country: USA

Powwow People is a feature-length documentary inviting viewers into the world of contemporary Native American powwow culture. Told through the lens of visual artist and filmmaker Sky Hopinka (Ho-Chunk/Pechanga), the film is an intimate portrait of a powwow organized, hosted, and documented through the production of this film. Website

Sky Hopinka (Ho-Chunk Nation/Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians) was born and raised in Ferndale, Washington and spent a number of years in Palm Springs and Riverside, California, Portland, Oregon, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In Portland, he studied and taught chinuk wawa, a language indigenous to the Lower Columbia River Basin. His video, photo, and text work centers around personal positions of Indigenous homeland and landscape, designs of language as containers of culture expressed through personal, documentary, and non fiction forms of media. His work has played at various festivals, including Sundance, Toronto International Film Festival, Ann Arbor, Courtisane Festival, Punto de Vista, and the New York Film Festival. His work was a part of the 2017 Whitney Biennial, the 2018 FRONT Triennial and Prospect.5 in 2021.

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