

Request For Applications  
Pioneer PBS Digital Studios  
Application submission: [yourtv@pioneer.org](mailto:yourtv@pioneer.org)  
Questions: [aanderson@pioneer.org](mailto:aanderson@pioneer.org)

Disclaimer: This project is meant to uplift young Native American filmmakers. If the applicant doesn't meet all requirements, but is passionate about contributing to a positive shift in how Native Americans and indigenous communities are portrayed in the media, please still apply. We have staff and advisors dedicated to providing assistance, resources and equipment. If you have any questions about project requirements or the project in general, please contact us.

### **I. RFA at a glance**

Pioneer PBS is creating a platform for Native people to tell their own stories and to help reshape an oftentimes hurtful and inaccurate narrative proliferated by media organizations. We intend to produce a digital series to inspire a new kind of storytelling about Native communities — created by Native people — in Minnesota. The non-fiction series will contain four to six episodes, each episode being no longer than seven minutes in length.

### **II: Scope of work/deliverables**

- Produce a series, containing up to six, seven-minute episodes relating to the following project goals:
  - Uplifting contemporary Native American values of family, connection to the land and respect for culture and tradition.
  - Portraying how contemporary Native American culture and contributions are vital parts of modern life.
  - Demonstrating Native American people's involvement in every aspect of modern life to assist the larger society in moving past systematic erasure and stereotypes.
- Three community events where the filmmaker, advisory panel and Pioneer PBS staff can talk about the experience, best practices and lessons learned.

### **III: Applicant information**

Pioneer PBS is looking to partner with a Native filmmaker, under 30-years-old from rural Minnesota who wants to share their original, non-fiction story that contributes to our project goals to positively shift how Native Americans and indigenous communities are portrayed in the media. This is a temporary, funded position.

### **Requirements:**

- Have an original idea — that fits within the projects stated goals — that's best told online. (The series will be featured on Pioneer PBS's digital/social platforms and Pioneer PBS staff with help the filmmaker to promote the episodes.)
  - We estimate that this project will take eight weeks, but this will vary based on applicant experience and the extensiveness of the project.

- Must be able to travel to on-location interviews and acquire appropriate broll (carpooling can be arranged if/when possible).
- Listen to and apply feedback and critiques of videos from the project's five-person \*advisory panel and Pioneer PBS staff.
- Want to learn from staff at Pioneer PBS — research, production, editing and promotion assistance will be provided by Pioneer PBS staff and members of the project's five-person \*advisory panel.
- Travel to Granite Falls must be arranged by the filmmaker if use of Pioneer PBS's editing suites and software is required.
- Attend and talk about your project and experience at three screening events (The filmmaker will be supported by members of the project's five-person \*advisory panel in addition to Pioneer PBS staff.)
- Allow the videos to be used and archived at the Pezihutazizi Oyate (Upper Sioux Community), Cansa'yapi (Lower Sioux Community) Tribal Preservation Offices and be open to other archival opportunities.

\*Advisors to the project are:

- Grace Goldtooth, Lower Sioux Community Tribal Council Vice President;
- Cheyanne St. John, Lower Sioux Community Tribal Historic Preservation Officer/Director;
- Falcon Gott, Independent Filmmaker;
- Laura Youngbird, Plains Art Museum Director of Native American Programs;
- Samantha Odegard, Upper Sioux Community Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

**Preferred, but not required:**

- Filmmaker can supply their own camera—a cell phone can work.
  - If you can't supply your own camera, please still apply. Pioneer PBS can help with equipment.
- Basic understanding of social media.
- Basic understanding of an editing software (Adobe Premiere software, Enlight Videoleap, etc. are examples).

**IV: Proposal submission**

Included in your application should be:

- Project pitch
  - What non-fictional story would you like to tell that contributes to a positive shift in how Native Americans and indigenous communities are portrayed in the media?
- Instead of a resume and cover letter, please answer the following:
  - How will your project contribute to a positive shift in how Native Americans and indigenous communities are portrayed in the media?
  - What do you hope to gain from this project?
  - What are your favorite social media outlets and profiles?
  - [Look through the collection of PBS Digital Studios shows](#). What's your favorite series? Why?

- Share a video that you took. What do you like about it? What would you do differently?

Applications can be:

- Emailed:
  - [yourtv@pioneer.org](mailto:yourtv@pioneer.org) (subject line: "My awesome digital series pitch!")
- Mailed/dropped off:
  - 1 Pioneer Drive, Granite Falls, MN 56241 (ATTN: Pioneer PBS digital project application)

### **V: General project timeline**

Applications reviewed: March 9 - March 23, 2020

Filmmaker selected: March 23, 2020

Filmmaker notified: March 24, 2020

Filmmaker visits Pioneer PBS: Late March/early April 2020

Production begins: Late March/early April 2020

Production complete: June/July 2020

Event one: August (location TBD)

Event two: September (location TBD)

Event three: October (location: Lower Sioux Intergenerational Cultural Incubator)

### **VI: About Pioneer PBS**

Pioneer PBS is an award-winning, viewer-supported public television station dedicated to sharing local stories of the region with the world. Since 1966, Pioneer has served its rural audience through a mix of local and national programs rich in cultural heritage, diversity and educational opportunities. Pioneer PBS' services and programs facilitate educational growth, support cultural opportunities and promote economic development for Western Minnesota, Eastern South Dakota, Northern Iowa and beyond. Pioneer PBS works to broaden, educate and sustain our rural communities through services that reflect our local values. Pioneer PBS strives to be a regional leader and an indispensable resource for our communities.