

# Navajo Nation TV & Film Quarterly Newsletter



Navajo Nation TV & Film  
Division of Human Resources

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**ARIZONA**  
**FILM & DIGITAL MEDIA**  
A Program of the Arizona Commerce Authority

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## Navajo Nation & Arizona Commerce Authority Sign MOU

*The partnership will focus on developing marketing strategies and providing workforce opportunities.*

Navajo Nation and the Arizona Commerce Authority announced today a new partnership to promote Navajo Nation as a major international film and media destination. The partnership, which was outlined in a recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), aims to build a foundation of generational opportunities in the film and media industry. The MOU signed July 23, 2021, by Sandra Watson, President and CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority, and Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez emphasizes both entities' shared vision to more fully capitalize on Arizona's unique film and media attractiveness.

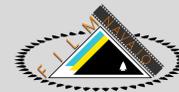
"We look forward to developing a new and structured film and media opportunity for our Navajo Nation, including our fellow Arizonians," said Edsel Pete, Program Manager, Navajo Nation TV & Film. "It is a great endeavor to develop a thriving film and media industry that will provide economic, workforce, and training opportunities. Collectively, we have taken tremendous strides in this development, as we have all respectively taken on roles as the designers, engineers, architects, and facilitators in making this a success. The precise building of this yellow brick road will be of great benefit for generations to come."

Efforts outlined in the MOU include developing marketing strategies and activities, public relations campaigns, implementing training and employment opportunities in film and digital media production, creating a shared talent and production database, and promoting respective infrastructure and resources.

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**FILM NAVAJO**



**PRODUCE NAVAJO**



**WATCH NAVAJO**



*Lonnie Begaye, Media Production Technician*

## Meet our Team: Media Production Technician

Navajo Nation TV & Film is pleased to introduce our Media Production Technician, Lonnie Begaye.

Lonnie is from Chinle, AZ. He has a degree in Cinematic Arts & Technology from the Santa Fe Institute of American Indian Arts, where he graduated in May of 2021.

He has worked as a Director of Photography on notable short films including *Within The Bluffs*, *Sister*, and *Willie Hutch*. Additionally, he has experience as a Director, Writer, and Film Editor for other media projects, including his own productions.

Lonnie stated, "I'm excited to see the industry doors open up for the Navajo Nation. It's been a dream and goal to see our own people developing and creating stories from their own gifted minds for the screen or assisting in productions alongside those they know. Once the film industry is on the Navajo Nation, I know all the creatives will be inspired and want to push themselves to see the impossible become the possible. Great things are happening through the artistic freedom of our people already. Greater things will occur once that atmosphere expands."

## Navajo Nation & Arizona Commerce Authority Sign MOU

"We're thrilled to work with the Navajo Nation to elevate the film and media industry in Arizona," said Sandra Watson, President and CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority. "This MOU is the foundation of a long-term partnership that will advance Arizona's international attractiveness for film and media production. We are grateful to President Nez and the Navajo Nation for their partnership, for graciously allowing filmmakers to create on Navajo land, and for their commitment to increase workforce opportunities in the Navajo Nation and statewide."

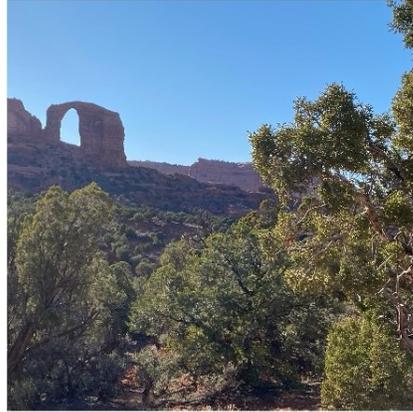
The MOU serves as a guide for the parties as film and media partners in a collaborative effort to renew economic, workforce, and training opportunities on the Navajo Nation and in the State of Arizona. In addition, the MOU provides an opportunity for both parties to define avenues to overcome the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The Navajo Nation is home to countless stunning landscapes rarely seen in television and film — until now," said Matthew Earl Jones, Director of Film & Digital Media, Arizona Commerce Authority. "We are excited to partner with Navajo Nation TV & Film to present these diverse locations to filmmakers in Arizona and nationally that highlight the unique culture of the Navajo Nation."

Since 1913, more than 5,000 films and TV shows have been filmed in Arizona. This MOU signing between the Navajo Nation and the Arizona Commerce Authority cements both parties' commitment to advance the growing film industry in the state.

Arizona's film landscape has been developed through comprehensive university and community college film programs, statewide film festivals and an increase in full-service production companies.

**About the Arizona Commerce Authority:** The Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA) is the state's leading economic development organization with a streamlined mission to grow and strengthen Arizona's economy. The ACA uses a three-pronged approach to advance the overall economy: attract, expand, create - attract out-of-state companies to establish operations in Arizona; work with existing companies to expand their business in Arizona and beyond; and help entrepreneurs create new Arizona businesses in targeted industries. For more information, please visit [azcommerce.com](https://www.azcommerce.com) and follow the ACA on Twitter [@azcommerce](https://twitter.com/azcommerce).



Location Gallery stock footage

## NNTVF Film Office Location Gallery Launch

The Navajo Nation Film Office is pleased to announce the first-ever Navajo Nation Locations Gallery launch.

Over the course of several months, Navajo Nation TV & Film has traveled to several notable locations to capture photos and videos of the beautiful landscapes across the Navajo Nation. A primary objective of the Film Office is to market the Navajo Nation to oncoming productions, including the land, local resources and businesses, and Navajo talent.

The Locations Gallery will showcase known tourist locations on the Navajo Nation and unknown, extraordinary structures and landscapes that the film industry has not yet seen. Each site will include a Google Map, its affiliated Navajo Nation Chapter, a description of the landscape, and estimated distances to local businesses and medical facilities.

“Many visitors of the Navajo Nation are aware of our iconic, scenic locations such as Monument Valley, Shiprock, and Canyon de Chelly,” said Film Liaison Raquel Bahe. “With the launch of the Gallery, we can share the incomparable beauty of the lesser-known scenic locations across Diné Bikéyah. Our goal is to introduce these locations to digital media artists, from filmmakers to photographers, to show the unique and picturesque scenery which we call home.”

To access the Locations Gallery, visit our Film Navajo webpage and click the View Gallery link. The Gallery will launch Monday, November 22, 2021.

### Navajo Nation Film Office

The Navajo Nation Film Office is home to exceptional possibilities of unique and cultured scenery and provides diverse landscapes that can imitate nearly any US state. Here, you will understand the authenticity of the rural environment that the Navajo Nation has to offer. If you would like to witness this otherworldly experience, we are ready to help you bring your project to life.

The Film Office is your one-stop shop for film and photography permits on the Navajo Nation. In addition to permits, the Film Office is also the head of several programs that provide opportunities for our Navajo people and youth in the film industry. These include:

- Navajo Talent Agent Program
- Navajo Crew Agent Program
- Niha'alchini Filmmakers Program

For more information, visit our Film Navajo page on our website.



## NNTVF PRODUCTIONS

NNTVF Productions is fully committed to providing quality production services to the people of the great Navajo Nation by creating, producing and distributing professional services that educate, inform and engage audiences.

Our extensive knowledge in film and media will help you bring your production to life. Our services include:

- Short and feature films
- Web videos
- Short and full-length documentaries
- Commercials,
- Promotional Videos, Public Service Announcement
- Training, orientation, and production demonstration videos
- Conference, symposium, speaking events
- Cultural events
- Media workshops
- Media, advertisement, marketing videos
- Live productions/live streaming
- Recruitment and employment videos



## NNTVF Productions live streams Miss Navajo Nation Pageant after two-year hiatus

NNTVF Productions live-streamed the 2021 Miss Navajo Nation Pageant, an event that took a two-year hiatus due to the coronavirus.

In collaboration with the Office of Miss Navajo Nation, NNTVF had to work with the current COVID-19 guidelines set by the Navajo Dept of Health. Our Production Coordinator, Cody Carlston, stated, "To pull off a live stream event of this magnitude, it takes a lot of pre-development and planning. We consider floor layout designs, camera placement, and safety plans, then apply the practicalities of those designs and plans in live rehearsals and on-sight equipment testing. The success of this

live stream is due to the communication and professionalism of the Navajo Nation TV & Film team. Each member had an important role that ultimately enabled us to operate successfully as a team."

Streaming began on Monday, September 6th, with the Sheep Butchering Contest and wrapped on Saturday, September 11th, with the crowning of the new Miss Navajo Nation, Niagara Rockbridge.

The live stream is available on Miss Navajo Nation's Facebook page and the Navajo Nation Office of the President & Vice President's YouTube page.

## Navajo Nation TV & Film Creates & Implements Training Model for Navajo Talent & Crew Agent Programs

Over the summer, NNTVF Productions and NNTVF's temporary Office Assistants created several Public Service Announcements (PSAs) of various subjects ranging from COVID-19 prevention to public safety protocols.

With guidance and thorough planning, NNTVF provided an opportunity to the temporary hires to create their own PSA, which enabled them to learn about the film and media industry operations. The experience will create a model for the Navajo Talent Agent Program and Navajo Crew Agent Program, currently under development with the NN Film Office. Embedded in this project was the importance of hard work and communication in creating a successful film project of any capacity.

The community will hear more about the NTAP/NCAP initiatives in the coming year as training and workforce opportunities arise for those interested in the film industry.



## NNTVF Productions Collaborates with Navajo Nation Programs

NNTVF Productions collaborates with several Navajo Nation programs to create short informational videos that highlight significant accomplishments, program-hosted events, and training and recruitment opportunities for the Navajo People.

Each video intends to show what's happening in the Navajo Nation as it continues to battle through the pandemic. Each program is unique in providing services to the Nation, which is why it's crucial to capture how they are working and engaging with the public.

Recent collaborations include the Navajo Police Department, Navajo Transit System, Navajo Department of Emergency Management, and the Navajo Fire Department.

To view our content, subscribe to our YouTube page at Navajo Nation TV & Film.

## NNTV5 Expanding Across the Navajo Nation

Navajo Nation TV5 is working on expanding its local television station across the Navajo Nation.

The television station is the Navajo Nation's low-power, non-commercial television station, and it is the only tribally owned, funded, and operated station in the United States. It covers three primary categories: Government issues, Education, and Public Access.

Currently, the TV5 Channel has transmission towers and coverage in Window Rock, AZ, Tohatchi, NM, Shiprock, NM, and Crownpoint, NM. With limited access on the Arizona side of the Navajo Nation, NNTVF is currently seeking towers for upgrade and maintenance in Ganado, AZ, Chinle, AZ, Many Farms, AZ, and Black Mesa, AZ.

"NNTV5 aims to bring digital television into the homes of the Navajo community, even the most

rural homesites, and this is why we plan to expand our coverage area," said Broadcast Technician Kaene Antonio. "The first step of this plan is to activate towers located westward, whereas our current coverage area is in the Eastern Agency. As we extend our broadcast further into Navajo land, we are allowing homes to pick up free over-the-air television which showcases stories and news created by and for our Navajo people."

In addition to the NNTV5 channel, the television station also broadcasts New Mexico PBS, PBS Kids, First Nations Experience (FNX), PBS World, and PBS Create.

To view the monthly TV schedule for NNTV5, visit the Watch Navajo page on the Navajo Nation TV & Film website.



Navajo Nation TV & Film

Division of Human Resources

Navajo Nation TV & Film proudly serves the Nation through the Film Office, NNTVF Productions, and the NNTV5 Television Station.

Our mission is to foster modern media storytelling with inspired Navajo talent while cultivating diverse partnerships for the presentation of Navajo land and identity.

It is our aspiration to cultivate a sustainable and thriving media industry in the Navajo Nation through professional services, culturally relevant and diverse media, and local partnerships.

## NNTVF Fiscal Year 2021 At A Glance

Navajo Nation Film Office permitted 28 film permits and 5 photography permits during FY' 21. The main areas of interest in the Navajo Nation for film and photography include Window Rock, AZ, Monument Valley, UT, Tuba City, AZ, Leupp, AZ, and Chinle, AZ.

NNTV5 Productions produced 6 live stream events, 4 videos for Navajo Nation programs and production services for 2 outside productions.

The NNTV5 Master Control underwent modifications and maintenance upgrades for successful broadcast streaming. We review footage from our archives to broadcast on the channel while creating new content with NNTVF Productions.

Continue to follow Navajo Nation TV & Film on our social media accounts, including Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram at Navajo Nation TV & Film. You can find Navajo Nation TV & Film's official website at [www.navajonationtvandfilm.com](http://www.navajonationtvandfilm.com).

### **Navajo Nation TV & Film Staff**

Edsel Pete, Program Manager I

Charity Sam, Accounts Maintenance Specialist

Raquel Bahe, Film Liaison

Cody Carlston, Production Coordinator

Lonnie Begaye, Media Production Technician

Kaene Antonio, Broadcast Technician



[www.navajonationtvandfilm.com](http://www.navajonationtvandfilm.com)