Second Annual Recovering Voices
MOTHER TONGUE FILM FESTIVAL
February 21 to 25, 2017
Recovering Voices Mother Tongue Film Festival celebrates linguistic and cultural diversity. Opening on the United Nations International Mother Languages Day (February 21), this festival showcases recently produced feature and short-length films that explore global issues about endangered languages, cultural practices, and communities’ work to sustain and revitalize their languages.

Recovering Voices is a collaborative Smithsonian initiative that is a partnership between the National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of the American Indian, the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. The Smithsonian Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden and the Smithsonian Latino Center are partners in the Mother Tongue Film Festival. This program received federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center.

Founded in 2009, Recovering Voices recognizes that language communities and scholars have a mutual interest in documenting, revitalizing, and sustaining languages and the knowledge embedded in them. Through Recovering Voices, the Smithsonian strives to collaborate with communities and other institutions to address issues of indigenous language, knowledge diversity and sustainability at the national and global levels. In collaboration with communities and partner organizations, Recovering Voices seeks to improve access to the Smithsonian’s diverse collections—archival, biological and cultural—and to support interdisciplinary research, documentation, and revitalization. In doing so we seek to understand the dynamics of intergenerational knowledge transfer and to support existing community initiatives focusing on language and knowledge sustainability.

For more information, please visit recoveringvoices.si.edu.

Mother Tongue Film Festival Committee

Joshua A. Bell, Curator of Globalization, Department of Anthropology, NMNH

Melissa Bisagni, Program Manager, Media Initiatives, NMAI

Amalia Cordova, Latino Curator for Digital and Emerging Media, CFCH

Mary S. Linn, Curator of Cultural and Linguistic Revitalization, CFCH

Torell Taylor, Program Assistant, Mother Tongue Film Festival, Recovering Voices, NMNH

Judith Andrews, Program Assistant, Recovering Voices, Department of Anthropology, NMNH

Laura Sharp, Program Assistant, Recovering Voices, Department of Anthropology, NMNH

Timothy Thurston, Postdoctoral Fellow, CFCH
## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>NEXT GEN Shorts Program @ NMAI</td>
<td>NEXT GEN Shorts Program @ NMNH Q?rius Theater</td>
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<td>ArtLAB @ Hirshhorn Lerner Room</td>
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<td>Avant les rues/Before The Streets @ Atlantic</td>
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<td>Poi E @ NMAI Rasmuson Theater</td>
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## VENUES

**Hirshhorn Museum Ring Auditorium**
Seventh Street and Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20024

**National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) Q?rius Theater**
Tenth Street and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20560

**Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema**
807 V St. NW, Washington, DC 20001

**National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) Rasmuson Theater**
Fourth Street and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20560

**New York University DC (NYU DC) Abramson Family Auditorium**
1307 L St. NW, Washington, DC 20005

**Mexican Cultural Institute of DC (MCI)**
2829 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009
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<td><strong>Tuesday February 21</strong></td>
<td>Hirshhorn Museum, Ring Auditorium</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Four Faces of the Moon</td>
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<td>Wiño Tañi Kewvn (Volvió Mi Lengua)</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday February 22</strong></td>
<td>Q?rius, NMNH/Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema</td>
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<td>To Live with Herds</td>
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<td>Grandfather Drum</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday February 23</strong></td>
<td>Rasmuson, NMAI/Abramson Family Auditorium, NYU DC</td>
<td>11:00am</td>
<td>Next Gen Shorts Program: Kid Under A Tree, Vowels and Consonants, Miwok Pride Chubby Bunny, Respondan esta videocarta Chicahuaxtl, Hawai’i Aloha, Story At Priest Point, Soeur Oyo</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Wall Building Song</td>
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<td><strong>Friday February 24</strong></td>
<td>Rasmuson, NMAI/Mexican Cultural Institute of DC</td>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Adult Shorts Program: 68 Voces/68 Voices: Hant quiij iti cótpacta ipatjc hac/About the origin of the Earth, First Contact, Cree Code Talkers, Smoke That Travels, 68 Voces/68 Voices: Cuando, Muere una Lengua/When a language dies, Bihttoş, Jáaji Approx., Osage Speaker, Herman Mongrain Lookout, Kwaku Ananse, 68 Voces/68 Voices: Juka Tájjita Ánит Yew Maachiako/About the origin of fire, Nulla Nulla, 68 Voces/68 Voices: Huichol. El primer amanecer/About the first sunrise</td>
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<td>7:00pm</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday February 25</strong></td>
<td>Q?rius, NMNH/Rasmuson, NMAI</td>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Next Gen Shorts Program: Miwok Pride, Vowels and Consonants, A Kid Under The Tree, Respondan esta videocarta de Chicahuaxtl, Soeur Oyo/Sister Oyo, Story of Priest Point, Hawai’i Aloha, Chubby Bunny</td>
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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
ARTLAB+, Hirshhorn Museum Sculpture Garden
ARTLAB+ teens will meet with Director Tadashi Nakamura and featured artist John “Prime” Hina for an informal Q&A about “Mele Murals,” collaborative artistic practice, and community art.

7:00 p.m.
Hirshhorn Museum, Ring Auditorium

Mele Murals

USA, 2016, 66 min.
Documentary
Director: Tadashi Nakamura
English and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian)
with English subtitles

Two world-famous graffiti artists, Estria Miyashiro (Kanaka Maoli), aka Estria, and John Hina (Kanaka Maoli), aka Prime, are tasked with teaching the art of “writing” to a group of students at Kanu o ka ‘Āina New Century Public Charter School in Waimea on the Big Island of Hawai‘i. Together the sharing of traditional and contemporary cultures, mo‘olelo ‘aina (stories of a place), and mele (song), create a new form of expressive art that is purely Hawaiian.

WEBSITE: melemurals.com
TRAILER: melemurals.com
Mele Murals preceded by:

Four Faces of the Moon

Canada, 2016, 13 min.
Animation/narrative
Director: Amanda Strong
Ojibwe, Cree, Michif, Nakota, and French with English subtitles

This animated short is told in four chapters, exploring the reclamation of language and Nationhood and peeling back the layers of Canada’s colonial history. This is a personal story told through the eyes of director and writer Amanda Strong, as she connects the oral and written history of her family as well as the histories of the Metis, Cree, and Anishnaabe people and their cultural links to the buffalo.

WEBSITE: spottedfawnproductions.com
TRAILER: http://spottedfawnproductions.com/four-faces.html

Wiñoy Tañi Kewvn (Volvió Mi Lengua)

Chile, 2014, 4 min.
Music video
Directors: Gonzalo Luanko, Leonardo Ramirez, Anthony Rauld
Mapudungun and Spanish with English subtitles

Hip-hop artist Luanko raps about the history of his community in his native language, Mapudungun, spoken in Chile and Argentina.
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

2:30 p.m.
National Museum of Natural History, Q?rius Theater

To Live with Herds
Uganda, 1972, 70 min.
Documentary
Director: David MacDougall
Jie-Karamojong with English subtitles

The Jie are a semi-nomadic pastoral people in northeastern Uganda striving to maintain their way of life in the face of unsympathetic government policy and, at the time of filming, a dry-season famine. This film is a classic archival film and winner of the Grand Prize, “Venezia Genti,” at the Venice Film Festival in 1972.

WEBSITE: berkeleymedia.com

7:00 p.m.
Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema

Avant les rues/Before the Streets
Canada, 2015, 97 min.
Narrative
Director: Chloé Leriche
Atikamekw and French with English subtitles

Shawnouk, an Atikamekw teenager, kills a man during a robbery and flees into the forest. Deciding to return to his village in Québec, Canada, he tries to redeem himself using traditional cleansing rituals.

WEBSITE: beforethestreets.com
TRAILER: youtube.com

Preceded by

Grandfather Drum
Canada, 2015, 12 min.
Animation/narrative
Director: Michelle Derosier
English and Anishinaabe with English subtitles

A grandfather creates a healing drum that he has seen in a vision—a drum that brings his grandson back from the brink and provides healing to the community years later. Intrusion has caused the drum to be forgotten, but it waits to be useful again.

WEBSITE: grandfatherdrum.com
TRAILER: vimeo.com
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23

11:00 a.m.
National Museum of the American Indian, Rasmuson Theater

NEXT GEN Shorts Program

**Miwok Pride**
USA, 2015, 3 min.
Music video
Director: Melissa Leal
English and Miwok

Miwok youth come together to learn and utilize the Miwok language as a community. Using words that were introduced to them in a language program, the youth wrote a song that expresses what it means to be Miwok and to be proud of themselves and their ancestors.

**Vowels and Consonants**
China/Tibet, 2015, 5 min.
Music video
Director: Tsering
Tibetan with English subtitles

A substitute teacher, hip-hop artist Dekyi Tsering, raps with a young student about the value of the Tibetan language.

**A Kid Under The Tree**
China/Tibet, 2014, 25 min.
Narrative
Director: Detsaje
Tibetan with English subtitles

A boy has discontinued his studies to become a herder. During his free time in the shade of an ancient tree, he imagines a school and teaches the rocks as his imagined students.

**Respondan a esta videocarta de Chicahuaxtla**
Mexico, 2012, 20 min.
Documentary
Director: Guillermo Monteforte
Triqui and Spanish with English subtitles

In the Triqui territory of San Andrés Chicahuaxtla, Mexico, children introduce their community, sharing their traditions and inviting other children to respond to their video.
Soeur Oyo/Sister Oyo

Congo/Belgium, 2014, 25 min.
Narrative
Director: Monique Mbeka Phoba
Kikongo, Lingala, and French with English subtitles

In the colonial Congo of the 1950s, a Congolese schoolgirl, Godelive, lives in the Catholic boarding school in Mbanza-Mboma, the first school conducted in French for Congolese women. She is to be westernized, following the will of her parents, but the memory of her grandmother intervenes.

WEBSITE: facebook.com/soeur.oyo

Story of Priest Point

USA, 2010, 2 min
Animation
Longhouse Media
Lushootseed with English subtitles

Killer whales rescue their human relatives from starvation in this animated version of a traditional Tulalip story, narrated in Lushootseed, the Pacific Northwest coastal region’s indigenous language.

WEBSITE: longhousemedia.org

Hawai’i Aloha

USA, 2016, 7 min.
Music video
Director: Ruben Carillo
‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i (Hawaiian) with English subtitles

Hawaiian artists and keiki (children) share the love of their one hānau in this beautiful rendition of the beloved song “Hawai‘i Aloha.”

WEBSITE: playingforchange.com

Chubby Bunny

New Zealand, 2016, 3 min.
Documentary
Director: Te Ao Kawharu
Te reo Māori (Māori) and English

Children from New Zealand attempt the Chubby Bunny challenge.

WEBSITE: facebook.com/teaokawharu
Sonita
Iran/Germany/Switzerland, 2015, 90 min.
Documentary
Director: Rokhsareh Ghaem Maghami
Persian with English subtitles

Sonita is an 18-year-old female, an undocumented Afghan illegal immigrant living in the poor suburbs of Tehran. She is a feisty, spirited young woman who fights to live the way she wants, as an artist, singer, and musician in spite of all the obstacles she confronts in Iran and her conservative patriarchal family. In harsh contrast to her own goals, her family’s plan for her—strongly advanced by her mother—is to make her a bride and sell her to a new family. The price right now is about $9,000.

WEBSITE: wmm.com/sonita

Preceded by

Wall Building Song
China/Tibet, 2016, 3 min.
Music video
Director: Delek Norbu
Tibetan

Rapper Delek Norbu raps the verses to a traditional Tibetan wall-building song—sung when communities gather to tamp the earth when constructing new walls.

Hablando
Colombia, 2016, 3 min.
Music video
Director: Viajeros del Tiempo
Embera with English subtitles

Linaje Originarios is an emerging Embera hip-hop duo from near Medellin, Colombia.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

2:00 p.m.
National Museum of the American Indian, Rasmuson Theater

Shorts Program followed by Panel Discussion

The panel will feature indigenous language activists, bilingual language education specialists, film makers, and Smithsonian curators who will discuss “Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education” and the role of small languages and language diversity in global societies, and the role that new media can take in promoting sustainable futures.

Shorts Program:

68 Voces/68 Voices: Hant quij iti cótpacta ipatjc hac/About the origin of the Earth
Mexico, 2016, 1 min.
Animation/Narrative
Director: Gabriela Badillo
Seri with English subtitles

Based on a traditional story.

WEBSITE: 68voces.mx

First Contact
USA, 2015, 2 min.
Animation/Narrative
Directors: Steven Paul Judd and Ryan RedCorn
Mőhiks (Mohgehan) with English subtitles

Two indigenous men debate whether they should allow unknown boats to come ashore.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 (continued)

Cree Code Talkers
Canada, 2016, 13 min.
Documentary
Director: Alexandra Lazarowich
English and Cree with English subtitles

Charles “Checker” Tomkins played a crucial role during the Second World War. Digging deep into the U.S. archives, this short depicts the true story of Tomkins’ involvement with the U.S. Air Force and the development of the code talkers communication system, which was used to transmit crucial military communications, using the Cree language as a vital secret weapon.

WEBSITE: creecodetalker.com

Smoke That Travels
USA, 2016, 13 min.
Documentary
Director: Kayla Briët
Bodewadmimwen (Potawatomi) and English with English subtitles

A personal documentary by Kayla Briët that explores preservation and loss of culture and her own identity as Prairie Band Potawatomi.

WEBSITE: facebook.com/smokethattravels

68 Voces/68 Voices: Cuando Muere una Lengua/When a language dies
Mexico, 2016, 2 min.
Animation/Narrative
Director: Gabriela Badillo
Náhuatl with English subtitles
Based on the poem “Cuando Muere una Lengua” by Miguel León Portilla.

WEBSITE: 68voces.mx

Bihttoš
Canada, 2014, 12 min.
Documentary
Director: Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers
English and Sami

This unconventional documentary explores the complex relationship between a father and daughter. Through animation, reenactments, and archival photos, Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers delves into the dissolution of her parents’ somewhat mythic love story and how it relates to the dissolution of her relationship with her father.

WEBSITE: elle-maija-tailfeathers.com
Kwaku Ananse
Ghana, Mexico, 2013, 25 min.
Narrative
Director: Akosua Adoma Owusu
In Twi with English Subtitles

The fable of Kwaku Ananse is combined with the story of a young outsider named Nyan Koronhwea, who is attending her estranged father’s funeral.

WEBSITE: akosuaadoma.com

Jáaji Approx.
USA, 2015, 7 min.
Experimental
Director: Sky Hopinka
English and Hočak (Ho-chunk) with English subtitles

A son examines his relationship with his father through audio and video recordings.

WEBSITE: skyhopinka.com

Osage Speaker Herman Mongrain Lookout
USA, 2016, 8 min.
Documentary
Director: Ryan Redcorn
Produced by Allison Herrera in conjunction with KOSU’s Invisible Nations and AIR (Associations of Independents in Radio)
Wazhazhe (Osage) and English

Herman “Mogri” Lookout is the master language teacher for the Osage Nation in Pawhuska, Oklahoma. He has studied the language for forty years and helped revitalize it by creating an orthography. From there, he worked with developers to create Osage for Unicode. He says that it all started with a desire for people to be able to pray in their own language.

WEBSITE: http://kosu.org/programs/invisible-nations

Kwaku Ananse
Ghana, Mexico, 2013, 25 min.
Narrative
Director: Akosua Adoma Owusu
In Twi with English Subtitles

The fable of Kwaku Ananse is combined with the story of a young outsider named Nyan Koronhwea, who is attending her estranged father’s funeral.

WEBSITE: akosuaadoma.com
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 (continued)

68 Voces/68 Voices: Juka Tájjita Ániat Yew Maachiako/About the origin of fire
Mexico, 2016, 1 min.
Animation/Narrative
Director: Gabriela Badillo
Mayo with English subtitles
Based on a traditional Yoreme tale.
WEBSITE: 68voces.mx

Nulla Nulla
Australia, 2015, 6 min.
Narrative
Director: Dylan River
English and Warlpiri with English subtitles
A young white police officer makes his first contact with an Australian aboriginal community. With good intentions, his conventional approach exposes his naivety as he is confronted by two elderly nanas.
WEBSITE: facebook.com/NullaNullaFilm

68 Voces/68 Voices: Huichol. El primer amanecer/About the first sunrise
Mexico, 2016, 1 min.
Animation/Narrative
Wixárika (Huichol) with English subtitles
Director: Gabriela Badillo
Based on a traditional story.
WEBSITE: 68voces.mx

Huichol. El primer amanecer/About the first sunrise
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 (continued)

6:45 p.m.
Mexican Cultural Institute of DC

**El sueño del Mara’akame/Mara’akame’s Dream**
Mexico, 2016, 87 min.
Narrative
Director: Federico Cecchetti
Wixárika (Huichol) and Spanish with English subtitles

Nieri is a young Wixáritari indian whose dream is traveling with his music band to play a concert in Mexico City. But his father is a Mara’akame (Wixáritari shaman) and has different plans for his son: Nieri must find the Blue Deer in his dreams in order to become a Mara’kame and follow his tradition.

**WEBSITE:** [https://www.festivalscope.com/all/film/mara-akame-s-dream](https://www.festivalscope.com/all/film/mara-akame-s-dream)

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**Preceded by**

**68 Voces/68 Voices**
These four animated indigenous stories are narrated in their native languages. They were created under the premise that “no one can love what he does not know” in order to help foster pride, respect, and use of the indigenous Mexican languages.

**WEBSITE:** [68voces.mx](http://68voces.mx)

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**Hant quij iti cötpacta ipatjc hac/About the origin of the Earth**
Mexico, 2016, 1 min.
Animation/Narrative
Director: Gabriela Badillo
Seri with Spanish subtitles
Based on a traditional story

**Juka Tájjita Ániat Yew Maachiako/About the origin of fire**
Mexico, 2016, 1 min.
Animation/Narrative
Director: Gabriela Badillo
Mayo with English subtitles
Based on a traditional Yoreme tale

**Cuando Muere una Lengua/When a language dies**
Mexico, 2016, 2 min.
Animation/Narrative
Director: Gabriela Badillo
Náhuatl with English subtitles
Based on a traditional story

**Huichol. El primer amanecer/About the first sunrise**
Mexico, 2016, 1 min.
Animation/Narrative
Director: Gabriela Badillo
Wixárika (Huichol) with Spanish subtitles
Based on a traditional story
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

12:00 p.m.
National Museum of Natural History, Q?rius Theater

**NEXT GEN Shorts Program**
(See description pages 11-14)

2:00 p.m.
National Museum of the American Indian, Rasmuson Theater

**Dauna: Gone with the River**
Venezuela, 2014, 104 min.
Narrative
Director: Mario Crespo
Warao and Spanish with English subtitles

Dauna dared to be different. She faced the ancestral practices of her culture, and she paid the price. She made decisions which made herself and others suffer. Without giving up before defeats and losses to reconcile and become part of a legend herself.

**WEBSITE:** [https://www.facebook.com/DaunaLoquelle-vaelrio/](https://www.facebook.com/DaunaLoquelle-vaelrio/)

7:00 p.m.
National Museum of the American Indian, Rasmuson Theater

**Poi E: The Story of Our Song**
New Zealand, 2016, 93 min.
Documentary
Director: Tearepa Kahi
Te reo Māori (Māori) and English with English subtitles

This film is the true story of the visionary musician and leader Maui Dalvanius Prime, the entrepreneur responsible for the iconic New Zealand song “Poi E” that became a huge hit in the 1980s. Upbeat, catchy, and danceable, it remains a favorite more than thirty years later. It could be called the country’s unofficial national anthem—it’s the song Kiwis use to celebrate success at major events.

**WEBSITE AND TRAILER:** [poiemovie.co.nz](http://poiemovie.co.nz)
Organizers

Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian

Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Partners

Mexican Cultural Institute Washington DC

SRE Embassy of Mexico in the United States

AMEXCID Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation

New Zealand Embassy

NYU Washington DC

Smithsonian Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden

Smithsonian Latino Center