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## PRESS RELEASE

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**RELEASE DATE:** March 20, 2009

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**City Hall photography exhibition spotlights daily life of Native American youth**  
*Student photographers break down stereotypes, capture one week in their lives*

SEATTLE —A dozen Seattle-area Native American youth offer a glimpse into their daily lives in “Native Realities: Expressing Ourselves, Preserving Traditions,” a photography exhibition at City Hall March 24 through May 1.

The photographers, ages 13 to 20, represent 13 indigenous tribes from Alaska to Central America. United Indians of All Tribes invited the young photographers to capture on film one week in their lives. The exhibition will span the City Hall Lobby Gallery on the first floor and the Anne Focke Gallery located on the L2 level of City Hall, 600 Fourth Ave.

A free **artist reception** will be held, 4 to 6 p.m., **Tuesday, March 31, in the City Hall lobby.**

“Native Realities” features images as diverse as the students who snapped them. In one photograph, a carefree group of teenagers huddles together at Pike Place Market. In another, a graffiti-covered sign warns students against bringing guns to school. The photographs portray anything but stereotypical images of beads and feathers. A bass guitar and basketball feature prominently in two photographs, as do friends and families in others.

“Through these photographs we see that the world our future Native leaders live in is more diverse, and inherently more complicated than most can imagine,” said United Indians Executive Director Marty Bluewater. “As cultural ambassadors to the larger community, their pictures show us that it truly is impossible to characterize our people according to anyone’s old, preconceived notions.”

(more)

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Thirteen-year-old Ametris Joe, who is Paiute and Swinomish, selected a photograph of his little sister not just because it “captures her personality well,” Joe said in an artist statement. “It captures more than other people’s perspectives and stereotypes of a Native person. These pictures show that we are regular people, just like everyone else. I think we need more of our stories to be told.”

United Indians of All Tribes Foundation invited the youth to the project. Instructors and world-renowned photographers Jack and Michelle Storms taught the youth in courses ranging from composition and technique to the historic use of photography in anti-Native American propaganda. The students then set out to photograph their lives as Native youth growing up in an urban environment.

United Indians of All Tribes Foundation is a Seattle-based nonprofit organization founded in 1970. The organization’s mission is to foster and sustain a strong sense of identity, tradition and well-being among the Indian people in the Puget Sound area by promoting their cultural, economic and social welfare. To learn more about United Indians, visit [www.unitedindians.org](http://www.unitedindians.org).

The exhibition is presented by the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation and the Mayor’s Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs. For more information about the City Hall gallery program, call (206) 684-7171.

The Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs promotes the value of arts and culture in communities throughout Seattle. The 16-member Seattle Arts Commission, citizen volunteers appointed by the mayor and City Council, supports the city agency.

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