

2015 Governor's Historic Preservation Awards

A Walk Through Time: The Story of Anderson Marsh



With its majestic landscapes, diverse wildlife, and history spanning 14,000 years, Anderson Marsh State Historic Park is one of California's unique places, and the only state park acquired for its archaeological values. *A Walk Through Time: The Story of Anderson Marsh*, is a film project that preserves through cinematic imagery and narration, the cultural, historic, and natural significance of the region in and around Anderson Marsh State Historic Park. The film is the result of a highly successful collaboration between California State Parks, the Koi Nation of Northern California, the Advanced Laboratory of Visual Anthropology (ALVA) at California State University Chico, renowned archaeologists John Parker and Greg White, and public stakeholders. As a result of the film project, the co-participants have developed stronger relationships and are working together on other projects to protect and interpret cultural resources. For the Koi, who were an important and guiding presence on- and off-camera, the film project inspired both the creation of Ancestors 1, a consortium of Lake County Pomo that focuses on cultural heritage protection, and establishment of a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

The successful production of the film represents a rare but extraordinarily successful collaboration among Tribal government, state entities and public stakeholders. Leslie Steidel, District Archaeologist, was the lead for managing film production, materials, and research, and contacting relevant people and groups. The Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology (ALVA), recently established at Chico State, was the first facility of its kind to incorporate digital

cinema technology into anthropological research. The ALVA enthusiastically endorsed the program, providing “in kind” support which amounted to two-thirds of the film’s cost, and producing a 28 minute digital film for showing in the park, in schools throughout the county, and on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS). Accurate archaeological research about the Clear Lake Basin was provided by the unpaid and energetic involvement of Dr. John Parker and Dr. Greg White. The Koi Nation of Northern California also fully endorsed the project. The Koi became not only the inspiration for the film but also contributed important cultural perspectives, and ensured accuracy of the narrative and all photographic images. Koi tribal member, Dino Beltran, narrated the film.

[View the film *A Walk Through Time*.](#)

Note: On June 3, 2017, *A Walk Through Time: The Story of Anderson Marsh* was awarded a Northern California Emmy Award for Historic/Cultural-Program/Special. [Read the news report here.](#)