

Neighborhood Improvement

Neighborhood Grants, Home Improvement Rebates, Neighborhood Cleanups and Graffiti Removal, Community Police Centers, Safety Programs, Shopping Cart Enforcement



Community Cinema Film, "Two Spirits," Comes to Long Beach

Fifty-six Long Beach residents attended a free screening and discussion of a **Community Cinema** film, "**Two Spirits**," **Tuesday, June 28, 2011**, at the Long Beach Main Library.

"Two Spirits" interweaves the tragic story of a mother's loss of her son with a revealing look at the largely unknown history of a time when the world wasn't simply divided into male and female, and many Native American cultures held places of honor for people of integrated genders. Powerful and moving, Lydia Nibley's "Two Spirits" explores the life and death of Fred Martinez and the ancient Native American two-spirit tradition.

"Two Spirits" explores issues of national concern including the bullying and violence commonly faced by LGBT people, and the epidemic of LGBT teen suicide, and reveals the range of gender expression that has long been seen as a healthy part of many of the indigenous cultures of North America, and of Navajo culture in particular.

Panelists for the post-screening discussion were **Dr. Gabriel Estrada**, Professor of Latino/Chicano Studies and American Indian Studies at CSULB, **Porter Gilberg** from the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Greater Long Beach, **Teresa Gomez**, Coordinator for the City of Long Beach Humanity Dignity Program, and **Danielle Nava**, Director of Programs at The California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ).

The **Community Cinema Series** in Long Beach was presented by the **Neighborhood Resource Center, Long Beach Public Library** and **Long Beach Central Area Association**. Community Cinema, presented by the Independent Television Service (ITVS), is a groundbreaking public education and civic engagement initiative featuring free monthly screenings of films from the Emmy Award-winning PBS series **Independent Lens**. Nine films, followed by panel discussions and Q & A, were screened at the Long Beach Main Library between October 2010 and June 2011. The Community Cinema Series is an opportunity to bring together Long Beach organizations and community members to learn, discuss and get involved in today's critical social issues.

For information on future workshop presented by the Neighborhood Resource Center, contact **Scottie Hinkey** at **(562) 570-3814** or e-mail **Sharron.Hinkey@longbeach.gov**