SEALASKA HERITAGE ARTS CAMPUS

Envisioning Our Future Through the Reflections of Our Past
OUR VISION: Make Juneau the Northwest Coast Arts Capital & Arts Economic Engine for the Region and Beyond
About Northwest Coast Art

The Tlingit word for art was at nané, meaning an "iconic event" or "great happening." Today, Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian material culture has come to be known as Northwest Coast art. Northwest Coast art is unique in the world, distinctive for its formline design, a term that describes the shapes and complex arrangements of them that are organized into balanced compositions.

One could spend a lifetime mastering the rules governing the formline designs that make the ancient, material culture of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian so unique. Historically, Native people incorporated formline design into almost everything, including clan houses, totem poles, ceremonial pieces, regalia, weavings, and even utilitarian items, such as spoons and dishes.

There was a time when the knowledge of how to make Northwest Coast art was almost lost, and today, some practices, such as Chilkat weaving, remain endangered.

SEALASKA HERITAGE ARTS CAMPUS

Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) is fundraising for the second phase of its vision to make Juneau the Northwest Coast arts capital of the world and to designate Northwest Coast art a national treasure.

In phase two, SHI will build its Sealaska Heritage Arts Campus in Juneau at Front and Seward Streets, an area designated as Heritage Square by the City and Borough of Juneau in 2018. The space, in a prime location downtown, is directly across from SHI’s Walter Soboleff Building, which was built during phase one and opened in 2015. The building has welcomed tens of thousands of visitors from all over the world and has helped establish Juneau as a hub for cultural restoration projects and efforts to sustain our country’s rich cultural diversity.

The campus will include indoor and outdoor spaces for artists to make monumental pieces, such as totem poles and canoes, performing arts and gatherings, and Native art markets. The campus will also have classrooms for art instruction, an art library, and space for artists-in-residence.

The campus will include a totem pole and five monumental bronze masks representing Alaska’s major cultural groups called “Faces of Alaska.” The street and plaza will also include artistic designs tying them to the Walter Soboleff Building and Heritage Square.

Through the Sealaska Heritage Arts Campus, SHI will:

• EXPAND Alaska Native and Northwest Coast art programming to ensure perpetuation of these art practices.
• OFFER indoor and outdoor spaces for artists to make monumental art pieces, such as totem poles and canoes, and other art forms, such as weaving and jewelry.
• SPONSOR performing arts and gatherings.
• SUPPORT Native artists through Native art markets and educational opportunities.
• DEVELOP e-learning courses to earn high school, college, dual credits or no credits.
• OFFER a gathering space where the public can learn about Native cultures.
We invite you to join us on this cultural journey of Haa Shuká to honor our past, cultivate our present, and enrich all of us into the future.

LET’S GET THERE TOGETHER…

We’ve raised a significant amount, but we need to get to $12 million. Come build with us through a donation to the Sealaska Heritage Arts Campus.

Giving is easy with ten levels of donor benefits and support options. When you give $25 or more, your name will be permanently engraved as a founding donor. Donate and follow our progress at SealaskaHeritage.org/Campus.

SHI is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) created in 1980 at the urging of tribal Elders and clan leaders. SHI’s mission is to perpetuate and enhance Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures. Its goal is to promote cross-cultural understanding. All donations are tax deductible.
Donate and follow our progress at
SealaskaHeritage.org/Campus