



# THE SEALASKA SHAREHOLDER

FOURTH QUARTER | 2022

ALL OUR LANDS,  
ALL OUR HANDS

*Community forest partnerships bring local knowledge, landowners and leadership together for the good of forests. Read more on page 4.*



LETTER FROM  
LANDS MANAGER

## Jason Gubatayao

**Hello shareholders,**

One of our core values as people is *Haa Aaní (Lingít), lítl' Tlagáa (Sm'algyax), Na Yuubm (Xaad Kil)* — our commitment to care for the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska — honoring the connection to place that is vital to our cultures. Because of this connection, Haa Aaní, LLC is also the name that Sealaska adopted for the holding company of subsidiaries and departments involved in our land management activities, including the Sealaska carbon program.

Most of Haa Aaní, LLC's revenue comes from carbon offset projects. We're now seeing credit issuance income from the two projects that have been finalized and are currently working on a third carbon project. We started the inventory this year and will be finishing it next year.

Carbon projects, and the healthy forests they help maintain, are just one example of how the work and investments of Haa Aaní benefit our communities. Sealaska doesn't only invest with our own dollars, we also pursue grant opportunities and program funding for things like road access, timber stand management or firewood distribution that benefit communities. The invested dollars leveraged with other funding sources help provide

jobs, improve the health of our forests and enhance cultural knowledge with activities like providing red cedar bark to weaving workshops or yellow cedar boards for carving classes. It's a balanced outlook — how can we manage our land in a way that builds economic stability while also expanding community and cultural benefits?

That's where Haa Aaní, LLC's focus on balanced land management comes in. This idea of balance, along with Sealaska's shift towards ocean health-based businesses — I see it as less of a new way of looking at business and more of a return to where we came from. We're managing our lands and waters in a way that focuses on community, finding ways to balance income and economic activity with collaboration and stewardship. Our people have been doing all of this since the beginning of time.

Personally, I'm an avid user of Sealaska lands as is the rest of my family. We harvest deer every year, we trap, we harvest fiddleheads and mushrooms, berry pick and fish — so I look forward to the impact I can make through this work, helping enhance the things that really matter to me. Sealaska is working to see through projects that will help our salmon and our bottom line together, walking a path that fits with the values that are important to me as a shareholder.

Jason Gubatayao  
General Manager, Haa Aaní, LLC



# HISTORIC KASAAN POLE *RETURNS HOME*

The pole's homecoming after more than a century outside of Alaska marks an emotional first for the Organized Village of Kasaan.

A historic totem pole has now returned to its rightful home in Kasaan after a lifetime of absence. The pole's celebrated restoration was part of a collaborative effort between the Organized Village of Kasaan, the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and Sealaska. Pursuing the pole's return and welcoming it home has been an awe-inspiring experience, said Organized Village of Kasaan Tribal President Mike Jones.

"To really see all these folks coming together for our little village, it was incredible, really humbling," Jones said. "It kind of helps wake something up in people. What we went through as three, four generations — cultural genocide, shame — we weren't allowed to fully embrace who we are. We just kind of hid from it. Now we're going through our own reawakening, we're seeing people that are finally able to get in touch with, be proud to be who they are. And this pole is a part of that."

Carved in the 1800s by an unknown Haida carver, the pole was first taken out of Kasaan as part of an exhibition of Haida cultural items displayed in Los Angeles in 1906, accompanied by Chief Saanaxeit. Jones believes it then spent an unknown number of years in the hands of a private collector. In 1951, it ended up in a lumberyard, on the brink of being turned into mulch, when it was acquired by the Taylor Museum of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. After removing the pole for cleaning and restoration in 2006, the museum decided it wasn't stable enough to put back up and contacted the Organized Village of Kasaan in 2010 to begin the process of returning it. While the interest was there, Jones said, the funding wasn't.

The pole's homecoming parallels Jones' own story. Jones felt called to return to Kasaan in 2018 to strengthen his own cultural ties after years spent in Anchorage. After joining the village council, he began pursuing the pole's return in earnest.



"About a year into being here," Jones continued, "I started asking around — whatever happened to that? Nobody really had an answer, even though the desire was there to bring this piece of our history home."

Jones connected with Richard Rinehart, chief executive officer for Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation (THTBC) and Sealaska board member, who had learned of the pole in 2016 through his work with THTBC. Rinehart recalled his reaction upon hearing that the Taylor Museum planned to discard the pole:

"It was an immediate no, no, we can't let that happen — so we went out and secured it."



Progress on the pole had been stalled for several years due to lack of funds when the two connected.

“I got in touch with Mike Jones, and he was really active about it — he wanted to do something, but it came down to funds,” said Rinehart. “‘We’ll get it there,’ I told him. ‘We’ll figure out how to get you the money.’ I brought it to the Sealaska board, and they agreed to fund it and move it.”

After securing funding through Sealaska, Rinehart and Jones brought a team together with assistance from THTBC to secure and transport the pole, said Rinehart.

“It was pretty intense because it’s such an epic thing, it felt like a lot for our little village,” said Jones. “But what I’ve seen and heard with people reaching out, it’s really affected people — across Haida Gwaii, down in Washington, and even further — yeah, that’s been so rewarding, to hear from people from so far away, and just how much it meant to them to see it come home.”

Shipping delays caused the pole’s return and subsequent ceremony to be postponed several times, Jones said, but the wait didn’t put a damper on celebrations, which took place on November 5.

“We had a great turnout, the weather was really good and we got a bonfire going, connecting with the ancestors and feeding

them through the fire,” said Jones. “I invited everyone to feed their ancestors, no matter how distant or recent, so we could all connect — past and present — and experience this thing together.”

While the pole isn’t in good enough condition to restore and remount in full, the village hopes to feature it as the centerpiece of a new cultural center planned to go up in the next few years, said Jones.

“I can’t say enough how much I appreciate the help to get this to Kasaan,” said Jones. “You know, we’re so small but for us to receive this kind of attention, it’s very humbling. This return is wonderful for us — we’re so, so grateful.”

The pole’s welcoming ceremony was broadcast on Facebook Live and can be viewed on the Organized Village of Kasaan’s Facebook page.

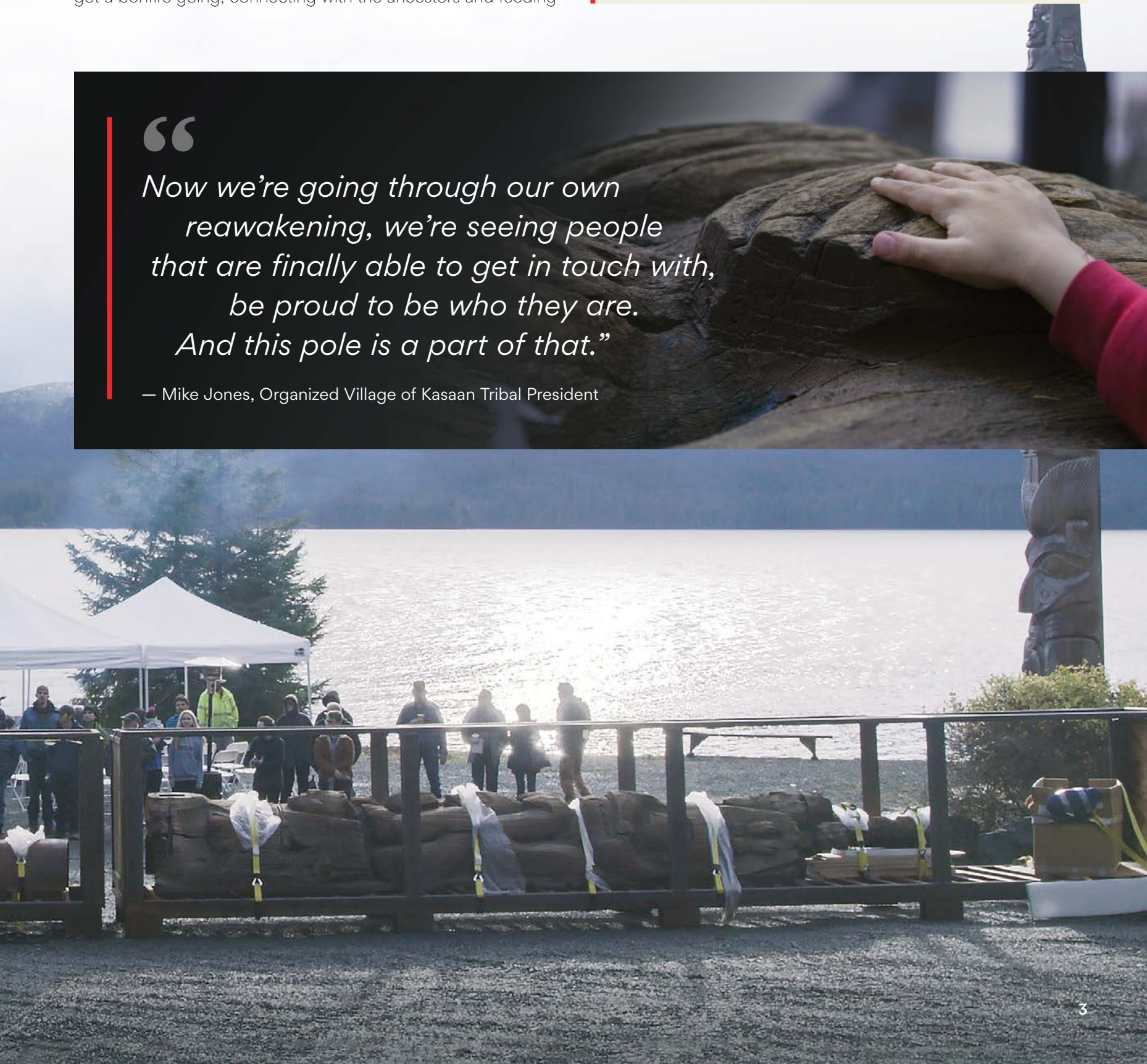
Scan the QR code for a sneak peek into the historic homecoming!



“

*Now we’re going through our own reawakening, we’re seeing people that are finally able to get in touch with, be proud to be who they are. And this pole is a part of that.”*

— Mike Jones, Organized Village of Kasaan Tribal President



# ALL OUR LANDS, ALL OUR HANDS

Community forest partnerships bring local knowledge, landowners and leadership together for the good of forests.

For millennia, Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian people have called the lands and waters of Southeast Alaska home. Stewardship of these lands and the abundance they provide is an inherent part of the heritage and culture of past, current and future generations who make their homes here. Maintaining healthy forests and watersheds is vitally important to the continuation of traditional ways of life and key to vibrant, successful communities.

Community forest partnerships were borne out of recognition of the critical ecological and cultural importance of community forests — especially the stream and watershed habitats that support the return and healthy life cycle of salmon.

“When you think about all the different stakeholders involved in a community forest — landowners, tribes, regulatory agencies, people who utilize the land for cultural purposes, hunters and harvesters, maybe people interested in commercial purposes — and you bring them all to the same table and discuss the land management strategy that’s important to the community, across those property lines, it’s inherently a really challenging thing to do, but when it happens successfully, it can produce pretty incredible results,” said Jason Gubatayo, general manager for Haa Aaní, LLC, Sealaska’s land management company. “Everyone comes with their own perspectives and ideas — what’s the strategy? How are things going for you? What do we want to do next? It’s just proven to be such a successful model for balanced land management in these areas that are so important to different people for different reasons. Rather than having these groups, all with their own agendas working independently, you see them working together to maximize benefits for that community.”

A successful community forest partnership works to “assess resource conditions and identify projects intended to improve fish and wildlife habitat, ensure long-term timber production and support sustainable watershed management,” according

to Hoonah Native Forest Partnership collaborators at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Gubatayo agrees.

“We see a lot of good timber stand management, stream restoration, road condition surveys, grant writing, stream typing, biomass supply analysis, LiDAR data collection and many other things,” he said. “These are just really, really great projects for people who care about the community forest to get together on. And with these partnerships, we’re seeing that happen, and they’re thriving.”

The key to the success of community forest partnerships — and their heart and soul — is the work being done each day by the forestry partnership “boots on the ground” in each community. These hardworking forestry technicians and crews combine Indigenous knowledge and scientific training with a deeply felt connection with the forests their ancestors walked. The work each crew does to steward their ancestral forests — long, backbreaking days of repairing salmon habitats ensuring access and healthy habitats for traditional food harvest, and protecting forest ecosystems for future generations — illustrates the level of care these individuals and their communities have for their community forest environment. Sealaska is immensely grateful for the good work being done through forest partnerships across Southeast Alaska.

Sealaska administers funding for the Hoonah Native Forest Partnership and the Keex' Kwaan Community Forest Partnership in Kake, and serves as a lead entity for the Klawock Indigenous Stewards Forest Partnership.

Individuals or entities interested in working together with an existing partnership or forming their own can contact Gubatayo at [jason.gubatayo@sealaska.com](mailto:jason.gubatayo@sealaska.com).

## Sealaska Remembers Director Emeritus *Aanwoogex*' Ethel Lund 1931–2022

*“Ethel was a gift, a gift we will always be grateful for.”*

— Sealaska Board Chair, Joe *Kaaxúxgu* Nelson



# CELEBRATING ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS

Sealaska had the honor and privilege of connecting with Alaska Native veterans on Prince of Wales in September, learning more about the personal history of these members of Sealaska's community.

American Indian and Alaska Native people serve in the U.S. armed forces at a higher rate than any other demographic in the country. During a recent visit to Prince of Wales Island, Sealaska conducted interviews with a number of Alaska Native veterans

from the communities of Craig, Klawock and Hydaburg. Lifting up our veterans at every opportunity is important to Sealaska — we believe that recognition matters.



Aaron Isaacs, Craig, Alaska  
**U.S. ARMY - 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION**

*"It really built you strong, in your mind — your mind is way ahead of yourself, open. And so many things that you learn are things you never forget. It is constant."*



Russell Snook, Craig, Alaska  
**U.S. ARMY - 75TH RANGER REGIMENT - AIRBORNE INFANTRY**

*"The greatest benefit I have is, I know who I am... The culture we live in had a lot to do with my success there. But in the end, it was my ability to look into my own soul and see who I really am."*



Fred Peratrovich,  
Klawock, Alaska  
**U.S. ARMY - 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, "TROPIC LIGHTNING"**

*"It helped me respect. It helped me respect people better from training, to know it helped me participate in more stuff to help people, which I like to do."*



Ronald Williams,  
Klawock, Alaska  
**U.S. ARMY AND CIVIL AIR PATROL**

*"I liked going up in the plane and jumping out of it with a parachute. My first time I landed — I landed in the water. It was an awesome trip just floating down."*



Sylvester "Sonny" Peele,  
Hydaburg, Alaska  
**U.S. NAVY - USS HORNET**

*"That was one of the best parts of my life. There were places I went I wouldn't have been able to go without going in."*



Jon Rowan, Klawock, Alaska  
**U.S. MARINE CORPS - 12TH MARINE REGIMENT**

*"It gave me a different way of looking at things. Marine Corps has taught me that I can do anything. I can accomplish anything."*



John Perkins Smith,  
Klawock, Alaska  
**U.S. MARINE CORPS**

*"I went into service thinking, whatever happens, happens — I'll serve the best I can, and that's what I did."*



Marvin James George,  
Klawock, Alaska  
**U.S. ARMY**

*"I wanted to see the world, you know, and be somewhere. I wanted to be a part of things; I wanted to be in the war."*

# BEYOND TIMBER

## Sealaska supports vocational and technical education on Prince of Wales Island.

After exiting the timber industry in 2021, Sealaska remains dedicated to providing opportunities for the workforce and economic development in communities — such as those on Prince of Wales Island — that previously had timber-based economies. Sealaska is committed to retraining and reemploying the skilled workforce formerly employed in timber, as well as creating valuable education and training opportunities for those early in their careers. As part of this commitment, Sealaska funding has secured an executive director for the Prince of Wales Vocational and Technical Education Center (POW VocTec), with a total investment of \$400,000 over five years.

“As Sealaska transitions out of industrial timber harvesting, we will continue investing in our people and communities,” said Sealaska Board Chair Joe Nelson. “Our traditional communities are a source of strength that we cannot take for granted. If done well, this partnership will create value that ripples for generations.”

In his new position as executive director, Charles “Chas” Edwardson will help grow momentum toward goals that include strategic planning, community surveys to identify workforce needs, development of curriculum and trainings and fundraising for long-term stability.

“Chas was just a perfect fit for the VocTec center to help us keep up the momentum we’re seeing through this additional funding from Sealaska,” said Craig City School District Superintendent Chris Reitan, who helps oversee the center. “We’re looking at ways we can also support Sealaska shareholders in regard to bringing trainings here to POW that will provide certifications and enhance employability, ultimately providing a bigger boost to our local economy.”

Plans for the center with Edwardson at its helm include launching a construction academy and increasing the number of certifications offered. The center opened in 2014 and aims to “address the career preparation, employment and training needs of residents on Prince of Wales Island,” according to its website.

“The ultimate goal is to hire our own, keeping funds on the island and supporting our growth here,” said Reitan. “All of us involved with the VocTec center are extremely grateful for this collaboration with Sealaska and the continued support of our communities.”



Sealaska to offer exciting new opportunity outside of college for young adults seeking vocational training in tech.

In 2023, Sealaska is offering a new training and internship program through a partnership with Codefy. This program is designed to empower young shareholders and descendants with the skills needed to succeed in high-demand technology careers – without a college education. Codefy specifically targets rural shareholders and descendants not currently pursuing college.

**To learn more and apply, visit**  
[mysealaska.com/Opportunities/Codefy](https://mysealaska.com/Opportunities/Codefy).



2021 participants in Codefy's Arizona-based flagship program.



# NEWS FROM THE #ONESEALASKA FAMILY



## Save the Date – Kootéeyaa Deiyí (Totem Pole Trail)!

Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) will hold a ceremony for the raising of the first 10 totem poles for Kootéeyaa Deiyí (Totem Pole Trail) in Juneau on **April 22, 2023**. This year, Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian artists are carving the first of a planned 30 poles for the project in Hydaburg, Klawock, Saxman, Metlakatla, Sitka, Kake and Juneau through a grant from the Mellon Foundation. Special thanks to Sealaska for donating the logs. We hope you will join us in person or through our livestream on our YouTube channel.

## Opportunities through STEAM

SHI is offering mentorships and internships for Alaska Native students through STEAM, which stands for science, technology, engineering, arts and math. Sophomores, juniors, seniors and recent high school graduates can participate in a paid virtual mentoring experience with a STEAM professional who will guide them through the next steps in pursuing a STEAM field while aligning with Indigenous cultural values. For students looking

for a more hands-on experience, our summer internship applications will open on January 1, 2023, allowing participants to intern at STEAM-focused companies and organizations that connect with their career interests. Students will learn key skills and strategies to navigate challenges as they pursue their professional endeavors, ultimately helping to establish student identity and vibrant cultural ties.



## SHI accepting applications for college/ voc-tech Sealaska scholarships

The enrollment period for Sealaska scholarship applications is open for the 2023–2024 school year. The deadline to apply is March 1, 2023. However, SHI is offering a \$50 incentive to those who complete their scholarship application on or before February 1 and who are accepted as scholarship recipients; if selected as a recipient, the \$50 will be included in their scholarship award. Applications must be filled out and submitted online at [scholarship.sealaskaheritage.org](https://scholarship.sealaskaheritage.org).



SHOP NATIVE-OWNED,  
*SHOP LOCAL*  
**GIFT GUIDE**

Calling all last-minute holiday shoppers! Sealaska, Spruce Root, Sealaska Heritage Institute and the Sustainable Southeast Partnership have partnered again this year to create a Shop Native-Owned, Shop Local Gift Guide. This comprehensive guide highlights Native-owned and local businesses and artists across Southeast Alaska that contribute positively to our communities, environment and economy. From salmon skin earrings to spruce tip skincare, the guide is sure to give you great gift ideas that give back, no matter if you're finishing up your holiday shopping or simply looking to support Native-owned and local businesses all year round.

**Registration Now Open!**



**FEBURARY 23RD-25TH, 2023 • PETERSBURG, AK**

Join fellow growers, entrepreneurs, and local food enthusiasts for the Southeast Alaska Farmers Summit to exchange resources, share insights & best practices and to collaborate and work towards localizing our food system!

**LEARN MORE & REGISTER TODAY:**  
[www.seakfarmerssummit.com](https://www.seakfarmerssummit.com)  
Scholarships Available

## Apply today for the Sealaska Board Youth Advisor position

Each year, the Sealaska board of directors select a youth representative to serve as a non-voting advisor to the board. The board youth advisor offers a fresh perspective on issues facing the communities Sealaska serves, while receiving hands-on professional and boardroom experience. Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 25 to qualify. While applications aren't due until March 25, 2023, get a head start and apply today at [mysealaska.com/Opportunities/BoardYouthAdvisor](https://mysealaska.com/Opportunities/BoardYouthAdvisor).

# GET YOUR *HANDS DIRTY* WITH SEALASKA INTERNSHIPS – *APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW!*

Frances Zoloth got hands-on in the field during her internship on Prince of Wales Island this summer. As an environmental science major studying land rehabilitation, working as a natural resources intern for Sealaska was, naturally, a perfect fit.

Internships like the one she participated in over the summer **offer students something greater than just work experience**, said Zoloth.

“I was touching the trees, in the dirt, going in the streams, helping see and bring the life back into these places — I could just feel a connection, and really feel close to the land in a way that I hadn’t felt before,” she said.





**Helping restore balance to the planet** is a priority for Sealaska, one which goes hand-in-hand with **the value of giving back** to our communities. Zoloth got to experience both as a Sealaska intern — and your student could, too!



**Applications are now open for summer 2023 internships** at Sealaska and partner organizations like Sealaska Heritage Institute, Spruce Root, Barnacle Foods, McKinley Capital Management and Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska.

Sealaska internships are in a class of their own — they are whole-person experiences designed to provide cultural, social and professional development; are full-time, paid positions; include cohort and team-building activities with fellow interns; and are available in a wide range of functions, from construction to anthropology, along with all core business functions like operations, human resources, accounting, communications and more.

To learn more and apply, visit [Sealaska.com/careers/summer-internships/](https://Sealaska.com/careers/summer-internships/). Applications are accepted through late January, and some remote options are available.

*Stay Connected!* Sealaska.com MySealaska.com  @sealaska  @sealaska  @sealaska  @sealaska-corporation



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