

40th Annual Statewide Elders & Youth Conference



October 15-18, 2023

*Dgheyey Kaq'; Dena'inaq elnen'aaq' qilan (Anchorage, Alaska; lands of the Dena'ina) and
in the unceded virtual space of our Alaska Native peoples*

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2023 Statewide Elders & Youth Council

AHTNA

Youth: **Jalene Voyles & Carmelo Jackson**
Elders: **Faye Ewan & Christopher Gene**

ALEUTIAN CHAIN & PRIBILOFS UNANGAĀ

Youth: **Chloe 'Qaadax' Bourdukofsky & Anfesia 'Sweetie' Tutiakoff**
Elders: **Delores 'Doll' Kochuten & Dottie Tutiakoff**

BRISTOL BAY

Youth: **Bailee Olson & Mai Webb**
Elders: **Evan Loonhola & Carol Luckhurst**

INTERIOR

Youth: **William Fisher & Natalie Newman**
Elders: **Anna Frank & Irene Sherry**

KODIAK ISLAND

Youth: **Cienna Johnson & Teague Simmons**
Elders: **Marci Orth & Lisa Cooper**

NORTH SLOPE

Youth: **Aaron Stackhouse & Jayden Lampe**
Elders: **Ayalhuq Evelyn Williams & Delbert J. Rexford**

NORTHWEST ARCTIC

Youth: **John Roy Ramoth, Jr. & Ashley Rexford**
Elders: **Nellie Ballot & Lena Hanna**

NORTON SOUND

Youth: **Cameron Minix & Jade Greene**
Elders: **John Waghiyi & Andrew Miller**

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND

Youth: **Samantha Eleshansky & Shania Tanape**
Elder: **Pete A. Kompkoff, Jr.**

SOUTHCENTRAL

Youth: **Riley Malone & Larissa Schierholt**
Elders: **Selena Malone & Lyra Abruska**

SOUTHEAST

Youth: **Nathaniel Blake & Tria Bowers**
Elders: **Paul Marks & Genevieve Guanzon**

YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA

Youth: **Michele Andrews & 'Luqutay' Glenda R. Afcan**
Elders: **Lillian Johnson & Cyndi Reeves**

See page 10 for Regional Breakout Sessions and info on serving on our 2024 Statewide Elders & Youth Council!

Welcome to the 40th Annual Statewide Elders & Youth Conference!

Greetings from First Alaskans Institute! We are thrilled to come together and commemorate four decades of the 40th Annual Statewide Elders & Youth Conference (Elders & Youth). We are delighted to gather in person, surrounded by our cherished community and friends.

The theme of this year's Elders & Youth Conference is "Woosht Guganéix," a powerful phrase in the Lingít language that beautifully translates to "Let It Be That We Heal Each Other" in English. Woosht Guganéix embodies the ongoing collective healing journey of our people, communities, and our precious lands, waters, animal relatives, and all that resides within our homelands. This gathering serves as a profound opportunity for us to reconnect and reflect on the vibrant statewide community we all share. Within our indigenous languages lies the most intricate tapestry of Alaska's history, values, knowledge systems, and the wisdom of living in harmony with one another. Gunalchéesh to those who played a pivotal role in incorporating the Lingít language into this year's theme!

We invite you to immerse yourselves in the wisdom of our speakers, participate in engaging cultural workshops, partake in meaningful dialogues, and be enthralled by cultural performances that echo the rhythms of our Ancestors. The intergenerational connection between our Elders and youth is paramount in understanding and cherishing our heritage, acknowledging our roots, and rekindling the spirit of cooperation that unites us. Elders, culture bearers, and community leaders will experience the enduring strength of our Ancestral knowledge and imperatives, and learn how to apply this wisdom to enrich our lives today. Elders & Youth serves as a conduit for unity within the Alaska Native community and among all those who support this vibrant journey, connecting living treasures across generations.

Gunalchéesh to our Ancestors for bringing us together during this time. As we set our sights on the future, let us strengthen our bonds as good relatives to one another, perpetuate the healing process, and continue our joyful celebration of knowing, living & loving who we are.

Iggiagruk Willie Hensley
(Iñupiaq)
Board Chair

La quen náay Elizabeth
Medicine Crow (Haida/Lingít)
President/CEO

Kaaswóot Gloria Wolfe (Lingít)
Indigenous Leadership
Continuum Director



First Alaskans Institute includes diverse peoples, perspectives, and organizations to deliver this unique conference. Inclusion may not mean endorsement of the presenters or organizations they may be engaged with. Rather, they are offered to provide the diverse wisdom, knowledge, world view, and consciousness of our amazing participants. We thank all who work alongside of us to create this content and experience for our participants.

Keynote Speaker

ELDER **Ilskyalas Delores Churchill** (Haida)

Ilskyalas Delores Churchill is Haida, born in Masset, Canada. She is one of the remaining first language speakers of Haida and a master weaver of hats, robes, baskets, and regalia. She gathers, prepares, and weaves with spruce root, cedar bark as well as wool into Ravenstail and Naaxiin weaving. Ilskyalas learned the thousands of year-old styles of weaving from her mother, Selina Peratovich. She continued to pass along her family skill of weaving to her daughters Holly and April Churchill and Evelyn Vanderhoop as well as nieces, nephews, and grandchildren.

Ilskyalas' weaving technique and style is known around the world through her commitment to teaching, preserving and actively weaving pieces for her family to dance, use in ceremony and display in museums. Her work can be found in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., Canada, Hawaii, Germany and here in Alaska. Ilskyalas continues to contribute to the weaving and community around her. She is working on a book called, *From A Circle to A Square*, as a way to share her cultural knowledge, stories and life experience of the various weaving techniques she's learn in Haida, Tlingit and Tsmishian styles. In regard to those who continue to weave this important art form Ilskyalas shares, "They are keeping this art alive so it continues long after I'm gone... it belongs to all of us."

Ilskyalas continues to teach Xaad Kil, the Haida language to apprentices, learners and at Language Nests in Alaska and Haida Gwaii over zoom and in person. A family group meets twice a week, continuing though the pandemic, of her grandchildren and great grandchildren to learn the language and history from Ilskyalas. She is supported in this work through her family as well as a Haida Gwaii Mentor Apprentice Program with First Peoples Cultural Council Mentor Apprentice program, FPCC Braided Knowledge Project Gaw sdu gyaahlangee uu iijaa, 2023, Tlingit and Haida, Sealaska, Sealaska Heritage and Xaantsii Náay. Her passion for bringing Xaad Kil to the mouths of our babies and weaving in the hands of our future ancestors is evident in her willingness to share, spend time and teach those around her.



Delores Churchill. Courtesy of family

Conference Guide

Sam Schimmel (St. Lawrence Island Yupik/Kenaitze)

Sam Schimmel is Siberian Yupik and Kenaitze from Kenai, Alaska. He was named a UNITY 25 Under 25 honoree for his initiative, Operation Fish Drop, which delivered over 20,000 pounds of salmon to Alaska Native Elders and families, mitigating food insecurity within these communities.

As a dedicated Native fisherman and harvester, Sam actively engages in efforts to curb suicide, drug abuse, and cultural erosion in his community. Witnessing the effects of climate change in Alaska has driven him to bring awareness to its influence on Tribal communities and Native food systems. For his work in this area, he has been awarded the AFN Roger Lang Youth Leadership Award and the inaugural Autumn Apok Ridley Award.

In his role as the co-chair of Cook Inlet Inter-Tribal Fisheries, he continues to advocate for the preservation and well-being of his community's resources, traditions, and values. After completing his bachelor's degree at Stanford University, Sam is now furthering his education and advocacy at Georgetown Law.



Sam Schimmel. Courtesy photo

Keynote Speaker

YOUTH Quannah Chasinghorse (Han Gwich'in and Sicangu/Oglala Lakota)

Quannah Chasinghorse (she/her), is an Indigenous land protector and model from the Han Gwich'in of Eagle Village, Alaska and Sicangu/Oglala Lakota Tribes of South Dakota. Her upbringing in rural Alaska exposed her to a life deeply rooted in the land, marked by hunting, dog mushing, and Native ways of life during much of her childhood. This profound connection to her ancestral lands and traditional ways serves as the driving force behind her tireless efforts to safeguard sacred territories and advocate for climate justice.

Since signing with IMG Models, she has leveraged her platform to champion the representation of Indigenous peoples within the fashion industry. Her remarkable journey has seen collaborations with esteemed global fashion brands and gracing the covers of renowned publications such as Vogue Mexico, V Magazine, Elle, Porter Magazine, National Geographic, and the prestigious Allure's Best of Beauty issue. She has also appeared in several international editions of Harper's Bazaar and Vogue, and has attended the Met Gala for the past two years. Solidifying her position as a dynamic force for positive change and an Indigenous model in the fashion world, Quannah is the recipient of several awards including Teen Vogue's Top 21 under 21 and was recently inducted into the Business of Fashion Global Class of 2022 in Paris. She was also 2021's Models Dot's Breakout Star of the Year (Industry Vote and Readers' Choice) and Social Mover of the Year Runner Up.



Quannah ChasingHorse. Courtesy photo

Most recently, Quannah released a documentary short film debut at TriBeCa Film Festival, entitled "Walking Two Worlds" (shown at the 2022 Elders & Youth Conference). The short explores how she, alongside her mother, Jody Potts-Joseph (Han Gwich'in), stands as a resolute defender of their sacred homelands and traditional way of life, all while shattering barriers in Indigenous representation.

Conference Guide

Uswi Alyssa Madrid (Sugpiaq)

Uswi hails from the shores of Kodiak and her life has been profoundly shaped by her unwavering connection to her culture. She proudly embraces her Sugpiaq heritage on her mother's side, and cherishes her lineage from El Salvador on her father's side. Growing up, she found a guiding light in the form of her beloved grandmother, Sharon Wolkoff. Through shared wisdom, artistic teachings, and a commitment to learning, her grandmother instilled in her a passion for preserving the culture of their people. She carries with her a profound sense of gratitude for the invaluable traditions and insights entrusted to her by her grandmother and community, ensuring that future generations, like herself, have the opportunity to embrace their identity and heritage. Her long-term vision is firmly rooted in the principles of knowledge sharing, community building, and the pursuit of being a good relative.



Uswi Alyssa Madrid. Courtesy photo

Uswi studied Alaska Native Studies and Languages at the University of Alaska Southeast, where she participated in the Native Leadership club, engaging in dance practices and performances, and immersing herself in community events. She is grateful to her friends on Lingít Aani for making her feel at home. She currently resides on Dena'ina Elnena, where she serves as a Youth Advocate with Recovery and Reentry Services at Cook Inlet Tribal Council. She is also an artist and a small business owner, and she draws inspiration from her diverse cultural backgrounds, reflecting the world around her.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 • AGENDA

- 1:00 Statewide Broadcast Begins – KTOO 360TV, Roku, ARCS, FAI YouTube and www.firstalaskans.org
1:00 Intro - Open with a song, basic info about conference
Plenary - Panel of Healers
Closing

****IMPORANT NOTE****

This schedule and our workshops are subject to change; rooms, times and offerings may shift.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 16 • AGENDA

- 8:00 Registration Opens downstairs on the 1st Floor
8:00 Community Hall Opens – 2nd & 3rd Floor Foyers
8:30 Statewide Broadcast Begins – KTOO 360TV, Roku, ARCS, FAI YouTube and www.firstalaskans.org
8:30 Welcome
9:30 Yurapik Drummers and Dancers
10:00 **Elder Plenary Keynote – IIskyalas Delores Churchill (Haida)**
Dynamic dialogue
11:00 Regional Breakout – *See page 10 for rooms*
12:00 Lunch On Your Own **-OR-** take part in Lunch & Learns (lunch provided - first come, first served)
See page 7 for descriptions
Option 1 – Leadership Thru Generations - Qaaḡraq Corina Kramer (Iñupiaq), Miligruak Cassidy Daniel (Iñupiaq),
Tikahtnu Main Plenary Stage
Option 2 – Your Civil Rights: Freedom from Discrimination - Rob Corbisier (Cherokee), Kahtnu 1
1:00 Dance Group
1:30-3 Workshops – *See pages 7-8 for options*
3:30-5 Workshops – *See pages 9-10 for options*
5:15 Closing Comments and **Natives Got Talent Tryouts**
7-9 **12th Annual Chin'an: A Night of Cultural Celebration**
See page 10 for more info; tickets \$5.00

NATIVES GOT TALENT!

Any registered participant may tryout to share their talent during Chin'an, whether it's singing, poetry, dance, comedy, or whatever talent they have and want to share to showcase how incredible and diverse our peoples are.

TUNE INTO THE STATEWIDE BROADCAST

The public can join us on the statewide broadcast on October 15 from 1-5 pm, October 16 from 8:30 am-9 pm, and October 17 from 8:30 am-5:30 pm. The live broadcast begins at 8:30 when the plenary sessions begin. Please note - on October 18 from 8 am-2 pm, the broadcast will only be on FAI YouTube and www.firstalaskans.org.

- TV: KTOO 360TV and available through Roku and ARCS
- Website: www.firstalaskans.org
- FAI YouTube: <https://bit.ly/FAIYouTube>
- FAI Facebook: www.facebook.com/FirstAlaskansInstitute

VISIT TRADITIONAL HEALERS OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Each Elders & Youth, a volunteer group of Native healers and behavioral health professionals offer their abilities to the Elders & Youth community. Visit Native healers in Tikahtnu E and the Behavioral Health Support Space in Tikahtnu D throughout the conference. Space is limited (first come, first served).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17 • AGENDA

- 8:00 Registration Opens
8:00 Community Hall Opens – 2nd & 3rd Floor
8:30 Statewide Broadcast Begins – KTOO 360TV, Roku, ARCS, FAI YouTube and www.firstalaskans.org
8:30 Welcome
9:30 Uᅇalaqtiq Inuutchak Dance Group
10:00 **Youth Keynote – Quannah Chasinghorse (Han Gwich'in and Sicangu/Oglala Lakota)**
Dynamic dialogue
11:00 Polly Andrews (Cup'ik) and Guests
12:00 Lunch On Your Own **-OR-** take part in Lunch & Learns with lunch provided (first come, first served)
See page 11 for descriptions
Option 1 – Envisioning Native Education - Darlene Pakpaluk Trigg (Iñupiaq), Jessica Saniguq Ullrich (Iñupiaq)
Tikahtnu Main Plenary Stage
Option 2 – Iᅇisaᅇvik College, Interactive Bingo & More - Simon Aina (Samoan), Salakatouna, **Kahtnu 1**
1:00 Kodiak Alutiiq Dancers
1:30-3 Workshops – **See pages 11-12 for options**
3:30-5 Workshops – **See pages 13-14 for options**
8-10 **Teen Dance – Open to registered participants only (conference badge and bracelet required to enter).**
Chaperones must accompany youth.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18 • AGENDA

- 8:30 Statewide Broadcast Begins – FAI YouTube and www.firstalaskans.org
8:30 Welcome
9-11 Healing Houses: LGBTQIA2S +, Women's & Men's – **See page 14 for info**
11:00 Resolutions
Door Prizes
Announcements - Language
Introduction of new Statewide Elders & Youth Council
Dance Finale



**First Alaskans
Institute**

CONFERENCE LOGO

Michele Joy Kawahine Kilomana Naataq Ugruaq Danner (Iñupiaq/Native Hawaiian) is an artist behind Kilomana Creations. Kawahine's ancestral lands are Utqiagvik, Alaska and Kauai, Hawaii. She is guided by the traditional values of her Iñupiaq and Kanaka 'Ōiwi Elders, teachers, and community members. Her art mediums include acrylic paint, locally harvested animal hide/bone, digital programs and tattoo ink. Her art goals include empowerment, authenticity, and story-telling, and puts deep thought, meaning, and dedication in each creation. She also enjoys cultural activities, teaching volleyball to youth, and spending valuable time with her family.



Michele Joy Kawahine
Kilomana Naataq Ugruaq
Danner. Courtesy photo

LUNCH & LEARN • SESSIONS

Monday, October 16 • 12:00 to 1:00 pm

Option 1 - Leadership Thru Generations • Tikahtnu Main Plenary Stage •

Qaągraq Corina Kramer (Iñupiaq), **Miligruak Cassidy Daniel** (Iñupiaq)

The Lead-Gen internship program, created by Aqqaluk Trust, supports future leaders by using our traditional training methods of interpersonal connection, knowledge sharing, direct apprenticeship, and following our Native value systems. Part of our mission is to create content for children and youth to have a strong connection to our culture. We would like to share our program and some activities with delegates from around the state to show what they can create in their own areas to give our future leaders a platform to lead projects, and create content.

Option 2 - Your Civil Rights: Freedom from Discrimination • Kahtnu 1 • Rob Corbisier (Cherokee)

Starting with the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 led by Elizabeth Peratrovich, state law makes it illegal to discriminate against a person in employment, places of public accommodation, the sale and rental of real property, credit and financing, and government practices. Everyone needs to know about their civil rights, but in particular youth who are entering the workforce must understand that they have a recourse if they face discrimination based on age, race, sex (such as sexual harassment, and it includes gender identity and sexual orientation in workplace contexts), religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, parenthood, and marital status.

WORKSHOPS

Monday, October 16 • 1:30 to 3 pm

Fish cutting activity • Tikahtnu Main Plenary Stage • Taikupa Melanie Brown (Unanga/Sugpiaq/Yup'ik/Iñupiaq),

Gayla Hoseth (Yup'ik). Gain some fish cutting skills. Students will also learn a fish pickling recipe and will leave with a jar of pickled salmon after cutting and prepping their salmon for pickling.

Protecting our Ways of Life Through Testimony • Kahtnu 1 • TBD - NPA staff and Board and Steering Committee

Learn to integrate storytelling into powerful testimony to the (North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) from warriors who have showed up over the years.

Healing Ourselves • Kahtnu 2 • Gooch-Latsen Floyd Guthrie (Lingít/Haida/Ts'msyen), **Dunya Becky Marvin** (Alutiiq/Suqpiaq), **Daa-Aganaot Marianne Rolland** (Raven Clan Moon House)

Join a Circle discussion that acknowledges we have all been traumatized and each one of us possesses the inner capabilities to heal ourselves. A description, history, evolution and discussion of the energy healing techniques that result in a profound shift away from suffering and an experience of inner peace. Personal testimonial from two Alaska Native participants who have healed themselves from inter-generational trauma. Opportunity for participants to share and if they desire to participate in a healing experience. Tools to take home for healing trauma and sustaining inner balance and peace. *Healing dialogues can also bring up things the participant may not expect. Participants are responsible for their experience. Healing supports are also available throughout the Conference.*

Kulunguak - Sugpiaq Beaded Earrings • Idlughet #1 Front • Agasuuq Hanna Sholl (Sugpiaq), **Cutmen Candace Branson**

(Sugpiaq), **Liisngaq Mariah Stapleton**, **Qangyuk Natalia Schneider**

Learn how to make earrings based on ancestral Sugpiaq design from Ugashik. There will be an option to modify the design into a pendant for people who don't wear earrings.

Deer Processing • Idlughet #1 Back • Sáng HI Kingwaas Anthony Christianson (Haida), **Xangaláay Claude Young** (Haida), **Khaá T'eix' Helene Bennett** (Lingít), **Góos'k' Ralph Wolfe** (Lingít/Haida), **Kootink Heather Douville** (Lingít), **Aaron Angerman** (Lingít)

Sitka Blacktail deer are a staple food in Southeast Alaska Native communities. Knowing how to harvest and process the deer is essential to food security for our tribal ways of life. Our team will share stories of hunting, how to stay safe and be prepared for our formidable environment, what to do with your deer, and butchering techniques that help when getting your deer ready for home consumption.

WORKSHOPS, continued

Monday, October 16 • 1:30 to 3 pm

The importance of Small Community of Emergency Preparedness • Idlughet #2 Front • Agatuina Charlene Saclamana (UgiVangMuit/King Island), Rebecca Ligler, David Lee

We will provide an overview of small community emergency planning and preparedness and identify steps necessary to complete a community emergency response plan. We will discuss the importance of community involvement while highlighting our people's resilience in preparedness; as well as how disasters affect all facets of our lifestyle.

Gifting the Iñupiaq Culture through Storytelling & Painting/Drawing • Idlughet #3 Front • Avu Justina Wilhelm, Manuuluraq Nicole Evans (Iñupiaq), Niayuq Jerica Leavitt (Iñupiaq), Simon Aina (Samoan), Salakatouna Teresa Williams (Iñupiaq), Hal Haynes, Janelle Everett, Eqagiñ Natasha Itta (Iñupiaq), Kendra Mack

This presentation will provide the sharing of the Iñupiaq culture through the gift of storytelling, while drawing or painting in relation to the stories being shared. This interactive art activity will help pass on the knowledge of the stories that came before us and the importance of how we are connected to the land and animals. The discussion will be facilitated by the members of the Iłisaġvik College Unapologetically Iñupiaq core group and Student Services staff. Students will have their own drawings as well as printed materials of the stories that were shared.

Anishinaabe Clan Structures • Idlughet #3 Back • Jim O'Chiese (Cree/Anishinaabe)

Jim O'Chiese was raised in the woodland with a very traditional Foothills Ojibway family and is a great-grandfather, ceremonial leader, Chief, environmentalist, botanist, forester, medicine person, professor of land-based education and survival, and more. He's developed courses addressing principles of ceremonies, natural law, governance, Indigenous health and traditional medicines. He generously shares teachings on how to thrive in connection with clans, spirit, land, water, plants, animals, and medicines.

Batuk'enyashi – Natural Dyes from Dena'ina Lands • Tubughnenq' 3 • June (Simeonoff) Pardue (Sugpiaq/Iñupiaq), Savanna Von Scheele (Sugpiaq)

This presentation will focus on a short history of the language and the current status of the language. This will be followed by songs, games and lessons in the language. All participants will get a chance to learn how to introduce themselves in Unangam tunuu.

Exploring Who We Are • Tubughnenq' 4 • Emily Marveluiliuq Brockman (Yup'ik), Molissa Udevitz, Helen Panruk John (Yup'ik/Iñupiaq), Gordon Aghqunqaq Iya (St. Lawrence Island Yupik)

Who am I? How does where and how I live shape who I am? Consider these questions in this workshop and leave feeling proud of the many identities you have. This is a part of the Ilakucaraq Project.

Discussions to Support One's Passage Through Time • Tubughnenq' 5 • Qillauruq Melissa Castaneda (Iñupiaq), Pam Radcliffe (Yup'ik)

Planning is an essential activity in our Indigenous way of life. The act of planning for end of life can be difficult to understand and uncomfortable. However, with the right tools, the Elder Outreach Program hopes to help start the dialogue of planning an important passage in one's life cycle.

Elders & Youth Resolutions Workshop • Boardroom • 'Wáahlaal Giidaak, Qunmigu, FAI Staff**

****Mandatory workshop for EY Registered participants who may want to submit resolutions for consideration.**

Learn about resolutions as advocacy tools and the importance of civic engagement with guest speakers Amber Ebarb (Senator on Indian Affairs), Qigñaaq Cordelia Kellie (Office of Senator Murkowski), Samuel Hiratsuka (Office of Representative Peltola). Create resolutions with the guidance of fellow Elders and youth. Learn how to use your resolution to advocate for our Native peoples. Completed, timely-submitted, and approved resolutions that follow the process as directed at the workshop will be voted on by the conference attendees. If participants are not at the workshop and not engaged throughout, their resolutions will not be considered.

WORKSHOPS

Monday, October 16 • 3:30 to 5:00 pm

How to Use Everything Given: Parts of Tuttu • Tikahtnu Main Plenary Stage • Tulugaqsiyyuuk Joseph Jessup McDermott (Iñupiaq), Hilda Haas (TBD) (Iñupiaq), Additional Iñupiaq Elders TBD from NANA Region

Join an interactive storytelling workshop centered around a caribou (tuttu) puzzle, with all the pieces labelled with their Iñupiaq name and discuss the traditional use of each part. An Elder will share experiences with caribou and will ask about what other Native words and traditions in their cultures. Make a large puzzle together with the stories, and can come away with a smaller version for themselves.

Vote to Protect Our Ways of Life • Kahtnu 1 • NPA Staff, Board and Steering Committee

Our ways of life are deeply impacted by voting - whether we actively think about it or not, we make a huge impact for future generations and their ways of life by voting in each and every election.

Let's create a youth-led, sustainable movement towards environmental wellness • Kahtnu 2 •

Xulth Kii Wul duns Gail Cheney (Haida)

The Alaska Center has run an Alaska Youth Environmental Action group for many years. We are hoping that with Native Youth input and engagement we can create a more sustainable and engaging model for Native youth. Our land heals us, let's help her heal too.

Herring Roe on kelp • Idlughet #1 Back • Sáng Hl Kingwaas Anthony Christianson (Haida), Xangaláay Claude Young (Haida), Khaá T'eix' Helene Bennett (Lingít), Góos'k' Ralph Wolfe (Lingít), Kootink Heather Douville (Lingít), Aaron Angerman (Lingít)

The first major harvest opportunity in Southeast Alaska is herring eggs spawned on kelp. The team will share our history and use of herring roe on kelp and its significance to the Natives of the Pacific Northwest Coast. There will opportunity to pickle herring eggs with the traditional food security team, and participants will be able to take a taste of it home with them.

Weaving Bracelets • Idlughet #2 Back • Góos'k' Ralph Wolfe (Lingít/Haida), Holly Churchill (Haida)

Participants will learn how to weave a Lingít or Haida style cedar bracelet in to take home.

Kanarlluk Bear Gut Raincoat • Idlughet #3 Front • June (Simeonoff) Pardue (Sugpiaq/Iñupiaq), Diane Selanoff (Sugpiaq), Joyce Kompkoff-Peterson (Sugpiaq), Brooke Mallory (Sugpiaq), Dawn Randazzo (Sugpiaq/Iñupiaq)

Last summer, this group of Sugpiaq women revitalized the tradition of making Kanarlluk/Bear Gut Raincoats in the Chugach region. We learned the entire process from cleaning the intestines to doing the waterproof stitch and had it documented by an Alaska Native filmmaker. The film is finished, and we would love to share it with the elder's and youth conference and possibly to a demonstration of the waterproof stitch.

Painting Our Ways of Life • Idlughet #3 Back • Sylvia Lange (Sugpiaq/Lingít)

All ages welcome. Limited to 12 participants. Kids in grade school need to bring an adult or teen sibling. All supplies provided, and you will bring your canvas painting home with you. Bring an old shirt to wear over anything that may get damaged by paint. We will be using quality acrylic paints, learning how to mix our own colors, and expressing our ways of life. If you have a favorite subject: berries, fish, plant, traditional design, bring a picture with you and you can make your own version into a painting. It's fun, and everyone has an artist in them.

Remembering and Implementing Indigenous Coming of Age Practices • Tubughnenq' 3 • Doris Daychief (Cree),

Jimmy O'Chiese (Cree/Anishinaabe), Eva Sensmeier (Koyukon), Raymond Sensmeier (Lingít)

Discussion on rites of passage which can include birth, coming of age, pregnancy, becoming an Elder, and/or death.

VISIT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON MONDAY & TUESDAY AT 8 AM-5 PM!

Check out a gathering of Indigenous artists selling their art and community partners sharing education, career, business, nonprofit and political opportunities. It is located on the 2nd and 3rd floors in the foyers.

WORKSHOPS, continued

Monday, October 16 • 3:30 to 5:00 pm

Using Digital Archives to Cultivate Our History and Nourish Our Future • Tubughnenq' 4 • Lurvurlia Rebekah Contreras (Yup'ik), Sei 'Ya Eesh Jeff Skaflestad (Lingít), Tlagoonk Amelia Wilson (Lingít), Brett Dillingham

Digital archives serve as a modern tool to strengthen our understanding of our history and help inform our present. Indigenous communities with oral based histories can draw on physical, visual, audio and video records to contribute to our cultural legacies for future generations. Participants will engage in hands-on activities that deepen understanding of how historical records can inform our current efforts to perpetuate our culture.

Cross-Cultural Communication • Tubughnenq' 5 • Larapciq Cheri Alstrom

Learn different communication styles. Alaska Natives communicate differently than non-Natives. Learn about verbal/non-verbal communication styles of Alaska Natives.

Exploring cultural celebrations in academic settings • Boardroom • Shaelene Holstrom-Bond (Yup'ik/Supiaq), Apaghna Kangighmii Alazae Waghiyi (St. Lawrence Island Yupik)

What are some of the cultural celebrations in your community? Learn how UAF college students took it upon themselves to carry their cultures with them when they went away to school and started the Festival of Native Arts (FNA) on the UAF Troth Yeddha' campus. This spring will be the 50th anniversary of the FNA. Join us to share how we build strength and heal through our celebrations.

REGIONAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS • Monday, October 16 • 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Interested in representing your region on the 2024 Statewide Elders & Youth Council? Want to know more about issues affecting your region? Come and connect with other participants from your region! Elder & Youth Council Representatives are chosen by your region in these breakout sessions! Be ready to share your story of why you would like to serve your region. If chosen, responsibilities include participating in monthly meetings, gathering feedback from your region, generating conference ideas, sharing about issues impacting your region, reporting back, and sharing your leadership skills and abilities. Contact us with any questions by phone at (907) 677-1700 or email at leadership@firstalaskans.org.

Ahtna • Tikahtnu Main Plenary Stage (Back)
Prince William Sound • Kahtnu 2
Southcentral • Idlughet 3 (Front & Back)
Norton Sound • Tubughnenq' 3
Interior • Idlughet 1 (Front)
Northwest Arctic • Tubughnenq' 4

Aleutian Chain & Pribilofs • Kahtnu 1
Kodiak Island • Idlughet 1 (Back)
North Slope • Idlughet 2
Bristol Bay • Tubughnenq' 5
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta • Tikahtnu Main Plenary Stage (Front)
Southeast • K'enakatnu Boardroom



12th Annual

Chin'an: A Night of Cultural Celebration

\$5 Tickets available at registration & at the door! Free for Elders! Open to the Public!

Chin'an Hosts: Sam Schimmel (St. Lawrence Island Yupik/Kenaitze) & Uswi Alyssa Madrid (Sugpiaq)

Special Performances:

Kodiak Alutiq Dancers
Unalaqtig Inuutchak Dance Group
Lower Yukon Drummers and Dancers
Natives Got Talent Performances

October 16 at 7-9 pm
Dena'ina Center

Watch live on KTOO 360North, ARCS, Roku FAI YouTube and www.firstalaskans.org

#ChinanNight #EY2023

LUNCH & LEARN • SESSIONS

Tuesday, October 17 • 12:00 to 1:00 pm

Option 1 – Envisioning Native Education • Darlene Pakpaluk Trigg (Iñupiaq), Jessica Sanigaq Ullrich (Iñupiaq)

We will discuss the outcomes of a gathering held in Nome (Sitnasuak) in early August 2023 where the community discussed what education could look like in a Tribally run school.

Option 2 - Iñisaġvik College, Interactive Bingo & More • Kahtnu 1 • Simon Aina (Samoan), Salakatouna Teresa Williams (Iñupiaq), Eqagiñ Natasha Itta (Iñupiaq), Kendra Mack, Tiġiġluk Frieda Nageak (Iñupiaq), Sevuki Paul Rama (Native Fijian/Indio-Fijian)

Join Iñisaġvik staff to learn about Alaska's only tribal college while playing BINGO. The interactive BINGO will provide information about Iñisaġvik's programs and opportunities. BINGO winners will be provided prizes throughout the lunch & learn. Prizes & gifts may include the gift of the whale.

WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, October 17 • 1:30 to 3 pm

Salmon Cutting • Tikahntu Main Plenary Stage • Sáng Hl Kingwaas Anthony Christianson (Haida), Xangaláay Claude Young (Haida), Khaá T'eix' Helene Bennett (Lingít), Góos'k' Ralph Wolfe (Lingít), Kootink Heather Douville (Lingít), Aaron Angerman (Lingít)

Our team will showcase how to process salmon to maximize the nutrition we get from each fish. Once we clean and cut the salmon, it will be made into pickled fish, teaching a fast and effective way to preserve and create a tasty treat from our precious resource. Our traditional foods team is dedicated to the continuation of our traditional ways of life through sharing experiences and respectful harvest and utilization of our salmon.

Navigating Being Away from Home • Kahtnu 1 • Emily Marveluiliuq Brockman (Yup'ik), Molissa Udevitz, Helen Panruk John (Yup'ik/Iñupiaq), Gordon Aghqunqaq Iya (St. Lawrence Island Yupik). Are you thinking of leaving home after high school? This workshop will help you consider the culture shock you may experience. We'll work together to brainstorm practical strategies that can help you navigate feeling out of place. Part of the Ilakucaraq Project.

Planning for a strong future of Alaska Native languages • Kahtnu 2 • X'unei Lance Twitchell (Lingít/Haida/Yup'ik/Sami), Yaayuk B. Alvanna-Stimpfle (Iñupiaq), Walkie Charles (Yup'ik), Annette Evans Smith (Athabaskan/Alutiiq/Yup'ik), Kay Larson-Blair (Yup'ik/Unangaġ/Cherokee)

The Alaska Native Language Preservation & Advisory Council is working on its 2024 Report to the Governor and Legislature. The Council would love to hear your input on which goals, policies, and activities will strengthen Alaska's 23 Indigenous languages as spoken languages now and for future generations.

Inupiraaqtatuat Izzaktait - We are language warriors • Idlughet #1 Front • Richard Atuk (Iñupiaq), Jane Atuk, Debbie Atuk (Iñupiaq), Tatuq Josie Bourdon (Iñupiaq), Shannon Hawkins (Iñupiaq), Linda Sloan, Rose Atuk (Iñupiaq), Alice Atuk (Iñupiaq), Jessica Sanigaq Ullrich (Iñupiaq)

Continuing to build on the momentum following two workshops -- one in Kissagvimi (Anchorage) and Sitnasuaqmi (Nome) -- we will demonstrate our methodology for collecting and documenting the Kingikmiutun dialect of Inupiaq. The workshops were the culmination of five years of studying, sharing, and documenting our dialect. Now we want to encourage other language learners to document their own dialects.

Native Youth Olympics/Traditional Games • Idlughet #3 Front • Kaasgeiy Samato of Juneau Traditional Games, Layla Harrison, Daniel Rodgers, Joseph Rodgers, and Ya Ne Dah Ah School students from Chickaloon Native Village

Native Youth Olympics and Traditional Games was originally created by our Alaska Native ancestors to help developing crucial survival skills to everyday life in harsh weather and environment. Competitions were being hosted within communities to hone the necessary abilities to hunt and fish in the traditional way of life. Nowadays, youth demonstrate and compete in the games in order to preserve and display proudly of their cultural identities in the modern day.

WORKSHOPS, continued

Tuesday, October 17 • 1:30 to 3 pm

Fish cutting activity • **Idlughet #1 Back** • **Taikupa Melanie Brown** (Unanga̋/Sugpiaq/Yup'ik/Iñupiaq),

Gayla Hoseth (Yup'ik)

Gain some fish cutting skills. Students will also learn a fish pickling recipe and will leave with a jar of pickled salmon after cutting and prepping their salmon for pickling.

Gathering Alaska Native Language Community of Practice • **Idlughet #3 Back** •

Kari Shaginoff (Ahtna Dene/Pyramid Lake Pauite), **Łiq'a yes Joel Isaak** (Dena'ina Dene)

Nudench'tidaltey "we are growing stronger again", The Alaska Native Language Community of Practice (ANLCOP) is an organized group of Alaska Native Language Educators that share resources, discuss language topics, co-design this COP group, review DEED's Alaska Native strategic plan, and share a collaborative space. ANLCOP would like to engage youth and Elders to participate in the revitalizing Alaska Native languages movement. This session will allow the youth and Elders space for creating a stronger connection on their vision of language revitalization.

Anishinaabe Clan Structures • **Tubughnenq' 3** • **Jim O'Chiese** (Cree/Anishinaabe)

Jim O'Chiese was raised in the woodland with a very traditional Foothills Ojibway family and is a great-grandfather, ceremonial leader, Chief, environmentalist, botanist, forester, medicine person, professor of land-based education and survival, and more. He's developed courses addressing principles of ceremonies, natural law, governance, Indigenous health and traditional medicines. He generously shares teachings on how to thrive in connection with clans, spirit, land, water, plants, animals, and medicines.

Conserving fish, preserving tradition on the Yukon River • **Tubughnenq' 4** • **Agaloo Millena Jordan** (Koyukon),

Digitgiyáa Katie Turner (Deg'Hitan)

We are a nonprofit representing the fishermen and fisherwomen of the Yukon River. We want to share our experiences looking at archival documentation of our past Elders' knowledge, then we interviewed today's Elders and youth to create videos sharing our messages. We want to engage with attendees to help spread awareness of the decline of salmon culture along the Yukon River.

Practicing Self Governance and Self Determination using Peacemaking: To Mending Relationships • **Tubughnenq' 5** •

Ka'.oosh Mike Jackson (Lingít/Haida), **Takca Nup Wicasha Justin McDonald** (Dakota), **Anthony Gastelum** (Pasqua Yaqui)

Each Indigenous Tribe stayed together for thousands of years and a common thread that kept them together was sitting around the fire at the end of each day to resolve disputes. The method of resolving more serious disputes or broken relationships was their method of Peacemaking. We will share the OVK Circle Peacemaking and if time allows, a mock circle.

Reclaiming Our Ancestral Community Structure - Exercise • **Boardroom** • **Tiffany Webb** (Yup'ik), **Amber Webb** (Yup'ik),

Tish Olson (Unanga̋), **Sindy Nelson** (Unanga̋)

This is a somatic experience of the impact of colonization and the safety of our ancestral community structures. It highlights the importance of healthy relationships. It is oriented to the history of Southwest Alaska.

VISIT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON MONDAY & TUESDAY AT 8 AM-5 PM!

Check out a gathering of Indigenous artists selling their art and community partners sharing education, career, business, nonprofit and political opportunities. It is located on the 2nd and 3rd floors in the foyers.

WORKSHOPS

Tuesday, October 17 • 3:30 to 5 pm

National Native News Panel Discussion and PBS Native America Season 2 Screening • Tikahtnu Main Plenary Stage •

Antonia Gonzales (Navajo). KNBA 90.3 and PBS are presenting a sneak-peak preview of the episode spotlighting a diverse array of inspirational Indigenous stories in a respectful and rightful way. Join in this contemporary celebration of Native America, right here, right now. Participants will watch an episode followed by a panel discussion.

Birth of Civic Duty - GOTNV through Youth Ambassadors • Kahtnu 1 • Macuar Michelle Sparck (Cup'ik),

Tanginiq Tayler Higgins (Yup'ik/Dena'ina/Unangaġ)

Get Out the Native Vote works with election officials to make voting in our Native communities as accessible and culturally hospitable as possible. We realize It Takes a Village to make elections happen, and with Youth Ambassadors, we can ensure a fully staffed and responsive polling place encourages our People to improve turnout and make our votes count.

Planning for a strong future of Alaska Native languages • Kahtnu 2 • X'unei Lance Twitchell (Lingít/Haida/Yup'ik/Sami),

Yaayuk B. Alvanna-Stimpfle (Iñupiaq), Walkie Charles (Yup'ik), Annette Evans Smith (Athabaskan/Alutiiq/Yup'ik),

Kay Larson-Blair (Yup'ik/Unangaġ/Cherokee). See description on page 11.

~~**Indigenous Waters: Youth Learning from Elders in a Qasgiq** • Idluget 1, front • Valerie Tony Qip'arluk Mayaq Irussaaq Kagganaq Maangyaar (Yupik/Sup'ik), Laura Eichelberger~~

CANCELLED

~~We will enter an Indigenous space, the qasgiq (or "community hall" in Yup'ik), to listen to Alaska Native Elders' wisdom and stories about water, how knowledge around water has changed and what youth need to know about water as we move into the future. We will reflect and Elders will share what wisdom they choose to pass on to youth. Youth will gain a better understanding of Alaska Native Elders' water-related knowledge and their solutions to increase water security.~~

Salmon Cutting • Idluget #1 Back • Sáng Hl Kingwaas Anthony Christianson (Haida), Xangaláay Claude Young (Haida), Khaá T'eix'

Helene Bennett (Lingít), Góos'k' Ralph Wolfe (Lingít), Kootink Heather Douville (Lingít), Aaron Angerman (Lingít). See page 12.

Niuwalita - Qik'rtaq Sugt'stun • Idluget #2, front • Anirtuwisqaq Stevi Frets, Isuwíq Dehrich Chya, Qangyuk Natalia Schneider,

Wek Max Pyles. Learn basic conversational phrases in Kodiak Sugt'stun.

Here Today, Future Tomorrow • Idluget #2 Back • Lisa X'unyéil Worl (Lingít), Claudia Plesa, Chookan Lakrish Brady

This workshop will give youth space to think about their future, how they might get there, and who can help them along in their journey. Elders and mentors will have opportunities to share their experiences and help youth get to know their own strengths, skills, and values they can build on. Participants will also be provided Finding Your Future tools (set-up guide, question prompts, slides, example flyers and emails, etc.) to host their own dialogue in their home communities.

String Figures • Idluget #3 Front • Ket'acik David Nicolai (Yup'ik), Dachunaq Matthew Nicolai (Yup'ik)

Learn how to make Alaska Native string figures and stories behind them.

Where We're From - Poetry Writing • Idluget #3 Back • Tullek (Yupiaq, Dené), Middle Kuskowkim Youth & Elders

Guided poetry writing to celebrate our identities, lift our voices, and share our unique worlds with each other. Participants will create and share short poems during the workshop.

Remembering and Implementing Indigenous Coming of Age Practices • Tubughnenq' 3 • Doris Daychief (Cree), Deanna Daychief (Cree), Celia Daychief (Cree), Tasheena Daychief (Cree), Eva Sensmeier (Koyukon), Margaret David (Koyukon), Helena Jacobs (Koyukon), Amiah Johnson (Lingít/Koyukon)

There are times of transition during our life, such as when a girl becomes a young woman, during which the care taken during that time can impact lifelong wellbeing. Indigenous peoples recognize and celebrate these transition times and have ceremonial protocol to guide our communities and be strengthened through them. Cree Elder, Doris Daychief, and her daughters are ceremonial knowledge keepers who guide Women's Rites of Passage in their community and would like to share their experience in this workshop as we work toward remembering our Dene Coming of Age Ceremonies.

WORKSHOPS, continued

Tuesday, October 17 • 3:30 to 5 pm

Surveying Our Land with Respect • Tubughnenq' 4 • Mike Smith, Andrew Brennan, Cy Two Elk (Oglala Sioux/Koyukon), Dustin Madden, Marcus Lupie (Yup'ik)

A hands-on, interactive session with the tools, trade, and important considerations that comprise the surveying process in rural Alaska. Students will focus upon archeological, environmental, and ANCSA concerns that are a vital concern for any construction that our construction division performs in Alaskan villages.

Native Allotments and Restricted Townsite Lots • Tubughnenq' 5 • Francine Hopson, Eva Dickson, Colleen Reynolds, Brian James, Jason Omedelina

Learn about the probate process, Native Allotments and Restricted Townsite Lots. Learn what to do when your loved one passes away and the importance of having a Last Will and Testaments Learn about Veteran Native Allotments. Learn about much more, including Property Sales, Gift Deeds, Trespasses, and more.

Uswi Designs: Indigenous Business Creation • Boardroom • Uswi Madrid (Sugpiaq)

Uswi Designs is an art business that uses inspiration from nature and culture to create prints, stickers and Jewelry. Uswi, the owner of Uswi Designs would like to present on how to start a small business. Uswi will share her story, what works for her and trucks in how to get started.

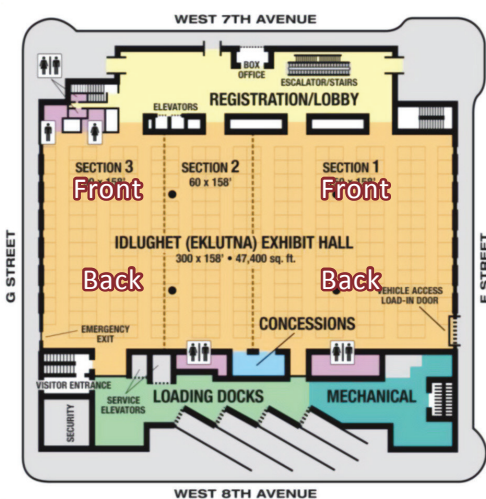
HEALING HOUSES: MEN'S, WOMEN'S, & LGBTQIA2S+

Wednesday, October 18 • 9:00 to 11:00 am

We utilize the Men's, Women's and LGBTQIA2S+ Houses to honor our peoples' distinct experiences for connecting, healing, and learning - please join the house you feel most comfortable in. Gunalchéesh to the hosts for helping to create safe spaces for each house!

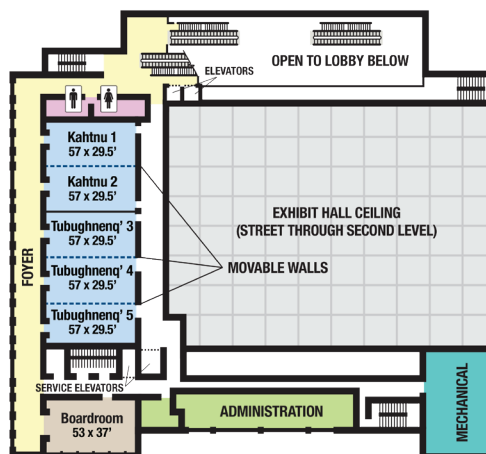
LGBTQIA2S + House • Kahtnu 1 | Men's House • Tubughnenq' 3, 4 & 5 | Women's House • Tikahtnu Main Plenary Stage

DENA'INA CENTER MAPS



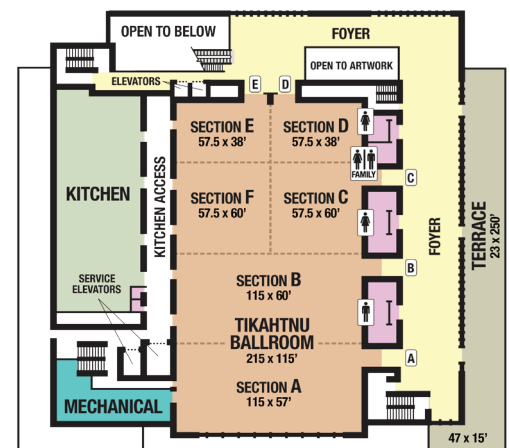
1st Floor

Regional Breakout Sessions
 Registration
 Workshops
 Section 1: Idluget 1, Front & Back
 Section 2: Idluget 2
 Section 3: Idluget, Front & Back



2nd Floor

Community Hall
 Regional Breakout Sessions
 Workshops



3rd Floor

Community Hall
 Main Plenary Convening
 Regional Breakout Sessions
 Workshops

SPONSORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Tsíná'ęę, Nt'oyaxsn, Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa, Qağaasskung, Quyana, Enaa Baasee',
AwA'ahdah, Quyanaqpak, Quyanaasinaq, Igamsiqanaghalek!
Thank you very much for supporting the 2023 Elders & Youth Conference!*

Elder Level – \$15,000 – \$24,999



**WELLS
FARGO**

Leader Level – \$10,000 – \$14,999



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At FAI we know we are responsible for carrying more than 10,000 years of ancestral knowledge into the future with rigor, humor, resilience, vigilance, and love.

Our vision: Progress for the *next* 10,000 years...

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