

Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

IMLS Enhancement Grant

Organizational Profile

The Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is the largest federally recognized tribe in Alaska with approximately 37,000 enrolled tribal citizens. Tlingit & Haida is headquartered in Juneau, Alaska, with traditional lands spanning all of the Southeast Alaska panhandle: over 43,000 square miles of island archipelago, glacial basins, and icefields. Approximately 23% of Tlingit & Haida's citizens reside in Juneau, with 62% residing across Southeast Alaska.

Tlingit & Haida is a sovereign tribe that maintains a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Tlingit & Haida's mission is to "preserve our sovereignty, enhance our economic and cultural resources, and promote self-sufficiency and self-governance for our citizens." This mission statement is based on the purposes set forth in the Tribe's Constitution; both are available on the Tribe's website. Tlingit & Haida's beginnings stem from the Jurisdictional Act of 1935 through which it sought recognition for pursuing tribal land claims in Federal Court. Those efforts brought about a settlement and the Tlingit & Haida tribal government. The Tribe's Constitution establishes two branches of government. The Tribal Assembly is the legislative and governing body of the Tribe; it is formed of Delegates elected from the Tribe's 21 Member Communities. Of the 21 communities, 18 are in Southeast Alaska, with councils also in Anchorage, Seattle, and San Francisco. The Tribal Assembly is held once a year in Juneau; more day-to-day decisions are informed by a seven-member Executive Council elected for two-year terms at the yearly Assembly and administered by the President, the Chief Executive Officer. The second branch of government is the Tribal Court, which is the judicial body of the Tribe.

Tlingit & Haida operates several departments to provide diverse services to tribal citizens in all membership communities, including Native Lands & Resources, Cultural Heritage & Education, 477 (containing temporary assistance, child support, and employment & training support), Community & Behavioral Services, Public Safety, and Self-Governance. Additionally, Tlingit & Haida manages a handful of small tribal businesses and staffs robust Human Resources, Finance, Procurement, Grants, and other organizational management departments.

This project will be carried out by Cultural Heritage & Education Division (CHE). CHE houses the following programs: Education, Youth Services, JOM, Employment & Training, Generations Southeast, Head Start, 477 Programs and Cultural Programs.

Project Justification

The Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (Tlingit & Haida) is a federally recognized tribe with more than 37,000 tribal citizens worldwide that maintains a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Tlingit & Haida headquarters is in Juneau, Alaska – a remote community that is only accessible by boat or plane in Southeast Alaska. Tlingit & Haida is a regional tribe and serves tribal citizens across our nation. A total of 8,000 tribal citizens or 22% reside in the State of Washington.

The 2022 Labor Market and Economic Report highlights the profound impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the arts, entertainment, and recreation services sector. Despite a 10% job gain in 2022, the industry remains significantly affected, with a shortfall of 4,700 jobs or 8.5% below its pre-pandemic staffing levels in February 2020. This downturn has particularly affected museums, gambling establishments, and fitness centers, all of which continue to experience reduced employment rates. This context underscores the urgency and need for targeted support and development in the arts and cultural sectors, areas integral to the well-being and economic recovery of our communities.

Furthermore, the distribution of income in Washington has remained stagnant when adjusted for household size, with the official poverty rate holding steady at 11.6%. Notably, disparities in poverty rates are stark among various demographic groups, with Native Americans facing a significantly higher rate of poverty at 24.3%, alongside African Americans and Latinos at 19.5%. This stark economic reality highlights the critical necessity for programs and initiatives aimed at supporting these vulnerable populations. Our project seeks not only to revitalize and preserve our rich cultural heritage but also to offer economic opportunities and support to our communities, especially vulnerable populations such as American Indian/Alaska Native whose hit by economic downturns and persisting inequities.

Our initiative is directly responsive to these needs, proposing an approach to strengthen the arts and cultural education sectors, provide employment and training opportunities for our tribal citizens, and enhance the socioeconomic resilience of our communities. By focusing on the revitalization of Indigenous arts and cultural education, we will create pathways out of poverty, bring elders and youth together, celebrate and preserve our unique cultural identities, and contribute to a broader economic recovery and cultural renaissance in the wake of the pandemic's impacts.

We know our region in Southeast is economically depressed, with little to no growth or employment opportunities outside of 'hub' communities such as Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka. We expect our tribal citizens in Washington to also be distressed and find it difficult for their families to make it financially. According to Justice40 all tribes are distressed, and we feel that according to the stats in both Alaska and Washington.

Tlingit & Haida's mission is "preserving our sovereignty, enhancing our economic and cultural resources, and promoting self-sufficiency and self-governance for our citizens..." This is accomplished through multiple departments, which provide a range of socioeconomic services targeting Alaska Native individuals and communities throughout Southeast Alaska, Washington, and California. Tlingit & Haida has over 8,000 tribal citizens enrolled in the State of Washington.

An initiative of the Cultural Heritage & Education Department is to concentrate and build upon the already existing library holdings of the tribe. The goal being to increase holdings as resources for our tribal citizens as we work to strengthen our languages, arts, and cultural knowledge.

It is important to Tlingit & Haida to provide adequate informational resources and access for tribal citizens to support education and enrichment efforts and cultural revitalization. It is important to Tlingit & Haida to expand access to resources because many existing resources are currently inaccessible. Many resources specific to Tlingit and Haida cultures are out of print, cost-prohibitive, or difficult to find. Tribal citizens have minimal access to or familiarity with resources that are not widely available, and yet information contained in some of these resources is invaluable and not found elsewhere. We applied for the basic library grant and plan to house

our library in this conference space of the longhouse conference room where the cultural arts will be held. There are dedicated Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples working to reverse these trends in loss of cultural arts and language, but there are many obstacles in the revitalization process, such as historical trauma, racism, financial constraints, and access to resources. Our tribal citizens who have moved from Alaska or were adopted or in the foster care system don't have as much access to classes as many in Alaska do. Additionally, the revitalization of the cultural arts in Washington faces unique obstacles related to the geographic and demographic nature of the region. The Washington office is in Lynnwood, Washington. Many tribal citizens live far away from the office. However, with limited funds and since the opening in November of 2023 we have seen with the few classes we have put on classes that are full. Since many tribal citizens must drive to the classes and must pay gas for their cars. It has been a burden to charge them a fee to attend the classes, and participation has dropped since applying class fees to the program.

In November of 2023, (Tlingit & Haida) opened a 12,250 square foot office in Lynnwood, Washington. Washington has 8200 tribal members in the state. "This is a vision come true and I am really excited that we finally have a home base in Washington," said President Peterson. "As I've said before, we are committed to removing any barriers that may keep us from meeting our citizens where they are. Centralizing access to our programs and support services is the first step toward doing that. This is just the beginning of what we have planned to better meet the needs of our tribal citizens. I see a lot more collaboration and partnerships with agencies and organizations coming from this."

There are over 20 employees based at the Lynnwood office including the Cultural Heritage & Education department. There is a longhouse space dedicated to cultural arts, language, and education activities. The Cultural Heritage & Education Department proposes to use Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Basic Grant funds to begin a new collection of informational resources and propose to place the library in the longhouse conference space to be used by Tribal members when they attend cultural arts and education classes located in Lynnwood, Washington.

The establishment of our Lynnwood office and the initiation of cultural classes are steps forward in directly responding to Goal 2 and Objective 2.2 of improving educational programs and supporting the development of comprehensive educational services. By providing these culturally relevant classes and resources, we aim to bridge the gap in educational opportunities for our tribal citizens, particularly in areas where economic disparities have limited access to such enriching experiences. This initiative represents a proactive approach to not only preserve but actively disseminate our rich cultural heritage through education.

In alignment with our commitment to Goal 3 and specifically Objective 3.2, the establishment of our Lynnwood office represents a strategic step towards removing barriers to cultural and educational resources for our tribal citizens. By enhancing our library holdings and making cultural resources more accessible, we directly address the disparities in resource availability highlighted by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community. This initiative is not just about preserving cultural artforms; it's about ensuring our people have the means to connect with their heritage, thereby strengthening our community's resilience against socio-economic challenges.

Tlingit & Haida has a solid track record with well-established support systems, and successfully manages more than 80 grants, as well as federal compacts, in support of more than 40 programs. Tlingit & Haida has proven itself to be a capable self-governing, management and service-driven organization. Tlingit & Haida's mission is to "preserve our sovereignty, enhance our economic and cultural resources, and promote self-sufficiency and self-governance for our citizens." Tlingit & Haida accomplishes this through various branches and departments, which provide a range of socioeconomic services targeting individuals and communities in the Southeast Alaska region but has recently branched to other areas such as Anchorage, Sitka, Seattle, and San Francisco. This has been successfully accomplished with the mission of meeting the tribal citizens where they are at. As a service provider, Tlingit & Haida has a solid track record with well-established support systems.

In 2014, 2015, and 2017 respectively, Tlingit & Haida passed resolutions that established a language program, a language immersion nest, tribal schools and native language instruction support, and a Cultural Heritage & Education department. Since the creation of the Cultural Heritage & Education department it has grown substantially along with expanding more recently into other states. The main hub of CHE is in Juneau, Alaska and is

housed in the tribally owned Generations Southeast building, a State of Alaska authorized institution that provides opportunities for training and career advancement through postsecondary academic and vocational education and cultural classes.

Cultural Heritage & Education department staff are charged with a commitment to help reverse language shift and revitalize Tlingit & Haida cultural arts in the name of sovereignty, cultural resources, and traditional values. There are many artforms that have almost endured extinction. One example of this is the Ravenstail weaving, Cedar bark weaving, and Spruce root weaving. Weaving was a major artform of the people of Southeast. It was used to make things for use of cooking, clothing or baskets for collecting foods in the forest, the Ravenstail robes and Spruce Root hats were used for ceremonial potlatches. The artistry of the ancient art form and designs are exquisite. The opportunity for tribal citizens to continue the traditional art of their cultural background is vital to overall wellbeing. It is important that we keep our traditions of weaving alive. Our Master teacher will help teach weaving with Ravenstail and Cedar Bark, but we do not have Spruce roots available in Washington.

For our past digitizing project funded in 2020 Tlingit & Haida conducted an assessment to identify the priority and need for an Indigenous language archive project. Staff participated in the Alaska Native Language Summit, hosted by the Ketchikan Indian Community's Language Program in December 2019, as well as the Voices of Our Ancestors Language Summit, hosted by Sealaska Heritage Institute and Goldbelt Heritage Foundation in 2018. Additionally, Tlingit & Haida staff have hosted meetings with organizations active in Indigenous language revitalization efforts including The Haayk Foundation and Xántsii Náay, the Xaad Kíl language immersion nest team in March, April, and May of 2020, and meet with the University of Alaska Southeast Alaska Native Languages and Studies program routinely.

Project Work Plan

We propose our proposal to fit under Goal 3: Advance Collections Stewardship and Access Objective: Objective 3.2: Promote access to museum and library collections for our tribal citizens in Lynnwood, Washington. Goal 2: Improve educational programs related to specific topics and content areas of interest to library patrons and community-based users. Objective 2.2: Support the development and implementation of classes, events, teaching tools, resources, and other educational services.

Tlingit & Haida respectfully requests a \$150,000 grant from the Institute of Library and Museum Services (IMLS) Enhancement grant to offer cultural classes to tribal citizens, during the granting period of September 01, 2024, to August 31, 2026. The project would fund activities in accordance with Title 20 Section 9141 of the United States' Code, by improving the quality of and access to the tribe's library and language learning resources.

Limited cultural classes have been offered from the Lynnwood office in Washington since the office opened in November 2023. The classes were offered to tribal citizens to provide a connection to their cultural heritage which is vital to maintain their mental well-being, physical health, and social bonds. Many Tlingit and Haida tribal members living in Washington are descendants of those who were removed from Alaska, or their biological families. The value the classes bring to our citizens is difficult to measure; however, it is profound, and they express their appreciation frequently. Due to limited funding, mostly funded by ARPA dollars, we are seeking other grant sources and fundraising to support these classes. These classes have been very well received and each class offered fills up very quickly.

Our project director for this project is **Vicki Soboleff**, Cultural Heritage Manager of Lynnwood, Washington and will be responsible for implementation of this grant. *“My grandmother, Vesta Johnson from Hydaburg, taught me to be helpful; to be respectful of our elders, culture, nature, and subsistence food. She said: ‘If you see someone struggling; help them. Don’t stand by and watch.’ I embrace this philosophy.”*

Vicki Soboleff is an accounting and finance professional who was born in Seattle, Washington, and raised in Ketchikan. She is the cultural manager for Tlingit & Haida. From 2019-2023 she was the grants coordinator for The Tulalip Tribes in Tulalip, Washington, overseeing more than \$25 million in grants. She has more than 20 years' experience in finance and accounting, including 13 years with Sealaska corporation, first as managing accountant and then as corporate controller. She is a director of the board for Haida Corporation, a Director of Sealaska Corporation, and the Chair of the Sealaska Heritage Institute Board of Trustees.

Vicki is an artist, performer, mentor and teacher who has been involved in a variety of traditional arts and youth mentorship programs throughout her life. She founded the Juneau-based youth dance group *Lda Kut Naax Sati Yatx'i* (All Nations' Children in Lingít) in 1995. The group still exists today, and she remains an advisor to the program. After moving from Alaska to Washington state in 2017, she continued her outreach to youth through the Washington chapter of Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, forming another youth dance group called *Xaat'áay 'Wáadluwaan Gaagáay* (All Nations' Children in *Xaad kíl*). Vicki began studying cultural activities and Native languages as a youth in Ketchikan, Alaska. She received instruction from Nora and Robert Cogo in Haida language, world-renowned Master Weaver Selina Peratrovich in Haida basketry, Julia Fawcett in moccasin making, and Beatrice Starkweather in traditional beadwork. Her Haida grandmother, Vesta Johnson, also taught Haida language, songs and dance, and button-blanket making. Vicki later completed Haida basketry classes with world-renowned Master Weaver Dolores Churchill (1986-1987) and Janice Criswell (2011), Ravenstail weaving with Cheryl Samuel (1988-1989), and Kay Parker (1989-present), a Tlingit language course with Ken Austin (1988-1989), and a Haida language course with Jordan Lachler (2016).

In 2016 Vicki received the State of Alaska Governor's Award in the Arts (Margaret Nick Cooke Award) from the Alaska State Council on the Arts and the Alaska Humanities Forum. In 2019 Vicki received the President's Everyday Hero Award from Tlingit & Haida for her work as a culture bearer.

Vicki is Haida, Yak'Laanas (Raven/Double Fin Killerwhale) of the Brown Bear House; and Tlingit (adopted) Kiks.adi (Raven/Frog) of the Tinaa Hit (Copper Shield House) and the Gaagaan Hit (Sun House). Her Haida names are Hiilunjaat and Tl'aakahlwaas and her Tlingit names are Shx'aasti and Kuk'ak.

- 1) Establish and refine cultural arts programs available through Tlingit & Haida Lynnwood, Washington offices.
 - a. Obtain necessary consultant/instructors, materials, and teaching resources/materials, to host the six classes (minimum) per year for two years.
 - b. Establish a consistent, regular schedule of classes that will offer a wide range of traditional artforms.
 - c. Establish a system that will evaluate and track results and long-term benefits for tribal citizens. Pre and Post Surveys will be given to track success. Along with sign in sheets to track attendance.
- 2) Increase preservation of cultural arts and access to mentor teachers to tribal citizens in Washington
 - a. Solicit and accept receipt of donations of materials/resources and in-kind and contractual support from key stakeholder organizations and interested parties.
 - b. Identify mentor teachers to develop tribal citizens who can further teach others the cultural arts.
 - c. Provide time and resources to teach the mentor teachers the specific artforms that will be further taught to other tribal citizens to ensure preservation and continuation of the traditional artforms.
- 3) Provide tools and capacity for tribal citizens and community members engaged in cultural arts revitalization efforts.
 - a. A cultural workspace that provides the tools, resources and teachers will increase the cultural knowledge of the over 8,000 tribal citizens that live in Washington. The opportunity to learn traditional artforms and have the capacity to transfer that knowledge to tribal descendants, as was traditionally done by our people throughout history, is vital.

In the spirit of **Goal 2 and Objective 2.2**, our project design includes a comprehensive educational program that encompasses classes, events, and the development of teaching tools and resources. Our Cultural Heritage & Education Department is at the forefront of implementing this strategy, leveraging the new library space in our Lynnwood office to host these vital cultural classes. Through this, we will support the development and

implementation of educational services that cater specifically to the needs and interests of our community members, ensuring that our educational offerings are both accessible and impactful.

As part of our work plan to meet **Objective 3.2**, we will utilize funds if awarded the IMLS Basic Grant or internal funds to significantly expand the accessibility of museum and library collections to our tribal citizens in Lynnwood, Washington. This involves curating a diverse collection that reflects the rich heritage of Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples and leveraging technology to make these resources available. Our approach includes digital archiving of critical resources, which are currently out of print or difficult to find, thereby preserving them for future generations and making them widely accessible to our community members, regardless of their geographic location.

Tlingit & Haida would establish and refine cultural heritage arts programs available to tribal citizens and community members. The Cultural Heritage Manager for Lynnwood, Washington will be responsible for coordination and planning of all cultural heritage arts classes for the two-year project. The Cultural Heritage manager will find qualified artists to hire contractually to teach the classes. Each class has a different time period and also has different materials that will be needed. Each class can range from two days to a month long depending on the project. For example, the Octopus Bag requires both sewing and beadwork. The beadwork can take a longer period to finish. However, a cedar basket class may be finished in a two-day period. ***By the end of month 24***, a minimum total of ***12 cultural arts classes will be held*** at the Lynnwood, Washington longhouse to tribal citizens. The classes will be based around weaving in different materials, making regalia or at.oow, learning basic formline design techniques, or earrings for song & dance, and/or other mediums dependent on consultants available to the Cultural Heritage Manager to hire consultant and put on to teach the class.

The Lynnwood, Washington Indigenous Cultural Arts project goal would be to increase access to cultural learning resources through use of best practices from our new library space. And access to Cultural Classes that will meet the key stakeholder needs of our Washington tribal citizens. This project has three primary objectives, which each have three associated main activities, indicated here and further described below:

Communications Plan

Tlingit & Haida would conduct an ambition communication plan during the Lynnwood, Washington Cultural Arts project. As a regional tribe, Tlingit & Haida citizens are spread throughout Alaska, Washington and beyond; this project would provide outreach to more than 8,000 (22%) of the total 37,000 tribal citizens and targeted outreach to Washington tribal citizens.

The Communication Plan would include outreach through the Tlingit & Haida website (www.ccthita.org) and social media sites, which include Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter and are well-maintained, highly active, and include followers numbering in the tens of thousands. The plan would also include outreach through the Tlingit & Haida quarterly newsletter published online and provided through mail or email to tribal citizens. The Communication Plan would employ publications, surveys, opportunities to provide written or in-person comments, and in- person or virtual meetings to engage, assess, and evaluate the target audience and interested parties throughout the project period.

Project Results

The Cultural Heritage Manager for Lynnwood, Washington noticed that not as many signed up once they started charging a monetary fee (ranging from \$25 to \$150) to attend the class. The limited classes were put on with limited funds in partnership with Goldbelt Heritage and Tlingit & Haida. Much of the funding came from ARPA funds that have been depleted. We would very much like to build a Cultural Arts program in Washington as it would help our tribal citizens to learn a traditional artform that is new to them. They could use it to make their own family regalia or at.oow, art pieces or potentially move into having another skillset to open their own small business with selling their creations.

In spite of these challenges, there are currently Master Artists of Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian who are willing to teach our students their artform. Indigenous artists consulting with Tlingit & Haida report support to host classes can be difficult to find or obtain. Now that there is office space dedicated to language and culture revitalization and a

staff Cultural Heritage Manager dedicated to this region, there is space that is accessible and can be used to host classes for this region.

In the spirit of our ongoing commitment to the preserving the cultural vitality of our tribe, we have conducted extensive community consultations, similar to our previous language revitalization efforts, to understand the specific needs and interests in cultural arts in our citizens. Our Executive Council meets monthly and has a representative from Washington that sits on the Executive Council. The Washington member has reported that more services need to be delivered to the Washington area to serve the 8,000 tribal citizens that reside there. Our President Richard “Chalyee Eesh” Peterson has charged all of the staff to Tlingit & Haida to meet the tribal citizens where they are at. With that commitment came the opening of the Lynnwood office. From engagement from the Community Navigators program, community meetings, hearing from village members who sit on the Assembly, we have identified a strong desire for programs that not only teach traditional artforms but also join elders and young adults and youth together to preserve our beautiful cultural heritage.

The project would align with the IMLS Agency-Level Goals described in the IMLS Strategic Plan, *Transforming Communities* to increase public access to information, ideas, and networks and developing tools, technology, and training to enable discovery and use of language learning resources for Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian languages. This project would align with the IMLS Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant project category of 3. This project would also align with the IMLS Long-Term Goal of supporting exemplary stewardship of museum and library collections and promoting the use of technology to facilitate discovery of knowledge and cultural heritage (IMLS Strategic Plan 2012–2016).

Community Engagement and Training: Our approach to community engagement and training in cultural arts will be multi-faceted, offering a range of programs that cater to different age groups, skill levels, and interests. From workshops on traditional weaving and carving to classes on contemporary Indigenous art forms, we plan to foster a communal learning environment where knowledge is shared and celebrated. Volunteers and master artists will lead these sessions, emphasizing hands-on learning and intergenerational dialogue.

With over 8,000 tribal citizens residing in Washington, the Central Council Tlingit and Haida's Lynnwood offices are a beacon of cultural preservation and education. Within these offices lies a significant space known as the Longhouse, poised to become a central hub for cultural enrichment if supported by the enhancement grant. This area is earmarked for an array of activities including classes, training, song and dance, and special events, each designed to foster a deep connection with traditional arts and practices.

Central Council Tlingit and Haida is passionate about the power of cultural heritage to heal and unite. By offering cultural arts classes—such as Ravenstail weaving, cedar bark weaving, and Button robes, each spanning 2-3 weeks and led by master artists—the project aims to bridge generations, strengthen community ties, and build healthy protective factors. These classes are not only about learning skills but are a gateway to understanding the profound respect for nature and sustainable practices integral to tribal traditions. From the careful harvesting of cedar bark to the spiritual gratitude expressed towards resources used, participants are learning some of the deeper parts of the culture with a sense of responsibility towards the land that has sustained their ancestors.

Art is a vital thread in the fabric of Tlingit and Haida culture, with many art forms teetering on the brink of extinction. The revival and teaching of nearly lost arts like Ravenstail weaving—traditionally made from goat's hair, now often replaced with wool—are critical components of these classes. Vicki Soboleff, the Cultural Heritage Manager at the Lynnwood site and a weaver herself, is at the forefront of these efforts. She not only imparts weaving skills but also fosters connections among tribal citizens, many of whom seek to reconnect with their heritage, whether they were adopted out or have moved from Alaska. These connections facilitate healing and a deeper understanding of one's identity.

Learning these traditional art forms enables tribal citizens to create pieces for their regalia, used in ceremonies or song and dance, or to craft items for sale, further embedding their cultural practices into their daily lives. Moreover, the regalia, once made, becomes clan property, known as *at.oow*, symbolizing a physical manifestation of clan identity and heritage.

Tlingit & Haida has also successfully partnered with Sealaska Heritage Institute on a variety of efforts that support Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian culture revitalization efforts, most recently agreeing to place interns from SHI's Haa Yoo X'atangi Deiyi: Our Language Pathway scholarship program, in the tribe's language immersion nest. Tlingit & Haida would provide opportunities for collaboration with SHI, to address access protocols, data needs, and other concerns related to providing language learning resources in a Southeast Alaska Indigenous Language Digital Archive.

The Cultural Arts will tie in with all library projects as many of our artifacts are housed in many museums across the nation. When our Master Artists are able to view the artistry from the past it helps them learn about their artform on a different level. It is important to look at the past pieces to learn more. Some of our artifacts or At. Oow are housed in collections at the Juneau Public Library system, Alaska State Museum and Archives, Juneau Douglas City Museum, and University of Alaska Southeast; Tlingit & Haida staff have cultivated relationships with staff at these institutions, to aid in finding and securing pertinent digital content for the Southeast Alaska Indigenous Language Digital Archive. Staff also conducted informal outreach with staff at the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe and Goldbelt Heritage Foundation, who indicated a desire to share resources regarding language, artifacts, provided cultural sensitivity and access wishes could be addressed.

This proposal seeks to secure funding to realize the vision of the Longhouse as a vibrant center for cultural education and practice, house a small library that will have books about the artforms and more importantly ensuring the preservation and continuation of invaluable traditional art forms and practices. Through this initiative, the Central Council Tlingit and Haida would like the opportunity not only to educate but to heal and strengthen the bonds within the community, honoring their ancestors while laying a resilient foundation for future generations.

Staff would work with the communications staff of Tlingit & Haida to get the word out about the classes to ensure that the classes are full. Staff will also continue to work with Grants & Resources staff to find funding sources to help fund the cultural arts. There are excellent funds, but we are finding they only fund Washington tribes. And another will possibly fund after being established in Washington for three years. It is our hope to secure solid funding for this program to thrive. The IMLS enhancement will help provide the much-needed support to start to formalize our process of offering these types of programs in Washington.

As we project the outcomes of our educational programs, we align with the objectives set forth under Goal 2, particularly Objective 2.2, aiming to demonstrate a significant improvement in the educational engagement of our community members. The anticipated results include increased participation in cultural classes, enhanced access to educational resources through our library collections, and positive feedback on the newly developed teaching tools and resources. These outcomes will not only reflect our commitment to improving educational programs but also highlight the success of implementing tailored educational services designed to meet the specific needs of our tribal citizens and community-based users.

The anticipated results of our project are deeply aligned with the goals of advancing collections stewardship and enhancing access. By the end of the grant period, we expect to have significantly reduced the gaps in access to cultural knowledge and resources for our tribal citizens in Washington. Success in this area means not just increased attendance at cultural classes and events, but also a measurable increase in engagement with our online resources and digital archives. This success directly contributes to the preservation of our languages and arts, fostering a stronger sense of identity and community among our people, in line with Objective 3.2's focus on promoting access to museum and library collections.

In accordance with IMLS funding guidance, Tlingit & Haida did not complete the Digital Product Form, as the project does not fund development of digital content and resources.

The intended goal of the Lynnwood, Washington Cultural Arts project is to increase access to cultural learning opportunities. The direct impact anticipated is the establishment of a formalized Cultural Heritage department that offers regular cultural classes like what happens in Alaska. Our President and Executive Council believe all tribal citizens should have access to the same programs and services. We expect this will help impact our tribal citizens in the Washington area, their extended family members, and establish our department in Washington to

hopefully have access to more funding opportunities and partnerships.

Additional intended outcomes for target audience members are anticipated to be an increase in understanding of our Haa Shagoon our way of life and culture, overall wellness for our tribal citizens as they learn more about their own culture. Progress toward achieving goals and outcomes would be assessed using surveys that contain performance measure indicator statements and by examining respondent data. The following are examples of performance measure indicator statements that may be used to determine the progress and impact of the project.

Sustainability

We are new to Washington and are creating partnerships and reaching out to potential funders. We have reached out to ArtsWa whose last round was for only the 21 tribes in Washington. However, their Cultural Grants person said there will be more future funding that we may qualify for. We also reached out to ArtsFund who requires that we be established in Washington for three years before we can qualify for their funding. We will continue to fundraise and look forward to creating partnerships with ArtsWa and ArtsFund in Washington and will continue to fundraise with other foundations. We have discussed hosting an annual Arts Gala to raise funding for their programs. We do have access to some amazing Master Artists who would more than likely be willing to donate a piece of their artwork.

The Lynnwood, Washington Cultural Arts project sustainability would be accomplished through an increase in capacity and institutional knowledge of tribal citizens carrying the artforms forward. The project will involve hiring contractual staff to teach the classes, continuous refinement of partnerships, purchasing of supplies, and the overall startup of the cultural heritage department in Lynnwood to provide these classes into the future. Our proposed cultural arts program is a natural expansion of our commitment to enhancing our tribal citizens' knowledge and skills in traditional arts, ensuring that our cultural heritage thrives for generations to come. Our tribal citizens are our investment in our sustainability plan. When each person learns the traditional artforms it ensures that artform lives on another lifetime and if passed to the next generation lives on longer than one lifetime.

