

CONTRACT POSITION: Carving Assistant**INFORMATION**

Department:	Art
Location of Work:	Sitka
Application Deadline:	July 1, 2025

OVERVIEW OF TASK/WORK

The Tlingit Totem Carving Assistant will work closely with a Master Carver to support the creation of a traditional totem pole. This position involves hands-on woodworking, carving, finishing, and assisting with various aspects of the totem's design and production. The assistant will also have opportunities to learn traditional Tlingit carving techniques, cultural narratives, and the significance of totem poles in Indigenous storytelling and community representation.

SCOPE OF WORK**Key Responsibilities:**

- Assist in carving and shaping the totem pole under the guidance of the Lead Carver.
- Prepare and maintain tools, ensuring they remain sharp and functional.
- Detailed carving and adzing of sections as needed.
- Help prepare wood, including selecting, moving, and milling materials.
- Participate in painting and finishing the totem pole according to traditional practices.
- Maintain a clean and organized workspace.
- Assist with lifting, securing, and maneuvering large pieces of wood safely.
- Understand cultural protocols associated with creating and presenting the totem pole.
- Engage with community members, students, or visitors to share knowledge about the carving process when appropriate.

REQUIRED SKILLS

- Prior experience in woodworking, carving, or traditional Indigenous art is preferred.

- Willingness to learn and respect traditional Tlingit artistic and cultural practices.
- Ability to work with hand tools and power tools safely.
- Strong attention to detail and patience for intricate craftsmanship.
- Physical ability to lift, move, and work with large wooden structures.
- A collaborative attitude and ability to take direction well.
- Commitment to cultural integrity and respectful representation of Indigenous traditions.

PROJECT/CONTRACTOR TIMELINE

This is a four-month commitment starting August 1, 2025 and ending December 1, 2025. Maximum number of work hours is 100.

NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE

- Knowledge of Tlingit art, history, and carving traditions.
- Experience working in an artistic or community-driven environment.
- Familiarity with wood finishing techniques, such as staining and sealing.

To Apply: Submit an interest form at this link: [Contractor Interest Form](#)

For this contract position, please make sure to include the following information in your application: estimated rate of services, outline of your experience as it relates to this work, let us know when you are available for this work.

If you have any questions regarding this contract position, please contact Crystal Cudworth, Art Program Manager, crystal.cudworth@sealaska.com

