



CONTRACT POSITION: Alaska Native Mixed Media Artist

INFORMATION

Department:	Education Language, Literacy, & Professional Development
Location of Work:	Sealaska Heritage Institute
Application Deadline:	This posting can be posted as early as next Monday and taken down December 31st, Applications will be accepted and processed on a rolling basis until Dec. 31st

OVERVIEW OF TASK/WORK

Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) is seeking an Alaska Native mixed-media artist who can arrange, photograph, and edit spreads and assemblages of cultural themes for a children's search-and-find activity book. This children's book will provide Lingít (Tlingit), Xaad Kíl (Haida), and Sm'alg̱yax (Tsimshian) language learners with image and vocabulary matching resources based in high quality, culturally appropriate assemblages as designed and arranged by a Native Artist who will lead, consult, and advise on the appropriateness of imagery used children's book. This project is focused on language resource creation and will serve as a print and digital language learning tool developed with the guidance of speakers in Xaad Kíl, Sm'alg̱yax, and Lingít to draft the narrative, which will guide the design of each spread.

Sealaska Heritage Institutes language program, Our Ancestors' Echoes, aims to build capacity and support heritage language learners through the development of resources in the Lingít (Tlingit), Xaad Kíl (Haida), and Sm'alg̱yax (Tsimshian) languages that showcase Native art, design, and traditional and historical artifacts. The ideal candidate will be a respected professional in Alaska Native art and design with experience working with traditional materials who retains specialized cultural knowledge as well as a strong desire to support Indigenous language revitalization.

SCOPE OF WORK

Lead the assembly and production of 15 mixed media art displays to support the development of a children's search-and-find activity book in spring of 2026.

Serve as the project lead for an intensive children's book project focusing on connecting language terminology for Lingít (Tlingit), Xaad Kíl (Haida), and Sm'alg̱yax (Tsimshian) southeast Alaskan languages to cultural themes and traditional items

assembled into 15 cultural themes or spreads.

Assemble materials and traditional objects into themed collages for search-and-find activities that will be adaptable to different language learning levels.

Work in collaboration with Lingít (Tlingit), X̱aad Kíl (Haida), and Sm'alg̱ax (Tsimshian) language teachers on appropriate placement and arrangement of objects and items in relation to correct grammar.

Maintain regular communication with the Client and designated SHI staff regarding project updates.

Oversee the development and delivery of final, high-quality arrangements to be photographed at the completion of the each spread throughout contract, on a schedule as agreed with and supported by a photographer designated by Client.

REQUIRED SKILLS

Experience with Indigenous Projects – Familiarity with language and culture revitalization and educational material development.

Graphic Design Skills – Ability to create polished layouts, text placement, and visually engaging spreads beyond photography.

Set Construction or Prop Sourcing – Skilled at building, sourcing, or styling materials to authentically represent cultural items.

Storyboarding & Concept Development – Ability to visualize and plan spreads in advance based on narrative themes.

Photography & Composition

Experience capturing high-quality, well-lit, and visually compelling images suitable for print.

Understanding of visual storytelling and framing for complex spreads.
Set Arrangement & Styling

Ability to arrange objects and scenes to create engaging, detailed spreads aligned with cultural themes.

Strong attention to detail for organizing items so they are visually balanced and intuitive for learners.

Photo Editing & Digital Production



Proficiency with editing software such as Adobe Photoshop or Lightroom for color correction, image enhancement, and retouching.

Familiarity with layout and design tools like Adobe InDesign or Illustrator is highly preferred for working on multi-image spreads.

Cultural Sensitivity & Appropriateness

Deep understanding of working respectfully with Alaska Native cultures, especially within the contexts of Xaad Kíl, Sm'algyax, and Lingít communities.

Ability to incorporate input from Elders, speakers, and cultural advisors into visual decisions.

Collaboration & Communication

Comfortable working closely with writers, language speakers, and project staff to ensure each spread aligns with the narrative and cultural priorities.

Flexibility to adjust creative decisions based on team feedback and language speaker input.

PROJECT/CONTRACTOR TIMELINE

This contract will begin in January of 2026 and continue through May 31st.

NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE

An ideal contractor (or team of contractors) would bring:

A strong visual storytelling background

High proficiency in photography and editing

Experience working collaboratively in culturally sensitive projects

The ability to adapt creatively based on feedback from speakers and Elders

A passion for language revitalization and cultural preservation

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: outline of your experience as it relates to this work, a short statement describing your interest in this role, let us know when you are available for this work, a portfolio of artwork.



If you have any questions regarding this contract position, please contact Leah Urbanski
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