



SITKA FINE ARTS CAMP

ALASKA ARTS SOUTHEAST

A CORNERSTONE FOR THE ARTS
2014 ANNUAL REPORT





A Letter from Roger

First, I would like to thank all our supporters: teachers, staff, donors, and volunteers who have helped us this year. Without your support we are nothing. It has been an extraordinary year. This summer was our 39th season with over 700 students participating. Watching relationships grow, self-esteem and confidence build, and students explore and express through the arts is a joy; I feel thankful and humble to be part of this work. I wish and invite every supporter to have the opportunity to visit a class or attend a final performance. It is a magical experience.

This year, I have been thinking a lot about giving and teaching. A former student of mine thanked me for teaching him. I told him that I have been lucky to get to teach and that no matter how much I try to give to a student I always get back more than I can give. Some days with the long hours of Camp, it is easy for us to forget, but at the end of Camp there are few things as inspiring as seeing our students share what they have learned and experienced. Sitting at a campfire at the end of the summer with an exhausted group of staff members, I would expect the conversation to be about moving on. Instead, the conversations turned animated about the students and how inspiring they are to work with. Our staff of teachers, administrators, and counselors love working for our students, and I feel grateful for a year that can end with people looking forward to our new work in the fall or to returning again next summer.

We have passed the three-year mark of revitalizing the former Sheldon Jackson Campus. Having a permanent home for the Camp has been transforming. We have expanded our programs, offering more camps than ever before in the summer and increasing the number of students served by thirty percent. We also are able to continue our work year round. During the school year, 280 students participated in our after school arts program which included visual art, theater, dance, and music classes. The Campus has become a center for community activity.

One of our valuable programs is the Hames Center. Driven by the impressive volunteer work of Brant Brantman and Cindy Edwards and their team, the Hames Center this year, passed the 700 member mark—over 10% of Sitka belongs to the Fitness Center. That is an impressive amount of endorphins that has been added to raise Sitka's Happiness Index.

The Campus also includes an impressive number of socially valuable organizations that we feel fortunate to have partnerships with and share space with: the Sheldon Jackson Museum, the Sitka Summer Music Festival, Sitka Tribe-Tlingit/Haida Headstart, the Sitka Sound Science Center, the Island Institute, Yoga Union, Sitka Bible Baptist Church, 3 to 5 Preschool, the Greater Sitka Arts Council, Paths Across the Pacific, The Foraker Group, Youth Advocates, Sheldon Jackson Day Care, and now the Sitka Public Library. In addition, many other groups use the Campus to host fantastic community events like the Seafood Festival, the Health Fair, the Wild Foods Potluck, or for Fourth of July races.

The enthusiastic work of over 1500 volunteers and our generous donors has taken the boards off the windows and reopened the Campus doors to the community! Thank you for your support as we continue this journey.

Mission

To build community in Alaska by providing opportunities in arts, culture, and recreation in an inclusive, educational, and inspirational environment.

Guiding Principles

Community

Provide a haven for the community to connect with the arts regardless of demographics or experience.

Education

Committed to diverse, dynamic and inspiring arts programs and education throughout the year to promote lifelong learning and creativity.

Partnerships

Dedicated to forming and maintaining important partnerships and collaborations throughout the region and beyond.

Volunteers

Preserve and strengthen the dedicated volunteers who have made our campus a reality.



At a Glance . . .

Sitka Fine Arts Camps:

- Adult Camp
- Elementary Camp
- Circus Camp
- Strings Workshop
- Brass & Percussion Workshop
- Choral Workshop
- Middle School Camp
- High School Camp
- Musical Theater Camp

Programs:

After School Art

- 45 classes
- 280 students ranging in age from pre-school to adult

Performing Arts Series

- Michael Mao Dance Company
- Holiday Brass Concert
- Nicholas King · Piano
- Los Angeles Children's Chorus
- Jazz on the Waterfront
- Dee Daniels & the Native Jazz Trio
- Pamyua

Artist Residencies

- Michael Mao Dance Company
- Nicholas King · Piano
- Gwynne Kuhner Brown · Musicology

Artists in the Schools

- Susan Michaels · Dance
- Frances Donohoe · Dance
- Javier Barboza · Animation
- Raphael Shapiro · Theater

Hames Center

Historic Restoration Internship

Young Performers Theater

- The Adventures of Beatrix Potter and Her Friends*
- 32 participants aged 7-18

Partners:

- Alaska State Museum
- Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum
- Greater Sitka Arts Council
- Island Institute
- Raven Radio
- Southeast Alaska Independent Living
- Sitka Performing Arts Center
- Sitka Sound Science Center
- Sitka Summer Music Festival
- Sitka Tribe of Alaska

Partner Programs:

- Dee Daniels Vocal Jazz Workshop
- Native Jazz Workshop
- Sitka Fellows Program
- Sitka Fest
- TEDx Sitka



Supporting Year-Round Creativity

Artists in the Schools

Every year, AlaskaArts Southeast partners with the schools in Sitka by bringing professional artists into Sitka's schools. This year featured pianist Nicholas King who worked with the pre-school, Elementary and Middle School students. He brought his music to the entire community by performing at the public library, the local Pioneer Home extended care facility and Sitka Community Hospital. In addition, the Michael Mao Dance Company collaborated with the schools through class presentations and school assemblies, and provided public dance workshops for the entire community. Musicologist Gwynne Kuhner Brown offered both community and classroom presentations during her stay in Sitka.

Alaska Arts Southeast was thrilled to offer two-week artist residencies to four outstanding artists this year, providing students in the Sitka School District with in-depth exposure to animation, theater and dance. Animator Javier Barboza captivated the students at Blatchley Middle School by exposing them to the magic of animation while Raphael Shapiro worked with students on theatrical presentations. Susan Michaels and Frances Donohoe brought dance and creative movement to students at Keet Gooshi Heen and Baranof Elementary schools.

After School Arts

Our After School Art program continues to provide opportunities in the arts for all ages throughout the year. This year, 280 students ranging in age from pre-school to adult participated in 45 classes offered from September to May. Courses included photography, drawing at the Sitka Sound Science Center, ceramics, Celtic dance, music recording sessions, ballet for seniors, symbolic animal painting and book illustration among others.

Young Performers Theater Program

Alaska Arts Southeast announced a new program for students aged 7-18 interested in exploring theater arts and gaining experience on the stage. Rehearsals of *The Adventures of Beatrix Potter* took place on the Sheldon Jackson campus. Final performances were held for the students of Baranof Elementary School and for the general public in the beautifully restored Odess Theater in Allen Hall.



Sitka Fine Arts Camp was founded in 1973 as an initiative of the Sheldon Jackson College faculty. The Camp was created to provide exposure and training in a wide variety of the arts to Alaskan youth. Participants came from Sitka and from rural villages throughout Alaska where school art programs were less available. For many of our rural students, this was their first exposure to professional artists. Building from its original mission, Sitka Fine Arts Camp has become a nationally acclaimed program that has served generations of aspiring artists of all skill levels.

In our 39th season, Sitka Fine Arts Camp welcomed 726 creative writers, dancers, actors, musicians and visual artists from around the world. They came together from 38 Alaskan communities, 28 states, and 4 countries to learn and create, participating in a total of 9 camps over the course of the summer. This year 104 students received \$55,485 in financial aid.



“I learned more in my two weeks here than I do the rest of the year. I’ve grown immensely as an artist and every day I learn to love myself a little more.” — Student

Sitka Fine Arts Camp

Elementary Camp started the summer season with 116 students, grades kindergarten through 5, participating in theater, music, ceramics, painting, drawing and animation.

Circus Camp was offered again this year to students in grades 3-6. Forty students became juggling clowns, acrobatic tigers and ringmasters culminating in a grand circus performance for the entire community.

This year, we expanded our camps to include a one-week **Choral Workshop**, a **Brass & Percussion Workshop** and a **Strings Workshop**. Collaboration with the Sitka Summer Music Festival continues in order to provide a quality foundation and inspiration for beginning string players.

One highlight of the Fine Arts Camp season is the **Adult Camp**, a one-week camp that provides adults with new artistic experiences and the opportunity to learn from outstanding artists and educators from around the country. Many adults traveled to Sitka with their children this year, both now able to attend Fine Arts Camp.

The two week 2014 **Middle School Camp** was attended by 231 students who were immersed in a total of 75 classes. Students were able to continue with art they were familiar with while exploring new areas of interest. Options included courses in Alaska Native Arts, theater, creative writing, visual arts, dance, music and digital arts.

High School Camp offered 82 equally diverse classes this year. Students were able to focus for two weeks on art forms they were passionate about, working with gifted instructors and like-minded students. Some of the 213 students were experiencing camp for the first time while others came back with enthusiasm to further their talents and friendships.

In our two-week **Musical Theater Camp**, the play *Children of Eden* was performed. Students were able to work with professional artists in a pre-professional training program for young artists. This intensive camp allowed students to focus on Musical Theater Performance, Instrumental Music Performance or Technical Theater Production. The camp finale included three performances of the show for the community held in the beautiful Sitka Performing Arts Center.



“As a performing teaching artist, the evening Art Shares make this camp incredibly unique. There is something magical that happens when your students get to see you hold yourself to the standards you hold them to in class. To be able to take risks as a teacher gives student permission to take bigger leaps in class, to be more vulnerable and brave in their own artistic journey.” — Faculty



Public Art Shares continue to be Sitka Fine Arts Camp’s nightly inspiration for the community, the students and the faculty. Held in the evenings throughout both Middle and High School Camp, the performances initially showcase the talents of faculty and counselors—amazing the students while creating a safe and appreciative environment to share a variety of art forms. Faculty and counselors collaborate and encourage each other, setting the tone for the final evenings when the students take the stage. This year’s 23 Art Shares initially featured the work of our 58 professional artist faculty, 22 counselors and several year-round staff and culminated in several nights of final performances by the almost 500 students attending the Middle School and High School camps.



Workshops

Alaska Arts Southeast was delighted to welcome back the **Dee Daniels Vocal Jazz Workshop** this year. Renowned Jazz vocalist Dee Daniels presented a weeklong workshop for students of all ages. Covering vocal technique, improvisation, theory, storytelling, stage presence, and more, this program culminated in a performance with Daniels and the Native Jazz Trio at the Sitka Performing Arts Center.

In our **Native Jazz Workshop**, world-class Jazz musicians Christian Fabian, Ed Littlefield, Reuel Lubag and Jason Marsalis spent a week with students of all ages and abilities re-creating the spirit of Tlingit and other ancient melodies in Jazz. The one-week workshop included composition, theory, arranging and performance with a focus on exploring the history of musical traditions. The workshop included both small group classes and one-on-one teaching followed by evenings of live performances, informal jams and discussions.



Sitka Fellows Program

A multidisciplinary residency program now in its third year, the Sitka Fellows program provides the space and time for artists and entrepreneurs to immerse themselves in their work alongside equally minded young people. Fellows live and work on the Sheldon Jackson Campus while sharing their evolving work with each other and the community throughout their residency. The program is made possible through a partnership between Alaska Arts Southeast and the Island Institute. It is an opportunity for young talent to share their passions with a diverse community—to inspire and be inspired. It was borne of the belief that there are few opportunities for highly promising young talent to remove themselves from the commotion of daily life in order to fully and intentionally focus on innovative and ambitious ideas. This year's fellows include two musicians, a printmaker and mixed media artist, a physicist, a writer, a comic artist and an illustrator.



TEDx Sitka

TEDx Sitka, a collaboration between Alaska Arts Southeast and the Island Institute, celebrated its third year in 2014, bringing together local, national and international speakers to present 18-minute talks on a variety of topics. With its town-hall style forum, discussion between the audience and speakers was facilitated at the post-event reception. This year's guest speakers included: physicist Solomon Endlich, author and Executive Director of Honor the Earth, Winona LaDuke, internationally acclaimed author Alan Weisman, Pulitzer Prize finalist Luis Alberto Urrea, Alaska Arts Southeast Musical Theater program's Andrew Hames and WT McRae and Pacific High School student Skyler Wright. Each presentation was recorded and made available to the public on the TEDx YouTube channel.



“It is fantastic how much collaboration there is at Sitka Fine Arts Camp. How wonderful that we encourage kids to play an instrument, juggle, paint, dance, and carve in a single day.”
— Faculty

TED^x Sitka
x = independently organized TED event



Performing Arts Series

Throughout the year, Alaska Arts Southeast maintained its commitment to provide the community with innovative and inspiring performances.

The Manhattan-based **Michael Mao Dance Company** set the tone for this year's performing art series. This diverse group of company dancers was brilliant as they performed the passionate and meticulously crafted choreography of Michael Mao for the community.

A holiday tradition has been established with the **Holiday Brass Concert**. In December, we had another sold-out performance and the community was awed by the magical collaboration of top musicians from across the United States.

American pianist **Nicholas King** is recognized as an accomplished solo and chamber music performer. In the realm of American pianists, Nicholas King is one of the fastest growing names. This year, Nicholas King was in Sitka on a two-week artist residency working with the schools and entertaining all of Sitka with his concerts in the Performing Art Center.

The **Los Angeles Children's Chorus Young Men's Ensemble** visited Sitka during Middle School Camp, providing a community concert at the Performing Art Center. In addition to the concert, it was an opportunity for campers to collaborate with the visiting ensemble for specialized instruction on campus and also contribute to the final song on stage in the Performing Art Center.

Held for the past eleven years in the midst of Camp, Alaska Arts Southeast's **Jazz on the Waterfront** highlights the talents of faculty teaching at camp, members of the community and other musicians traveling to Sitka solely for the event. Comprised of 20 musicians, the concert and dinner fundraiser encompassed all genres of jazz and was held in the newly renovated Odess Theater in the historic Allen Hall on the Sheldon Jackson campus.

Vocal jazz artist **Dee Daniels** gave the community an evening of phenomenal entertainment with her amazing talents including vocal technique, improvisation and storytelling. Her four-octave range and versatility captivated and delighted the audience when she performed with the **Native Jazz Trio** at the evening concert in the Performing Art Center.

Yupik music group **Pamyua** filled the Odess Theater with the sounds of Tribal Funk and World Music. Pamyua's music highlights drum songs from the Inuit cultures of Greenland and Alaska. Hailed as "one of the 10 greatest Alaska artists of the millennium" by Alaska Magazine, Pamyua won Record of the Year at the 2003 Nammy Awards for their album Caught in the Act.



Partnerships: Strengthening Resources by Working Together

Alaska Arts Southeast continues to reinforce successful partnerships while reaching out to establish new relationships. By working together, we are able to bring arts and culture to more than ever before.

We continue to collaborate with our campus partners: **Sitka Sound Science Center**, **Sitka Summer Music Festival**, the **Island Institute** and the **Sheldon Jackson Museum**. The Sitka Sound Science Center is housed just off the Sheldon Jackson Campus. Faculty and students are able to visit during class time and utilize the many exhibits and touch-tanks, gaining inspiration for many of the visual arts courses.

The partnership between the **Sitka Summer Music Festival** and Sitka Fine Arts Camp continued this year with Kirsten Doctor serving on the camp faculty and playing in many of the SSMF concerts. Festival Director Zuill Bailey visited SFAC classes in the elementary strings, middle school and high school sessions and students attended lunch time and evening concerts. The overlap between the Festival and Camps benefits both students and Festival musicians as they can work together and learn from each other for the bulk of the summer.

The **Island Institute** and Alaska Arts Southeast continue with their objective to create a thriving educational center for the arts, humanities, and sciences. The Island Institute's varied programs have explored social, environmental and cultural questions of local and global concerns. The work of the Island Institute falls into two broad categories: Fostering a Language of Place and Community, and Fostering Community Well-Being. The Institute holds roundtables, symposiums, and community gatherings to address the relationship between the community, citizens, and concern for the planet. The third annual Sitka Fellows Program is made possible through an on-going partnership between Island Institute and Alaska Arts Southeast.

Located on the Sheldon Jackson Campus a few steps from the Sitka Fine Arts Camp student center, the **Alaska State Museum** (known locally as the Sheldon Jackson Museum) continues to be a valuable asset for faculty and students. This year's addition of a popular Middle School class of Northwest Coast Carving was made possible due to the ongoing partnership between AASE and the Museum.



Partnerships

During the school year, Alaska Arts Southeast partners with the **Sitka School District** to augment existing curriculum with the “Artists in the Schools” program. Visiting artists and artists-in-residence are able to share their skills and enthusiasm with children of all ages through in-depth classes and presentations. One important asset to the community is the state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center. Through a collaboration with the school district, management of the hall is the responsibility of Alaska Arts Southeast. This ongoing partnership ensures a superlative venue for arts performances throughout the year and engages the community in volunteer ushering and technical theater programs.

A successful and unique partnership has been formed with **Raven Radio** in Sitka. Raven Radio has translator stations in villages throughout Southeast Alaska. During Middle School and High School camps, classes are able to perform on-air at the radio station, allowing students to gain knowledge of radio production and performance while family and friends in outlying communities are able to hear their children’s performances.

In the last year, the **Greater Sitka Arts Council** has moved its offices to the Sheldon Jackson Campus. As a partner with Alaska Arts Southeast, it strives to increase awareness of the value of Arts in Sitka as integral to a healthy vibrant community.

The **Hames Center**, a program of Alaska Arts Southeast, collaborates with the community to promote and support wellness through health promotion and indoor exercise facilities. The Hames Center is used during the summer months for Fine Arts Camp classes and student recreation.

As Sheldon Jackson Campus restoration continues, campus partners joined together again this year to provide a summer celebration of music, art, science and the humanities entitled **Sitka Fest**. Offering diverse programming throughout the summer, it highlights the resilience of the community as well as its growing reputation as a major cultural destination.

Alaska Arts Southeast and the **Sitka Seafood Festival** partnered again for the second annual Sitka Seafood Festival held on the Campus. The weekend food and games extravaganza culminated with a concert by the 2003 Native American Music Award winning band Pamyua in the historic Odess Theater. The festival brought hundreds of visitors and community members together for two full days of activities celebrating the cuisine and culture of Alaska.



Volunteers: The Heart of Alaska Arts Southeast

In January 2011, the historic 20-acre Sheldon Jackson Campus with its century old buildings became the home of Alaska Arts Southeast. The overall goal was to find a permanent residence for the Sitka Fine Arts Camp and ultimately revitalize the campus to become an arts and educational center for the community. Although the campus was a National Historical Landmark, it had been neglected for decades and completely boarded-up in 2007, leaving behind tens of millions of dollars of deferred repairs and vital building upgrades.

If not for the grass-roots volunteer efforts of hundreds of community members, our leap of faith accepting the challenge of the Sheldon Jackson campus would have fallen flat. Starting with Saturday work parties, the community banded together to help us repair the campus. Since then, over 700 volunteers have logged almost 40,000 volunteer hours. The heart of the revitalization of the Sheldon Jackson Campus remains its volunteers. Because of them, the campus has become the hub for our community as well as the premier multidimensional arts campus in Alaska. Not only is the campus vibrant in the summer, now after-school arts programs, community workshops and university events throughout the year have transformed our campus into a place of excitement and vitality.

“SFAC is my favorite place in the entire world...In my daily life art isn’t encouraged and a lot of people shake their heads and laugh when you say you’re an artist. The four years I’ve spent here have been the best in my life. It’s truly magical.”

— Student





Historic Restoration: Treasuring the Past while Planning for the Future

In the past year, Alaska Arts Southeast has continued in its efforts to revive the campus. We recently completed an energy efficiency analysis through the Alaska Energy Building Authority to improve energy efficacy in five of our historic buildings. In addition, \$100,000 has been dedicated for asbestos abatement in those same buildings.

We are maintaining our momentum with the finish work on the Odess Theater in Allen Hall. The transformation of the building over the past three years has been phenomenal and inspires us for further renovations of equally needy historic landmark buildings throughout the campus.

Our upcoming focus is the beautiful, nationally recognized historic building known as the the old Laundry Building or the Power Plant. The structure was traditionally built in 1911 by Ludlow and Peabody of New York and used as the central heating building for the whole campus. This unique building on the Sheldon Jackson Campus is the oldest example in Alaska of a central heating plant that distributed heat to multiple buildings. It is currently used as a performance space for the rock band, jazz combos and chamber musicians and serves as our poet and songwriter theater. We completed the first and most important phase of the Laundry Building's restoration this summer: replacing the roof and repairing the exterior.





A Financial Asset to the Community

Each year, Alaska Arts Southeast's programs bring thousands of dollars to the local economy through tourism and travel.

Over half the respondents of our 2014 Parent Survey traveled to Sitka to attend Final Performances of their children attending Elementary, Middle, High School or Musical Theater Camp. More than eighty percent of the respondents brought from two to over four members of their family to Sitka staying at least 4 nights.

Estimated Financial Influx to Sitka economy per visiting family:

- \$782/person spent on airfare or ferry travel
- \$483 spent on lodging in Sitka
- \$345 spent on food and refreshments
- \$161 spent on local transportation
- \$222 spent on souvenirs and incidentals

"Coming to Sitka and attending the final performances was the highlight of my summer vacation as well as my camper daughter's" – Parent

Supporters



MAESTRO \$100,000 and up
Carol Odess
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Alaska State Council on the Arts
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for the Arts

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Odess pledged to complete the
Odess Theater in Allen Hall*

Alaska Arts Southeast · Sitka Fine Arts Camp

Alaska Arts Southeast and our programming are central parts of the Sitka community. Our priority is to ensure that we are providing the community with not only entertaining and inspiring performances and classes, but experiences which promote lifelong learning and creativity.

Working with each of our community partners and utilizing the support of dedicated volunteers and talented teaching artists, AASE is proud to be an integral organization in Sitka.

We are dedicated to expanding not only AASE's reach during the summer months, but year round. As the organization continues to celebrate its roots, we are branching out in Southeast Alaska, leading the way and forming important partnerships and collaborations throughout the region.

In our 41st year, AASE is thriving, expanding, and as strong a community resource as ever. With the help of our sponsors and the support of our community, we are confident that we will continue to successfully address the needs of Sitka and the region.

