



# Sheldon Jackson Museum

## 2026 Native Artist Residency Program



### Expectations for Artists-in-Residence

The purpose of the artist residency program is to enable artists to create and share their art and engage with museum visitors and the community of Sitka. Artists give talks or presentations and teach hands-on classes at the museum. Some artists work on multiple projects while others work on a single larger project. A residency involves working approximately 75 hours at the museum.

### Schedule

For 2026, there are three artist residency openings available:

- May 1<sup>st</sup> - May 21<sup>st</sup>
- August 26<sup>th</sup> - September 15<sup>th</sup>
- September 16<sup>th</sup> - October 6<sup>th</sup>

### Workspace and Access

Artists will work in a very public setting – either in the gallery or in the lobby area. The spaces are not enclosed. The museum will work with the artist to ensure a comfortable set up with good lighting, tables, power tools, if applicable, etc. The artist workspace is only accessible during museum hours – often 8 am-4:30 pm, five days a week. Summer hours are usually not set until May and may change. Artist days off are generally Sunday and Monday, but the artist schedule will not be set until late May 2026.

## **Research Time**

Artists have five hours of scheduled, paid research time in the museum office and/or collections storage. Additional time may be arranged as staff schedules permit. Artists have an opportunity to provide cultural consultations and share knowledge about the artifacts on exhibit and in collections storage with staff. With permission, the artist-in-resident's comments about artifacts and cultural belongings are added to museum records and files for future researchers, scholars, staff, and the public to access. The museum is extremely grateful to culture bearers for their knowledge.

## **Award and Stipend**

Artists-in-residence are provided with an artist award of \$2700, travel to and from Sitka, lodging, and a stipend of \$40 per day (Totaling \$840), to offset food costs.

Payment dates will be included on a calendar that goes out in May. Generally, artists are paid via check and issued the first half of the stipend at the beginning of the residency and the second half at the end. Please note that your bank may not be in Sitka. You may want to plan to deposit your check via post or mobile deposit using a smartphone.

## **Travel**

Friends of the Sheldon Jackson Museum will cover travel expenses. If the artist has the option of travelling by ferry or airplane, the Friends will pay for the less expensive option. An artist who chooses to bring a car on the ferry must pay for the transport of the car to and from Sitka. An artist who chooses to extend their stay in Sitka must make their own arrangements and pay any associated fees. An artist who misses a flight or ferry ride will be responsible for associated fees.

## **Pick-up and Drop-Off at Ferry Terminal or Airport**

A representative of Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum or museum staff will pick up the artist from the ferry terminal or airport. In some rare cases, artists may need to take a taxi - in this instance, the artist will pay, submit a copy of the receipt, and then be reimbursed. Arrangements will be made in advance of arrival.

## **Lodging and Facilities**

Artists-in-residence will likely be housed on the Sitka Fine Arts Campus, where housing is similar to a private room in a hostel. Some lodging will have access to a kitchenette and/or a coffee pot and laundry facility. Whenever possible, and in the majority of cases, artists will have access to a kitchenette. Artists are in walking distance of many dining options in the downtown area. If at a hotel instead of on campus, artists should expect a walk up to 15 minutes to get to the museum.

## **Artist Talks**

Artists are strongly encouraged to give **three talks and a hands-on class teaching an art form**. Talks and classes take place in the museum gallery or foyer and are put on the Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum's YouTube Channel. Artists who propose these activities in their application are given preference as applicants.

The three talks should focus on any of the following:

- 1) your art form and cultural background
- 2) a selection of two to four artifacts in the museum's permanent collection – how they inspire your work, thoughts on their design and use, etc.
- 3) a talk on a subject of your choosing – this could be an artist's reflection on the history of Sheldon Jackson Museum, Sheldon Jackson as a collector, the history of the Sheldon Jackson Campus and Sitka Industrial Training School, Sheldon Jackson's connection to that boarding school, or subjects such as decolonization, cultural appropriation, etc. We welcome proposals for talks on a variety of subjects.

4) a Recap Talk to share your experiences at the museum and in Sitka and show what you created here.

You'll need to provide a 4-5 sentence description about your proposed talks in your application.

Talks may be accompanied by a PowerPoint. Please send a copy in PPTX format before you arrive in Sitka. You'll use a museum laptop to show the PowerPoint.

If you'd like to propose a different activity, such as dance, drumming, a reading, or any other creative suggestions, we welcome your ideas.

## **Classes**

Artists are strongly encouraged to teach their art form in a hands-on class. In your application, you'll be asked to describe your proposed class, with details about student age range, number of students, and materials and how students can obtain the materials (specific pricing and links, lists, company contact info, etc., or cost of artist-prepared packet if artist will gather materials and charge students). Classes can be anywhere from one hour to multi-hour sessions over multiple days. In your application, please include the total number of hours needed to teach the class and any setup requirements, such as number of chairs, tables, bowls of water, sinks, etc. Be as specific as possible when providing these details.

Artists are strongly encouraged to teach simultaneously to in-person students and on zoom. If not teaching simultaneously via zoom when teaching classes, and if only teaching to an in-person class, the museum will work with the artist to schedule several short recordings of demonstrations or how-to's. These will be put on the Friends of Sheldon Jackson's YouTube Channel.

## **Sale of Artwork**

Artists-in-residence are not allowed to sell their artwork directly to museum visitors in the gallery or on museum grounds. However, the museum does encourage artists to bring business cards, contact information, and binders or portfolios with examples of art to show visitors.

## **What if I need something? What if I am late? Lost? Miss my flight/ferry? Unhappy about something? What is the best place to eat in town? What if.....?**

Our goal is to make you welcome and comfortable. The Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum and museum staff are here to help you. If you need anything or have any issues, please alert us by talking to staff in-person. You may call the museum directly at (907) 747-8981, or for emergencies, museum curator, Jackie Hamberg at (781) 738-7510. If the issue is related to lodging (loss of a hotel key, etc.), you will need to contact the front desk for your lodging. If you are running late to work or are going to be out sick, please call the museum directly to let staff know at (907) 747-8981.

