



Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum **2026 Annual Meeting**

Current Board Members

Melissa Fouse, President

Melissa Fouse is an arts advisor and appraiser specializing in Alaska Native Arts. She has owned her own business for nearly twenty years. She is skilled in community and government relations, fundraising, board development, strategic planning, conference, planning, executive management, and budgeting due to years in staffing roles in the Alaska Legislature and around Anchorage. She holds a BA in Philosophy/Applied Ethics. Melissa has served on the Friends Board since 2022 and as president of the Friends since 2023.

Steve “Íxt’ík Éesh” Johnson, Vice President

Steve Íxt’ík Éesh Johnson is a Tlingit fisherman who grew up learning how to catch and preserve wild foods in Southeast Alaska. Steve is a culture bearer and brings tribal values into everything he does. He also serves on the Sheet’ká Kwáan STA tribal council. Steve’s grandfather was AP Johnson (Tlantech) Ixt’Ik’Eesh, the valedictorian of the first graduating class of SJ, who later made many of the hunting and fishing implements in the museum collection. Steve was appointed to the Friends Board in March 2025.

Roby “Kooyéik” Littlefield, Secretary Treasurer

Roby Kooyéik Littlefield is of the Coho Clan and is a Tlingit language teacher and culture bearer. She teaches for both the University of Alaska Southeast and the Sitka School District. She advocates for the Tlingit language and has been called a Tlingit language scholar. She also volunteers on the Sitka Historic Preservation Commission and Raven Radio Board. She has been teaching -in some capacity or another- since 1985 in Sitka. She was elected to the Friends Board in 2022 and immediately became our secretary.

Justin "Kaa Shaayí" Ketah

Justin Kaa Shaayí Ketah works to support cultural institutions that preserve and honor the rich artistic traditions of Southeast Alaska and its accomplished Indigenous artists. He graduated with highest honors from Northwest Indian College in 2024, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies Leadership with emphasis on Northwest Coast Design. His academic studies add to his growing understanding of Tlingit Formline design, the traditional visual design language of his ancestors. Originally from Ketchikan, Justin is committed to cultural preservation through education and nonprofit service. He actively contributes to several organizations as a board member. Justin's research experiences as a two-time recipient of grants from the Bill Holm

(Justin Kaa Shaayí Ketah, continued)

Center at the Burke Museum have deepened his appreciation for the exceptional artistry found in traditional Tlingit works. He was appointed to the Friends Board in September 2023 and is seeking reelection this year.

Christopher Berk

Christopher Berk is a cultural anthropologist who works at Auburn University in Alabama. He first brought students to Sitka as part of an anthropology field course in 2023. He looks forward to leading his fourth class in Sitka this August and hopes to return with students every year/every other year. In 2019 he was a faculty fellow during the Smithsonian's Summer Institute in Museum Anthropology (SIMA) at the National Museum of Natural History. He has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Tasmania, Australia since 2004. He has worked with Tasmanian Aboriginal groups in processes of cultural revitalization and material culture. He was appointed to the Friends Board in October 2023 and is seeking reelection this year.

Kendra Delikatny

Kendra Delikatny is a graduate student working on a Master in Education degree. She was born in Fairbanks and grew up all over Alaska. She graduated from high school on the Bering Straits and worked on the oil fields in Prudhoe Bay to pay for college. While at Washington State University, she worked at the University's art museum in museum security, collections management, and as an assistant exhibits technician, designing tours of the gallery for children and adults. After graduating, she returned to Alaska and worked at the Sheldon Jackson Museum as a museum services assistant before working as a cultural activities coordinator at Mount Edgecumbe High School. She was appointed to the Friends Board in January 2026.

Rosemary Carlton, emeritus

Rosemary is the retired Curator of Collections at the Sheldon Jackson Museum. She worked as Interpretive Specialist at the Museum from 1985 until 2002 when she became Curator. She retired in 2010. Rosemary has served two terms on the State Historical Society and two terms on Museums Alaska state boards. After retiring she has volunteered for the Sitka Historical Society; Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum and Sheldon Jackson Museum. She served on the Friends Board from 2014 to 2022 and was president of the Friends from 2017-2022. She currently is an emeritus board member.