

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Chief Shakes Tribal House****Federal Tax ID:****Project Title:****Project Type:** Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

# Chief Shakes Tribal House - Chief Shakes Tribal House Reconstruction/Carving SHED

**State Funding Requested: \$500,000****House District: 2 / A**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Project funds construction of a carving facility and repairs to the Chief Shakes Tribal House and totem poles in Wrangell.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$500,000***There is no other funding needed***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Project funds construction of a carving facility and repairs to the Chief Shakes Tribal House and totem poles in Wrangell.

Chief Shakes Tribal House is a replica of the original Shakes Tribal House and the impressive architecture of a house of high caste among the Tlingit natives. Located on Chief Shakes Island is in the middle of Wrangell Harbor, the tribal house was last repaired in 1939 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a popular visitor attraction, but is in need of rehabilitation. Several of the of building's main timbers and surrounding totem poles have rotted and are in need of repair.

The Wrangell community has led an effort to improve the site through fundraising and proposed construction of a carving shed to facilitate this work. Repair of the Tribal House, along with the carving facility, can bring about a unique setting where the heritage of original settlers in Wrangell's area can be shared with residents and visitors alike. Chief Shakes Tribal House is a fundamental part of the culture and heritage of the Wrangell, but may become non-existent if the State of Alaska does not step forward to assist in its preservation and repair.

**Project Timeline:**

FY 2011

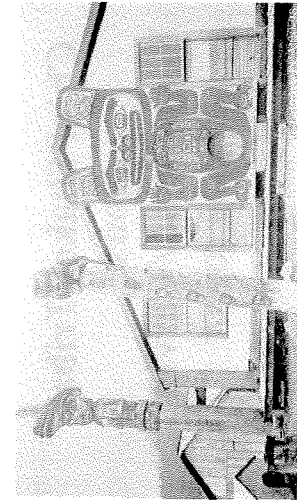
**Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:**

Chief Shakes Tribal House

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name:	Carol Snoddy
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Phone Number:	(907)305-0394
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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority?  Yes  No

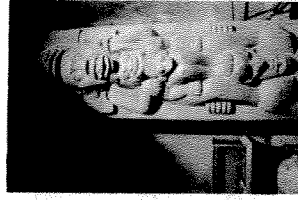


### Chief Shakes Tribal House

Located on an island in the middle of Wrangell, Alaska's harbor, Chief Shakes Tribal House is a replica of an authentic Tlingit clan house. Constructed in 1940, by a CCC construction crew, this house is an outstanding memorial to the rich culture of the Tlingit nation. After 60 plus years in the temperate rainforests of S.E. Alaska, this beautiful monument is in desperate need of a renovation to replace rotting beams and sills. The main timbers supporting the structure are rotted through and need to be restored to their original condition. This is a major undertaking that is supported by the entire community of Wrangell. Funding is currently being sought to complete the renovation which is expected to cost between 1.5 and 2.5 million dollars. Local fundraisers have been ongoing to raise the necessary matching dollars.

### Carving Shed

Nine totems have stood on the island but two have been taken down due to deterioration. Six others are in need of repair in order to keep liability at a minimum. To provide a place to recarve these totems and adze timbers for the tribal house renovation, plans are underway to construct a carving facility in downtown Wrangell. Not only will the carving shed be used for the renovation, it will be a learning center for teaching our Native culture. The excitement of finally having a cultural center for Wrangell is contagious and all residents are looking forward to its completion. It is hoped that the carving shed will bring people from many places together to experience the history, culture, wisdom, and talents of our Native people.



### SHED Committee

In early 2008, a group of people representing various entities in Wrangell met with the goal of building a carving facility for Wrangell. From this early beginning the project has grown to include the renovation of Chief Shakes Tribal House. This ambitious project has captivated the hearts of the entire community of Wrangell. Members of the committee are excited about their role in preserving and sharing an important part of the history and culture of this community.

**Fundraising efforts continue to provide matching funds for pending grants.**

**The SHED Committee meets each Wednesday at the SNO building. Meetings are open to the public.**

[www.shakesisland.com](http://www.shakesisland.com)

**"Preserving our Native Integrity"**

## Community Partners

Alaska Native Sisterhood  
Association

Wrangell Cooperative Association

City of Wrangell

James & Elsie Nolan Center

Tlingit & Haida Wrangell

Alaska Native Brotherhood

Johnson O'Malley Program

Alaska Island Community  
Services

U. S. Forest Service

Wrangell Medical Center

American Legion

Wrangell Chamber of Commerce



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## *SHED Committee*

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*907.470.3538*

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[www.shakesisland.com](http://www.shakesisland.com)



*Shakes Island prior to 1940*

*Donations Gratefully  
Accepted*

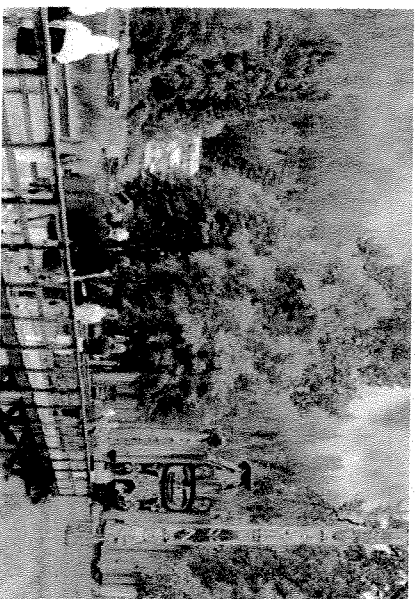
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Brochure by Wrangell Research  
[tispeter@hotmail.com](mailto:tispeter@hotmail.com)

## Chief Shakes Tribal

House

Renovation/Carving  
Shed Project



A COMMUNITY  
SUPPORTED CULTURAL  
PROJECT FOR

Wrangell, Alaska

“Preserving our Native  
Integrity”

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