

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Kaagwaantaan Inc.****Federal Tax ID: 20-3843520****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

# Sitka Kaagwaantaan, Inc. - Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall Renovations

**State Funding Requested: \$150,000****House District: 2 / A**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Funding for renovations to the Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall in Sitka to prepare for the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

**Funding Plan:****Total Cost of Project: \$150,000***There is no other funding needed***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Funding for renovations to the Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall in Sitka to prepare for the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Native Brotherhood.

The Alaska Native Brotherhood (ANB) was founded in Sitka in 1912. Throughout the past century ANB, along with the Alaska Native Sisterhood, fought for native rights and established itself as important civic and cultural institution for Alaska. The Sitka ANB Hall was constructed in 1914, and will be the site of the ANB's centennial celebration in 2012. To prepare for this celebration and recognize the role ANB has had in Alaska history, funding is requested to assist with renovations to the Sitka ANB Hall.

With capital funding of \$150,000.00, Sitka ANB Camp #1 proposes several renovations to the facility including: roof replacement, electrical system upgrades, floor repairs, and structural work to the piling system that serves as the hall's foundation. These improvements will preserve a historic structure, help prepare for ANB's centennial, and ensure that the remains a vital part in the Sitka community.

**Project Timeline:**

FY 2011

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

Alaska Native Brotherhood Camp #1

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name:	Gerry Hope
Address:	235 Katlian Street, Suite A Sitka, AK 99835
Phone Number:	(907)747-4729
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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



Alaska Native Brotherhood  
Sitka - Camp #1  
235 Katlian Street, Suite A  
Sitka, Alaska 99835

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February 12, 2010

Honorable Senator Bert K. Stedman  
120 4<sup>th</sup> Street, State Capitol, Room 3  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Stedman,

Because of the age of the Sitka ANB Hall, there are numerous projects that could be accomplished with the capital funding considered by the Alaska Legislature. Some projects include a replacement of roof, replace furnace, replace electrical system, replace floor, replace kitchen, replacement of the piling system for a solid foundation underneath the building, replace exterior siding, replace interior walls, replace windows for more energy efficient windows, replace old bathrooms for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ones and raise the building approximately six (6) inches to protect from extreme high tides.

**With the capital funding of approximately \$150,000.00, the Sitka ANB would paint and replace the roof, paint and replace the outside shingles where necessary, paint and replace the inside walls and ceiling where necessary, stain/varnish and replace the flooring where necessary and replace/renew the lighting fixtures where necessary.**

I will outline project timelines, but first wanted to share with you some information about the Sitka ANB Hall. Senator, being from Sitka, you is familiar with the following paragraph; however, there may be others outside of your office that may not be as familiar. Please feel free to share this information for both those who are familiar and those not familiar with the Sitka ANB.

The ANB was founded in 1912, from Sitka. The first community to have a local ANB Camp was in Sitka, with the first Hall built in Sitka in 1914. This building is still standing, where the capital funding is requested for. The ANB, initially from Sitka, later joined by many communities with their own local Camps as well as its "partner organization" the Alaska Native Sisterhood, were successful in addressing many ills that plagued our society over its initiation as an organization through to today. You are

familiar with a person known as Elizabeth Peratrovich, however there were numerous other efforts that may not be as well known but still vitally important accomplishments such as; initiating the Land Claims suit - from the 1929 Grand Camp Convention in Haines - that culminated as the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), lobbied Congress in the early 1930's to establish Tribal governments in Alaska and, in the 1920's - ended segregated schools in Alaska.

The Sitka ANB Hall also provides a gathering place for Sitkans that continue to make the Sitka ANB Hall a vital building today. To note; the Sitka Native Education Program (SNEP) teaches their programs out of the Sitka ANB Hall throughout the school year, the ANB hosts the SSD Board meeting once a year, hosts and provides the Education Reception for all educators once each year, the ANB/ANS host the Elizabeth Peratrovich Day celebration each year, the ANB Hall is made available to funeral ceremonies throughout the year. It is also often requested to be used for traditional Tlingit memorial services (potlaches), as well as by numerous organizations around the community to have fundraisers, such as the Sitkans Against Family Violence (SAFV) and is utilized to host conferences on safety and community wellness.

As you see, there are people from all walks, race, color and creed that utilize the Sitka ANB Hall throughout the year. It includes the youth, primarily for education and culture. It also includes the elderly, primarily through the Tlingit culture in memorial programs, but also events throughout the year as well.

From previous discussions you already are aware, but to reemphasize, the Sitka ANB Hall is on the federal register as a Historical Site. It continues to be a vital place in the Sitka community, as well as too many other people around southeast Alaska because so many things happened throughout Alaska history that affected the rest of Alaska - over the last century - that it means a lot to those both in Sitka and around southeast Alaska.

I hope this may help for a positive result in consideration of capital funding for the Sitka ANB Hall from the legislature and the Governor.

Thank you very much for all you effort and thoughtfulness to include the Sitka ANB Hall as a consideration for capital improvements from the legislature.

Sincerely,

Gerry Hope, President  
ANB Sitka Camp #1