

YEAR IN REVIEW

2023



THE NAVE





The Pilot Bread podcast, highlighting stories of CIHA's history and residents, was launched at The Nave in spring 2023.



THE NAVE

The Nave sits on the traditional and current homelands of the Eklutna Dena'ina, who have been the caretakers of the land, water, plants and animals of the area for thousands of years. Through intentional programming and curation, The Nave offers the community a place to recognize, honor and promote Alaska Native culture and values. The Nave is open to all and we welcome events of all shapes and sizes.

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

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Momentum Dance Collective returned in 2023 for “Embody,” their first performance at The Nave since the pandemic.

A NOTE FROM THE NAVE TEAM

In 2023, we really hit our stride as a hub for community, culture, and art. We continue to build a positive reputation as a space that supports, celebrates, and strengthens community by connecting people and ideas.

With RJ Fontaine-McHendry taking the helm as The Nave Manager in 2023, momentum built around The Nave’s relationships this year—relationships with artists, relationships with non-profit partners, relationships with CIHA residents and neighbors, and relationships with the Spenard business community. Deeper bonds were formed, while new friendships and partnerships were made.

Art Camp returned to The Nave, supported by the Atwood Foundation, along with returning (and new!) Art Camp instructors and even a handful of returning campers from 2022! Business Networking International held weekly networking meetings for local business owners. The Athabascan Fiddlers returned to hold their monthly dances, and Laura Revels’ Anáaski Kawóot met regularly to share in their Alaska Native beading practice. The overall theme we heard this year among these recurring groups and partners, is that they have begun to see The Nave as their home.

We felt the momentum increasing with our studio artists as well. The Nave Studio Artists participated in programming at The Nave including Art Camp, Momentum Dance Collective’s “Embody” performance, Open Studios, qaspeq making and beading workshops, and All Ages Music performances. The Nave Studio Artists hosted two Fine Art Fairs that were wildly successful, packing The Nave’s main hall with art appreciators eager to see and purchase original art. And we were excited to welcome two new studio artists in 2023—Mercedes Kashatok and Julia Murakamil

Thank you to everyone who joined us at The Nave in 2023. We look forward to welcoming new and returning friends and partners at The Nave to further build and celebrate community, culture and art.

Chin’an, thank you.



Studio Artist Graham Dane leads young artists in a presentation concluding 2023 Youth Art Camp.

THE NAVE STUDIO ARTISTS

“ Studio Artist Emily Longbrake



Studio space at The Nave has given me the courage to expand both my art practice and life experiences, including building new bodies of work, travelling internationally, collaborating with other artists, and becoming a living kidney donor, just to name a few highlights of 2023! I'm deeply grateful to be part of a community where my family and I can explore new ideas, make new connections, and feel welcome.

“ Studio Artist Graham Dane

My studio provides a space to focus and concentrate without distractions which has allowed increased productivity and creativity...In 2023 The Nave gave me the opportunity to organize two art fairs giving the wider arts community a place to show work and sales (plus in a few cases commissions). Last year also saw another successful art camp. All three of these events gave me income related to making art, helping fuel my practice.

“ Studio Artist Mercedes Kashatok

Having the opportunity to be a Nave studio artist has impacted my art practice in so many good ways- in a short amount of time! I feel supported, seen, and validated as an artist which helps me create art more easily and confidently. I look forward to my future at The Nave and hope to engage more with this amazing community in the near future!



2023 ARTIST STUDIOS AT THE NAVE

- Anchorage Youth Orchestras
- Christine Sundly (AK Art & Design)
- Emily Longbrake
- Graham Dane
- Jesse Cunningham (through October 2023)
- Julia Murakami (new in December)
- Melissa Shaginoff (Kuzuundze' ts'eghaanden Gallery)
- Mercedes Kashatok (Chixtax Designs—new in November)
- Northern Culture Exchange
- Raine Fryberger (Little Premonitions - through November 2023)

BUILDING UPGRADES: THE NEXT PHASE



AV Technology Upgrades

Rick Miller Productions completed final installation of the new user-friendly audio/visual system in the Main Hall and Lobby. Upgrades include pre-programmed configurations for audio and lighting that allow for higher quality performances at the touch of a button. An updated Nave User Guide was also drafted to provide instructions for community members for use of the new technical elements, and the projection wall was given a coat of state-of-the-art cinema paint.

New Floor Installation

Thanks to a generous grant from the Rasmuson Foundation, The Nave Main Hall was outfitted with brand new durable laminate vinyl plank floors this year. With so many dances, concerts, and public events with heavy foot traffic causing visible damage to the old plywood floors, The Nave really needed the update!



THE NAVE PROGRAMMING

Community, Culture, and Art



The Athabascan Fiddlers

The Athabascan Fiddlers held eight dances at The Nave with growing numbers, packing the house and filling up all the seats. Organizer Rose Yeager-Lund explained, "A lot of Alaska Native people moving from the villages don't drink or go to bars. We met with the community and thought, 'let's have a dance!'"



Nonprofit Work Sessions

We saw a 76% increase of nonprofit work session events in 2023, compared to the previous year. We were proud to offer an affordable space for 44 local nonprofit fundraisers, conferences, panel discussions, networking groups, roundtables, and board meetings.

Anáaski Kawóot Ku.oo

Anáaski Kawóot Ku.oo, an Indigenous beading community led by Laura Revels, continued to meet bi-weekly in the Weidner Community Room. Revels began training some of the regular attendees to teach beading in an effort to carry on the tradition of beading. In September, they held their first ever beading retreat attended by 53 adult beadworkers over two days.



THE NAVE PROGRAMMING

Community, Culture, and Art



Art Camp 2023

Art Camp 2023 welcomed 19 campers ages 7-11 for a week of exploring varied art mediums, including print-making, moose-hide tanning, beading, formline drawing, painting, papier mâché, improv, theater, and collage. The camp employed 10 teaching artists, and thanks to support from the Atwood Foundation, 12 of 19 campers were awarded partial or full scholarships.



All Ages Music Co-Op

All Ages Music Co-Op, a program of Northern Culture Exchange, provided music-lovers of all ages with concerts showcasing local emerging young musicians. The program culminated with an All Ages Battle of the Bands competition at The Nave in June, and participants received mentorship from established local musicians.



Neighborhood Movie Nights

Neighborhood Movie Nights were an example of The Nave's partnership with CIHA Spenard residents and their families. Four private screening nights were held at The Nave, open to CIHA residents, staff, The Nave studio artists, and their family members of all ages. One hundred attendees over 4 events enjoyed Made in Alaska Short Films (courtesy of Anchorage International Film Festival), family movies around seasonal and/or relevant community themes, and even a free haunted house movie night that took over the entire building!



The Kuzuundze' ts'eghaanden Gallery

The Kuzuundze' ts'eghaanden Gallery, curated by Melissa Shaginoff, held 7 gallery opening events for 4 emerging Indigenous artists/artist groups. Melissa helped artists like Sarah Theile (pictured here in the gallery with Melissa) develop artist statements and bios, print high resolution prints of their work, frame and display their work, price their work, and package their work for shipping to buyers. Artists sold 30 pieces of art at these events and learned valuable skills as emerging professional artists.

2023 IN NUMBERS

Event and Program Data



288

Events



92

Unique Event Hosts

Artist Ellery Bryan's solo Art Exhibition during a Spenard 2nd Saturday event entitled *There is Ringing Inside, It Is Evening.*



172 Nonprofit Hosted Events
155 Private Events



1 New EXCEPTIONAL Nave Manager, RJ Fontaine-McHendry

44 The Nave Program Events
4 CIHA Programs



CIHA's Housing Stability team put on a Career Development Day in partnership with a number of local businesses and employment support organizations. The event included a professional clothing drive and distribution.



32

Events focused exclusively on Alaska Native culture

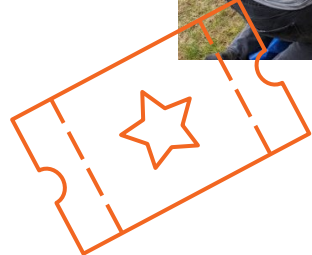
13 CIHA Partner Events
7 Events for CIHA Residents



98k

Total Gross Revenue from Events

Youth Art campers help Melissa Shaginoff soften a moose hide as part of the hide tanning process.

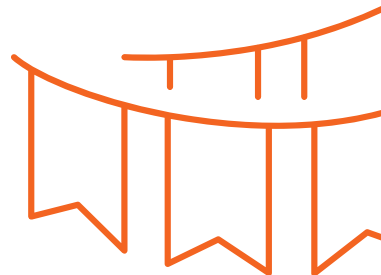


63

Ticketed Public Events



The Anchorage Bowl Chamber Orchestra packed the house to the brim for their annual winter concert.



17

Individual/Family Milestone Celebrations

2023 IN NUMBERS

Supporting the Creative Ecosystem



30 Live Concerts

Medium Build performed at The Nave in February.

- 7 Gallery Studio openings
- 2 Career Fairs
- 19 Art Camp attendees
- 3,173 people attended CIHA Programs
- 6 Spenard 2nd Saturday events hosted



6 Vendor Markets

The Nave Studio Artists hosted a Fine Art Fair in April. The Fair featured 30+ local artists.



50 Youth Events

Mental Health Advocacy Through Storytelling held a youth storytelling event.

A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

Gabriel Layman



To our neighbors, culture bearers, investors, visitors, and champions:

Thank you for supporting The Nave, Cook Inlet Housing Authority's community and cultural hub! While CIHA made the initial philosophical and financial commitment to create a different type of gathering place, the community you represent has been the essential element of The Nave's continued success.

If you've visited recently, you know The Nave is a place where magic happens. Over the past year, my family and I have attended makers' markets, cheered for the kiddos who attend our art camp as they proudly display their work, and participated in community convenings. The Nave hosted dignitaries like HUD Secretary Marsha Fudge, and we were frequently able to offer meeting and gathering space to impactful nonprofit organizations at rates they can afford. As our community grows increasingly familiar with the space, I'm particularly gratified that our residents and neighbors living in Spenard continue to use The Nave as a place to nurture their own community. The frequency and diversity of events, groups, and people using this flexible, welcoming community space is awesome.

I'm most proud of CIHA's continued commitment to partnering with Alaska Native artists, creators, and organizations to help preserve, promote, and uplift Alaska Native traditions and culture. If you haven't yet had the chance to attend an Athabascan Fiddle Dance... do we ever have an opportunity for you.

In the year ahead, we will continue to host impactful community events, uplifting our neighbors and engaging with the artists, creatives, and stakeholders whose passion makes The Nave more village than venue. Thank you for believing in the power of place, and thank you for supporting The Nave!

Acknowledgment

Years ago, when The Nave seemed an old building with little soul and no potential, a few brave people challenged Cook Inlet Housing to think differently about the connection between place and community. We believed them mad at the time... and maybe they were to some degree. After all, "There is no great genius without some touch of madness," as Aristotle said. To Tyler Robinson, Sezy Gerow-Hanson, and Carol Gore, thank you for being just nutty enough to catalyze such ingenuity. Thank you also to RJ Fontaine-McHendry, CIHA's Community Engagement Coordinator, for tending The Nave like a cherished garden. You have a green thumb for community building.

Thank you to our Funders and Partners

Alaska Community Foundation

Alaska Fellows Program

American Rescue Plan Act

ArtPlace America

Atwood Foundation

CARES Act

Cook Inlet Housing Authority Board
of Commissioners

Coronavirus Aid Relief, and Economic
Security Act

Indian Community Development Block Grant

Rasmuson Foundation

Richard L and Diane M Block Foundation

RurAL CAP VISTA

The CIRI Foundation

The Kresge Foundation

The MJ Murdock Charitable Trust

US Department of Housing and
Urban Development

Western States Arts Federation



THE NAVE

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