



KOOTZNOOWOO *News*



FALL - WINTER 2023

RENOVATIONS COMPLETED ON ANB/ANS HALL AND ARTIST'S WORKSHOP

This fall, Kootznoowoo recently finished renovation work in Angoon on the ANB/ANS Hall as well as the new Artist's Workshop.

The Hall, which was built in the 1960s, has been an important gathering spot for the community. However, throughout the years, the building's condition deteriorated. In 2022, ANS President Chenara Johnson approached Kootznoowoo to request assistance with raising funds to renovate the Hall. In addition to upgrading the building, she hoped to create a teen center that could serve as a positive, safe space for youth to gather. To gain input for the project, Chenara formed a Youth Advisory Committee of ten local youth to provide input on the project. The youth launched the renovations by completing a deep cleaning and demolition of the upstairs rooms that will serve as the future teen center.

In support of the project, over \$140,000 in grant funding was raised by Kootznoowoo. Funders included the Alaska Mental Health



Trust Authority, the Reuben E. Crossett Fund, and the Rasmuson Foundation. The renovations included completely remodeling two restrooms, insulating all interior and exterior plumbing, installing an on-demand hot water heater, coordinating with Tlingit & Haida Housing Authority to install heat pumps in the restrooms and upstairs, replacing all emergency exit lighting, and installing new light fixtures in the teen center space.

The Angoon building formerly known as the "museum building" was completed as well in October 2023. The newly renovated building will

serve as an Artist's Workshop. For this project, over \$250,000 was raised by Kootznoowoo, Inc. and the Kootznoowoo Cultural & Educational Foundation (KCEF). The goal of this renovation is to create a safe and inviting community space in Angoon where artists and people can gather to learn and work on traditional Tlingit arts and crafts.

Kootznoowoo's Executive Director of Tourism & Natural Resources, Jon Wunrow, is meeting with the City of Angoon and the Angoon Community Association to develop a written agreement that outlines how the Artist's Workshop will be operated in the future.



SECOND KOOTZCAM LAUNCHED IN ANGOON



Last month, Kootznoowoo launched a second Kootzcam. The camera, which is attached to the Raven-Beaver building in Angoon provides viewers with a live feed of Chatham Straits.

"Installing the Kootzcam is something that we were pleased to do for both shareholders and the community," said President & CEO Thomas Wilbur. "We've had a lot of positive feedback about the

Kootzcam as it not only provides real-time weather updates, but also gives those who are far away a view of home."

The first Kootzcam was installed last summer in Juneau and provides a live feed from the K-Plaza building of the intersection at Egan Drive and Glacier Highway. Both feeds can be viewed on the Kootznoowoo website or directly at Kootzcam.com.

From The Board Chair



Dear Shareholders,

It's hard to believe that summer is gone, and we have already moved quickly through fall. As the end of 2023 fast approaches, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and encouragement this past year.

Kootznoowoo continues to prepare for doing business in the federal arena, concentrating our efforts on building a for-profit center. We are grateful to Thomas E. Wilbur, Kootznoowoo's President & CEO for his strong leadership, business acumen, and assisting the board with navigating the path to 8(a) government contracting. Tom's experience and network is essential in helping our corporation not only get our footing in the 8(a) arena but also with solidifying a solid return.

He has worked hard to put together a functional, professional team to support these efforts and has demonstrated that he is committed to bringing financial stability to Kootznoowoo.

As your board, we are responsible for approving investments and setting policy for the corporation. We have also been working hard to learn all that we can about this new area of business for us. Last year, the board attended the Reservation Economic Summit conference to meet and form relationships with other professionals who have also embarked on an 8(a) journey.

Earlier this month, I was also fortunate to attend on behalf of Kootznoowoo, the SAME (Society of American Military Engineers) 2023 Conference in San Antonio, Texas. This three-day conference offered more than 40 educational sessions and a variety of presentations by the Small Business Administration and other leading industry experts. SAME provided Kootznoowoo with a variety of business prospects and new opportunities. I learned a great deal and was glad to have the chance to bring all that I learned back to the board for constructive knowledge sharing.

As a board, we are looking at ways to work smarter and more

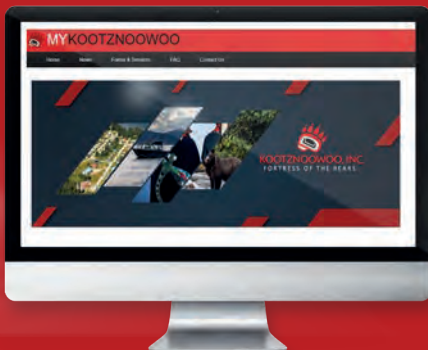
effectively. Over the past few years, holding remote board meetings has been challenging as we have faced different issues with technology and user expertise. Under Tom's leadership, the board rooms in Angoon and Juneau were recently upgraded with new technology. This included a stronger Wi-Fi connection for better connectivity and fewer network interruptions, a meeting OWL in each board room for improved interactions, as well as video screens that enable the board to conduct meetings remotely while still being able to talk, see, and engage with each other. These changes may seem small, but they are an important tool for the board to be able to gather together and continue our work on behalf of shareholders.

Finally, as we move into the holiday season, on behalf of the Board and Staff at Kootznoowoo, I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe, happy, and blessed holiday season.

Gunalchéesh,

Eunice E. James

Board Chair



IS YOUR INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE?

Don't miss out on important shareholder updates and information. Make sure your banking and contact information are up-to-date. It's now easier than ever for shareholders to keep their information current:

- Self-manage your shareholder information on MyKootznoowoo.com
- Phone Shareholder Services (907) 790-2992
- Email us at Info@kootznoowoo.com

From The President & CEO



Dear Shareholders,

Even though it's been less than a year since I joined the team at Kootznoowoo, with the Board's support, your corporation has seen some major changes in a short period of time. I have been using the strategic plan that was adopted in 2022 as a guide. It was developed to build and strengthen Kootznoowoo with the mission to improve shareholders' quality of life by operating profitably, upholding traditional values, and providing stewardship of your lands.

One of the areas that has been a particular focus is the goal to "Operate profitable and high-quality businesses." This includes:

- Reestablish an 8(a) company in the federal arena.
- Manage the real estate portfolio profitably and responsibly.
- Create a Tourism and Natural Resources Division.

Over the past six months, I have taken a close, hard look at Kootznoowoo's real estate holdings. At first glance, it appeared it might be in our best interest to unload the corporation's Favorite Bay asset in Albuquerque, New Mexico. However,

we have since changed course on that line of thought. As it turns out, that building, which in the past had marginal profitability, is in a prime location and will serve as a major asset to Kootznoowoo as we enter the federal arena. Albuquerque is a hub of government contracting activity with little to no disadvantage participation, and the Favorite Bay building is sitting right in the center!

Several improvements have been made over the past few months to prepare Favorite Bay for its role in our government contracting efforts. First, we completed a hardware and software upgrade and increased our cyber-security allowing us to qualify for participation in the 8(a) program; we completed a thorough insurance audit ensuring our property and assets are fully protected; and finally, we are in the process of completing a fluorescent to LED light conversion which will provide significant savings on utility costs and align our building energy usage with federal mandates.

Favorite Bay is positioned to assist us as we work towards another goal on the strategic plan to establish an 8(a) company that aligns with corporate expertise and values. We are also working closely with the SBA as we navigate the certification process.

When I joined Kootznoowoo, the corporate office was staffed with a skeletal crew, which often saw only one person in the office on many days. It is not realistic to expect an organization to function efficiently and grow without a proper team in place to provide day-to-day support, execute the administrative functions of running a business, or having the wherewithal to evaluate business opportunities. As a result, we've worked to overcome several staffing and reorganization chal-

lenges and I'm pleased to report we now have a solid team in place. While the team is small, it is still mighty and will provide the backbone Kootznoowoo needs to help us move forward.

The role of Jon Wunrow as the Executive Director of Tourism & Natural Resources is also contributing to meeting the strategic plan's goal of strengthening and sharing cultural knowledge. Jon's work is focused on Angoon, and has been successful in bringing in new grants to support the ANB/ANS Hall and Artist's Workshop renovations as well as launching the cultural classes program in Angoon with the assistance of Kootznoowoo's Community Catalyst Garrett Jack. These efforts support the values identified in the strategic plan of preserving our cultural values and safeguarding Tlingit heritage. Jon is also working to expand Pack Creek Tours, cultural tourism, and youth guiding opportunities in Angoon.

Finally, your Board, management team, and staff are committed to seeing all areas of the strategic plan through. I am pleased with our accomplishments thus far, but it remains a work in progress. There is still a great deal of work left to do to achieve the plan's vision of seeing Kootznoowoo's shareholders and culture thriving. I look forward to keeping you all updated with our progress as we move forward.

I wish you all the best this upcoming holiday season and throughout the New Year!

Gunalchéesh,
Thomas Wilbur
President & CEO

KOOTZNOOWOO LAUNCHES CULTURAL CLASSES FOR SHAREHOLDERS

This past October and November in Angoon, Kootznoowoo launched the cultural classes program for shareholders and other interested participants. The first class, which was held on November 6-9, was taught by Shareholder Elaine Jack who led students with instruction on two-needle beading. The second class, Moccasin Making with Shareholder and Kootznoowoo Cultural & Educational Foundation Chair (KCEF), Carmaleeda Estrada was held November 22-26.

“Offering these classes for shareholders is an important element of our strategic plan which identifies as a key goal to ‘Strengthen and share cultural knowledge,’” said Kootznoowoo President & CEO Thomas Wilbur. “It also ties in closely with



Kootznoowoo’s traditional values which includes preserving and safeguarding Tlingit heritage.”

Classes are open to adults and youth in grades 6-12. To participate, those who register will typically have to pay a small fee to help with material costs. While the inaugural beading class was offered at no charge, future classes will each require a small fee to participate. Scholarships to cover this fee are available for eligible youth.

Costs for the classes are being offset by several federal and local grants. While the first two classes were held in the Kootznoowoo corporate board room in the Raven Beaver building in Angoon, future classes will be held in the new Artist’s Workshop space. “We are pleased that the vision of the Artist’s Workshop space is finally being realized,” said Executive Director of Tourism & Natural Resources Jon Wunrow. “We look forward to being able to offer in the future more cultural classes in collaboration with the City of Angoon, Angoon Community Association, KCEF, and other partners.”

The classes are being organized by Kootznoowoo’s Community Catalyst Garrett Jack. Shareholders who are interested in potentially teaching a cultural class with a focus on traditional arts should reach out to Garrett via phone or email at (907) 209-3615 or GJack@kootznoowoo.com.




















KCEF ANNOUNCES 2023-24 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

This fall, the Kootznoowoo Cultural & Educational Foundation awarded higher education scholarships to 17 Kootznoowoo shareholders and descendants. In order to be eligible to receive a scholarship, applicants must:

- Be a Kootznoowoo, Inc. shareholder or descendant of a shareholder.
- Be enrolled full time in college or a vocational program.
- Be Alaska Native.
- Have at least a 2.0 G.P.A.

Funding for scholarships is provided to KCEF by Kootznoowoo, Inc. and individual donations. For the fall, scholarship recipients will each receive a \$375 scholarship with an additional scholarship payment in the spring. KCEF is overseen by board members Carmaleeda Estrada, Chair; Konrad Frank, Vice Chair; Shgen George, Secretary.

Scholarship recipients for the 2023-24 academic year include:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Stephanie Barretto
University of West Alabama |  Emma Gassman
Pacific Lutheran University |
|  Marlis Boord
University of Alaska Anchorage |  Brett Jack
University of Alaska Southeast |
|  Sierra Coronell
Florida International University |  Talan Jack
Haskell Indian Nations University |
|  Armando DeAsis
University of Kansas |  Trinity Jackson
Skagit Valley College |
|  Joshua DeAsis
Eastern Washington University |  Willow Jackson
California State University Channel Islands |
|  Tatiana-Diamond King
University of Alaska Southeast |  Kylie Kahklen
Western Washington University |
|  Kiara Endicott
Northwest Indian College |  Shaylianna Kookesh
Fort Lewis College |
|  Shaanel Gamble
MidAmerica Nazarene University |  Sierra Westika
Spokane Falls Community College |
|  Tina James Gamble
University of Phoenix | |



**KOOTZNOOWOO CULTURAL
& EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**
~ Striving Higher ~

KOOTZNOOWOO FORMS PARTNERSHIPS WITH ALASKA SEAPLANES AND ABOVE & BEYOND ALASKA



For the past 13 years, Kootznoowoo has partnered with Alaska Seaplanes and more recently, with Above & Beyond Alaska (ABAK), to successfully operate Pack Creek Bear Tours on Admiralty Island.

“Kootznoowoo, ABAK, Southeast Alaska Expeditions, Salmon State, and Angoon High School have been partnering over the past year to develop safe and exciting bear and other wildlife viewing opportunities at Pack Creek and elsewhere. We are committed to strengthening

our tours and partnerships by developing training opportunities for local Angoon youth and young adults, that began in Summer 2023,” said Jon Wunrow, Kootznoowoo’s Executive Director of Tourism & Natural Resources. “The goal is to eventually lead wildlife tours that are based in Angoon, so that the operations can provide economic opportunities for the local residents and Tribal members.”

As an Alaska Native Village Corporation, Kootznoowoo, Inc.

has embraced its responsibility to uphold the traditional values of its Tlingit ancestors, while developing economic opportunities for the residents of Angoon and their descendants. The Corporation’s Board of Directors, management, and staff are committed to remaining watchful stewards over the land that they have been entrusted, and doing whatever they can to strengthen the cultural and economic fabric of the community of Angoon.

KOOTZNOOWOO JOINS AMICUS BRIEF FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN RIGHTS FUND

In October, Kootznoowoo joined a Southeast Alaska Native Coalition of tribes to support an amicus brief filed by the Native American Rights Fund (NARF). The coalition is comprised of 16 sovereign tribes, 7 Alaska Native Village corporations, Sealaska Corporation, and ANB/ANS Grand Camp.

The amicus brief was filed before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (Ninth Circuit) on behalf of the Southeast Alaska Native Coalition in the Wild Fish Conservancy vs. Jennifer Quan, et al case. The brief urges the Ninth Circuit to reverse the partial vacatur of the Incidental Take Statement and cites that the lower court ignored how a vacatur would affect Southeast Alaska’s Indigenous communities.

The partial vacatur, if allowed to stand would effectively close the Southeast Alaska Chinook commercial troll fishery and have disastrous economic and cultural effects on Southeast Alaska communities. According to a press release from Tlingit & Haida, “This case, if



not reversed, would bring to light another historical example of inequitable treatment of Indigenous people. The amicus brief cites that Indigenous communities have often been forced to bear the brunt of conservation efforts in the wake of ecological degradation and other anthropogenic pressures. The heaviest burdens of uncertain conservation efforts should not be allowed to fall on the shoulders of Southeast Alaska’s tribal citizen trollers, their families, nor the communities that depend on them.”

The Chinook harvest is estimated to make up 44% of the income of trollers. A 2019 study also found the Southeast Alaska troll fleet provides an \$85 million economic impact on the Southeast Alaska economy. The amicus brief cites that those financial losses and subsequent reductions in employment opportunities would likely spur outmigration from the region, causing both economic and cultural harm.

MEET YOUR TEAM

Thomas E. Wilbur, President & CEO



Tom joined Kootznoowoo in March 2023. In his role, he is responsible for overseeing the corporation's day-to-day activities, managing all areas of business and investments, and making major corporate decisions. Tom reports directly to the Board of Directors.

J. Keith Green, Controller



Keith joined the corporation in early November. In his role, Keith is the corporation's senior financial manager, responsible for overseeing the corporation's finances. In addition to his role at Kootznoowoo, he also serves as the Pastor of the Glacier Valley Church of God in Juneau.

Ralph "Chico" Bierely, Building Maintenance Manager



Chico serves as a jack-of-all-trades for the corporation. His main responsibility is overseeing the maintenance and upkeep of the K-Plaza building. However, he also provides additional support when needed on a variety of projects. Chico is based in Juneau.

Garret Jack, Community Catalyst



Garrett joined the team in 2023. In his role he works to develop community partnerships, opportunities, and cultural activities in Angoon and helped establish the Artist's Workshop. He is currently developing a walking tour in support of the corporation's cultural tourism efforts.

Rebecca DeJean, Office & Human Resources Administrator



Rebecca joined Kootznoowoo in 2023 after relocating to Juneau from the Lower 48. In addition to overseeing the corporate office's administrative operations, she also manages Kootznoowoo's human resources functions.

Edwell John, Jr., Business Analyst



Edwell joined the corporation after serving on the Board. In his current role, he works closely with the Executive Team on business initiatives. Edwell is responsible for analyzing business metrics, developing improvement plans, and looking at the risks, finances, and profitability of business opportunities.

Rocky Estrada, Angoon Maintenance



Rocky has been a longtime employee of Kootznoowoo, providing maintenance support at the corporation's Angoon facility. Recently, Rocky and his Angoon-based crew completed the renovations on the ANB/ANS Hall and Artist's Workshop.

Susettna King, Finance/Shareholder Administrator



Susettna has served in a variety of roles with the corporation including previously as Office Manager and on the Board of Directors. In 2022, she returned to Kootznoowoo as the Finance/Shareholder Administrator where she is responsible for managing the accounts payable and receivables.

Martha Henniger, Shareholder Relations Manager



Martha has served Kootznoowoo in a variety of positions throughout the years. In 2023, she came out of retirement to work for the corporation. In her current role, she is responsible for managing all shareholder records, assisting shareholders with their questions and requests, and providing project support as needed.

Jon Wunrow, Executive Director of Tourism & Natural Resources



In March 2023, Jon began serving in his current position at Kootznoowoo. In this role, he is working on projects that focus on the protection and stewardship of Mitchell Bay and Cube Cove, the Thayer Creek Hydro Project, the Artist's Workshop, and expanding Pack Creek Tours and cultural tourism opportunities in Angoon.

Kootznoowoo, Inc. is seeking information about the following list of shareholders whose contact information is out-of-date or invalid. If you have any information about where we can locate any of the following, please contact Shareholder Services at (907) 790-2992 or via email info@kootznoowoo.com.

LOST SHAREHOLDERS LIST

Brian Lee Abbott	David M Enright	Arnold W. Johnson Jr	Kenneth Robert Olson
Mohammad Ali-Raza Ahmad	Talon Earl Gamble	Linda Mae Johnson	Ralph B Scott-Ahmed
Sheraz Styles Ahmad	Delores Elsie Gardipee	Shivonne G Johnson	Kristen L. Shangin
April Lynn Albert	Sierra K. Hinkle	Charlene Ann Joseph	Christel Maria Silva
Andrew Lawrence Beaman	Spencer D.T. Hogue	Bailey Kanosh	Cheryl L. Skaflestad
Bryant C. Bearfield III	Willow Janet Jackson	Jerusalem A. Kenworthy	Isaiah Prescott Sokimi
Laura Nicole Blankenship	Christina Elizabeth James	Allan F. Lindstrom	George Strom III
Lisa Annette Braswell	Shannon R. James	William Edward Maki	Tawnia C. Tillotson
Ryan John Bray	Timothy Wayne James Jr	Felomina G. Mazon	Tallon Colt Westlake
Amberly A. Brown	Jordan Eli Jamestown	Terenty Jay Mercurief III	Elizabeth J. Williams
Terra Darlene Bruer	Ralph Dean Jim	Martin Edward Murphy	Kayla Marie Wolfe
Micky Compton	Anthony N. Johnson	Alison Lee Netz	Lawrence Richard Young

Manage your information on the Kootznoowoo Shareholder Portal.
Register at www.MyKootznoowoo.com.
It's fast, easy, and convenient!

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