Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Grants to Unincorporated Communities (AS 37.05.317)  
Grant Recipient: Klukwan  
Federal Tax ID: 92-0041889

**Klukwan - Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center and Bald Eagle Observatory**

**State Funding Requested:** $3,500,000  
House District: 5 / C  
One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

The Heritage Center will be a 16,000 square foot museum quality structure where the village’s most valuable possessions will be displayed and stored and where visitors can share in and learn about Chilkat Tlingit culture through exhibits, demonstrations, and events. This is the third and final phase of the Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center and Bald Eagle Observatory and will greatly enhance Native cultural tourism in the region.

**Funding Plan:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Project Cost</td>
<td>$7,883,016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Already Secured</td>
<td>($4,383,016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2012 State Funding Request</td>
<td>($3,500,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Deficit</td>
<td>$0</td>
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</tbody>
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**Funding Details:**

Secured: CIV - Dedication of land by Tribal Council ($75,000); HUD FY09 Appropriation ($200,000); Local fundraising ($58,000)

Unsecured: Federal request $3.5M; Foundation funding $500,000 and government grants $50,000

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Chilkat Indian Village is requesting $3.5 M for the final phase of the Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center and Bald Eagle Observatory (JKCHC), a 16,000 sq. ft. museum quality Heritage Center where the village’s most valuable possessions will be displayed and stored protected from fire, theft, and environmental threats, and visitors will learn about Chilkat Tlingit culture through exhibits and demonstrations.

PLANNING/PROGRESS TO DATE: In 2002 and 2005 the CIV Tribal Council worked with village residents to develop a strategic plan for the community. This comprehensive plan identifies three major goals for Klukwan – to improve economic development and community self-sufficiency, to preserve and perpetuate the Chilkat culture, and to increase community wellness. The Village leaders believe that building on our strengths and maintaining and preserving our cultural identity are essential for successful community development. Since the adoption of the strategic plan we have successfully built infrastructure, provided culturally relevant employment training for tribal members and funded and completed the first two phases of the JKCHC project – the Traditional Knowledge Camp (phase I) and the Hospitality House (phase II).
More than 20 partnerships have been formed with local, regional, state and federal agencies in order to implement the JKCHC plan. CIV donated the site and raised local matching funds of $100,000 some of which have been used for the Hospitality House. A comprehensive Site Development Plan and an Environmental Assessment have been completed for the JKCHC project. After numerous meetings with the community, Ridolfi Inc. completed the design and engineering work, construction drawings and bid specifications in 2006. The cost estimate was updated in 2007 and adjusted for inflation in 2008. Jilkaat Kwaan Heritage Center (JKHC), a 501-c-3 nonprofit, was formed to assist in fundraising and day-to-day operations of the cultural center. A JKCHC Business Plan has been developed.

More than twenty tribal members participated in a Chilkat Host and Native Artist Training Program through an Administration for Native Americans (ANA) grant. Over a dozen received certification in Traditional Northwest Coast Arts from the University of Alaska.

A subsequent ANA SEDS grant provided funding to build tribal capacity to implement the JKCHC business plan to help us achieve our goals of developing a sound, culturally appropriate economy and improving community self-sufficiency with successful start-up of the Hospitality House. Twenty tribal members received training in skills related to operating the facility; operating policies and procedures were developed; and tribal members were trained to implement a marketing campaign.

Traditional Knowledge Camp sessions and tours have begun, and commitments from operators for more tours secured. The Hospitality House is open and operating. A dock in Haines and a boat to transport Skagway cruise ship passengers have been purchased, offering a strong opportunity for CIV to participate more fully in the cruise ship industry and regional tourism and develop our own tour offerings to increase the profitability of the JKCHC. To this end, CIV also purchased a 26 passenger airporter shuttle bus so that we can offer our own tours, including transportation from Haines to Klukwan, passing through the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve. Now, the village is working to obtain funding for third and final phase: the JKCHC.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Phase III is the Heritage Center and Bald Eagle Observatory. The Heritage Center will feature: Display and Storage of Artifacts: The facility will offer protection from fire, theft, and environmental threats for precious clan items. Exhibits will showcase the history and culture of the Chilkat Tlingits. Plans are being developed to exhibit the world famous Whale House collection including the Rainwall Screen and four totemic house posts as well as the Frog House blankets. Other displays will include the Frog House totems, several artifacts that have been returned through the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act, and various works of art and historically significant pieces that have been designated by families and clans to be placed in the center. Arts and Crafts Studio: This area will allow a significant number of Native artists and crafts people who live in the village to create and demonstrate their artwork in the center. It will also provide space for artists’ workshops. Replica Tribal House: This portion of the facility will be a modified version of a Chilkat Long House. Eagle Viewing Corridor: This unique facility will be situated along the Chilkat River and will be surrounded by the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, 49,000 acres of eagle preserve lands managed by the State of Alaska. The JKCHC will allow visitors to view and hear the eagles year round while remaining in the comfort of an easily accessible and heated facility. Art Gallery/Gift shop: The gallery/gift shop will feature the work of local artists, showcasing the work of artists from the center’s studio. The JKCHC will be a key component of Native cultural tourism in Alaska.

JUSTIFICATION (CULTURAL NEEDS/BENEFITS): There is considerable concern among elders, tribal leaders and clan leaders that Chilkat Tlingit artifacts currently stored at the village in conditions that leave them vulnerable to deterioration are at risk of being lost. Klukwan is the home of the world famous Whale House of the Gaanaxteidi. The Rain wall screen and four house posts: the Black Skin Post, the Sea Monster Post, the Worm Girl Post, and the Raven Post are all part of the Whale House collection. Much of the collection is still intact though some pieces, especially the worm dish, are showing signs of deterioration. The Whale House Crest pieces are priceless artifacts that are vulnerable to fire, theft, and rot as the
village does not currently have a facility to adequately store, display, and protect them. Klukwan is also well known for the beautiful Chilkat blankets that were created here. Cheryl Samuel, author of The Chilkat Dancing Blanket and Ravenstail, has stated, “All the finest of the old robes came from Klukwan.” In 1972, one elder’s house in the village burned to the ground, destroying six full-sized Chilkat blankets and a number of other precious crest objects.

The tribe plans to build the JKCHC, equipped with the fire suppression and environmental control systems that are necessary for safe storage and display of the many art treasures in the Village and those that are currently stored in other museum facilities.

By planning for the protection, preservation and management of the various works of art and historically significant pieces that have been designated by families and clans to be placed in the Heritage Center we are progressing toward our goal of preserving our cultural identity. Conserving these artifacts will help us to preserve and revive many of the cultural arts and practices of our ancestors, and can provide a model for other tribes nationwide. We will draw on the knowledge of our elders to bring the beauty and meaning of some of these extraordinary collections before our artists and youth, and the public at large. In the process of documenting the artifacts we are gathering information about how the art objects are made and used, and also connecting to values, beliefs, and history; each item is a doorway to our unique cultural landscape. It is crucial that we have our elders share this information now before it is lost forever.

JUSTIFICATION (ECONOMIC NEEDS/BENEFITS): Klukwan is included in Denali Commission’s 2010 list of Economically Distressed Communities. The large majority (88.5%) of Klukwan’s 139 residents are Alaska Native (2000 U.S. Census). Subsistence continues to be an important part of the lifestyle for the majority of tribal members. Klukwan has an unemployment rate of 44.8%, an even higher total of 66.3% of all adults not in the workforce, and a per capita income of $11,612. More than a third (35.9%) of Klukwan’s adults 25 and older have not completed high school. Nearly half (48.9%) of the residents live below the 200 percent of poverty level.

The JKCHC project will also benefit residents of the Haines Borough, another economically distressed community; unemployment rate 13.7% with 46.8% of all adults not in the workforce. Our overarching economic goal for this project is to build tribal capacity and improve our community self-sufficiency by providing immediate and long term employment for our tribal members and economic sustainability.

The project addresses goals laid out in several documents that form the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the area: the section on economics of the Haines Borough Comprehensive Plan Draft, 2004, and the CIV Strategic Plan of 2002 which was updated and revised in January 2009. The project responds to strategies recommended in the McDowell Group, Haines Tourism Management Plan, 2002. Most specifically, the JKCHC is designed to address goals for the JKCHC Business Plan prepared by Ridolfi, Inc. in 2005 and revised by Jim Strong, Project Director, in 2007 and reviewed by Foraker’s Business Plan Consultant in 2010.

Haines’ CEDS stated in its Overall Economic Development Plan includes the following objectives: identify Native, private, nonprofit and other potential partnerships to facilitate coordination of economic development; develop value added products such as traditional dugout canoes and totems; promote Haines area activities and resources inside and outside the region; develop and promote events to attract off-season tourism; provide opportunities and reasons for independent and road travelers to stay in town longer; and help provide value added manufacturing; expand value-added seafood processing. The CIV JKCHC project directly addresses every one of these objectives. The village of Klukwan has considerable potential for tourism development, and as a unique competitive advantage, offers tourist attractions in non-summer months. The adjacent world famous Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve boasts up to 4,000 eagles in the winter, with the highest concentration
of eagles in the critical habitat area which includes the immediate area of Klukwan. Currently there are no facilities that can accommodate winter visitors, as the JKCHC will do.

Building a facility that serves tribal members and provides an attraction for visitors will be an important contribution to sustaining the community of Klukwan and the southeast region of Alaska. The JKCHC, because of its location within a community that is over 80% Native, inherently increases Native business development.

FUNDING PLAN: A fundraising plan has been formulated to create a coalition of funders. A local fundraising campaign has raised $58,000 for the project, the Tribal Council has dedicated the site - land owned by the tribe with a value of $75,000, and $200,000 in HUD funding has been secured for the Heritage Center. We are requesting $3,500,000 from the State of Alaska in FY12. These funds would help us leverage additional monies from the federal government and private foundations and would allow us to move this project forward towards completion. A $3.5 M federal appropriation request is submitted to the Alaska delegation for the next funding cycle. Other grant applications will be submitted to the Rasmuson Foundation and to the Institute of Museum and Library Services for their Native American Museum Services grant program at the appropriate time.

OWNERSHIP/MAINTENANCE: CIV owns the land and will own all JKCHC structures. The tribe will develop a long-range maintenance plan and establish a maintenance fund for the facility. Each year 5 to 10% of the revenues from the JKCHC will be set aside to assure maintenance projects are completed in a timely manner.

Project Timeline:
CIV will continue to work on securing the remaining funding, leveraging these state funds. Once all funding is in place the project will be advertised, bids evaluated, contract awarded and construction started.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:
Chilkat Indian Village

Grant Recipient Contact Information:
Name: John Brower
Title: Tribal Administrator
Address: HC 60 2207
              Haines, Alaska 99827
Phone Number: (907)767-5505
Email: jbrower@chilkatindianvillage.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? [X] Yes [ ] No
February 03, 2011

The Honorable Albert Kookesh, Senator,
State Capital, Room 11
The Honorable Bill Thomas, Representative
State Capital, Room 434
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Kookesh and Representative Thomas,

The Chilkat Indian Village Tribal Council met on November 04, 2010 and again on February 03, 2011 to review and prioritize our CIP requests. We have created a list of five projects for your consideration. As you will notice from our list most of our projects deal with public safety, our economy, and our health and well-being.

Sirs, we know that you have helped us in the past with our Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center and we were able to make great progress with those funds. Construction of the Hospitality House was completed in 2010 and a grand opening was held in the spring. Since then the facility has been open for visitors, locals and Traditional Knowledge Camp attendees to use and enjoy. The completion of the Hospitality House was another exciting achievement in the JKCHC project. It would be of great assistance to us if we could get your continued support on this project. As you know the JKCHC is made up of three phases. We are now seeking funds to aid in the final phase of the project, the Cultural Center/Museum. With State funding in place we would be able to leverage funds from federal sources and foundations to support this Native cultural tourism project.

The Council listed debt retirement for the Chilkat Port Chilkoot Dock and M/V Chilkat Express as our second CIP priority. CIV is currently busy implementing our business plan under the guidance of our new General Manager of the Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Tours arm of CIV. Retiring the debt that was acquired in the purchase of these assets would greatly impact the successful operation of this season ferry shuttle service between Haines and Skagway; a service that is critical to both communities and is integral to creating easy access to Klukwan’s Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center.

Our Fire Hall Renovation project is our third priority. As our community moves forward with economic growth, we need to deal with this most important infrastructure short fall. In 2010 a Klukwan Volunteer Fire Department was established and registered by the State of Alaska and a new fire truck was purchased. It is critical to renovate and weatherproof the existing fire hall structure to protect the gear and equipment and to assure that water can be stored in the trucks throughout the year without fear of freezing.

The Klukwan ANS Hall is in need of repair and maintenance and is our fourth priority. This project also addresses public health, safety, and energy conservation issues. Making sure the exit stairways are safe is very important as is the addition of a new three hole sink so the kitchen can pass inspection. According to an energy audit completed in 2010 improving energy efficiency with new doors and windows will help lower our fuel bills. You know how important this facility is to our village for community gatherings and it needs to meet health and safety standards.

Our fifth priority is protective fire gear and other needed equipment for our volunteer fire fighters to ensure they have the tools and resources needed to fight a fire should one occur. This Volunteer Fire Department priority is a two part project with all important training for the volunteers as the second phase. This request supports public health and safety as well as is an important component of protecting the recent infrastructure investments in our village.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kimberley A. Strong, Council President
RESOLUTION # 2011-01
FY ’12 DESIGNATED LEGISLATIVE GRANT

WHEREAS; the Chilkat Indian Village of Klukwan is a duly constituted Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the authority of the Acts of Congress of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat.984) and May 1, 1936 (49 Stat. 1250) and in accordance with section 16 & 17; and

WHEREAS; the Chilkat Indian Village Council acting as the duly constituted governing body of the Chilkat Indian Village, pursuant of Article V Section (j) of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Chilkat Indian Village has authority to negotiate with federal and state agencies and organizations for the benefit of the Tribe; and

WHEREAS; the Chilkat Indian Village Tribal Council introduced the CIP funding priority list for community review on November 4, 2010; and

WHEREAS; during a series of public meetings and strategic planning sessions, community members voiced the strong desire to develop as a priority a culturally appropriate economy and to include tourism that focuses on education, culture, and the traditional Tlingit way of life; and

WHEREAS; the Chilkat Indian Village wishes to receive funding under the FY 2012 – State of Alaska - Capital Improvement Projects, and;

WHEREAS; On February 03, 2011 the Tribal Council prioritized the capital needs of the community with priority given to the following: Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center, Debt retirement for the PCD Dock/Boat, Renovation of the Fire Hall, Renovation of the ANS Hall, Volunteer Fire Department protective gear and training and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chilkat Indian Village hereby officially requests financial aid from the State of Alaska for the Capital Improvement Projects attached to this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chilkat Indian Village hereby commits to the proper and designated use of the funds if granted by the State of Alaska for the above listed Capital Improvement projects.

CERTIFICATION:
Adopted this 03 day of February 2011

With 7 for, 0 against, and 0 abstained.

Kimberley A. Strong, President
Pete Katzeek, Secretary
Senator Albert Kookesh  
Alaska State Capital

Dear Senator Kookesh,

First of all I would like to express my appreciation for the hospitality your staff has given to Kimberley Strong, Chilkat Indian Village President, and me upon our visits to Juneau in the past couple of years.

At this time we think it is important to update you on the progress that we have made in regard to the Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center and Bald Eagle Observatory project. Last year the Chilkat Indian Village was not only able to complete construction on Phase II of the Culture Center—the “Hospitality House” but they were also able to do some tours as well as serve the needs of our Salmon Camp participants. This year they are expecting to step up their tour operations and in the process will provide more jobs for our community.

The Jilkaat Kwaan Heritage Center non-profit organization has worked hand-in-hand with the Chilkat Indian Village to build the first to phases of our Culture Center facility and we fully support their efforts to secure funding for the third and final phase: the main building of the Culture Center. This museum quality facility will include artifact display and storage space, artist studio for artists in residence, a gallery/gift shop, office space, a replica clan house display area to house the village’s finest clan treasures and an eagle viewing lobby and scenic boardwalk. Construction of the final phase of the JKCHC is expected to put 70 people to work and when the facility is completed the operations are expected to provide 54 jobs as well as numerous spin-off opportunities. We believe it is a great project for economic development in the Chilkat Valley and the communities of Klukwan and Haines in both the long and short term. We also believe that this development will strengthen the economy of the entire Southeast Alaska Region by making it more desirable as a visitor’s destination.

Senator Kookesh, we know you work hard for the people in your state district and we are asking for your support in getting funding through for this very important economic/community development project. Gunalcheesh kunax (thank you very much) for your time and attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Larry Sweet, Sr.  
President
February 07, 2011

Representative William A. Thomas
Alaska State Capital

Dear Representative Thomas,

First of all I would like to express my appreciation for the hospitality your staff has given to Kimberley Strong, Chilkat Indian Village President, and me upon our visits to Juneau in the past couple of years.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]
Larry Sweet, Sr.
President
Located in the village of Klukwan, beside the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, the **Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center** is designed to perpetuate the village’s cultural heritage and preserve tribal treasures. JKCHC will address the need for economic development in the village and the region by providing a unique cultural tourism destination.

Community wellness and self-esteem for tribal members will be enhanced through this return to our cultural roots, language and subsistence foods.

Already in place, the first phase of the Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center is the **Traditional Knowledge Camp** (TKC). The camp has four buildings: a hand-hewn smokehouse and long house, an adzing shed, and a fish drying shed. The TKC provides the venue for instruction in subsistence skills and traditional arts for people of all ages.

The **Hospitality House** will be used for formal instruction in preparing and serving traditional foods, and as a support facility for cultural camp attendees, village ceremonies and for an authentic salmon bake for visitors. This facility will include a gift shop where Native artists will sell their artwork, kitchen, restroom, dining hall, firepit, and outdoor plaza. Construction began in 2009 and the facility opened in Spring 2010 thanks to a $1.8 million grant from the Economic Development Administration and a grant from the Alaska State Legislature.

A **replica of a Chilkat clan house** will display the world famous Whale House collection including the Rainwall Screen, and four totemic house posts as well as other clan pieces such as Chilkat and Ravenstail weavings, spruce root baskets, bentwood boxes, carved hats, bowls, button blankets, and more. The building will also house a studio where visitors can observe native artists in action.

An upwelling of warm springs keeps the Chilkat River from freezing resulting in a late run of salmon that attracts the largest gathering of Bald Eagles in the world. The **Bald Eagle Observatory** will offer a heated indoor viewing area and boardwalk with spotting scopes and microphones to pick up the sounds of the eagles on the river flats. The facility will reduce stress on eagles and the pristine and valuable ecosystem.
Join us in these efforts to preserve our culture, protect the environment and enhance the economy– locally and regionally.

Gunalcheesh! Thank you!

Chilkat Flourishing...

Experience a Unique Place and Traditional Native Culture

Strategies:

Engage Partners

Ensure Sustainability

Be Environmentally Responsible

Implement a Diverse Funding Plan

The Chilkat Indian Village and the JKHC 501-c-3 nonprofit are working closely with partners who share our goals. We are actively forming coalitions to enhance regional economic development and native cultural tourism in addition to sharing our traditional knowledge and arts with participants of all ages.

An Integrated Waste Management Plan which calls for use of recycled and recyclable materials and the generation of minimal waste will assure environmental responsibility.

A public/private strategy will fund the $7.88 million project costs for the Heritage Center. Federal, state and tribal governments, private foundations, corporations, local businesses and individual donors will be funding partners.

The business plan projects 14 full-time and 40 part-time jobs. Existing businesses will expand their customer base and new entrepreneurial investment will be stimulated by the project. A gift shop will provide a market venue for regional native artists and for preserved traditional foods.

The JKCHC has been designed with sustainability in mind. A market based business plan, combined with the Comprehensive Site Development Plan, and the Environmental Assessment demonstrate that the project is economically feasible and environmentally sound.

The Chilkat Kwaan Heritage Center
P.O. Box 210
32 Chilkat Ave, Klukwan
Haines AK 99827

All donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.
Chilkat Indian Village
32 Chilkat Avenue
HC 60 B0x 2207
Haines, AK  99827

Jilkaat Kwaan Cultural Heritage Center -- Resources/Funding Sources to Date

**Phase I/Camp Buildings** *(approximately $300,000. invested in construction from below sources)*
- AFN Wellness Funds (through CCTHITA)/ instructor salary, training stipends for carvers/builders (~$100,000.)
- First Alaskans/ construction funds for Long House $35,000.
- Alaska Mental Health Trust/ for construction of adzing shed ($10,000.)
- K-Ply/building materials for adzing shed ($5,000.)
- Sealaska Timber/logs for Long House (approximate value $23,000.)
- Alaska Native Artist Foundation/$5,000. for Adzing Shed
- Klukwan Educational Trust/Scholarships (used for building/carver trainees)
- Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium/logs, carving instructor $15,000.
- Bureau of Indian Affairs/Higher Ed and AVT Scholarships (used for building/carver trainees)
- University of Alaska Southeast/ Carving/Building Instructor’s Salary $20,000
- Inside Passage Electrical Cooperative/Extension of electricity to site $25,000.
- Alaska Department of Transportation/ free fill and delivery
- Chilkat Indian Village Tribal Land, 2.5 acres value of $75,000.

**Planning, project implementation and construction of Hospitality House:** *(approximately $2.6M on architectural and engineering, plus other planning, project management, construction of Hospitality House, and administration of funds from the sources listed below)*
- Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development Mini-grants:
  - Comprehensive Site Development Plan $30,000.- 2003
  - Environmental Assessment & Architectural Feasibility Report $30,000.- 2004
  - Visitor Readiness Improvements $30,000. - 2006
- Ridolfi: Updated Business Plan (~$40,000.)
- #1 Alaska State Legislative Grant ($120,000) Project Planning, topographic survey, grant writing, extension of water, sewer lines to site
- #2 Alaska State Legislative Grant $1,230,000.) Construction Documents and Engineering Specs
- #3 Alaska State Legislative Grant (750,000.) (portion of these funds are unspent)
- NRCS/Study of Bank Stabilization options
- AK Dept Fish and Game/ Bank Stabilization Plan (~$40,000.)
- U.S. National Park Service /trail planning (est. value $9,000.)
- Economic Development Administration ($1.8 M for construction of Hospitality House)