

REMEMBERING OUR PAST



TO STRENGTHEN OUR
FUTURE

FESTIVAL OF NATIVE ARTS

Feb 27th - March 1st

Fairbanks, AK



COLLEGE OF INDIGENOUS STUDIES
University of Alaska Fairbanks



CONTENTS

- 2 *Welcome message from
Festival Coordinators*
- 3 *Dean's Welcome*
- 4 *Dedication:
Ashton Ishnook*
- 5 *Our History*
- 5 *Our Emblem*
- 6 *About The Logo Artist:
Alana Moses*
- 7 *Coloring Pages*
- 9 *About The Logo Artist:
Naatanii Mayo*
- 10 *Student Voices on
This Year's Theme*
- 14 *Performers*
- 15 *Artisans*
- 16 *Pathfinder Award*
- 17 *Supporters & Sponsors*

WELCOME

The Festival of Native Arts chose the theme “Remembering Our Past to Strengthen our Future” to emphasize the importance of honoring our generations of knowledge and teachings while living our traditional ways of life.

This theme is beautifully reflected in the festival's blend of traditional dances and art forms with contemporary expressions, featuring vendors, new songs, and dances. It showcases our vibrant culture, which seamlessly integrates traditions like language, dance, art, and sewing into the future. For instance, Alaskan Native languages now have words for modern concepts like "computer" and traditional designs are appearing in New York Fashion Week. By upholding values such as humility, humor, respect for both elders and children, and compassion, we strengthen our future. The planning team is incredibly excited to share this spirit with our community.

We are thrilled to announce that we had TWO student-created logos that captured the theme so brilliantly—and we had to feature them both! You’ll see Alana Moses’s artwork featured prominently on the cover of this booklet, and Naatanii Mayo’s artwork displayed on our Festival 2025 T-shirts, available for purchase at the box office.

Our festival thrives thanks to the collective efforts of our community members, including dance groups, artisans, workshop leaders, volunteers, the festival planning committee, and, most importantly, the dedicated students in our Festival of Native Arts club. The hard work and year-round dedication of these groups are inspiring. A special thanks to our student coordinators, Sarah Stenek and Adi Michael for their tireless efforts in keeping all the pieces moving.

Welcome to Festival of Native Arts 2025: Remembering Our Past to Strengthen Our Future.

-The Festival Planning Team



ENAA NEENYO

Enaa neenyo (Welcome) to the 51st Festival of Native Arts at the University of Alaska Fairbanks!

The singers, dancers, and traditions of the Festival of Native Arts unites our diverse community to celebrate and honor the rich cultural heritage of Alaska Native peoples.

This year, we proudly embrace the theme "Remembering Our Past To Strengthen Our Future," chosen by the Festival of Native Arts Student Club. This theme highlights the importance of reflecting on our history to build a stronger, more resilient future.

To our performers and dance groups, your dedication and creativity are the heart and soul of the festival. Your contributions enrich our understanding and appreciation of Native cultures. We are deeply grateful for your willingness to share your gifts with us.

To our attendees, thank you for joining us. Your presence is a testament to our community's enduring spirit and unity. We hope you find inspiration and joy in the performances, workshops, and artisan tables showcasing the incredible talents and traditions of Alaska Native artists.

To our artisan vendors, thank you for bringing your unique crafts and goods. Your participation supports the local economy and provides valuable opportunities for cultural exchange and appreciation. We are excited to see the beautiful and meaningful items you have to offer.

And last and far from least, to our volunteers, your hard work and commitment make this event possible. Your efforts ensure everything runs smoothly, and your enthusiasm and dedication are truly inspiring. We could not do this without you.

The University of Alaska Fairbanks is dedicated to becoming a global leader in Alaska Native and Indigenous Studies. By continuing to support existing programs like the Festival and launching new initiatives such as the Troth Yeddha' Indigenous Studies Center (TYISC), we strive to transform the educational experience and deepen the understanding and appreciation of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives.

Thank you all for being a part of this special event. Enjoy the festival!

- Teisha Simmons
CIS Interim Dean



ASHTON ISHNOOK

Dedication



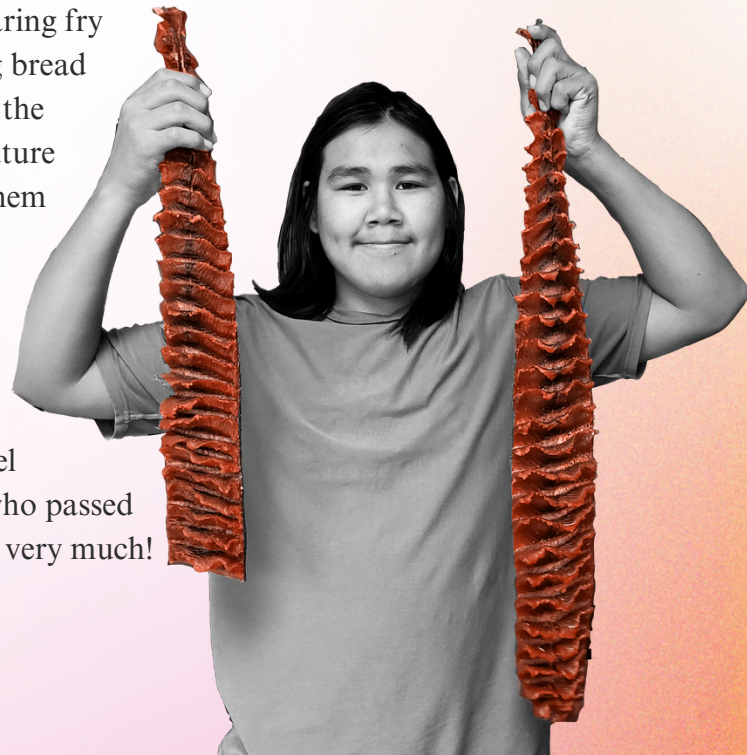
“He shared as much as he could with his humor, kindness and giving to the less fortunate of his peers.”



Ashton Ishnook was an amazing young man, with a great big heart. He passed at the age of 17 years old, April 6th 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic in an accident at his home. He passed a month before high school graduation. He attended Effie Kokrine Charter School. He had many friends and peers he loved and respected greatly. He shared as much as he could with his humor, kindness and giving to the less fortunate of his peers who had food insecurities. But he did not see it that way. He respected and cared for every peer and gave and shared what he could.

He has been gone nearly 5 years, and since that time his mother Sharon has done the best to honor and keep his memory alive by doing food drives for Effie, and making and sharing fry bread. One of Ashton's many passions was making bread with her. It is part of that we remember and honor the past to strengthen our future! Our youth are our future & our leaders for tomorrow! We must instill into them giving back, caring empathy, love, kindness and respect! For that ripple effect is our strength for the future!

Thanks with love and respect and honor Sharon Ishnook and family. Ashton is buried in St. Michael next to his two other siblings he lost and his Dad who passed away a few years after him. Thank you so much so very much!



OUR *history*

The Festival of Native Arts unites the major Native culture groups of Alaska, as well as groups from the continental United States and other countries. These groups share the rich heritage of their respective cultures, which not only solidifies the Alaska Native identity but also educates people about cultures from our own.

This tradition began in 1973 when a group of University of Alaska students and faculty in Fairbanks, representing a variety of colleges and departments, met to discuss the possibility of a spring festival centered on the artistic expressions of each Alaskan Native culture. In less than three months, perhaps for the first time in Alaska's history, Native artists, craftspeople, and dancers from all major Native culture groups gathered at the University of Alaska to share their rich artistic traditions with each other, the university community, and Fairbanks.

The enthusiasm with which this first festival was received (by artists, observers, and coordinators) indicated that a major annual Native event had been born. The initial festivals were organized jointly by faculty and students. In recent years, the responsibilities of planning and production have become a campus-wide effort involving multiple departments, staff, students, and community volunteers. The countless hours of making arrangements for housing, transportation, fundraising, budgeting, and more are assumed by faculty, staff, students, and community volunteers on top of their already full work and course loads. Planning now is a year-round effort. Such commitment is a testament to a very great pride in cultural values and traditions.

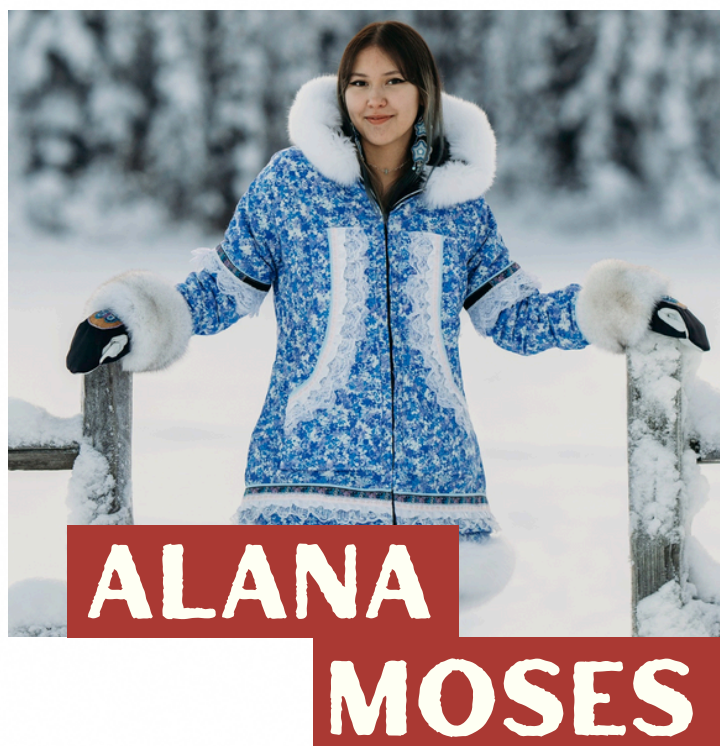
We thank you, our audience, for sharing in our cultures and traditions. People of all cultures are welcome here, as each culture has something valuable to learn from one another.

OUR *emblem*

Tanana artist James G. Schrock-Grant designed the festival of Native Arts Emblem in 1974 to represent the Alaska Native peoples and their cultures.

A woodcarver from Southeast Alaska is depicted carving a totem pole, while a Unangan hunter carves a wooden hat. The ivory carver represents both the Yup'ik and Inupiat, while a snowshoe maker represents Athabaskan. In a circle matching each figure are animals used by each of the Native people: the dog salmon by Tlingit/Haida/Tsimshian; the seal by Aleuts; the whale by Yup'ik and Iñupiaq; and the caribou by Athabascans. The raven in the center of the circle, signifying traditional religious beliefs, represents all Alaska native people. This beautiful emblem represents the cultures of Alaska.





Alana Moses from Fairbanks, Alaska, is the 2025 Festival of Native Arts (FNA) Booklet Cover Artist. She is eighteen years old and currently in her second year of taking classes on the Troth Yeddha' Campus at UAF. Alana is Yup'ik, Cup'ik, Inupiaq, and Koyukon Athabascan, with family from Alatna, Allakaket, and Hooper Bay.

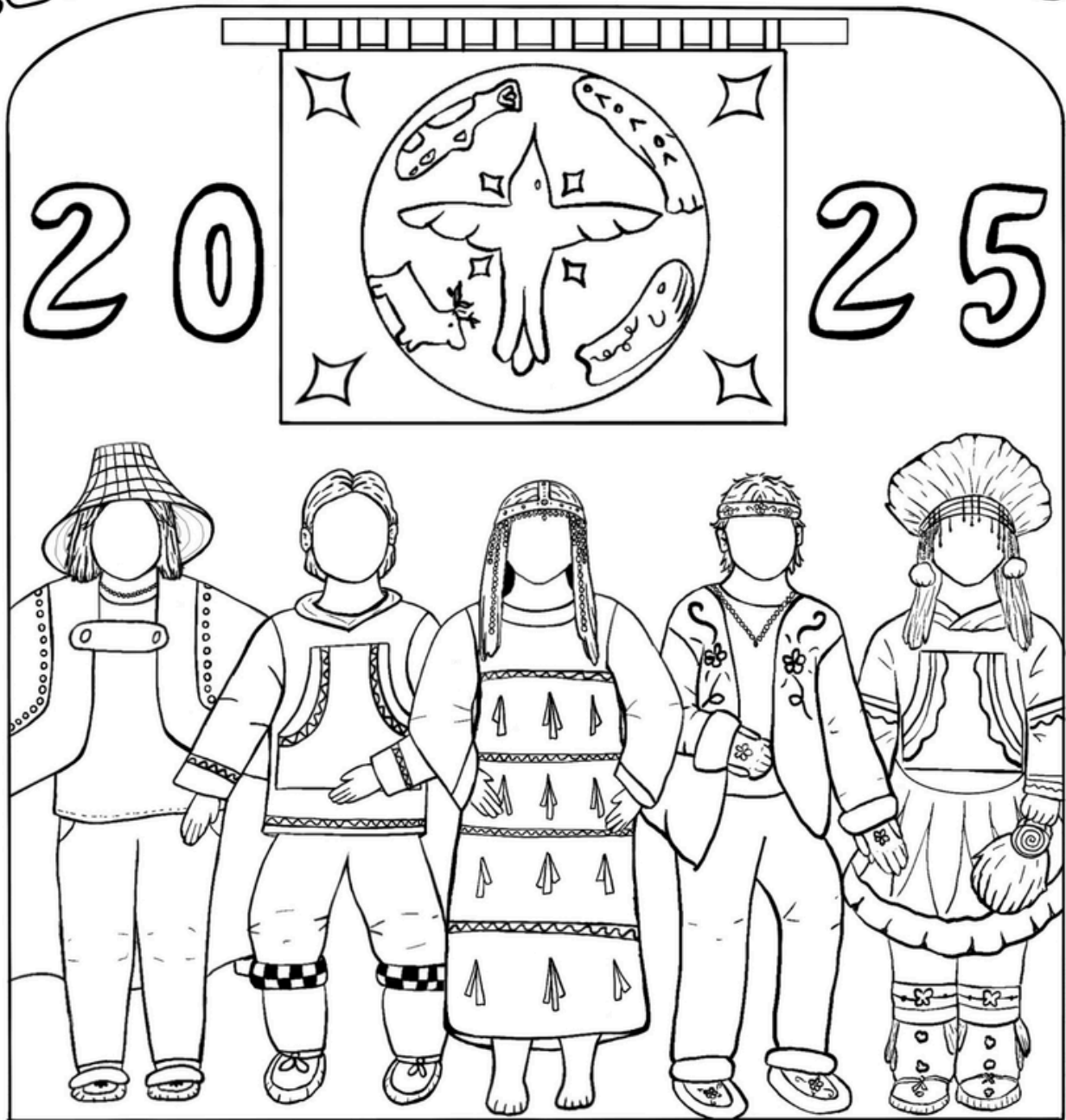
The logo for this year's Festival of Native Arts booklet represents the theme "Remembering our Past to Strengthen our Future" by showcasing a diverse group of young Alaska Native dancers underneath what looks like the original Festival banner. The banner is displayed above the stage every year at FNA. To help us remember our past, stars are added to the banner on the cover art. By including these stars, we can honor our ancestors as well as all the dancers, songwriters, singers, drummers, and performers who were on the stage before us.

The five Alaska Native people dancing on the stage represent the diversity of Alaska. Although these dancers are loosely based on individuals who have regularly performed at the Festival of Native Arts for most of their young lives, she hopes that by having the faces without features, many can see themselves on this stage. The people displayed on this cover, as well as everyone performing at the Festival of Native Arts, are the upcoming leaders and culture bearers who can help "Strengthen Our Future."

Throughout her life, Alana Moses has attended nearly every Festival of Native Arts as a dancer, performer, assistant vendor, or spectator. She has danced with the Inu-Yupiaq dance group both as a small child and as a university student. She can also say that she is on the cover of this year's Festival of Native Arts booklet, as she included herself as the dancer on the far right in light blue, wearing her traditional Yup'ik and Cup'ik regalia—all of which she made herself.

Alana would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone involved with the Festival throughout her life. It has always been a warm and welcoming space that has allowed her, as a young Alaska Native woman, to connect with her cultures and the many people who attend. From these experiences, she has been able to flourish as an artist and maintain a sense of belonging. As we remember past Festival experiences, we can carry forward a wealth of connections and pride as we strengthen our future.

REMEMBERING OUR PAST



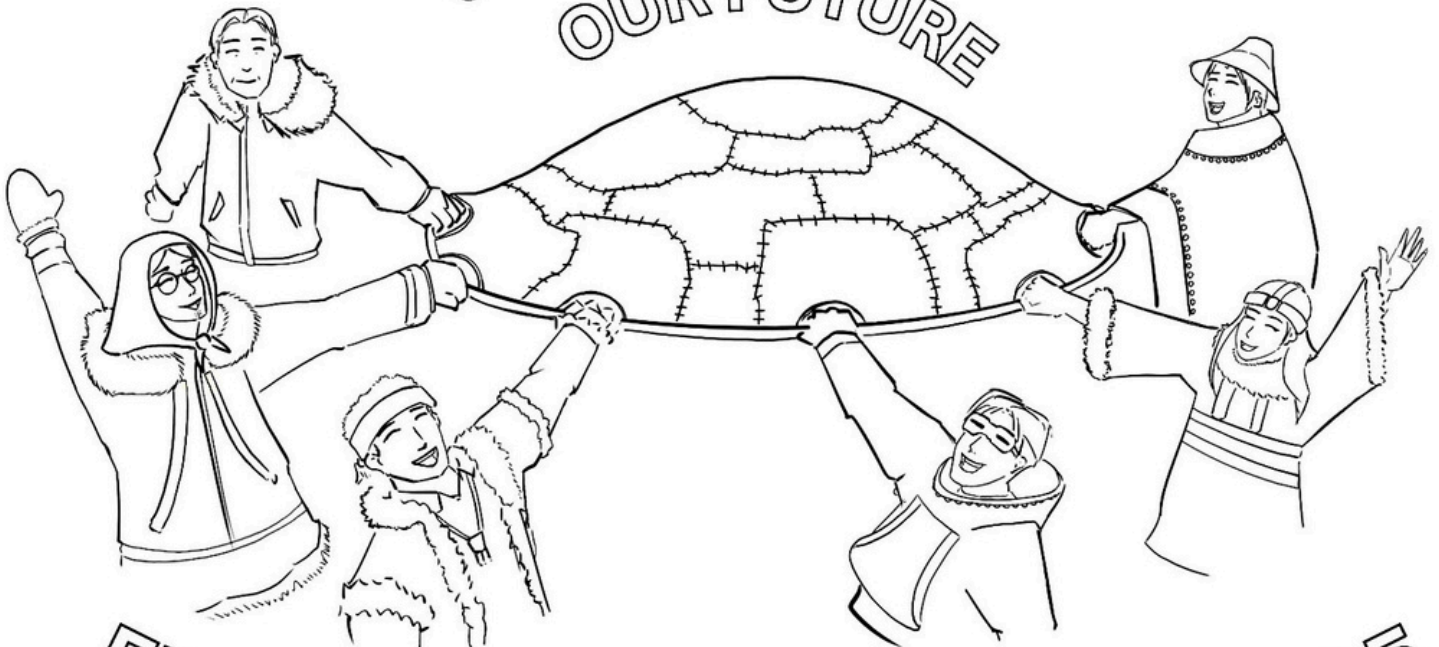
TO STRENGTHEN OUR FUTURE

FESTIVAL OF NATIVE ARTS

REMEMBERING OUR PAST TO STRENGTHEN



OUR FUTURE



FESTIVAL OF NATIVE ARTS 2025



NAATANII MAYO



*Shoozhri' Naatanii Mayo oozhri', Denyeet
gwats'an ihłii gaa Tanan gwihch'ii. Tl'eeyegge
hæt'aane gooveenjít Todich'ii'nii ihłii.*

"My name is Naatanii Mayo, I am from Stevens Village but I currently live in Fairbanks. I am Bitterwater Clan for the Tl'eeyegge hæt'aane."

This year's Festival of Native Arts logo is a reflection of all the amazing people and opportunities that I have encountered during my studies here at UAF. Since starting here at UAF, each year has brought new experiences and relationships that I would have otherwise never have been exposed to.

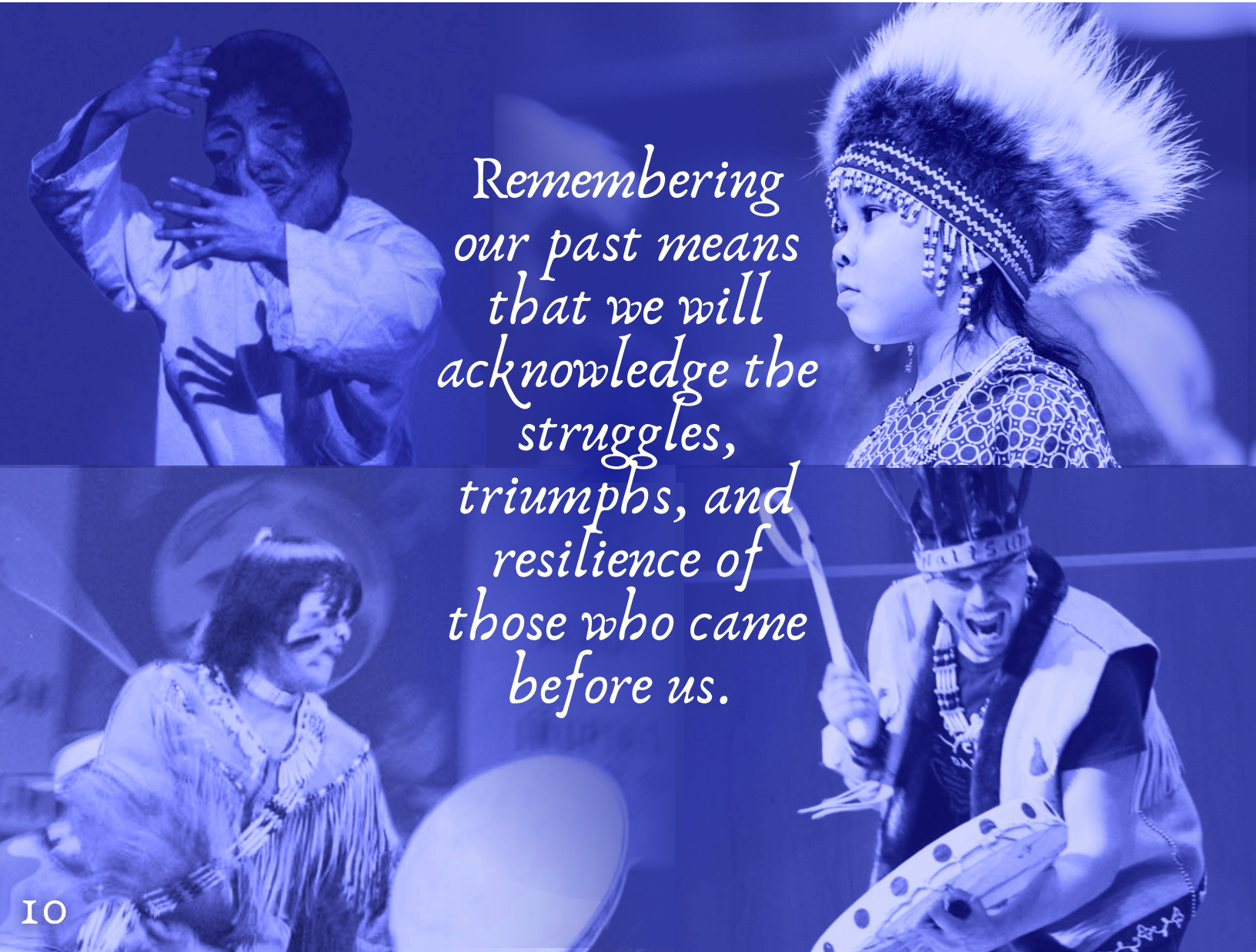
Remembering each year's own unique set of memories has strengthened me and soon my future.

Knowing that with each year and years prior, I have gained the means and skills to take care of myself and those around me. Thank you all for making this life a beautiful journey. Jyaa Gwahtsii Gwizhrih.

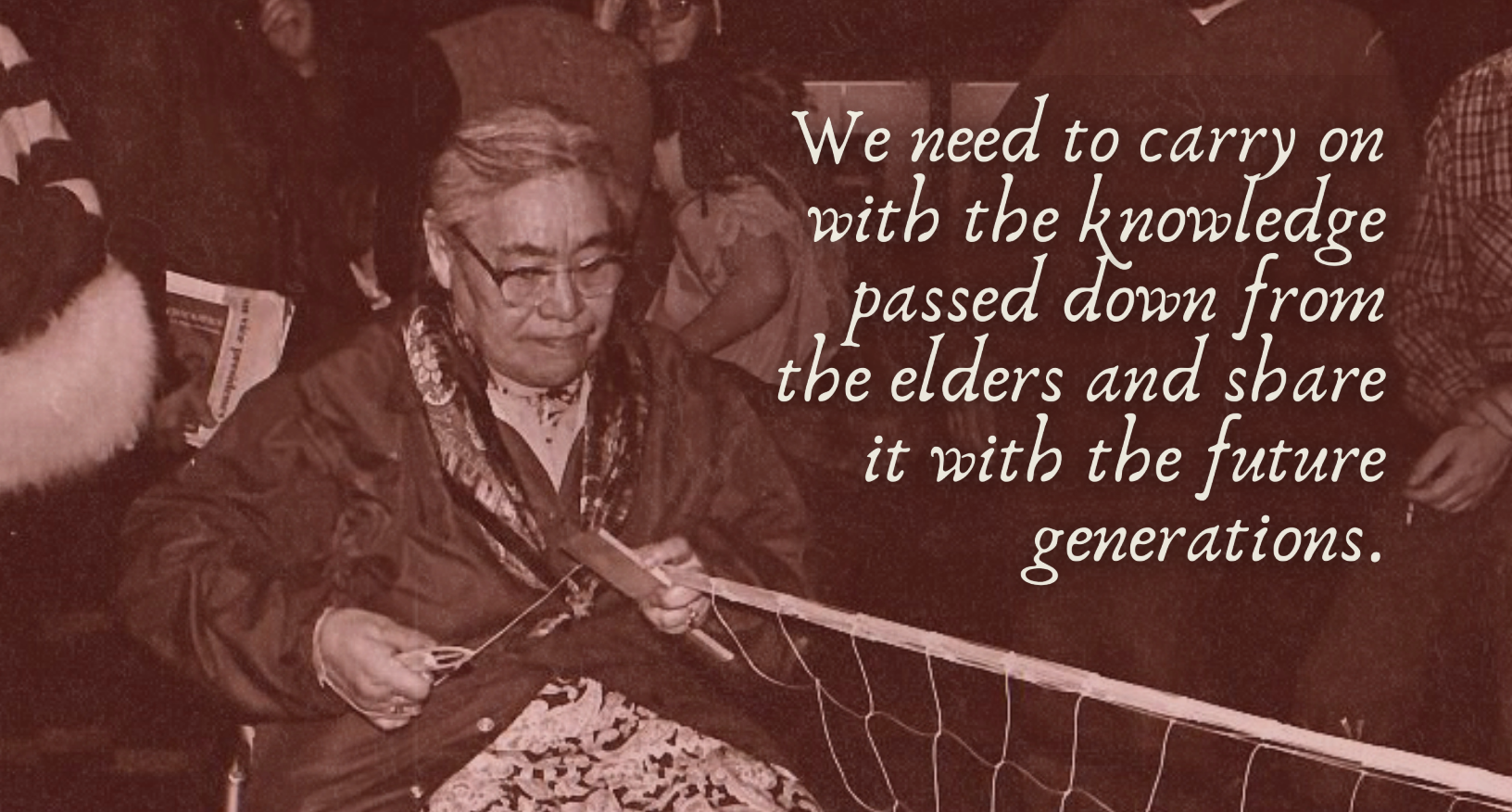
STUDENT VOICES:

What does year's theme mean to you?

In these next pages, hear from Festival of Native Arts students on what it means to Remember Our Past to Strengthen Our Future.



*Remembering
our past means
that we will
acknowledge the
struggles,
triumphs, and
resilience of
those who came
before us.*



*We need to carry on
with the knowledge
passed down from
the elders and share
it with the future
generations.*

STUDENT
The Theme: Remembering Our Past to Strengthen Our Future means to me being able to remember our culture from where our ancestors first started. Thinking about it now means that we need to carry on with the knowledge passed down from the elders and share it with the future generations. Keeping the stories alive through dancing is one of the best ways possible. Having the knowledge especially now is helpful. Basically a need because of culture loss even with other regions throughout Alaska.

-Ashlyn Augustine

When I think of the theme, I think of the importance of sharing and educating others about our culture. I think it is important to continue to tell and listen to our elders so that we can pass down our traditional values from generation to generation.

-Audrey Bahnke

VOICES
The theme means to me as showing different cultures, and skills. There are many different Native and Indigenous cultures performing, not only natives but also really talented musicians. They show what they have learned throughout the semester and what they have been practicing.

-Hannah Pingayak



*Has this
place
been
forever?*

As a teenager I was told about the significance of the place where the University of Alaska Fairbanks is located. Before I only knew the place as the University of Alaska Fairbanks. 'Troth Yeddha' is distinguishable to me because this is a historical landmark to the interior Athabascan. It was an annual place to gather for harvesting wild Indian potatoes. All the groups of the area would converge annually for harvest of wild Indian potatoes. A place where the people would tell their stories of the experiences of the prior winter and reflect on the hardships that were common among the groups. Also, new ideas and ways to improve the life of the communities.

Has this place been forever? Only in that geographical sense it has been part of the Tanana Valley landscape since human occupation of the area. The current occupants are as diverse as anywhere in the world. It is owned by the state of Alaska's University of Alaska. There has been no harvesting of wild Indian potatoes since development of the grounds for the college.

But there has been a gathering of knowledge and understanding on the grounds that was once an undomesticated garden. Indigenous Alaska Natives' interpretation of "Our Ways of Life" is saying that part of a fabric of the Alaska Native cultures is the foundations of flexible living that has acclimated to the times and the use of systems. The systems that Indigenous Alaska Natives devised so long ago are in the fabrics of our cultures. These systems are resolute and resilient in how we go about the customs and traditions while adapting to other cultures.

-Neal Charlie

Knowing where I come from, Minto, Alaska I have always been interested in our history and knowing where our people have come from in the past and how they overcame their struggles in order to see where my village has come to now in the year 2025. There is a lot of history and even though I am where I am today I am a part of that history. I am thankful I was able to know my grandparents Neal and Gerldine Charlie as they used to live in Old Minto and were a part of when they made the "new" Minto. Knowing my cultural background gives me knowledge, a sense of importance and strength. I know that if my ancestors can get through the hardest of times then I can as well whenever I face any hardships in my life. I also believe that you learn lessons in your life in order to be better in the future and as long as you keep learning and growing, those lessons will keep repeating until you learn from them.

-Kaylena Charlie

DENT
CE

The theme “Remembering Our Past to Strengthen Our Future” this resonates deeply with me because it highlights the importance of honoring our history as a foundation for building a brighter tomorrow. This concept reflects the interconnectedness of generations and the vital role that our ancestor's wisdom and experience play in guiding us forward. Remembering our past means that we will acknowledge the struggles, triumphs, and resilience of those who came before us. It is through their stories, traditions, and sacrifices that we are able to stand where we are today. By learning about and cherishing these histories, we can carry their legacy with us, ensuring that the lessons they taught are never forgotten. These lessons provides us with the strength to overcome challenges and the inspiration to strive for a better future. This theme also encourages us to embrace our cultural identity and values. When we understand where we come from, we gain a clearer sense of who we are and what we stand for. These insights empower us to navigate the modern world while trying to stay true to our roots. The richness of our traditions, language, and customs is a source of pride and a beacon for future generations.

Strengthening our future means using the knowledge of our past to create and opportunities for growth and unity. It reminds us that our actions today will shape the lives of those who follow. By preserving our heritage and sharing it with others, we build bridges of understanding and create a future where cultural diversity is celebrated.

“Remembering Our Past to Strengthen Our Future” is a call to action. It challenges us to look back with gratitude and forward with hope. It is a reminder that our history is not just something to be remembered but something to be lived and carried forward. Through this theme, we honor our ancestors, celebrate our present, and commit to a future that reflects the strength, wisdom, and beauty of our collective journey.

-Jenny Johnson

So the theme says “Remembering our past to strengthen our future” and I think that means reconnecting to our roots in our culture. That basically says people these days don't really know their own culture. So I think the theme wants to tell the future generation to never forget where you came from. Strengthening the language in this current generation should be one of the top priorities. It's the best way to communicate with the elders who know the language so much so that you gain knowledge from them.

-Sim Bartman



This theme is important to know cause it is basically telling you to remember everything your Elders taught you and pass it onto the next generation. For example when Elders speak it's important to give your full attention and show respect and ask questions if you don't understand something. History helps us become better citizens by understanding how our current world came to be.

-Justin Charlie

PERFORMERS

Anchorage Unangâ Dancers

At̂am Talîgisniikangis (At̂ka Dancers)

Ch'eno Polynesian Arts

Dene' Eslaanh

FNA Head Start 0-5

Galena School Band

Iñu-Yupiaq Dance Group

Minto Dancers

Mt. Susitna Sleeping Lady Drummers

Nunarpagmiut

Pavva Inupiaq Dancers

Stevens Village Dancers

Tapraq & Qerrullik Dancers

Troth Yeddha' Dance Group

Young Native Fiddlers



ARTISANS

Aaglu

Alaskan Beauty Cosmetics

Anuqsraaq Arts & Natural Products

Beading by Samantha

Bethany Forsythe

Betty Inglis

Brilliant Beads by Blanche

Bryan & Maggie Muktooyuk

Chena Chic Creations

Daybreak Designs

RurAL CAP

Kangas Crafts

Lois Hardesty Arts

McCoy Apothecary

MooseQuills

Midnight Sun

Intertribal Powwow

Native Games

Nic and Cam's Shop

Olga's Arts & Crafts

RSS/RAHI

Rachel David

Rebecca Wilbur

Sadie's Crafts

Selina Alexander

Southern Tutchone Arts

Standing Bear Creations

Swan Clan Creations

Tautuk Alaska

Temple's Longtails and Fur

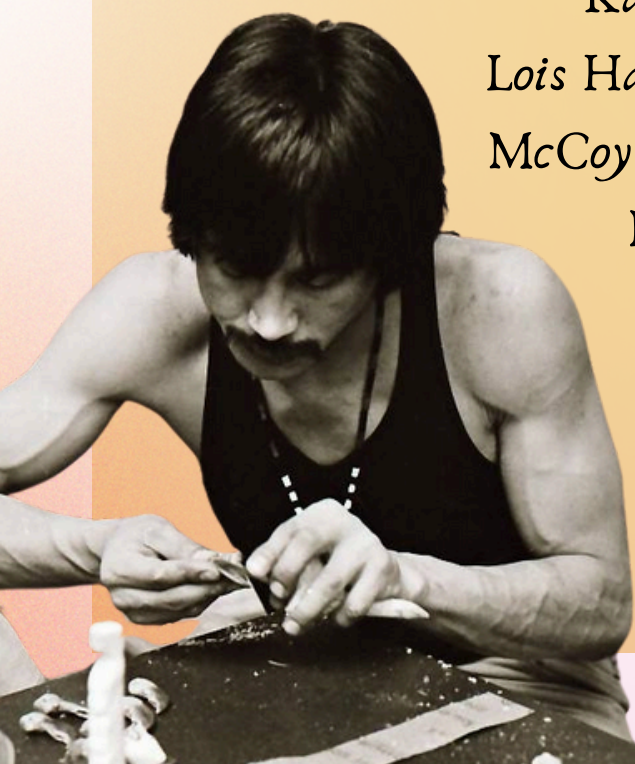
The Bead Lady

The Cozy Inuk

Third Generation Art

Totsmaywee

Tyla Rose



PATHFINDER AWARD

At every Festival of Native Arts, we team up with the Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development (DANSRD) to celebrate an exceptional UAF staff member with the Pathfinder Award. Come join us this year to discover who will be honored!

The Pathfinder Award is an annual honor established in 2012 to recognize an outstanding University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) staff member who embodies compassion and dedication to the success of Alaska Native and rural students. This award is open to all staff employed by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, including those at UAF's branch campuses.

This award honors Kay Thomas, a soft-spoken woman who dedicated over twenty years to ensuring the retention and success of Alaska Native students in their university studies. Kay possesses the gifts of humility, grace, and compassion, and she never seeks praise or accolades. Through her compassionate and highly effective guidance and academic advising skills, Kay positively impacted the lives of over 2,000 students at the University of Alaska. She retired from the DANSRD in 2012.



Previous Awardees

2024	Amy Marsh <i>Academic Advisor, Troth Yeddha' Campus</i>
2023	Carlton Hautala <i>Academic Advisor, Troth Yeddha' Campus</i>
2022	Kathy Commack <i>Academic Advisor, Northwest Campus</i>
2020	Janet Kaiser <i>Academic & Career Advisor, Kuskokwim Campus</i>
2019	Robin Brooks <i>Student Success Coordinator, Interior Alaska Campus</i>
2018	Angela Rutman <i>Tribal Management Program Coordinator, Interior Alaska Campus</i>
2017	Olga Skinner <i>Advisor for Rural Student Services, Troth Yeddha' Campus</i>
2016	Kacey Miller <i>Student Services Manager, Northwest Campus</i>
2015	Sara Andrew <i>Manager, Adult Learning Programs, Bristol Bay Campus</i>
2014	Agnes McIntyre <i>Emerging Scholar Coordinator, Kuskokwim Campus</i>
2013	Gabrielle Russell <i>Advisor for Rural Student Services, Troth Yeddha' Campus</i>
2012	Kay Thomas <i>Department of Alaska Native Studies and Rural Development, Troth Yeddha' Campus</i>



THANK YOU TO OUR

Supporters & Sponsors

*Fairbanks Arts Association
UAF College of Indigenous Studies
UAF College of Liberal Arts
University of Alaska Fairbanks
UAF Rasmuson Library
UAF Art Department
UAF Chancellor's Office
Nomadic Stars
UAF Department of Alaska Native Studies
and Rural Development*

*UAF Department of Music
UAF Department of Theatre and Film
UAF Fire Department
UAF Police Department
UAF Risk Management
UAF Rural Alaska Honors Institute
UAF Rural Student Services
UAF Wood Center
Dateline Digital Printing*

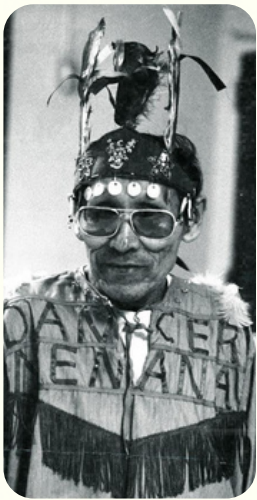
✦ See you next year! ✦



20 FESTIVAL OF 26 NATIVE ARTS

SAVE THE
DATE:

FEBRUARY
26, 27 & 28
2026



Performer and Vendor Applications open Fall 2025

KEEP IN TOUCH



@festivalofnativearts



@festivalofnativearts



fna.community.uaf.edu



COLLEGE OF
INDIGENOUS STUDIES

University of Alaska Fairbanks