

2023-2024

# SITKA WINTER ARTS GUIDE

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## SITKA IS...

Southeast Alaska's  
Art Destination

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## THE SITKA NUTCRACKER

ShowTakes Center Stage with  
an Enchanting Alaskan Twist

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## SITKA FINE ARTS CAMP

50 Years in the Making

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## ART IN YOUR BACKYARD

The Sitka Monthly Grind...



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# SITKA Fine Arts Camp Celebrating 50 years

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*"Sitka Fine Arts Camp has changed me more than anything else in my life. I would not be the person I am today without SFAC. I have gained so much confidence, wisdom, and skill from my time here. Before SFAC, I could never imagine myself in front of a big crowd, and now I am playing a solo in front of 400 people." - SFAC Student*

Young Performers Theater is also enrolling students for the spring semester of after school classes.

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# SITKA IS...

## Southeast Alaska's Arts Destination

***People often wonder what folks do in Sitka during the long, gray winter months. The answer is simple - they go to the theater, they participate in theater, they listen to music, they create music, they attend lectures, they give lectures, they take classes and teach classes. Sitka transforms once the tourist season is over. It becomes a place of art.***

Sitkans are busy. It's almost fair to say that Sitka hosts 360 days of art in some way, shape, or form. This could be a bit of a stretch, but there is certainly art to be had just about everywhere.

Two organizations are leaders in the arts community: the Sitka Fine Arts Camp and the Greater Sitka Arts Council.

In addition to their nationally recognized summer camps, the Sitka Fine Arts Camp also hosts Young Performers Theater and a winter Performing Arts Series. This season features Ghanaian musician Okaidja Afroso and the annual Holiday Brass Concert with members of top orchestras from around the country.

**You don't have to look far to find something 'artsy' to do on a chilly winter day.**



The Greater Sitka Arts Council serves as the umbrella for a host of juicy arts opportunities and events: Sitka Wearable Art, PorchFest, Sitka Community Theater, Sitka Monthly Grind, Gallery Walks, Open Mics, and Sitka Strings.

Near the beginning of the GSAC season is Radio Adventure Hour, an old-time radio show, with live sound effects produced on stage in front of the audience.

Porchfest is the newest GSAC collaboration. It is a day filled with music, dance and visual art in downtown Sitka. All the events are open to the public, free of charge and family friendly.

## **Sitka transforms once the tourist season is over. It becomes a place of art.**

But wait, there's more. Sheldon Jackson Museum, Sitka Music Festival, Island Artists Cooperative, Sitka Tells Tales, Sitka Studio of Dance, Ramshackle Cabaret, Naa Kahidi Dancers, Sitka Film Society, Sitka Cirque, and Ocean Wave Quilters Guild - all keep Sitkans fully entertained.

Add in Sitka Library lectures and visiting authors, Public Radio shows produced by KCAW volunteers, events at University of Alaska Southeast Sitka Campus, markets and bazaars, small performance groups (celtic, ukuleles, shape note singing), and individual musicians playing on the street in multiple configurations.

Appreciation of the arts extends to Sitka schools. Mt. Edgecumbe High School and Sitka High School have outstanding drama and debate teams, art students produce amazing pieces, and the music programs are unparalleled. Sitka High School also boasts one of the most acoustically perfect Performing Arts Centers in the United States.

You don't have to look far to find something "artsy" to do on a chilly winter day. With dramatic landscapes that could be a painting, hiking trails that are art in themselves, and a rich history of Alaska Native Arts, Sitka-by-the-Sea is truly an art lover's paradise.

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# THE SITKA NUTCRACKER

## Show Takes Center Stage with an Enchanting Alaskan Twist

***What do the following have in common: A slime line, a gaggle of tourists, fireweed, bears, northern lights, mosquitos, and snow? If you guessed Alaska and the Nutcracker, you are correct. Wait, what? The Nutcracker?!?! Yes, in 2023 the Sitka Nutcracker takes on the Last Frontier.***

The first production of Nutcracker came to Sitka in 1998. 25 years ago Melinda McAdams, the owner and lead dance instructor at Sitka Studio of Dance, wanted something that challenged her dancers and offered another type of performance opportunity. It was so well received that McAdams continues to mount a production in Sitka every other year.

**There just seems to be something special about this particular show.**

Customized themes vary with each Nutcracker (e.g. The Animal Kingdom and The Land of Sweets), but the "Alaska Nutcracker" - which rotates in about every 4 years - seems to have an energy all its own. McAdams explains, "There just seems to be something special about this particular show. Dancers simply light up when they have the opportunity to perform in the Alaska Nutcracker."



## The Same Story with a Twist

It's the same Tchaikovsky classic you know. The two-act ballet begins when a girl named Marie Stahlbaum is gifted a wooden Nutcracker doll at a Christmas party. After the clock strikes midnight, the doll comes to life and drama ensues.

While the music for the Nutcracker remains traditional, twists abound that give the story a definite Alaskan feel. Little bits and pieces of Alaskan life are peppered throughout the Party Scene. McAdams expands, "The party guests are entertained by dancing bears and a magical matryoshka doll." Little jokes are sprinkled throughout, many of them inspired by the performers themselves, adding to the fun and hilarity of the show.

Unique aspects of Alaskan life, past and present, are skillfully woven into the traditional story. McAdams continues, "As the scenes change there is a battle between the Nutcracker doll and the Mosquito Queen. An eagle soars under northern lights. The workers on the slime line tap dance (in Xtratufs no less) their way through their work."

"In another scene, a group of tourists arrive and tour the city. Can-can girls high-step through their

dance. Berry pickers find the best berries. Crabs and jellyfish dance, along with a Fireweed Fairy." There are inside jokes that Sitkans understand completely, but there's fun to be had by all.

## They Keep Coming Back

The Alaska Nutcracker is also Sitkan in spirit. The energy of the show is contagious and the excitement is always at a high level. Senior dance studio pupils become some of the principal characters and often have solos.

## Unique aspects of Alaskan life, past and present, are skillfully woven into the traditional story.

Aezlynn Nichols, age 17, will be *en pointe* as the Snow Queen and is totally thrilled. "Snow has been my favorite scene ever since I heard about





Nutcracker, and when I learned I got the part, I was over the moon. I want to honor the people who have had the role of Snow Queen before me, all of whom have been huge role models in my dance career," says Nichols. She remembers having the big kids help her with makeup and costumes when she was younger, and now *she* is the "Big Kid" helping everyone else. These relationships are seen throughout, as older dancers mix and mingle with younger ones.

Several community members have been in multiple productions of the show. Joe D'Arienzo started in 1998 as the Nutcracker and has been in every show since. This time he will be playing Grandfather Stahlbaum. D'Arienzo can also be found behind the scenes constructing sets and helping with rigging.

Carole Knuth is another long-standing participant. She jokes, "I have had eight different husbands throughout my Nutcracker career." Knuth has missed only one production. This time, Knuth will be playing a hot dog vendor, as well as working backstage fixing and fitting costumes with laughter and good cheer.

Ben Hughey, who portrays the Nutcracker in 2023, is a returning member to the troupe. Hughey fights Mosquito Kari Paustian (also a returning dancer) in the Battle Scene, which they choreographed themselves. Paustian emphasizes, "One of the great things about the Nutcracker Ballet, in general, is that

students can always come back and continue to perform. There are so many different roles that it is easy to return as an adult who has been away from dance for several years."

In addition to McAdams, this latest Nutcracker incorporates two more choreographers: Nancy Neel and Laura Turcott. Neel teaches at Sitka Studio of Dance and Turcott dances in the adult classes. Turcott, incidentally, danced as a child with the studio and has been in many Nutcrackers over the years, plus performing in other Sitka shows.

## **The workers on the slime line tap dance (in Xtratufs no less) their way through their work.**

Neel and Turcott each created a dance for the show (Tourists & Northern Lights). The New Archangel Dancers (the only "outside" dance group) portray Ice Maidens and have their own choreography. The rest of the production succeeds solely because of McAdams' creative magic.



## Multi-Generational Endeavor

Another unique aspect of this Alaska Nutcracker is the number of Sitka family members performing together. The Stahlbaum family is just that - a real family, the Sitka Hames family. Morgan Hames, who plays Marie, and her father Andrew performed together in the 2019 production. They are joined this time by mom Kristin and sister Molly.

The same is true for Virginia Pearson and her mother, Martha. They will perform together in Waltz of the Flowers, along with a number of second graders as honeybees. Parents of performers also work backstage building sets, helping with hair and makeup, and providing supervision for younger dancers.

## Labor of Love

With McAdams' attention to detail, wry sense of humor, and nurturing ways, she clearly brings out the best in her performers. Her talent and creativity as a choreographer is evident. McAdams works to get the best possible performances from her dancers, makes sure everyone is ready by show time, and also nurtures her dancers throughout the year.

## The energy of the show is contagious and the excitement is always at a high level.

McAdams donates her time to the Nutcracker, while still teaching classes at Sitka Studio of Dance. She leaves the heavy fundraising to the Fireweed Dance Guild Board, who are responsible for raising funds so the show can go on. Donations from local Sitka businesses are instrumental. Families of performers donate time to help build sets and props, volunteer backstage, and help in any way necessary.

So, while the Nutcracker is a holiday tradition, for Sitka it is also a labor of love. The Alaska Nutcracker is loved even more for its fun and jokes about being an Alaskan and being a Sitkan. It truly takes an entire village to create this amazing show.

The Alaska Nutcracker is an experience unlike any other and surely not to be missed. The 2023 shows take place December 1, 2 & 3 at the Sitka Performing Arts Center. Get tickets online at [fineartscamp.org](http://fineartscamp.org) and at the door.



# FEATURED EVENTS

## The Sitka Nutcracker, An Alaska Tale

**Dec 1, 2, 3 & 4 • 7PM**

Sitka Performing Arts Center

*Come and see crabs, eagles, can can girls, slime line dancers, and all your Tchaikovsky favorites!*

*Tickets at [fineartscamp.org](http://fineartscamp.org) and at the door.*

## John Denver & Variety Show Monthly Grind

**Dec 9 • 7PM**

Naa Kahidi Community House

*Presented by GSAC. Affordable, non-political, family oriented entertainment.*

## Sitka Cirque Winter Showcase

**Dec 9 • 1:30PM**

207 Smith Street

*Come see our younger performers show off their talent.*



## Cirque Noir

**Dec 9 • 8PM**

207 Smith Street

*Step into Sitka Cirque's private venue and be surrounded by cage dancers, aerialists serving champagne from hanging chandeliers, and a cast of roving characters. Be ready for an immersive evening of live music, food, drink, art, and dancing.*

## Holiday Made In Sitka Market

**Dec 16 & 17 • 10AM - 3PM**

Harrigan Centennial Hall

*Last-minute Christmas gifts from our talented vendors, delicious food, and a chance to win 2 round trip Alaska Airlines tickets through Brave Heart Volunteers' raffle! We hope to see you there!*

## Holiday Brass

**Dec 22 • 7PM**

Sitka Performing Arts Center

*Celebrate the holiday season at this concert featuring members of top orchestras from around the country playing glorious music that will help you get into the holiday spirit. Tickets at [fineartscamp.org](http://fineartscamp.org).*

## Ramshackle New Year's Eve Event

**Dec 31**

Odess Theater

*Ring in the New Year, Cabaret style! Join us for a night of adults-only local entertainment, featuring burlesque, comedy, and live music by Slack Tide.*

## 80's Monthly Grind

**Jan 13 • 7PM**

Naa Kahidi Community House

*Presented by GSAC. Affordable, non-political, family oriented entertainment.*

## Sing Sing Sing

**Jan 13 • 7PM**

Sitka Performing Arts Center

*A gala evening celebrating the voices of SFAC alumni. A festive concert featuring a dazzling array of pop, jazz, opera and show tunes on a cold wintry night. Tickets at [fineartscamp.org](http://fineartscamp.org).*



# SITKA

MUSIC FESTIVAL

## Upcoming Events

February 13

Winterlude featuring  
Soprano Danielle Talamantes

May 29 - June 23

53rd Summer Music Festival

[sitkamusicalfestival.org](http://sitkamusicalfestival.org)

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- Trip planning guides
- Downtown, attractions & hiking maps
- Info on upcoming community events

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# FEATURED EVENTS



## Broadway Night

Jan 19 • 6:30PM

Odess Theater

A fundraiser for Sitka Community Theater. Come and watch your friends and neighbors perform some of their favorite show tunes while enjoying great appetizers and beverages.

## Okaidja Afroso - Ghanaian Music

Jan 27 • 7PM

Sitka Performing Arts Center

Ghanaian musician Okaidja Afroso returns to Sitka to share a suite of musical flavors combining percussion, guitar, dance, and vocals. His artistry weaves traditional dance and rhythms with modern harmonies and lyrics. Tickets at [fineartscamp.org](http://fineartscamp.org).

## The Fiddle Monthly Grind

Feb 3 • 7PM

Naa Kahidi Community House

Affordable, non-political, family oriented entertainment.

## Wearable Art Show

Feb 10 • 2PM & 7PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

A night of stunning designs. 2024 Theme: The Sky is the Limit

## BANFF 2024

Feb 23 • 7PM

Sitka Performing Arts Center

Get off the beaten path and explore the edge of the believable with captivating stories from the Banff Mountain Film Festival. From exploring remote landscapes to adrenaline-fueled action sports, films are sure to amaze you. Tickets at [fineartscamp.org](http://fineartscamp.org).

## Ramshackle Cabaret: Annual Performance

Mar 1 & 2

Harrigan Centennial Hall

Two nights of Cabaret fun! Burlesque, comedy, singing, dance...all packed in for your entertainment. All proceeds go to causes which support sexual and reproductive health in Alaska.

## Fireweed Dance Theatre Annual Gala

Mar 2 • 7PM

Sitka Performing Arts Center

Advanced students from Sitka Studio of Dance perform a variety of genres in this evening of dance. Guest artists will grace the stage as well. As a special treat, there will be a Nutcracker spoof to entertain the audience.

## Original Artist Monthly Grind

Mar 9 • 7PM

Sitka Performing Arts Center

Affordable, non-political, family oriented entertainment.



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# FEATURED EVENTS

## Sitka Community Theater Production

**Mar 29, 30 & 31 • 7PM**

Sitka Performing Arts Center

Show TBD. Presented by GSAC.

## Meistersingers

**Apr 6 • 7PM**

Sitka Performing Arts Center

*Meistersingers is an inclusive auditioned mixed choir from Cherry Creek High School under the direction of Sarah Branton dedicated to finding the fun in being serious about excellence. Tickets at [fineartscamp.org](http://fineartscamp.org).*

## Spring Art Walk

**Apr TBD**

Downtown Sitka

*Come stroll through Sitka's beautiful downtown while taking in new art and wonderful company.*



## Herring Protectors: Yaaw Koo.éex'

**Apr TBD**

Sheet'ká Kwáan

*An annual gathering and ceremony held in the spring celebrating the herring and all of our relations to them. See [herringprotectors.org](http://herringprotectors.org).*

## Annie the Musical

**Apr 19 • 7PM**

**Apr 20 • 2PM & 7PM**

Odess Theater

*A production by Young Performers Theater.*

## Sitka Cirque Spring Performance

**Apr 20 & 21**

**Apr 27 & 28**

207 Smith Street

*Cosmic Carnival: Sitka Cirque goes to Outer Space*

## Sitka Studio of Dance Annual Recitals

**May 11 • 7PM**

Sitka Performing Arts Center

*Dancers ages 4 up to adults will perform in three recitals throughout the day. Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop, Creative Movement, Modern, Musical Theatre, and Lyrical. Seniors will share their solos in each recital.*

## Annual Mother's Day Quilt Show

**May 12**

SFAC Campus

*By Ocean Wave Quilters Guild.*

## PorchFest

**May 18**

Downtown Sitka

*A day filled with music and art. All the events are open to the public, free of charge and family friendly.*

## Wearable Art



## PorchFest



## Monthly Grind



Greater Sitka



Arts Council

See all of our upcoming events at [SitkaArtsCouncil.org](http://SitkaArtsCouncil.org)

## Sitka Strings



## Sitka Community Theater



## Open Mic



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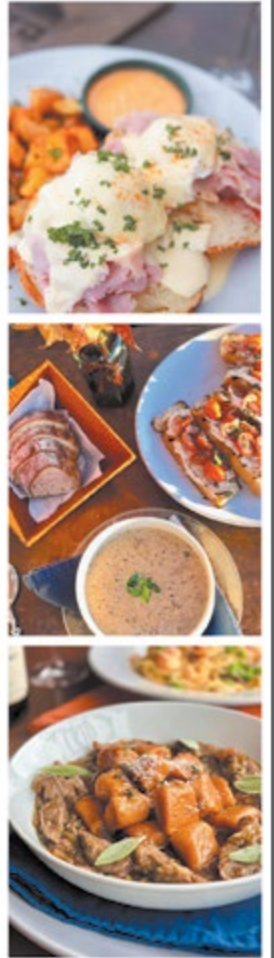
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# SITKA FINE ARTS CAMP

## 50 Years in the Making

***Roger Schmidt was just five years old when Sitka Fine Arts Camp began in 1973. No one could have known that one day he'd be at the helm of the vessel on a decades-long voyage.***

Roger's mom Linda remembers knowing that the young Roger loved music and "lots of other things" but one of her most vivid memories is of him kayaking in the waters behind their house.

"He would launch the kayak and I'd say, 'Just be back before dark.' And every time Roger would push the envelope. When he finally did return, I'd say, 'Roger, it's dark out there. I worry about you.' And he'd say, 'But Mom - it's still light out on the water!'" When asked about Roger's adventurous spirit, Linda says dryly, "He came with that."





## Spirit of Adventure

During its 50-year history, SFAC's mission has been to "build community in Alaska by providing opportunities in arts, culture, and recreation in an inclusive, educational, and inspirational environment." Achieving this mission has required belief in its importance, plus creativity in relatively uncharted waters.

The summer camp was founded in 1973 by Jan Craddick and James Hope - then both members of the Southeast Alaska Regional Arts Council - as an alternative to having Sitka students travel up north for summer arts camp.

## Camp is like their Hogwarts – a place where they fit in and have found their community.

That first camp took place on the Sheldon Jackson campus and was projected to serve around 150 teens for two weeks in July. This model worked, more or less, for 27 years, prior to Schmidt taking over the helm. But there were also financial difficulties during that time.

Schmidt explains, "Back in 2001, the camp was struggling financially and there were only about 60 students attending. It was not certain that it would stay afloat. One of the reasons I agreed to step into the role of executive director was the sense of community I enjoyed when I was a camper in the 1980s. I wanted students to have the same experience."

He would be the first to tell you that one adventurous person was not enough and the journey was not his alone, but one of many.



## A Community Affair

For the camp to get to where it is now has required concerted efforts from the whole community, passing along skills and enthusiasm from one generation to the next, volunteer hours, dedicated staff, faculty from all over the country and students coming back year after year.

Schmidt paints a vivid picture, "As we began expanding, the sense of community grew, as did Sitka's support for the camp. This was put to the test in 2011 after we received the keys to the former Sheldon Jackson College campus. We did not have the funds immediately needed, so we started applying for grants and reaching out to the greater Sitka and Alaska community. Over 1,000 volunteers answered that call and put over 40,000 hours into restoring the campus - numbers that continue to amaze me."

2023 marks the camp's 50th anniversary. Throughout its existence, camp has been "a safe space for students to experiment and develop their artistic skills and a place where students, faculty, and staff learn to be better humans from everyone around them. While not every camper becomes a professional artist," says Schmidt, "many go on to become leaders, change-makers and arts advocates in their communities." Anniversary festivities culminated with Jazz on the Waterfront and other celebrations in summer of 2023.

## The Power to Create

Why do the campers keep coming back? What do they find at camp that is so important? Because camp becomes the impetus for kids to expand, grow, create, explore, share and love. Love what? Love what they do and love themselves. Schmidt tells the story of The Four-Direction Signpost on campus.

“Three signs point visitors towards Sweetland Hall, Odess Theater, and Rasmuson Center. The fourth, pointing towards the ocean, says ‘Hogwarts’ which often elicits questions from visitors and parents. It’s there because multiple students over the years have said that camp is like their Hogwarts - a place where they fit in and have found their community.”

Says one 2023 student, “It is amazing that there are so many talented and different artists here. I am able to learn with people who have so many different perspectives on art, which is something that I don’t get anywhere else.”

## As we began expanding, the sense of community grew, as did Sitka’s support for the camp.

Camp definitely has powerful metaphors. The community of a band, the flexibility of improvisation, the stillness of creating in a “room of one’s own.” Learning and honing skills - all while having fun doing so - AND learning about oneself.

## Growth Beyond Measure

So, what does 2024 hold for SFAC? What can our crystal ball divine - looking even further into the future? What does the next 50 years hold?

The big picture from the organizational side is hope and planning for: continued campus restoration, growth of the SFAC Endowment, and moving forward with crafting a truly need-blind camp.

So, more stability and security from the financial-administrative side, while more new adventures and student pleasers from the creative side.

## When asked about Roger’s adventurous spirit, Linda says dryly, “He came with that.”

“We will be here as long as the belief that SFAC provides a vital service to our youths persists, so while we celebrate the 50th anniversary in 2023, we are already looking forward to the next 50 years,” says Schmidt, the original adventurer.



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# PORTRAIT OF AN EXPLORER

## A Q&A with Roger Schmidt

### **When you were little, what did you want to be when you grew up?**

An explorer. I loved reading books about explorers and then pretending and daydreaming their adventures.

### **When do you remember first being interested in the arts?**

5th grade, Gene Bucholz. I was very excited to play trombone. In 6th grade I had Ginny Packer for music and that set the hook in me forever. However I grew up in a family that was very involved in the arts. My parents used to host musicians from the SSMF and held music appreciation classes in the house. My mother was also the president of the Sitka Concert Association so we had a lot of musicians coming and going at our house. We were also friends with the painter, Nancy Taylor Stonington and I remember her painting often at our house in our dining room.

### **What will be new or different in 2024 - classes, faculty, something else?**

We always work to make each camp better than the year before. One of the things that makes the camp great is that every year we have new artists come and teach at the camp. Because the artists that we hire have busy professional careers there is always change as they balance their desire to teach at camp with their other professional engagements. We are working on putting in a heating system at Whitmore Dorm. This is an enormous project that we hope to complete by Camp 2024. It might seem crazy, however, many of the buildings on the campus still do not have heat.

### **What do you envision for SFAC over the next 50 years?**

In my last 20 years, we have worked very hard to build a strong future for the camp. When I started in 2000 the camp was holding on by a thread. I was



determined to build the strength of the program so that its future was not precarious. This has been a phenomenally challenging goal and it continues to stretch our staff and our resources to the edge. My goal and hope for the next 50 years is that SFAC can mature into an organization that can continue its valuable and high quality work yet not be required to operate at a "heroic" level. Because our society places such a low value on kids and arts, people are used to thinking that part of being an arts organization and being artists is a struggle requiring disproportionate amounts of time commitment and below market compensation. This causes burn-out and failure of institutions. Between 1990 and 2000, the Sitka Fine Arts Camp had 8 different directors and canceled two years of summer camps. My goal is to build the strength of the organization so that we don't see these cycles again.

### **How do you see your role in the community?**

Sitka is my home. I grew up here, my family and my friends live here. I have tried professionally and as a volunteer to do what I can to maintain and create the type of community that I want to live in and that I want my children and other children to want to continue to live in.

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# ARTS DIRECTORY

## ARTS ORGS

### Greater Sitka Arts Council

*Increasing arts awareness in Sitka through education, advocacy and programming.*

[sitkaartscouncil.org](http://sitkaartscouncil.org)

### Sitka Fine Arts Camp

*Providing opportunities in arts, culture and recreation in an inclusive, educational and inspirational environment.*

110 College Dr., Ste 111

[fineartscamp.org](http://fineartscamp.org)

## MUSIC

### Sitka Community Orchestra

*An inter-generational music ensemble made up of strings, winds and percussion. Meets once a week starting in January until early May.*

[delarson17@gmail.com](mailto:delarson17@gmail.com)

### Sitka Music Festival

*Offering the finest classical music experience in Alaska through performance & education.*

104 Jeff Davis St.

(907) 747-6774

[sitkamusicfestival.org](http://sitkamusicfestival.org)

### Sitka Strings

*Providing violin lessons and opportunities to perform throughout the community.*

[sitkaartscouncil.org](http://sitkaartscouncil.org)

## FILM, RADIO & LITERATURE

### Artchange, Inc

*Non-profit creating & collaborating on documentary media, contemporary art & community projects, including Sitka Tells Tales, Haa Léelk'u Haa Haa Éet Aawlitoo.át*

*and the Ramshackle Cabaret.*

[artchangeinc.org](http://artchangeinc.org)

### Old Harbor Books

*Selling good books to good people for 45+ years, OHB was established in 1976 by a group of three book-loving local families.*

201 Lincoln St.

(907) 747-8808

[oldharborbooks.net](http://oldharborbooks.net)

### Sitka Film Society

*Dedicated to growing film culture in Sitka.*

(907) 738-0602

[facebook.com/SitkaFilmSociety](https://facebook.com/SitkaFilmSociety)

### Sitka Public Library

*A public library serving the City and Borough of Sitka since 1923.*

320 Harbor Dr.

(907) 747-4020

[cityofsitka.com](http://cityofsitka.com)

### KCAW Raven Radio

*FM Radio Station broadcasting & streaming many genres of music + local arts & language programming.*

<https://www.kcaw.org/>

104.7 FM

## DANCE

### Fireweed Dance Guild

*Sitka's local concert dance company. Dancers are chosen by audition.*

(907) 966-2557  
[sitkastudioofdance.com](http://sitkastudioofdance.com)

### New Archangel Dancers

*Celebrating Sitka's Russian heritage by performing lively, authentic, and professionally choreographed folk dances from Russia and surrounding regions.*

(907) 747-5516  
[newarchangeldancers.com](http://newarchangeldancers.com)

### Sitka Studio of Dance

*Teaches concert dance to dancers ages 18 months through adults, beginner through advanced.*

1310 Sawmill Creek Rd.  
 (907) 966-2557  
[sitkastudioofdance.com](http://sitkastudioofdance.com)

### Naa Kahídi Dancers

*Hear the songs of tradition handed down by generations. Summer dance group operated by Sitka Tribal Enterprises.*

200 Katlian St. (907) 747-7137  
[sitkatours.com](http://sitkatours.com)

### Sheet'ká Kwáan Dancers

*Kiks.ádi dance group started in 1994 by Khasheechila Louise Brady and the late Isabella Brady.*

(907) 738-1075  
[dbradyhoward@gmail.com](mailto:dbradyhoward@gmail.com)

### Gájaa Héen Dancers Middle & High School

*Dance Group sponsored by Sitka Native Education Program.*

(907) 747-3207

### Noow Tlein Dancers

*Dance group for adult graduates of Sitka Native Education Program. Named after "Noow Tlein" the "big fort."*

[facebook.com/groups/179371454694/](https://facebook.com/groups/179371454694/)  
[lillian.young@sitkatriben-sn.gov](mailto:lillian.young@sitkatriben-sn.gov)

### Sitka Kaagwaantaan Dancers

*Tlingit Dance Group*

[chuck.miller@sitkatriben-sn.gov](mailto:chuck.miller@sitkatriben-sn.gov)

## THEATRE

### Sitka Community Theater

*Produces Radio Adventure Hour, Broadway Night & Spring play. Follow on social media for upcoming shows & volunteer opportunities.*

[sitkaartscouncil.org](http://sitkaartscouncil.org)

### Young Performers Theater

*Kid-focused performing arts training program for grades 2-12.*

110 College Dr., Ste 111  
 (907) 747-3085  
[fineartscamp.org](http://fineartscamp.org)

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# ARTS DIRECTORY

## PERFORMANCE

### Alaska Storytellers

*Sitka's Russian history told through dynamic theatrical performance.*

[alaskastorytellers.com](http://alaskastorytellers.com)

### Ramshackle Cabaret

*Adult variety show and fundraiser supporting reproductive health and well-being.*

@ramshacklecabaret

[ramshacklecabaret@gmail.com](mailto:ramshacklecabaret@gmail.com)

### Sitka Cirque

*Circus Arts for All*

207 Smith St.

[Sitkacirque.com](http://Sitkacirque.com)

### Sitka Monthly Grind

*Offering affordable, non-political, family-oriented entertainment.*

<https://www.sitkaartscouncil.org/about-3>

## ART SUPPLIES & QUILTING

### Ocean Wave Quilters Guild

*A fun gathering of quilters and folks who are passionate about quilting. Open to everyone.*

(907) 738-0549

### The Raven's Hook

*Carries a wide variety of yarn, beads, paper crafting, paint and more!*

231 Lincoln St. wW

(907) 623-8677

[ravenshook.com](http://ravenshook.com)

## GALLERIES

### Artist Cove Gallery

*Gallery full of unique hand crafted pieces of art.*

241 Lincoln St.

(907) 747-6990

[artistcovegallery.com](http://artistcovegallery.com)

### Fate Accompli Gallery & Gifts

*Gallery features works by artists and artisans from Sitka and around Alaska.*

321 Lincoln St. Ste. A

(907) 623-0706

[fate-accompl.com](http://fate-accompl.com)

### Gallery by the Sea

*Fine art and custom framing.*

128 Lincoln St.

(907) 738-7378

[gallerybythesea1@gmail.com](mailto:gallerybythesea1@gmail.com)

### Island Artists Gallery

*Year-round cooperative & gallery owned and operated by local artists.*

205 Lincoln St.

(907) 747-6536

[islandartistsgallery.com](http://islandartistsgallery.com)

### Xút'aa Hídi

*Native-owned and operated. Showcases exquisite handmade pieces created by Indigenous artists from across Alaska.*

235 Lincoln St.

(907) 738-1201

[xutaahidi.com](http://xutaahidi.com)

### Sitka Rose Gallery

*Locally owned gallery home to over 100 different Alaskan Artists of different mediums.*

419 Lincoln St.

(907) 747-3030

[sitkarosegallery.com](http://sitkarosegallery.com)

## MUSEUMS

### Sheldon Jackson Museum

Showcasing Alaska Native cultural objects and art, this historic museum hosts visiting Native artists from around the state.

104 College Drive  
(907) 747-8981  
[museums.alaska.gov/sheldon\\_jackson](http://museums.alaska.gov/sheldon_jackson)

### Sitka History Museum

Packed with displays, photographs, and artifacts from Sitka's Tlingit, Russian, and American history.

330 Harbor Dr.  
(907) 738-3766  
[sitkahistory.org](http://sitkahistory.org)

### Sitka National Historical Park

Alaska's oldest national park. View totem poles & other carved items, demonstrating artists, indoor artifact display, and Native arts studio.

106 Metlakatla St.  
(907) 747-0110  
[nps.gov/sitk/index.htm](http://nps.gov/sitk/index.htm)

## PRIVATE LESSONS

### Ted Howard

Guitar & Mandolin Lessons

[jstoh@gci.net](mailto:jstoh@gci.net)

### Debby LeVeck

Violin Lessons

[debleveck@gmail.com](mailto:debleveck@gmail.com)

### Jammie Wileman

Piano Lessons

[jwilemannctm@yahoo.com](mailto:jwilemannctm@yahoo.com)

## PHOTOGRAPHERS FOR HIRE

### B Jordan Images

Certified Professional Photographer. Events, Commercial, Performance and Fine Art.

[bjordanimages.com](http://bjordanimages.com)

### Kaitlyn Hull Photography

Specializing in warm, true-to-life outdoor and in-home photography.

[khullphotography@gmail.com](mailto:khullphotography@gmail.com)

## MUSICIANS / MUSICAL GROUPS FOR HIRE

### BellyMeat

A trio that plays Americana roots music ranging from blues to swing to bluegrass.

(907) 738-5483

### Smokestack Music Productions

Production company for music concerts, talent, gear and sound/stage needs.

(917) 903-2606  
[@smokestackmusic](https://facebook.com/smokestackmp)

### SlackTide

Classic rock/funk/dance cover band.

(917) 903-2606  
[@SlackTideSitka](https://SlackTideSitka)

### Jen Reid Trio

Acoustic cover songs with female vocals, guitar and bass. Perfect for lounge, restaurant dinner setting.

(907) 738-1817  
[@jenreidtrio](https://jenreidtrio)

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# ART IN YOUR BACKYARD

## The Sitka Monthly Grind

***When it comes to entertainment in “your backyard,” nothing fits the bill like the Sitka Monthly Grind. This local variety show begins its season in September and takes its final bow in March each year. Advertised as family-friendly and non-political, it is pure art by Sitkans for Sitkans.***

Jeff Budd founded the Sitka Monthly Grind. After being introduced to the concept while living in Ketchikan, Budd moved to Sitka in '95 and started his own version. “I thought Sitka would be a great place to give it a try. I met with Ted Howard, Julie Schmidt, Fiona Ferguson and Doug Barn. Gradually, after some trial and error, we figured out how to do it.”







Each Grind has a different theme. Some themes change yearly, but some remain consistent. The "Fiddle Grind" and the "Original Artist Grind" are produced every year and always eagerly anticipated.

Regardless of the theme, the art is some of the best that Sitkans share with each other. Audiences are able to watch singers, dancers, poets, comedy, and even magic acts. Every once in a while, a visiting group may share their talents with Sitkans as well. It all depends on who steps up to showcase their talent for that particular Grind.

And, just like the weather, if you don't care for a specific act, just wait 5 minutes. "I cannot think of any real klunkers over the years. Every grind, to my thinking, has had a wealth of excellent presentations. Sitka audiences are the most welcoming and appreciative anywhere."

Budd fondly remembers one particular act "when Mr. Joe Montagna performed a song by Joe Cocker" and certainly got "a little help from his friends" - receiving a lengthy standing ovation.

"I also remember a time early on when we had some little girls in tutus on stage dancing to classical music. Within literally 30 seconds they were off,

and a heavy metal band from the high school was up and slaying it. This had to be one of the world's fastest juxtapositions ever!"

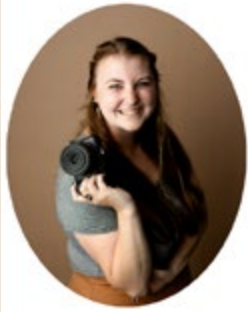
## **We also love seeing new faces and ideas on the stage.**

Wanna add to the fun or just help out? "We are always looking for more people to help with set up, scene changes, and take down. We also love seeing new faces and new ideas on the stage."

In addition to the show being family friendly, so is the price. Each ticket is only \$5. Or as Budd says Ray Troll likes to say, "the new free."

Audience members are also encouraged to bring a homemade dessert to share with everyone and enter into the dessert contest. "To my sophisticated taste they are all winners!"

So for \$5, a person gets great entertainment for about 90 minutes, plus a dessert and coffee or tea. Doesn't get more backyard than that.



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Kaitlyn Bolla | Photographer  
khullphotography@gmail.com



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& Events

sitkaweddings@gmail.com | (907) 738-8161

# Proudly supporting the arts for over 40 years!

**Store Hours:**  
M-F 9 am - 6 pm  
Sat 10 am - 5 pm  
Sun 1 pm - 5 pm

  
**Harry Race**  
*Living Local*  
907-313-6750 | 106 Lincoln Street



## FOUNDED WITH A REBELLIOUS SPIRIT!

*The Cabaret is a platform for local volunteers to showcase their untapped, and often unconventional, talents.*

Each year's productions bring local talent to the stage creating an adult variety show featuring comedy, dance, burlesque and more, with proceeds going to organizations that support reproductive and sexual health in Alaska.



*New Year's Eve Event*  
DECEMBER 31ST \* ODESS THEATER

*Annual Cabaret Performance*  
MARCH 1ST & 2ND \* CENTENNIAL HALL

If you are interested in being a performer, volunteer or have any questions, send us a message at [ramshacklecabaret@gmail.com](mailto:ramshacklecabaret@gmail.com) or through our socials  Ramshackle Cabaret  ramshacklecabaret



# WEARABLE ART 2024

**THE SKY IS THE LIMIT**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2PM & 7PM**

**HARRIGAN CENTENNIAL HALL**

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Sitka, Alaska



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Paintings by James Poulson

Fall & Spring Art Walks

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Fate-Accompli.com - Facebook - Instagram - Downtown Sitka





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