

SITKA SOUND SCIENCE CENTER

834 Lincoln Street
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www.sitkascience.org



SUMMARY: WHAT IS THE SITKA SOUND SCIENCE CENTER?

The Sitka Sound Science Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in Sitka, Alaska. The Science Center serves Sitka, Southeast Alaska, and people from all over the world through research and education. Local students of all ages participate in science education programs in schools and in our facilities (which include a saltwater aquarium and a working salmon hatchery). Visitors from all over the world tour our grounds and buildings to learn about our ecosystem and way of life. Our research portfolio engages the region through projects that ask the questions that Southeast Alaskans want to answer: When will wild berries be ready to harvest? How is fish health being affected by climate change? How can we keep our communities safe from landslides and weather events? How is climate change affecting our ocean?

All our work is deeply connected to this place and its people. Students, visiting researchers, and tourists from around the world all leave with a deeper understanding of life in Southeast Alaska. As we work to increase our understanding of this incredible place, we remember that we are on Lingít Aaní: Lingít land. The Lingít people have been Indigenous to these lands and waters for at least 10,000 years. We are continually grateful for their stewardship and knowledge of this place. The Science Center envisions a region where community members, scientific innovations, and Indigenous knowledge and values work together to enable our marine ecosystems, people, and economy to thrive for generations to come.

Mission: The Science Center is dedicated to increasing awareness and understand of the aquatic, marine, and terrestrial ecosystems of coastal Alaska through education and research.

Values:

Integrity – We model scientific integrity through evidence-based research and accessible educational programming.

Curiosity – We believe that a playful curiosity of the world inspires innovation and growth.

Respect – We honor and respect the history of this place and look towards its future to inform our present decisions.

Community – we build relationships across our community in support of a shared appreciation for discovery and overall community wellbeing.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Sitka Sound Science Center is in the heart of downtown Sitka. Our three buildings are prominent landmarks in our town, and in the busy summer months thousands of people see our facilities every day. We are looking for a functional piece of art to be displayed outdoors for visitors and passersby to enjoy.

This piece of art will become a part of our salmon hatchery. In late summer through early fall, salmon return to our hatchery to spawn. Freshwater flows through the outdoor spawning area, and its flow is controlled by a variety of structures. One such structure is a large ecology block that sits in the water.

While functional, this block is not much to look at. Tour groups and pedestrians pass this block all day long, and it presents an opportunity to highlight the artwork of a local artist. We would like to replace the block with a piece of art that can withstand water and local weather and celebrates our local ecosystem (while still serving the important function of controlling the flow of water into the spawning facility). Additionally, the materials of the art piece should not interfere with the chemical composition of the water. Acceptable materials include concrete, stainless steel, and aluminum.

SSSC focuses on community engagement and facilitating dialogue between community members and researchers. These interactions connect our community to research on the land and in the water around Sitka. Additionally, researchers gain new perspectives from local and cultural knowledge. SSSC also has over 30 education programs that take place in schools and at our facility that inspire learners of all ages.

Art helps us see ourselves and our world in a new light. We envision a piece that connects the lands and waters, culture and community, and the unique attributes that make SSSC special.

SITE PLANS





View facing northwest



View facing southeast



View from the sidewalk



Ecology block to be replaced by artwork



BUDGET

\$35,000 – including artist time, materials, shipping (if necessary), and installation.

ARTIST ELIGIBILITY

Artists must reside in the state of Alaska.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Resume or short biography.

Project proposal including costs and timeline.

Visual support materials (digital preferred .jpeg, .pdf, or website). Please label all work with title, medium, size, and year completed.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications are due by September 30, 2024

Please send submissions to iconaway@sitkascience.org or mail to:

Sitka Sound Science Center
c/o Lisa Teas Conaway
834 Lincoln St
Sitka, AK 99835

SELECTION PROCESS

All proposals will be reviewed by a panel of SSSC staff and local art advocates. The review process will focus on proposals that:

1. Highlight the culture and environment of Sitka and Southeast Alaska.
2. Speak to the mission, vision, and values of the Sitka Sound Science Center.
3. Can withstand being outside in harsh conditions including wind, rain, snow, and salt exposure.
4. Utilize materials that do not alter the chemical signature of the water such as concrete, stainless steel, or aluminum. Salmon rely on the unique “scent” of the water to know where to return.

Complete applications will be reviewed after the submission deadline.

TIMELINE

Submission deadline – September 30

Panel review – October 7

Follow up questions – October 9

Final artist selection – October 23

Design phases, creation, and installation schedule to be established by the artist.

SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SSSC website – www.sitkascience.org

City of Sitka – www.cityofsitka.org

Sitka Tribe of Alaska – www.sitkatribes.org

Central Council of Tlingit and Haida – www.ccthita.org

RESOURCES FOR QUESTIONS

Lisa Teas Conaway (lconaway@sitkascience.org) – general questions.

Chance Gray (cgray@sitkascience.org) – questions regarding location restrictions and site installation.

If responses are needed prior to the application deadline, please allow adequate time for SSSC to provide complete answers. We recommend that essential questions be submitted by September 23.