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THE MADRONA INSTITUTE

2023  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

*madrona.org*

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# WE ARE ON NATIVE LAND

Let us acknowledge we reside on the ancestral lands and waters of the Coast Salish people who have called this place home since time immemorial and let us honor inherent, aboriginal, and treaty rights that have been passed down from generation to generation.

Land acknowledgments are empty words unless there is also action. At The Madrona Institute, we are working to act on our commitment to honoring the first peoples of this area by:

- Fiscal sponsorship of the Coast Salish Youth Coalition
- Coordination of the Tribal Relations Engagement Group of the Stewardship Network of the San Juans
- Continuing our commitment by learning to be the best allies.

We feel honored to learn from and continue to find avenues to support Indigenous voices and interests.

Throughout this report, you will see Coast Salish Place names alongside the English translation for locations where photos were taken. Place names were sourced using the “Coast Salish Place Names of the San Juan Islands” created by the Samish Indian Nation.

We encourage you to learn more about the languages, territories, and treaties by visiting:

- [Native Land App](#) is a Canadian non-profit dedicated to mapping Indigenous territories, treaties, and languages.
- [“Coast Salish Place Names of the San Juan Islands” Map](#), created by the Samish Indian Nation.
- [Indian Country 101 Training](#), brought to you by The Whitener Group and The Nature Conservancy.

SALISH SEA



# WHERE WE ARE NOW

*A Year In Review*

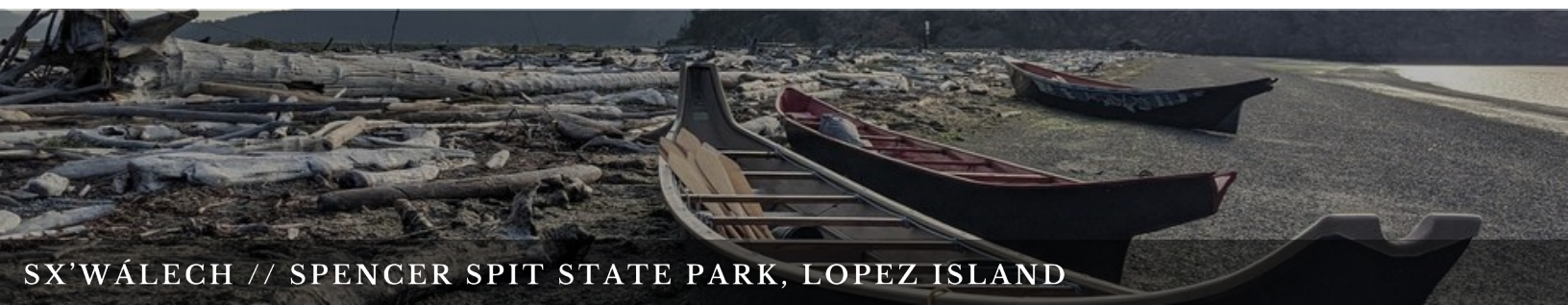
Dear Madrona Institute Community,

As we reflect on the past year, we are thrilled to share the achievements and milestones that have shaped the journey of our nonprofit organization. 2023 has been a year of significant progress and growth, both programmatically and financially.

## Highlights Include:

- Expanded the Coast Salish Youth Coalition, providing more inter-tribal community programs for Indigenous communities.
- Hosted the annual “Climate Action Speaker Series”, a four-part series highlighting topics and climate experts including Joel Creswell, Chuck Greene, Paul Cereghino, Vince Dauciunas, and Jay Kimball.
- Hosted the Women of Color in Leadership Speaker Series featuring change-making women including Paula Sardinas, Mona Das, and Gerry Ebalagoza-Tunnel, in partnership with the San Juan Island Library.
- Played an instrumental role in the formation of the Tribal Relations (Ne-Scháleche, Sya7ya7) Engagement Group, a coalition of local environmental organizations dedicated to allyship and supporting, promoting, and elevating Indigenous interests in the Salish Sea, a sub-group of the Stewardship Network of the San Juans.
- Awarded Paula Sardinas the David Giuliani Climate Leadership Award, honoring her work and commitment to climate engagement and inspiring others to action.
- Awarded \$53,198.45 in stewardship grants to seven local organizations/programs dedicated to community and environmental action.
- Expanded our team by welcoming our new Community Engagement Coordinator.

**We feel privileged and honored to be doing this work and supporting our community in the way that we can. As we enter 2024, we thank you for being here and for sharing this space with us.**





# COAST SALISH YOUTH COALITION

*Cultivating the next Indigenous generation of culturally engaged environmental stewards from the whitecaps on the Salish Sea to the whitecaps on the Cascade Mountains.*



## TRADITIONAL QWLHO7EL (CAMAS) BAKE AT SNAKELUM POINT ON WHIDBEY ISLAND

With over 8+ tribes represented, 80 people on the digging day, and over 120 during the final feast, this was a powerful community celebration. It was a special experience to see so many young people reconnect with the traditional foods that their ancestors have been cultivating, harvesting, and eating since time immemorial.



SNAKELUM POINT // WHIDBEY ISLAND



**WHAT IS CAMAS?**

Camas or "Qwlhó7el" in Northern Straits, is an important traditional food to many local Indigenous peoples. It is a small root bulb, and when peeled, looks somewhat similar to garlic. When cooked it tastes a little like sweet potato. Camas is cultivated in open prairies, maintained and managed with prescribed fires and weeding out other unwanted species. Prior to colonial contact and the forced displacement of native communities from their homelands, camas prairie cultivation was a common practice throughout the Salish Sea. Gatherings like this Camas Bake are an important aspect of reclaiming traditional food sovereignty and community healing. Camas is known by various names throughout the region. Of the tribes represented at this qwlho7el bake, different names for camas are all very similar: qwlho7el (Northern Straits), qʷtʷəʔəl (Northern Lushootseed) and qʷtʷəʔi (S’Klallam).

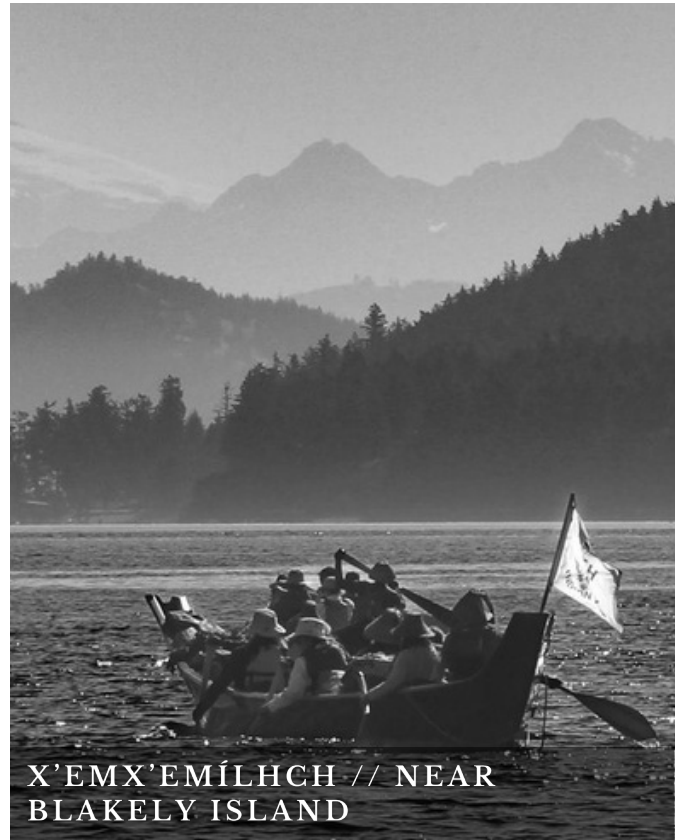


SNAKELUM POINT // WHIDBEY ISLAND



**THE CHALLENGE PADDLE**

On July 11th, a group of 30 Indigenous paddlers embarked on a four-day, no-ground crew, canoe journey through the San Juan Islands. The journey commenced with three canoes, accompanied by four safety support boats, with representatives from six tribes, including Samish, Stillaguamish, Swinomish, Tulalip, Mitchell Bay Band, Hoopa Valley, and Coos Bay. This paddle challenged participants to travel with all of their supplies on the canoes - reducing their environmental impacts and traveling more closely to how their ancestors paddled.



X'EMX'EMÍLHCH // NEAR BLAKELY ISLAND



SX'WÁLECH // ODLIN PARK, LOPEZ ISLAND



### CELEBRATION OF TRADITIONAL PRACTICES

As the canoe traveled through the Salish Sea, paddlers were treated to traditional foods. Handmade pemican, crafted by tribal youth and donated by the Indigenous Roots and Repatriation Foundation/Hearts Gathered, offered a taste of First Foods traditions. Food waste was diligently collected at each stop and donated to local farmers, minimizing waste and reducing the environmental impact. Furthermore, all firewood used was locally sourced and burned responsibly.

Upon the final landing at Odlin Park on Lopez Island, Tribal elders, and the Lopez community warmly greeted the paddlers, culminating in a community potluck and protocol celebration.



SX'WÁLECH // ODLIN PARK, LOPEZ ISLAND

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### CSYC HONORED WITH 2023 FORWARD AWARD

On October 11th, the Coast Salish Youth Coalition (CSYC) received the 2023 Forward Award from the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition for their impactful contributions to community programming. The ceremony, held in Seattle, acknowledged CSYC's dedication to environmental stewardship and Indigenous youth empowerment. Nominated by The Nature Conservancy, CSYC Board Member, Marco Hatch (Samish), expressed gratitude for the recognition alongside other notable organizations. Thanks to WWRC and The Nature Conservancy for this honor!

### A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE CSYC

If you've been following the CSYC's journey, you may have noticed a subtle name shift from the "Coast Salish Youth Stewardship Corps" to the "Coast Salish Youth Coalition" this year. This evolution represents a pivotal moment in the program's growth, as they have officially filed paperwork to establish themselves as an independent entity. Now coordinated by a 100% Indigenous-led intertribal board, they remain fiscally sponsored by The Madrona Institute. The transition from "Corps" to "Coalition" mirrors the expansion of their events over the years, evolving from serving only Tribal youth to engaging entire Tribal communities.



The Madrona Institute is honored to continue supporting the CSYC as it further grows and can't wait to see what is in store for 2024.

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# COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

*Sparkling climate and community leadership through educational events*

## POWER OF REPRESENTATION: WOMEN OF COLOR IN LEADERSHIP SPEAKER SERIES

In early 2023, The Madrona Institute partnered with the San Juan Island Library to host a speaker series highlighting change-making BIPOC women working in the environmental field, including Mona Das, Paula Sardinias, and Dr. Gerry Ebalagoza-Tunnell. We feel fortunate to elevate their voices and learn from each of these leaders.

Did you miss these talks? Don't worry, they are recorded! [Please visit our website and click "past events" here.](#)

**UNVEILING THE POWER OF BIPOC WOMEN**  
INSPIRING TRUE LEADERSHIP THROUGH OPEN HEARTS  
*WITH MONA DAS*




THURSDAY, JULY 6TH | 7:00 PM | ON ZOOM



**THE POWER OF REPRESENTATION**  
The Impact and Influence of Women of Color in Leadership Roles  
Monday, August 28 | 7:00 PM | On Zoom

How did the voices of Black and Indigenous women positively affect Washington's Climate Commitment Act in 2021?





**JOIN PAULA SARDINAS,** lobbyist and advocate, as she discusses the importance of representation in politics and policy. Paula will explain how she and other women of color ensured that the voices of marginalized communities were heard and incorporated into the Climate Commitment Act, highlighting key issues surrounding environmental justice.



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 | 7 PM  
AT THE LIBRARY OR ON ZOOM

**Building Community Through Decolonization**  
with Gerry Ebalagoza-Tunnell

Join Dr. Gerry, a Pacific Indigenous scholar, as she delves into her ancestry, confronts internalized oppression, and provides a roadmap for decolonization. Drawing upon the theories of the colonized mind, she will demonstrate how the events of colonization continue to shape our present and how our everyday choices can pave the way for our future.



**CLIMATE ACTION SPEAKER SERIES**

During September and October 2023, The Madrona Institute partnered with the University of Washington Friday Harbor Labs to host our Climate Action Speaker Series.

**Topics included:**

- Climate Solutions at the State Level
- Climate Adaption, Mitigation, and Resilience
- San Juan County’s Climate Action Plan
- Networking session with Local Climate Groups

All sessions are recorded and available on our website under “past events” tab.



**TRIBAL RELATIONS (NE-SCHÁLECHE, SYA7YA7) ENGAGEMENT GROUP**

As a member and the fiscal sponsor of the Stewardship Network of the San Juans, a coalition of stewardship organizations in the San Juan Islands, we are excited to be a part of the creation of the Tribal Relations (Ne-Scháleche, Sya7ya7) Engagement Group, a sub-group of the Stewardship Network dedicated to elevating and advocating for Indigenous voices and interests in the San Juan Islands.

Topics of focus include Indigenous allyship education, trainings, and supporting local Indigenous events and programs.



# DAVID GIULIANI CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARD

## HONORING CHANGEMAKERS IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Madrona Institute has awarded the David Giuliani Climate Leadership Award to public policy leader Paula Sardinias, National Black Professional Lobbyists Association (NBPLA).

This award, created in 2022, recognizes and honors individuals who have made significant efforts to advance climate action, locally and regionally. Through this recognition, The Madrona Institute seeks to inspire all of us to take the initiative for greater protection of our community and our planet. Carbon emissions reduction is crucial this decade to avoid the worst effects of climate change.



PAULA SARDINAS

Paula Sardinias, NBPLA, is the Founder and President/CEO of FMS Global Strategies, LLC, a BIPOC Governmental Affairs Advocacy firm, and The Purpose Driven Girl, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, focused on empowering #BIPOC women and girls who are often unable to use their voice— due to intersectionality and structural racism.

Her public policy career spans 28 years working in Telecom, Engineering, Banking, IT, STEM, Cannabis, Social Equity, and Financial Literacy. She is a member of the National Black Professional Lobbyist Association in good standing.

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She began her career as an intern on President Bill Clinton’s campaign in 1992 and has gone on to serve as the Statewide political director, Women for Change on the Obama Campaign in both 2008 and 2012. She has recently served as the coalition builder for both Pete Buttigieg and Joe Biden and Washington State Presidential campaigns.

Sardinas earned her AA and BBA from Columbia College in Missouri and studied for her MBA at the College of William and Mary. She has also worked with and for the Administrations of Presidents Clinton, Bush, Obama, and Biden in various roles.

### HONORING CHANGEMAKERS IN OUR COMMUNITY

David Giuliani was a remarkable leader, founding Clean and Prosperous America, Clean and Prosperous Washington, and the Low Carbon Prosperity Institute. He was a key stakeholder in the passage of the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) in the Washington State Legislature in 2021, legislation which has been called the “gold standard” of state climate policy, as well as providing financial support for The Madrona Institute’s climate policy and governance research.

Giuliani was best known as the co-inventor of the Sonicare toothbrush and the Clarisonic skin care system and as co-founder and CEO of both companies. Giuliani was responsible for over twenty patents, and in 1997 was honored as the “United States Small Business Person of the Year” by President Clinton. Over the last 10 years, Giuliani turned his attention to solving the problem of climate change.

David Giuliani received the first Madrona Leadership Award on January 26, 2022. With his passing on March 3, 2022, The Madrona Institute named this climate action award in his honor on March 12, 2022, with the planting of his honorary Pacific Madrone at the Ihiya Biological Preserve. The Award will be made on an annual basis until 2030.



TL'IKWENENG // SOUTH SAN JUAN ISLAND

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# STEWARDSHIP LICENSE PLATE SALES

*The Madrona Institute is the organizational sponsor of the San Juan Islands Stewardship License Plate established on October 1, 2019.*

# 1713

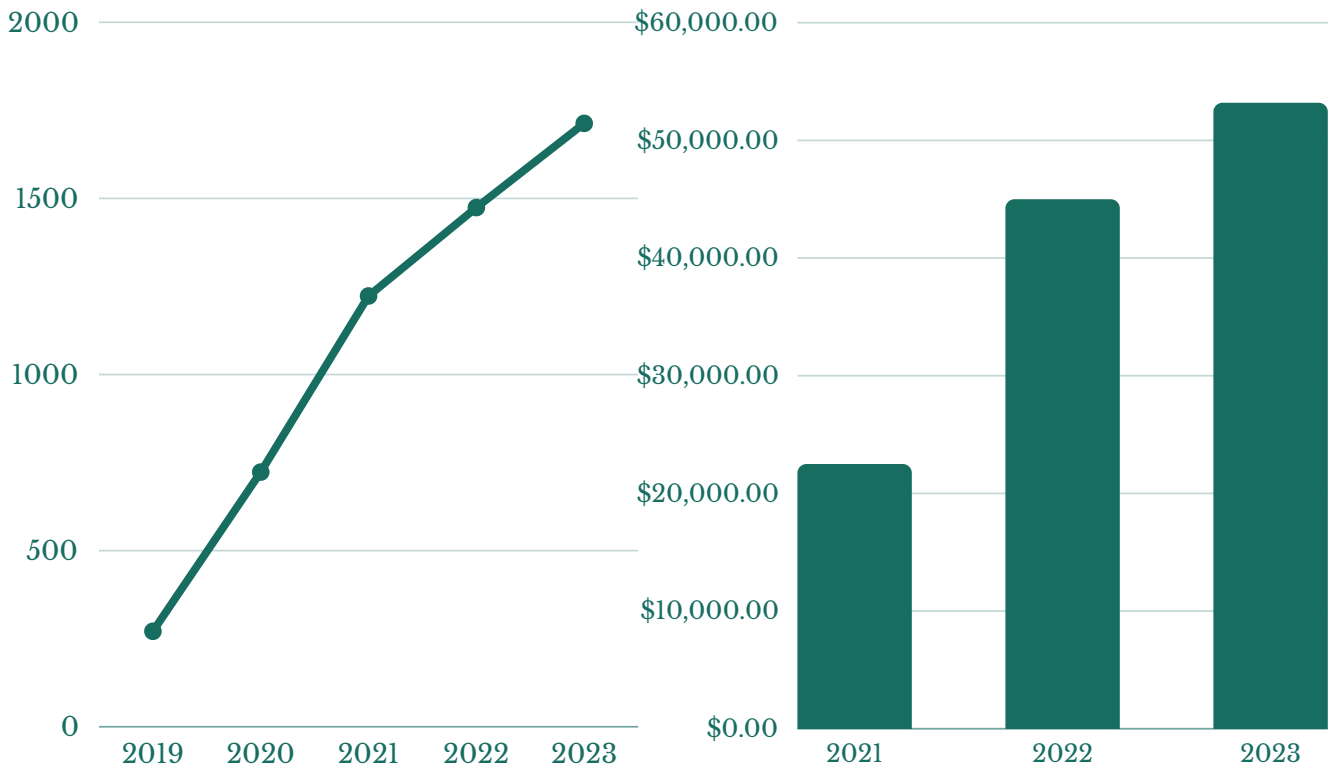
TOTAL PLATE SALES

Since 2019, 1713 Stewardship License Plates have been sold, generating thousands of dollars for vital stewardship programs throughout the Salish Sea.

# \$120,698

DOLLARS GENERATED

Since 2019, \$120,698 dollars have been generated from plate sales and awarded to local stewardship organizations through the Madrona Grant Fund.



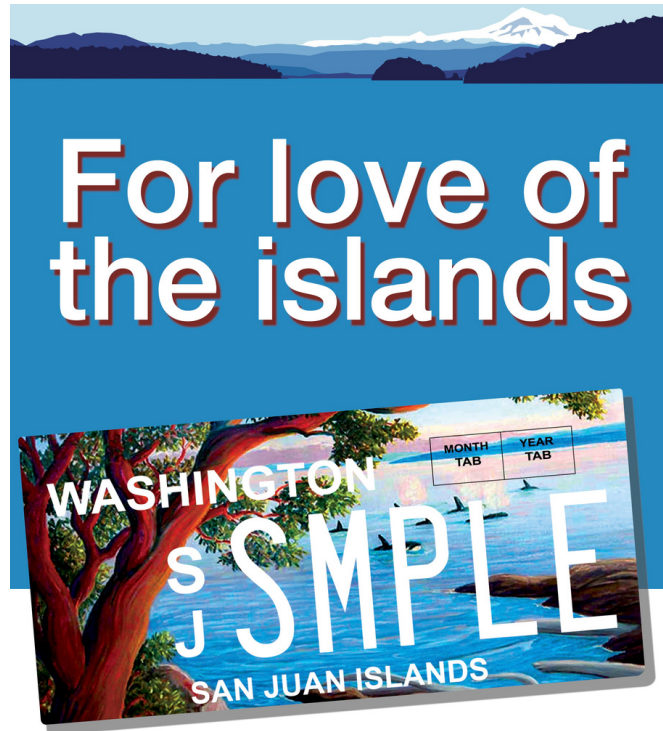


**GET YOUR PLATE TODAY!**

Revenue generated from the San Juan Islands Stewardship License Plate goes directly into our Madrona Grant Fund, supporting local stewardship and conservation projects.

This is one of the best ways to support stewardship of our local environment and sport a beautiful plate designed by local artist, Nancy Spaulding. In 2023, \$53,198.45 was awarded to seven local stewardship projects!

Learn how to order and more about past projects made possible by this funding on our [website under “San Juan Islands Special License Plate” here.](#)



**Revenue generated from the purchase of this Washington State special license plate supports local conservation and stewardship initiatives in the islands.**



**SX'WÁLEX' // ORCAS ISLAND**



# MADRONA GRANT FUND

*Funding local stewardship efforts through San Juan Islands Stewardship License Plate revenue*

## THE MADRONA INSTITUTE AWARDS \$53,198.45 IN GRANTS TO LOCAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Funds for the Madrona Grant fund are generated through revenues from the sales of the San Juan Islands Stewardship License Plate. The Madrona Institute actively collaborates with organizations in the greater San Juan Islands region, focusing on youth engagement, environmental and cultural stewardship, climate action, and environmental justice initiatives.

### 2023 Grantees Include:

- Alchemy Art Center - Awarded \$8,000 for their Young Environmentalists Art Intensive & Exhibit Program (pictured below)
- Children of the Setting Sun Productions - Awarded \$8,000 for the continued development of "The Sound," an Indigenous-created and casted narrative production centering the voices of native youth and their journeys of self-discovery and reconnection with culture and place
- Friends of the San Juans - Granted \$7,150 for their Environmental Mentorship Program with the Friday Harbor High School Green Club
- Wild Orca - Awarded \$5,000 for the expansion and continued development of the San Juan Island Naturalist Program
- Wolf Hollow - Awarded \$5,048.45 for the development of a winter/spring partnership project with the San Juan Islands Youth Conservation Corps



LHÁQEMESH // SAN JUAN ISLAND




### ONGOING SUPPORT

In addition to the above grant awards, Stewardship License Plate funds continue to support the San Juan Islands Youth Conservation Corps and The Coast Salish Youth Coalition, formerly known as the Coast Salish Youth Stewardship Corps, on an ongoing basis. Both programs received \$10,000 in 2023.

Learn more about the previous awards on our website and in our [2022-2023 grantmaking report](#).



Awards are made on an annual basis, and it is anticipated that grant amounts will grow each year in tandem with the increasing sales of the special license plates throughout the county, region, and state. Purchasing a San Juan Islands Stewardship License Plate is a tangible way for community members to contribute to the environmental stewardship efforts in the San Juan Islands.



"It is heartening to see the impact of the San Juan Islands Stewardship License Plate program increasing each year. We are proud to support these change-making organizations that are actively working towards the preservation of our island ecosystems and engagement of young stewards in our local community."

- Ron Zee, Founder of The Madrona Institute

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# THANK YOU

*Our work is made possible by generous donors, grantors, and individuals who purchase the San Juan Islands Stewardship License Plate.*

To each person who took the time, energy, and money to support The Madrona Institute and/or the Coast Salish Youth Coalition this last year, our hands go up to you. We deeply appreciate your support in making our mission happen.

*Hóy7sxwq'e Si7ám*

*Thank you, respected one*

**We'd also like to thank our generous grant supporters:**

Native FEWS Alliance  
Lopez Island Family Resource Center  
The Diversity Foundation  
Archie D & Bertha H Walker Foundation  
The Brooks and Suzanne Ragen Family Foundation

Inatai Foundation  
Stillaguamish Community Grant  
Nash Foundation  
San Juan Community Foundation  
Friends of Lopez Canoe Landings  
The Nature Conservancy  
NorthSound ACH

