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**Funding Local Changemakers:  
The Madrona Institute Grants \$53,198.45 to Local Organizations in 2023 Through San  
Juan Islands Special License Plate Fundraising**

Salish Sea, WA (Nov. 29th, 2023) — The Madrona Institute proudly announces the distribution of \$53,198.45 in grants to local nonprofit organizations in 2023. These funds were generated through revenues from the sales of the San Juan Islands Special License Plate, a unique initiative aimed at supporting community-based conservation and stewardship projects in the region.

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. Emphasizing youth engagement, The Madrona Institute is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of culturally-engaged environmental stewards.

2023 Grantees Include:

- Alchemy Art Center - Awarded \$8,000 for their Young Environmentalists Art Intensive & Exhibit Program
- 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 - (Amount: \$7,150) - Granted \$7,150 for their Environmental Mentorship Program with the FHHS 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

In addition to the above grant awards, Special 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 Coalition, on an ongoing basis. Both programs received \$10,000 in 2023.

"It is heartening to see the impact of the San Juan Islands Special License Plate program increasing each year," said Ron Zee, Board Director at the Madrona Institute. "We are proud to

support these changemaking organizations that are actively working towards the preservation of our island ecosystems and engagement of young stewards in our local community."

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 Special License Plate is a tangible way for community members to contribute to the environmental stewardship efforts in the San Juan Islands. For more information on how to obtain a San Juan Islands Special License Plate or to learn about the Madrona Institute's initiatives, please visit <https://madrona.org>.

**About The Madrona Institute:**

The Madrona Institute, a non-profit organization, goes beyond conventional conservation efforts, aiming to preserve cultural and natural spaces while advocating for equitable access and robust community support. Through initiatives like the San Juan Islands Special License Plate program, our mission is to engage current and future generations in the conservation and stewardship of the local ecosystem, fostering community dialogue and leadership on climate-related issues. Additional programs, including the Coast Salish Youth Coalition and Stewardship Network of the San Juans, underscore our commitment to amplifying diverse voices, addressing climate challenges, and building a connected community dedicated to environmental stewardship.