



The
Madrona
Institute

2022-2023 Grantmaking Report

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THE MADRONA INSTITUTE STEWARDSHIP GRANT FUND



The Madrona Institute empowers organizations in the San Juan Islands by offering small grants through the Madrona Stewardship Fund. These grants support initiatives that foster youth engagement, environmental and cultural stewardship, climate action, and social justice. The funding is sourced from the sales of San Juan Islands Special License plates through the Department of Licensing.

In its second year of grant-making in 2022, The Madrona Institute allocated \$45,000 to local nonprofit organizations. This marks our ongoing commitment to channeling the proceeds from the San Juan Islands Special License Plate sales into impactful projects that enhance the well-being and sustainability of our local community.

2022-2023 Grantees include:

- **\$5,000** to the Friends of the San Juans for their Youth Environmental Mentoring Program
- **\$5,000** to the Alchemy Art Center for their Young Environmentalists Arts Intensive Program
- **\$5,000** to the San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild for their Farm Heroes for Environmental Stewardship Program
- **\$5,000** to Wild Orca for their San Juan Islands Naturalist Program
- **\$5,000** to the Children of the Setting Sun Productions to support the creation of the Indigenous film series and pilot episode “The Sound”
- **\$10,000** to the San Juan Islands Conservation District for their San Juan Islands Youth Conservation Corps program
- **\$10,000** to the Coast Salish Youth Coalition (Coast Salish Youth Stewardship Corps) for community tribal events

Awards are made on an annual basis for local projects and programs that support the conservation and stewardship of agricultural, cultural, and natural resources in the islands, with emphasis on youth engagement and environmental justice.



ABOUT OUR 2022 - 2023 GRANTEES

Alchemy Art Center

Since 2018, Alchemy Art Center, a San Juan Island-based 501(c)(3) non-profit, offers communal studios for ceramics, photography, and printmaking. In 2022, they introduced the "Young Environmentalists" program, connecting art and environmentalism through guest artists and speakers. Supported by the Madrona Institute, the program was free, promoting inclusivity in artistic exploration for all students. Dedicated to fostering creativity at the intersection of art and environmental consciousness, Alchemy Art Center welcomes the community to explore its offerings.

Website: alchemyartcenter.com



Friends of the San Juans

Friends of the San Juans, a 501(c)(3) non-profit in San Juan County, employs innovative partnerships, science, legal advocacy, and community initiatives to protect the land, water, and sea. Engaging youth for over 20 years, their programs include the Immersive Salish Sea Education and High School Student Mentorships via Eco-club, fostering environmental stewardship for today and tomorrow.

Website: sanjuans.org



The San Juan Island Naturalist Program

Since 2015, the San Juan Island Naturalist Program has educated the public, offering land-based whale-watching led by trained experts at Westside Preserve and Lime Kiln Point State Park. They raise awareness about the Salish Sea, threats to whale livelihood, and advocate conservation. The program actively engages in habitat restoration and empowers volunteers to be stewards of the Salish Sea ecosystem.

Website: sjinaturalist.org



ABOUT OUR 2022 - 2023 GRANTEES

San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild

The San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild (Ag Guild) is a community-based 501(c)(3) volunteer organization committed to fostering a resilient local food system in San Juan County, Washington. Their initiatives include promoting healthy, locally-grown products, sponsoring educational programs, and maintaining Brickworks as a year-round venue for the San Juan Islands Farmers Market and various community events. Additionally, they actively support projects by local farmers and agricultural organizations, contributing measurably to the county's agricultural economy and functioning as a crucial community-wide organization for financial sustainability.

Website: sjiagguild.com



Children of The Setting Sun Productions

Children of The Setting Sun Productions, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, empowers future generations through Indigenous storytelling. Their projects include the Indigenous-led think tank, Setting Sun Institute, applying Salish wisdom to resolve conflicts and protect the environment. The Salmon People Project tells the story of the ancient bond between Native people and salmon, amplifying Indigenous voices for salmon preservation. Young Tribal leadership fosters cultural identity and professional skills in youth. Through community projects, they partner with organizations, creating videos to highlight meaningful moments and important messages in the community.

Website: settingsunproductions.org



ABOUT OUR ONGOING COMMITMENTS

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, also known as the Coast Salish Youth Stewardship Corps, on an ongoing basis. Both programs received \$10,000 in the 2022-2023 grant period. These programs will continue to receive funds each year, contributing to the long-term sustainability and longevity of both important youth programs.

Coast Salish Youth Coalition

The Coast Salish Youth Coalition (CSYC), also known as the Coast Salish Youth Stewardship Corps, was founded in 2017 and serves inter-tribal indigenous youth ages 14+ from Coast Salish Tribes who have ancestral ties with the San Juan Islands. This program organizes inter-generational cultural events while pairing education with environmental stewardship and providing employment opportunities. This program is coordinated by a 100% Indigenous inter-tribal board and is fiscally sponsored by The Madrona Institute.

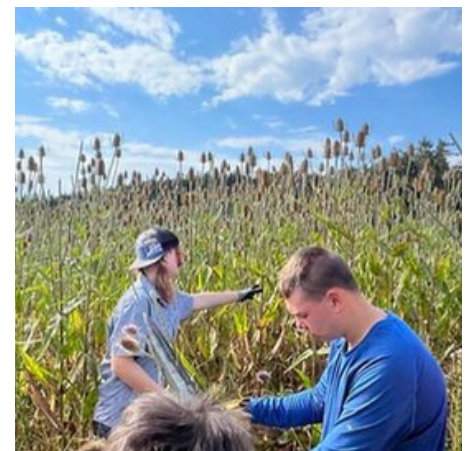
Website: madrona.org/coast-salish-youth-coalition



San Juan Islands Youth Conservation Corps

The San Juan Islands Youth Conservation Corps (SJIYCC) offers an 8-week summer program for youth aged 12-18 on Orcas, Lopez, and San Juan Islands. Led by knowledgeable field guides, students engage in conservation projects, outdoor education, and professional development. Weekly themes cover various topics, including team building, marine ecosystems, and art/environmentalism. Daily activities involve forest mapping, native plant knowledge, wildfire risk reduction, wetland recovery, invasive weed removal, and trail building. The program provides valuable skills, fostering a sense of community and environmental stewardship, and participants receive a financial stipend for their contributions.

Website: sanjuanislandscd.org/ycc





ALCHEMY ART CENTER

“Young Environmentalists” Program

Summary

This summer, Alchemy Art Center celebrated the successful conclusion of its second annual "Young Environmentalists" program. Specifically designed for middle school students with a dual passion for both art and the environment, this seven-week program proved to be a transformative experience for the ten students who participated in 2023.

Structured around three core themes—Art and Activism, Sense of Place, and Reuse and Upcycling—the program enlisted guest instructors to lead each unit. From crafting personalized journals to fabricating hand-made props for impactful community demonstrations, engaging in cyanotype sun prints and natural dye projects, to exploring the intricacies of printmaking, the students were immersed in a diverse range of artistic expressions. The culmination of their efforts were showcased in a final exhibition, providing a platform to display the impressive body of work they had collectively produced.

“This "Art and Activism" unit involved creating props and using them in a demonstration in downtown Friday Harbor to raise awareness about the importance of our local salmon populations. One student was adamant that he did not want to participate in the demonstration, but after helping to create a large-scale salmon prop with guest instructor Bill Moyer (Backbone Campaign), he was so excited that he not only participated in the demonstration, he also gave an impassioned and well-informed speech to a gathered crowd about the issue of oil-drilling in Alaska’s last remaining pristine wilderness areas. His father, who was in attendance, couldn’t believe his child was putting himself out there in such a public way!”

- **Glenn Hendrick**, Co-founder and Director of Alchemy Art Center



FRIENDS OF THE SAN JUANS

Environmental Policy in Action

Summary

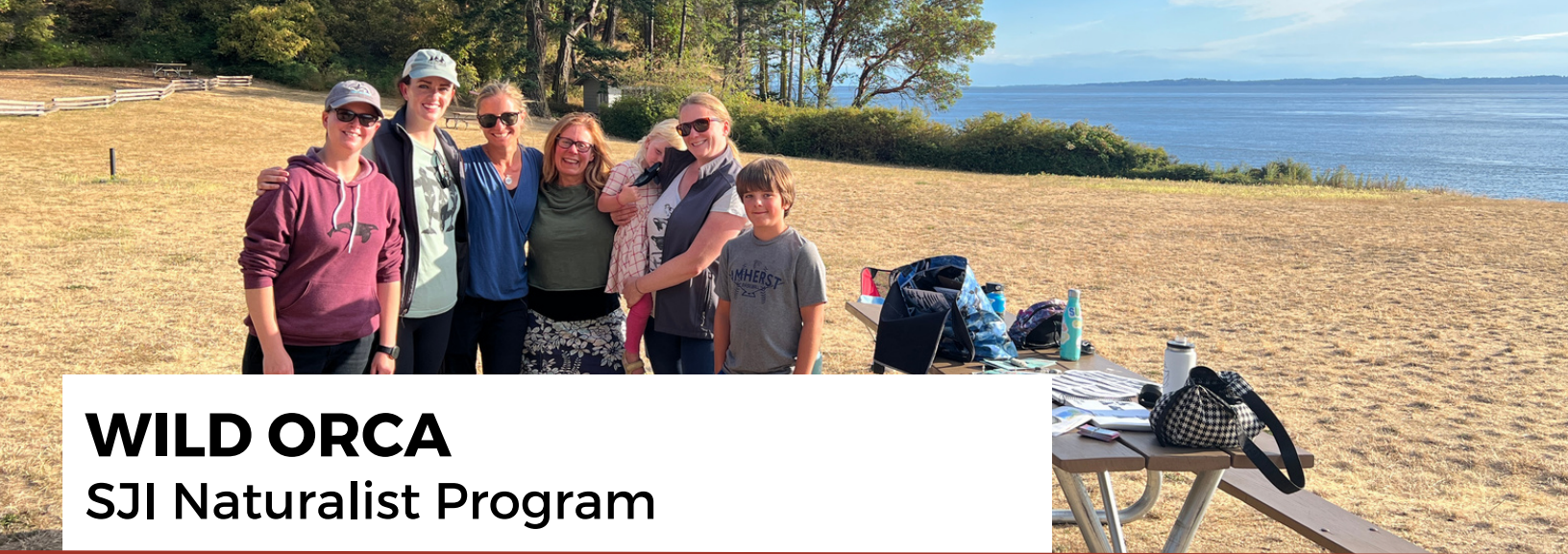
Friends of the San Juans, with support from this grant, collaborated with the Friday Harbor Highschool Eco-Club and Katie Fleming (San Juan County Solid Waste Coordinator). Weekly meetings throughout the 2022/2023 school year saw increased student initiative, resulting in the establishment of an official school club through the ASB.

A noteworthy highlight was the Eco-Club's successful trip to Olympia, where students engaged with the Washington Recycling and Packaging (WRAP) Act, gaining insights into legislative involvement and action. Despite the act not passing, the experience fueled the club's proactive approach to address school waste and recycling issues, including a high school trash audit. This audit informed future campaigns, emphasizing education and outreach to reduce identified waste.

“One memorable highlight was when we took eight enthusiastic Eco-Club members down to Olympia to engage in the legislation process. Students met with legislators and shared their concerns and personal testimonies to climate change and how it's affecting them in the islands. They also got to see the ins and outs of how a bill is lobbied for, voted on, and passed through the House and Senate floors. Students came away with more of an understanding of how legislation works and a positive attitude towards the local and regional political system. They are now eager to get more involved next year and choose a specific issue that they would like to address, be a voice for, and help make positive change happen.”

- Jess Newley, Friends of the San Juans





WILD ORCA

SJI Naturalist Program

Summary

In 2023, the San Juan Island Naturalist Program expanded to San Juan County Park, launching "Fireside Naturalist Chats" through The Madrona Institute's Stewardship Grant Program, enhancing local and visitor engagement about whale and salmon recovery. These became "Nat Chats" due to a countywide burn ban, with increased naturalist presence at Westside Preserve and Lime Kiln State Park funded by the grant.

Meeting 2023 goals, the program boosted land-based whale watching by strategically stationing naturalists. The success of "Nat Chats" prompted plans for expanded talks in 2024. Falling short of distributing 500 stewardship guides due to the increase in online materials, the program adapted by offering information electronically. Beyond education, it contributed to coastal prairie habitat improvement through naturalists' picking up trash. Gathering demographic data, naturalists engaged with 283 people at County Park Nat Chats and over 980 at the Westside Preserve and Lime Kiln between July 1st and September 25th.

"During our first Naturalist-led chat at the San Juan County Park, we had first-time visitors from Idaho. One topic we discussed was breaching the four lower Snake River Dams. The couple had no idea that the Southern Resident killer whales rely so heavily on Idaho Chinook salmon. By his own admission, the gentleman is a politically conservative real estate appraiser who often evaluates properties along the Snake River. We were able to have a very productive conversation regarding modern-day barriers to wildlife conservation. The couple left the conversation very willing to contact the White House and voice concern for the plight of the Southern Resident killer whales and Idaho Chinook salmon native to the Snake River.

- **Ariel Yseth**, Co-Coordinator, San Juan Island Naturalist Program



CHILDREN OF THE SETTING SUN

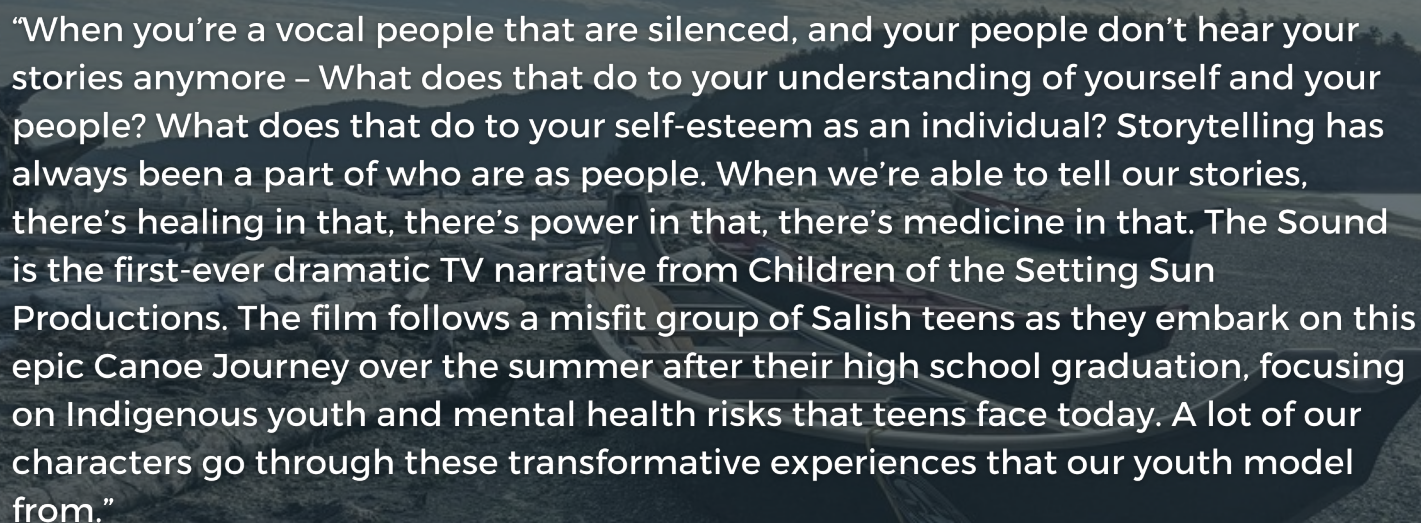
Production of Episode 1 of 'The Sound'

[WATCH THE FULL TRAILER ON THEIR WEBSITE HERE](#)

Summary

The Madrona Institute is incredibly honored to have supported Children of the Setting Sun Production's (CSSP) casting and production of Episode 1 of 'The Sound', an Indigenous-created and cast coming-of-age narrative production centering the voices of native youth and their journeys of self-discovery and reconnecting with their culture and place. Coast Salish youth played integral roles, from casting to production, emphasizing their voices and journeys.

Episode One, funded by the grant, incorporated archival drone footage of the San Juans, portraying the Islands as a place of healing. CSSP plans to extend the series to 10 episodes, emphasizing reconnection and sense of place. Beyond offering Indigenous youth a platform for their perspectives, the project nurtures video production skills, highlighting their distinct ties to ancestral homelands. This grant bolstered the production budget, marking a pivotal moment as CSSP delved into narrative storytelling, aligning with its mission of Indigenous youth leadership development and connection to ancestral homelands.



“When you’re a vocal people that are silenced, and your people don’t hear your stories anymore – What does that do to your understanding of yourself and your people? What does that do to your self-esteem as an individual? Storytelling has always been a part of who are as people. When we’re able to tell our stories, there’s healing in that, there’s power in that, there’s medicine in that. The Sound is the first-ever dramatic TV narrative from Children of the Setting Sun Productions. The film follows a misfit group of Salish teens as they embark on this epic Canoe Journey over the summer after their high school graduation, focusing on Indigenous youth and mental health risks that teens face today. A lot of our characters go through these transformative experiences that our youth model from.”

- **Noelani Auguston**, Co-Director, Co-Producer, and Script Writer for "The Sound"