

LET'S GATHER TOGETHER

SÁHLAGAAN GUD T'ALÁNG KÁAJGIDANG

VAMOS A JUNTARNOS
SABAY TAYO



THE
ZINE!

the aak'w
village arts
and culture
district plan

WOOSH KAANÁX GAXTUDA.AAT

**THE
ZINE!**

**the aak'w
village arts
and culture
district plan**

Hi there!

**Yak'úi yee
xwsateení.**

It's good to see you.

**Natutuwa kaming
nandito ka.**

We're glad that you're here.

**Sánuu dǎng
kya'áang?**

What's your name?

**Gaykí. Yáadu
káayagajeit.**

Take a seat. Here's a chair.

**May kwento kami
sayo!**

We have a story for you!

**Es solo el
comienzo...**

It's only the beginning...

**Are you ready to
imagine a new
future for Juneau?**

what is this booklet?

Think of this booklet as a tool for you, your family, and your community to increase equity and advocate for the Juneau you want to see.

In 2021, the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council (JAHC), with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, invited Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) to the city of Juneau to help develop a series of recommendations for the newly named Aak'w Village District. KDI is a community development and design non-profit that works with under-resourced communities to advance equity and activate the unrealized potential in their neighborhoods and cities. Working together with local businesses, Tlingit & Haida, the City of Juneau, and local artists, we were tasked with rethinking how plans like these were put together and who they could serve—prioritizing voices that had not been actively brought to the table in the past.

Our ultimate goal is to create a plan that doesn't just sit on a shelf—we want this plan to be alive, respond to community, and evolve over time. Creating this vision for the Aak'w Village District is like walking a journey together, and you will see tools throughout the booklet to bring your voice into the journey as well.

Góok, yoo x'ayla.á.
We want to hear your voice.
Sabihin sa amin ang iyong mga ideya.
Cuéntanos tus historias.
Dáנגg díi gyúuwulaanggang.



DRAW YOURSELF INTO THIS STORY

I have lived in Juneau for: _____

My ancestors are: _____

I bring a unique perspective because:

To me, Juneau is: _____

THE PEOPLE OF THE TIDES



A HISTORY OF THE LAND

“WE STAND ON LIVING LAND THAT HAS BEEN INDIGENOUS TERRITORY SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL HOMELANDS OF THE ORIGINAL PEOPLE OF THIS PLACE: THE AAK’W KWÁAN OF THE LINGÍT NATION WHO HAVE LIVED ON AND LOVED AND PROTECTED THIS STORIED LAND FOR HUNDREDS OF GENERATIONS AND THOUSANDS OF YEARS. LET US HONOR THE ANCESTRAL, ANCIENT, PLACE-BASED INTELLECTUAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE AAK’W KWÁAN AND EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE INHERENT PRESENCE OF PAST, CURRENT, AND FUTURE AAK’W KWÁAN GENERATIONS. GUNALCHÉESH AAK’W KWÁAN. GUNALCHÉESH AAK’W KWÁAN.”

— Ernestine Hayes

how the aak'w village district came to be

Originally the summer village of the Aak'w Kwáan clan, the district has a long and often traumatic history of displacement and development—but it has also become the home to cultural institutions like the Alaska

State Museum Juneau (SLAM) and Centennial Hall, the Zach Gordon Youth Center (ZGYC), and small businesses owned by Juneauites. In June of 2019, the Willoughby District was officially renamed the

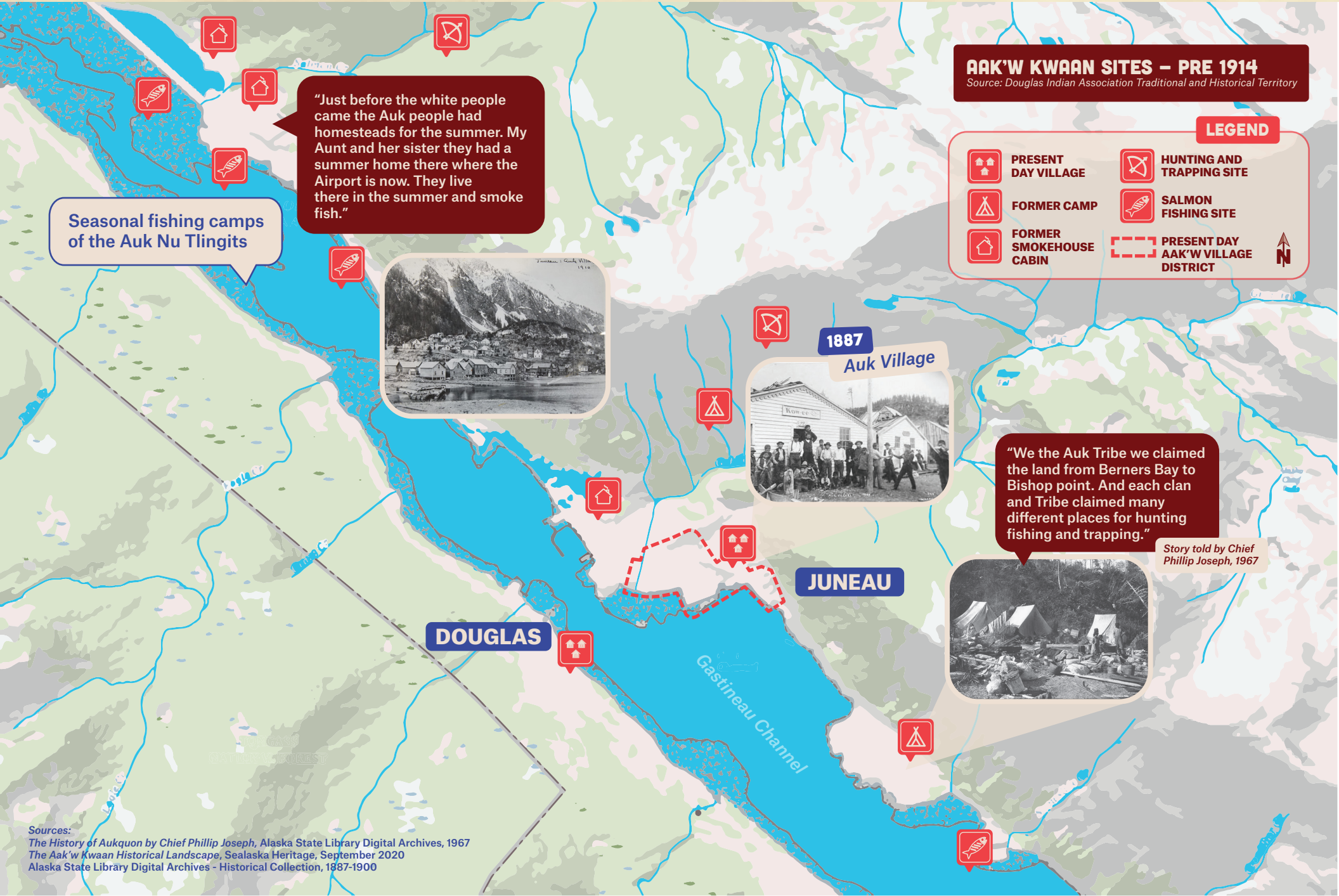
Aak'w Village District through the direct advocacy of Fran Houston and the Aak'w Kwáan clan.

By looking at and understanding the history of this land and the people that

live, work, and play there, we can begin to imagine how to build an equitable future through rethinking how the district could look, feel, and serve the Juneau community.



where is the aak'w village district?



AAK'W KWAAN SITES – PRE 1914
 Source: Douglas Indian Association Traditional and Historical Territory

LEGEND

-  PRESENT DAY VILLAGE
-  FORMER CAMP
-  FORMER SMOKEHOUSE CABIN
-  HUNTING AND TRAPPING SITE
-  SALMON FISHING SITE
-  PRESENT DAY AAK'W VILLAGE DISTRICT



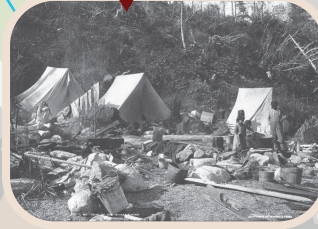
Seasonal fishing camps of the Auk Nu Tlingits

"Just before the white people came the Auk people had homesteads for the summer. My Aunt and her sister they had a summer home there where the Airport is now. They live there in the summer and smoke fish."



1887
Auk Village

"We the Auk Tribe we claimed the land from Berners Bay to Bishop point. And each clan and Tribe claimed many different places for hunting fishing and trapping."



Story told by Chief Phillip Joseph, 1967

DOUGLAS **JUNEAU**

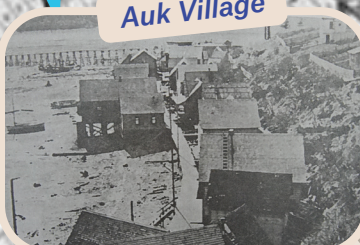
Sources:
 The History of Aukquon by Chief Phillip Joseph, Alaska State Library Digital Archives, 1967
 The Aak'w Kwaan Historical Landscape, Sealaska Heritage, September 2020
 Alaska State Library Digital Archives - Historical Collection, 1887-1900

"The Indians used lot of different kind of bullets. Leads were scarce so mostly they used gold nuggets for bullets."

"The white people find this out so they went after the Indians to find out where they got it from. Harris and Juneau offered the Indian one box of pilot bread. They claim at the time it was worth 25cents. Mr Indian didn't know the value of gold."

Gold is found and Western expansion occurs. Joseph Juneau and Richard Harris establish a 160-acre town and mining community.

6,000 years ago, this area was an ancient, underwater delta!



Auk Nu people are forced to move into the waterfront area within a segregated community

"All those things belonged to us Auk Tribe. But the whiteman made the laws and left us out. Mr Whiteman took our hunting and trapping grounds to build canneries."



Filipino seasonal migrant workers (Alaskeros) work at salmon canneries

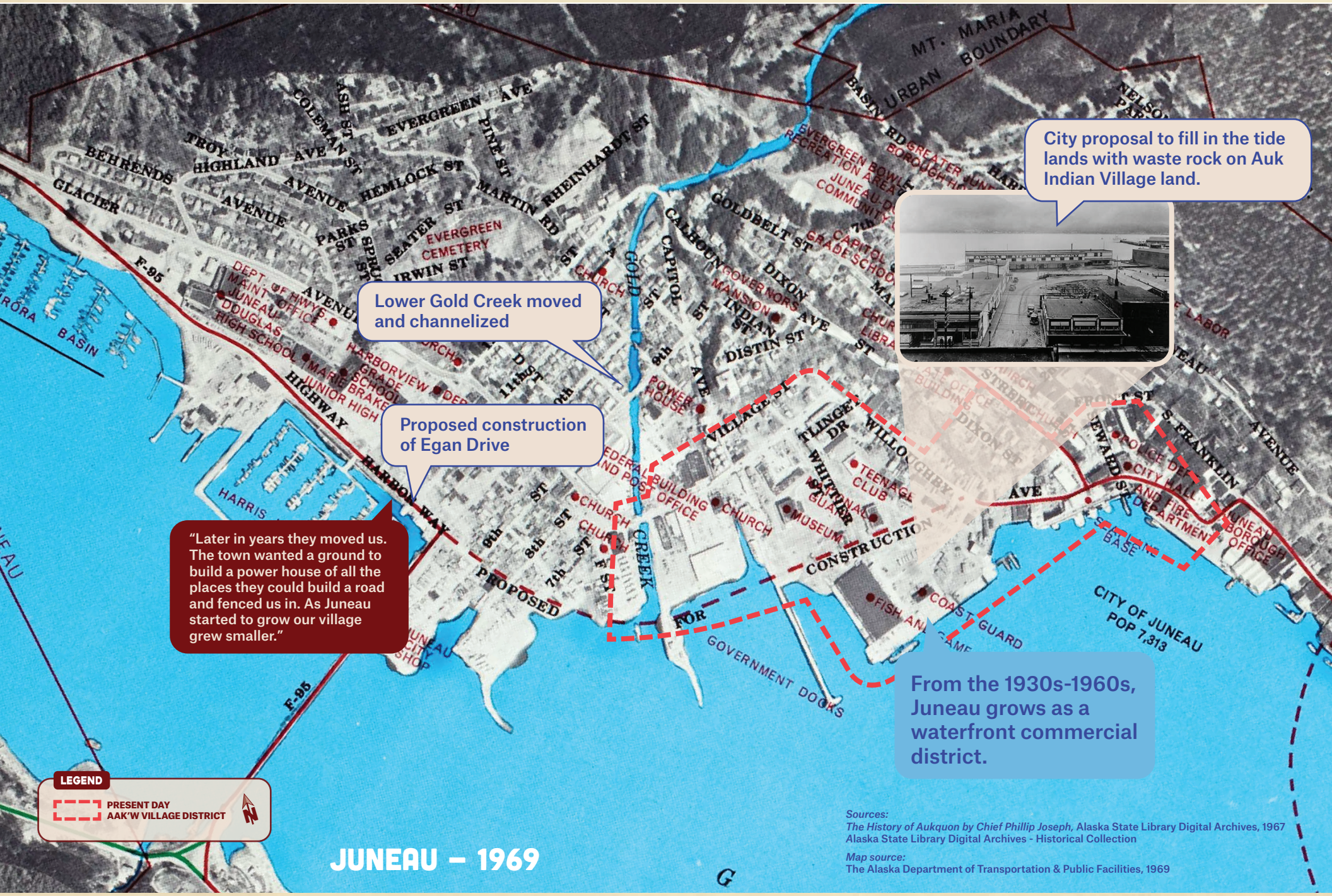
LEGEND

- PRESENT DAY AAK'W VILLAGE DISTRICT
- PRESENT DAY ROADWAY

Sources:
The History of Aukquon by Chief Phillip Joseph, Alaska State Library Digital Archives, 1967
 Douglas Indian Association Council, Environmental and TTP Department, 2017
Treadwell Mine, Alaska State Library Digital Archives, AEL&P Collection, 1890

Map source:
 Juneau waterfront map by Wettrick and Wilhelm, Alaska State Library Digital Archives, 1914

JUNEAU - 1914



City proposal to fill in the tide lands with waste rock on Auk Indian Village land.



Lower Gold Creek moved and channelized

Proposed construction of Egan Drive

"Later in years they moved us. The town wanted a ground to build a power house of all the places they could build a road and fenced us in. As Juneau started to grow our village grew smaller."

From the 1930s-1960s, Juneau grows as a waterfront commercial district.

LEGEND

--- PRESENT DAY AAK'W VILLAGE DISTRICT

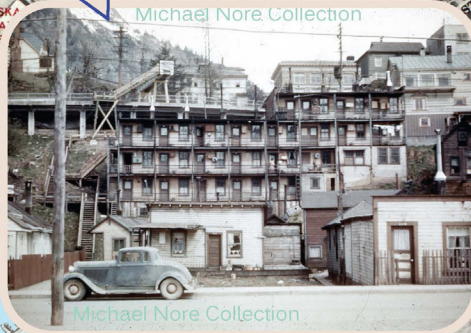
JUNEAU - 1969

Sources:
 The History of Aukquon by Chief Phillip Joseph, Alaska State Library Digital Archives, 1967
 Alaska State Library Digital Archives - Historical Collection
 Map source:
 The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, 1969

Juneau becomes a growing tourist industry with the arrival of Alaska Marine Highway ferry.

Proposal of the Willoughby District Urban Renewal Project.

Construction of Parkshore Condominiums causes displacement of long-time residents and local businesses



Construction of a four-lane arterial roadway (Egan Drive) to connect suburban areas and downtown Juneau.

LEGEND

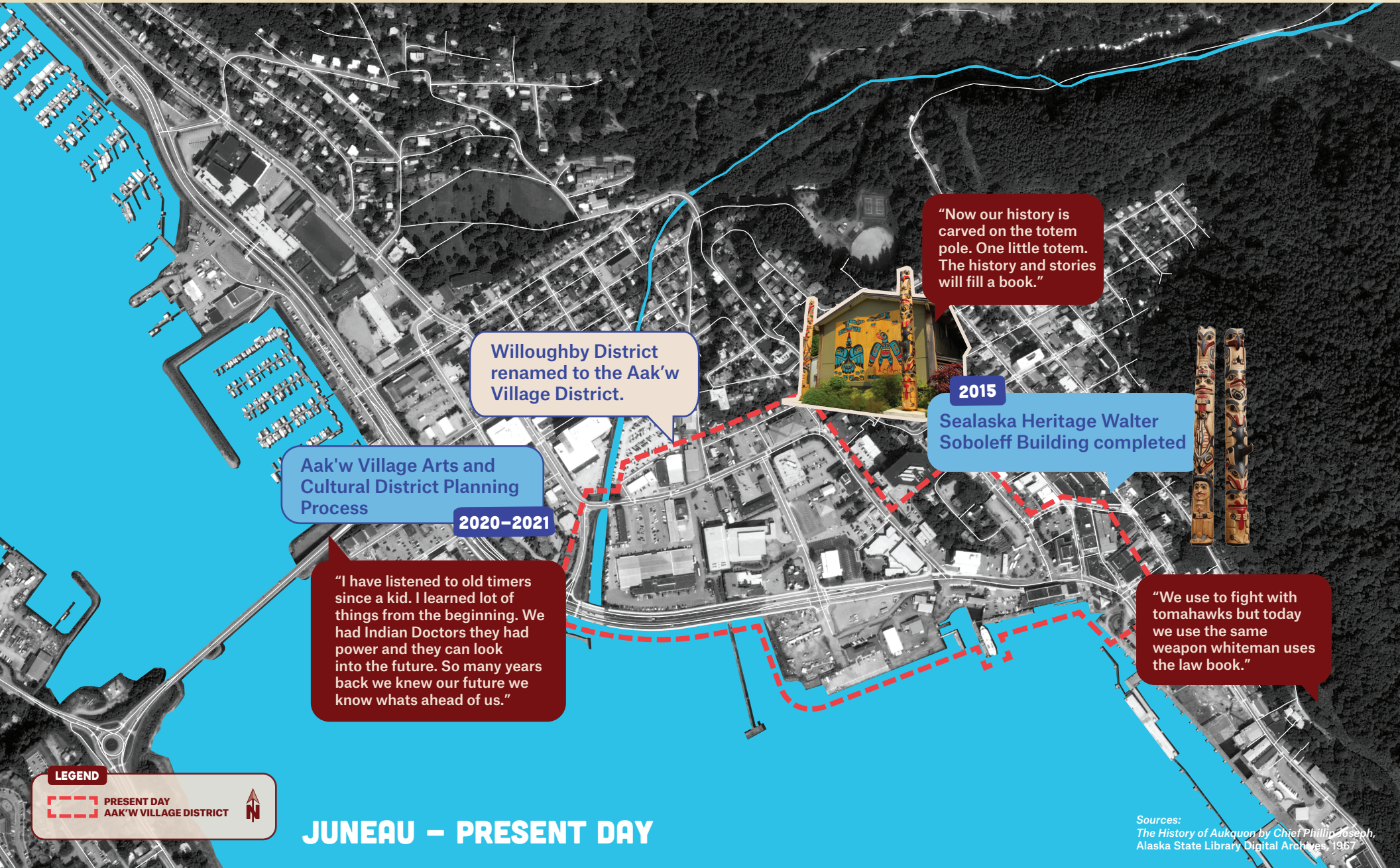
 PRESENT DAY AAK'W VILLAGE DISTRICT



JUNEAU 1971

Sources:
The Aak'w Kwaan Historical Landscape, Sealaska Heritage, September 2020
Alaska State Library Digital Archives - Historical Collection

Map source:
The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities, 1969



Willoughby District renamed to the Aak'w Village District.

Aak'w Village Arts and Cultural District Planning Process
2020-2021

"Now our history is carved on the totem pole. One little totem. The history and stories will fill a book."

2015
Sealaska Heritage Walter Soboleff Building completed

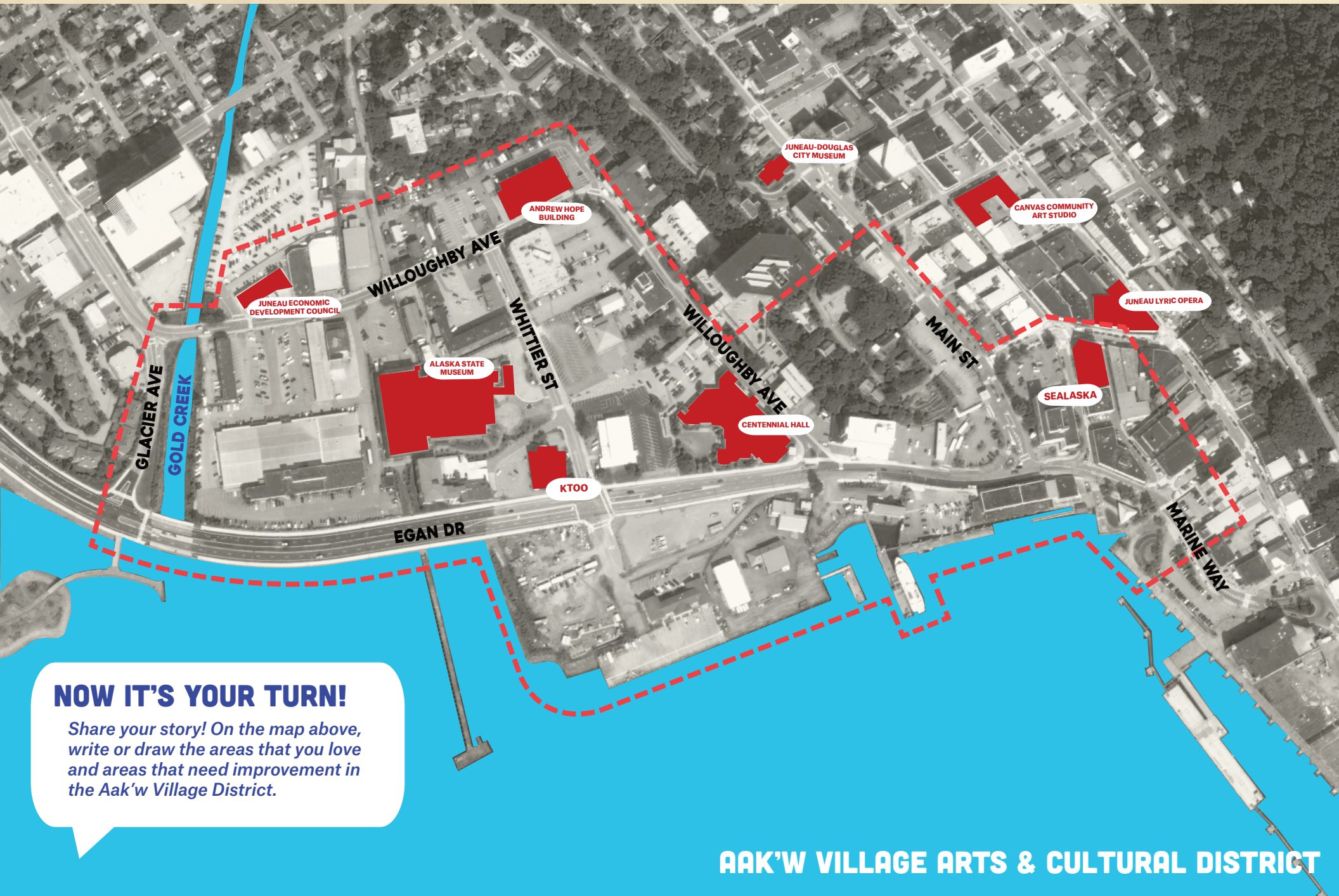
"I have listened to old timers since a kid. I learned lot of things from the beginning. We had Indian Doctors they had power and they can look into the future. So many years back we knew our future we know whats ahead of us."

"We use to fight with tomahawks but today we use the same weapon whiteman uses the law book."

LEGEND
PRESENT DAY AAK'W VILLAGE DISTRICT

JUNEAU – PRESENT DAY

Sources:
The History of Aukquon by Chief Phillip Joseph, Alaska State Library Digital Archives, 1967



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

Share your story! On the map above, write or draw the areas that you love and areas that need improvement in the Aak'w Village District.

AAK'W VILLAGE ARTS & CULTURAL DISTRICT

REINTRODUCING EQUITY



RETHINKING OUR PROCESSES

**"I LOVE THE FOOD, ESPECIALLY THE
SALMON SPREAD.
I LOVE OUR NATIVE DANCE GROUPS.**

**I AM PROUD OF OUR TRADITIONS.
I'M PROUD OF OUR RESILIENCE.**

**I'M GOING TO WORK TO KEEP MY
CULTURE ALIVE.
I WANT TO BE PART OF THE
REVIVAL OF OUR PEOPLE'S
STRENGTH."**

— Juneau students

reaching out and listening

The Aak'w Village District has been, through various forms and for half a century, identified as Juneau's center for civic, cultural, and arts based activities. Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) was contracted by the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council (JAHC) to create an equitable framework for imagining the future of the Aak'w Village District. Through that lens, our

initial community survey reached 91 people, asking questions that helped us understand what they loved about Juneau, and what they thought about the Aak'w Village District as it is today.

IN ORDER TO MAKE THE AAK'W VILLAGE DISTRICT MORE SUPPORTIVE TO THE COMMUNITY... WE NEED TO START:

- "keeping land affordable"
- "showing visual representations of multiple cultures"
- "[using] outdoor spaces to play, dine, shop, and hear music"
- "bringing community together and to the table"
- "hosting permanent and ongoing creative spaces for artists of all ages"
- "supporting small businesses and hearing native voices"
- "creating walking paths, bike paths, and green spaces"
- "helping bring it to life through affordable housing"

IN ORDER TO MAKE THE AAK'W VILLAGE DISTRICT MORE SUPPORTIVE TO THE COMMUNITY... WE NEED TO STOP:

- "assuming what is best"
- "covering the waterfront with cruise ships"
- "skyrocketing housing costs"
- "depending on tourism"
- "using it as a parking lot"
- "treating our homeless population with disregard"
- "prioritizing motor vehicles over all else"
- "catering only to cruise ship passengers"

IN ORDER TO MAKE THE AAK'W VILLAGE DISTRICT MORE SUPPORTIVE TO THE COMMUNITY... WE NEED TO CONTINUE:

- "thinking innovatively"
- "[adding] historical markers and information, creating spaces for community members and activities"
- "finding ways to keep the space indigenous: welcome visitors, but honor those who call it home"
- "supporting arts and culture"
- "meeting people where they are at"
- "providing teaching and training opportunities for our artists"
- "active antiracism work"

by the numbers

WITHIN THE AAK'W VILLAGE DISTRICT THERE ARE...

42 BUSINESSES

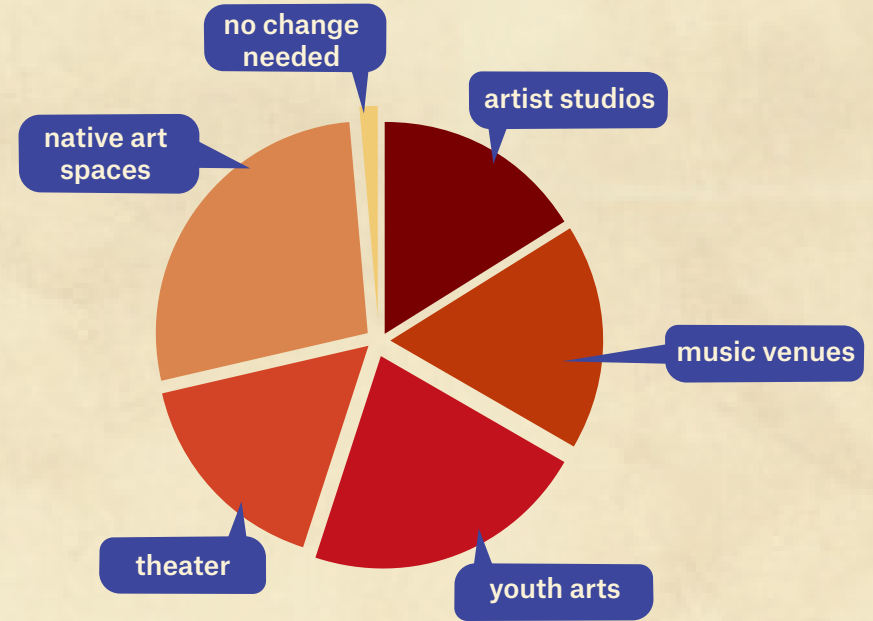
2 MUSEUMS

5 CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

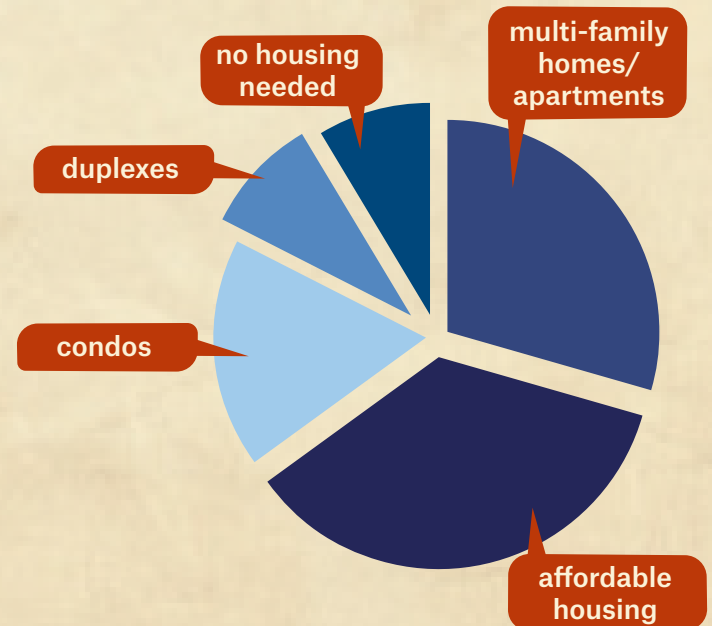
3 HOTELS

15% OF LAND AREA DEDICATED TO PARKING LOTS

WHAT KINDS OF ARTS PROGRAMS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE AAK'W VILLAGE DISTRICT?



WHAT KINDS OF HOUSING ARE NEEDED?



setting goals

KDI, the JAHC, and all partners in this project set out to create a process that was grounded in equity, transparency, and embracing those that had not been asked to be at the table before. Our work reflects this, giving space to folks that have been pushed to the sidelines despite their deep knowledge, history, and claim to this land. The team worked using methods grounded in anti-racist practices to put together a process that brought together people of different ages, cultures, and backgrounds to collaborate on a future that represents the full spectrum of Juneau residents.

Our goals were simple, based on these three core principles:

kinees.aax

empower voices that had not been brought to the table in the past

x'anawóos

center equity and have difficult conversations when needed

Idakát káa

create a plan that preserves and uplifts the multi-cultural and rich community of Juneau



stakeholders

Many people and organizations need to be involved when future planning and land use decisions are being made. The Aak'w Village District is home to an array of local businesses, larger corporations, tribal entities, and arts-based and cultural organizations. Throughout this process, KDI and the JAHC have tried to reach as many people as possible, meeting them where they are and listening to their thoughts and input. From this process, some key categories of stakeholders have emerged as being absolutely vital to the success of the planning process.

Right now the planning process operates in silos, with each organization only coordinating with others as needed or necessary. This has led to a disjointed approach in the planning of the Aak'w Village District as a whole. Creating a plan with residents at its core will start to rearrange this dynamic, centering decisions with community members and building relationships across sectors.

Tribal Government

Tlingit & Haida Central Council

City Government

CBJ Planning Department

Local Businesses

Arts/Culture Organizations

JAHC
KTOO Public Media
Theater Alaska
Áak'w Kwáan Coalition
Filipino Community
Woosh.ji.een Dance Group
SLAM

Economic Players

Juneau Economic Development Council
Sealaska Heritage Institute & Corporation
Goldbelt Incorporated
Norwegian Cruise Lines
Tlingit & Haida Central Council

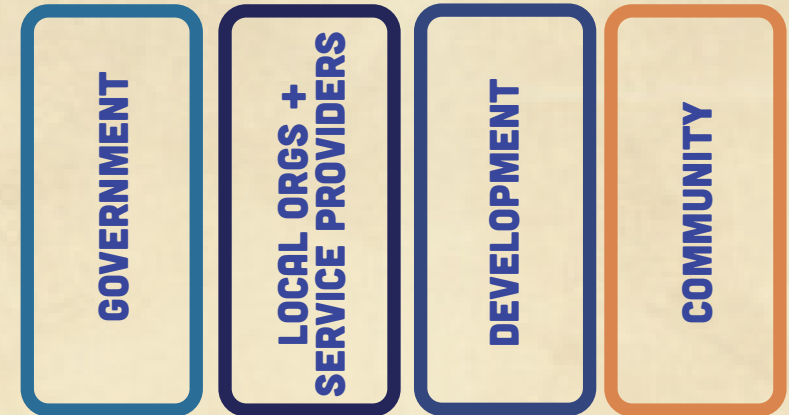
Residents

Indian Village residents
The Flats residents
Downtown Juneau residents
Juneau and Douglas residents

Service Providers

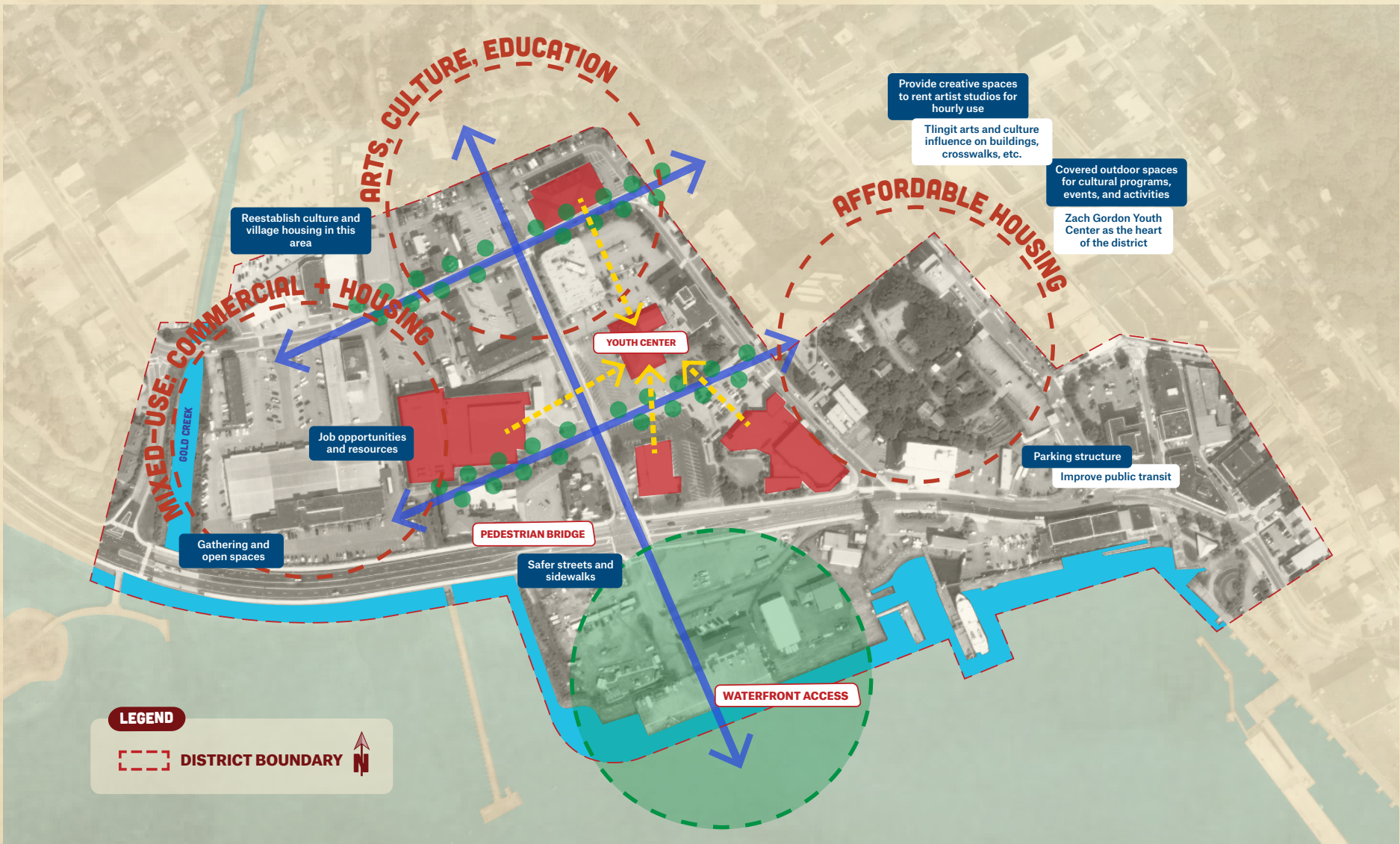
Zach Gordon Youth Center
Fireweed Place
Tlingit & Haida Central Council

HOW DO WE MOVE FROM THIS....



...TO THIS!





what we heard

KDI partners with communities to advance equity and activate unrealized potential within their neighborhoods; with this mission in mind, KDI set out to conduct a series of community engagement opportunities to collect feedback from residents and stakeholders on what

the Aak'w Village District should look like and function. The engagement included a community wide survey, creating a project website, in-person workshops, several mobile engagements, stakeholder interviews and monthly check-ins with the "Steering Committee", a group of

◀ Open to see more of our process!

influential residents, local organization representatives, and city staff, in order to secure a contextual and culturally competent approach.

The results of the first phase of the engagement revealed that a strong sense of belonging was shared across the

board, with residents prioritizing housing, art, youth activities, and culture as the themes that should drive the development of this district. A shared sentiment was expressed across all demographics that the district vision should facilitate placemaking and center locally owned businesses owned by Juneauites.

OUR PROCESS

REFLECT

PRECEDENT RESEARCH

WHAT WE'VE GATHERED:

The future of planning should produce a cohesive, creative, and community-centered vision for the district. It is important that a plan not just include history but center history and weave these elements throughout the research, outreach, design, and policy development processes.

"We need to continue acknowledging the first peoples of this land and respect their history."

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

TOPICS WE'VE DISCUSSED:



ORGANIZE

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

WHAT WE DISCOVERED:

- There needs to be more connectivity in the Aak'w Village District and collaboration between local leaders.
- A need for outdoor performance space that's protected by weather conditions

In the Aak'w Village District, we need to start...

Keeping land affordable and help owners keep buildings up.

Provide opportunities for community members, newcomers, and artists to learn and collaborate on ways to share the history of this beautiful area!

I think more disclosure & honesty about the true history of the Aak'w Village is needed. This is Native land.

Making sure that planning benefits all locals, not just people who have businesses that cater the tourism industry.

Finding better parking solutions.

AN INCLUSIVE PLANNING PROCESS

HOW WE MOVE FORWARD:

- Create opportunities for community to co-design the future of the District through workshops, artist-led activities, and sustained engagement.
- Engage young people on the planning of the district through a sustained partnership with the Zach Gordon Youth Center.
- Work to identify key design opportunities within the forthcoming comprehensive planning process.
- Commit to a process that establishes equity at its center, giving opportunity for community to be decision-makers within the process.

ZINE!

OUR PARTNERS



HOW WE REACHED OUT TO THE COMMUNITY



Focus Groups

- Tribal community
- Youth in Juneau
- Filipino community
- Arts and culture organizations
- Local business owners
- Local and tribal government

HOW WE ENGAGED WITH THE COMMUNITY



How important are anti-gentrification measures to you?



"We need to start building more affordable housing, mixed use space, and investing in local businesses."

TRANSFORM

"In the Aak'w Village District, we need to start sharing our diverse thoughts, collaborating and building together."

BUILD

Willoughby District Land Use Plan (2012)

This plan recognizes the immediate need to rethink the way pedestrians experience the district, specifically focused on breaking up large blocks to create a "grid of human-scaled streets."

Indigenous Planning Precedents

Examples of planning efforts to propose a long-range vision and sustainable land use plan for indigenous communities which include cultural gathering spaces, affordable housing, and economic opportunities.

History of Juneau

A more comprehensive history could focus on marginalized communities beginning with the Auk Nu Tlingit history and integrating the history of new immigrant communities.



AAK'W VILLAGE ARTS & CULTURAL DISTRICT

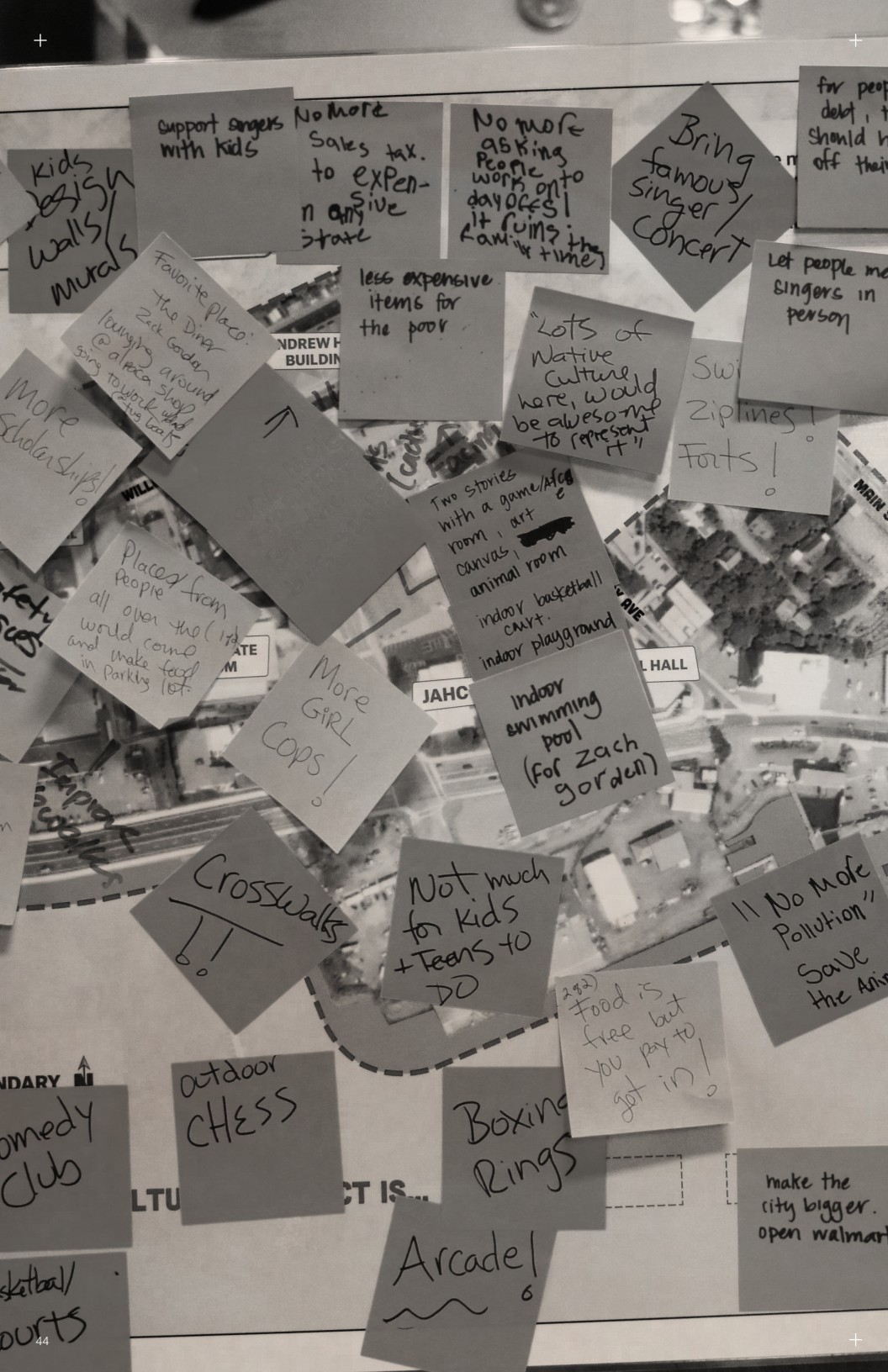
IMAGINING THE FUTURE



A JUNEAU FOR JUNEAVITES

"JUNEAU AND HARRIS, AND THE OTHER WHITE MEN WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THINGS IN THIS TOWN ARE NOT THE PEOPLE WE SHOULD BE HONORING. WE SHOULD CHOOSE INDIVIDUALS WE CAN ALL LOOK UP TO AND BE PROUD OF, WHETHER ALASKA NATIVE, FILIPINO, WHITE, CHINESE, OR PEOPLE OF OTHER BACKGROUNDS WHO HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR HISTORY."

— **Sally Schlichting**
*Artistic Director of the
Con Brio Chamber
Series & community
survey participant*



what do you want to see in Juneau?

responses from a workshop at the Zach Gordon Youth Center...

"More indigenous art on buildings, public graffiti walls, and youth art classes."

"There's not much for kids and teens to do. More parks, basketball courts, and hangout spots."

"Safer bus stops and covered areas, more trees and benches."

what do you think?

◀ Youth engagement activity at the Zach Gordon Youth Center

the aak'w village district vision

Through our many workshops, conversations, surveys, and focus groups, it became clear that many folks within the Aak'w Village District—from residents to tribal members to business owners—shared a common vision for the area. This vision encompassed four key pieces:

1 Native culture as the backbone for the identity of the District

Everyone we spoke to wanted to see and uplift Native culture throughout the District, in everything from the street names to the way that buildings were designed. It is undeniable that the narrative—past, present, and future—of Native peoples in the Aak'w Village District is at the heart of how planning should proceed. Layered on top of this is an acknowledgment and sharing of the multiple cultures that now also call Juneau their home. Showcasing Filipino, Latinx, and other important members of the Juneau community underscores that the Aak'w Village District is a place for all Juneauites, built on foundations of equity and a shared historical understanding.

2 Outdoor spaces are key

It goes without saying: Juneauites love Juneau because of the closeness to nature. Rain, water, the smell of brine—these are all things that folks in the District say are the reasons they love where they live. But right now, there are few places outdoors that provide the opportunity to enjoy these elements with families or friends. The desire for shaded or covered gathering spaces that could be used for performances, tai chi classes, outdoor movie theaters, or a cup of coffee was a constant refrain our team heard, from everyone from young folks to elders.

3 Connectivity, safety, and housing are non-negotiable

Concerns over safety for pedestrians and how to better connect the District to the downtown were also a top priority for people. The Aak'w Village District feels cut off from the downtown, despite being around the corner—but right now it's hard to walk through the District because of all the parking lots. Removing some parking to help with circulation was a key priority for many. Additionally, folks felt that in order to make the District a vibrant urban center, more housing—and particularly affordable housing—was needed. By giving people the opportunity to live in the Aak'w Village District, it would in turn boost local businesses and bring more, Juneau-based investment into the area while simultaneously easing the housing crisis.

4 Arts and culture as the thread that connects it all

Within all parts of the vision, community members highlighted the need for support of the arts in all of its facets—from providing space for individual artists to teach, to youth classes, to outdoor spaces that could support organizations like Theater Alaska. Arts and culture are closely intertwined, and can be anything from a local open mic night at an outdoor amphitheater to a native youth-run podcast series to a performance in Centennial Hall. Arts and culture affect us all and can be used to celebrate everything that makes Juneau....Juneau!

recommendations

The recommendations that are found in this plan are the culmination and synthesis of a year long engagement process. Throughout the life of the project, KDI team members have been committed to equitable development and planning for this district, so the input collected had an emphasis on prioritizing underserved and vulnerable residents. The engagement process produced by the KDI team was a new way of participation for many of the residents who were engaged and most had never participated in any planning efforts previously. A particular attention was given to receiving input from young people in the district to identify recommendations that would be forward looking and of impact to their generation.

These recommendations are an invitation to celebrate art and culture at all scales and to design the Aak'w Village District as a place of and for community. They are not the only pathway forward, but offer one set of ideas on how to reimagine the future of the District. We hope this provides inspiration for you, and helps you formulate recommendations of your own!

“...WE AREN'T AFRAID TO CHANGE FOR THE BETTER, TO GROW, TO EVOLVE. WE DON'T ALWAYS AGREE BUT WE TAKE CARE OF ONE ANOTHER. WE GRAPPLED WITH HISTORIC INJUSTICES AND REARRANGED THE TABLE TO MAKE ROOM FOR OTHERS WHO HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN EXCLUDED. WE INVESTED IN A VIBRANT FUTURE AND HAD VISION.”

— community survey participant

CAPITAL PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Short term (1-2 years)

Artist Studio Space

The visible creation of art is necessary for a thriving arts and culture district. Showcasing how different indigenous art forms are made—similar to the Sealaska Arts Campus—can help elevate and support local artists. The act of making is powerful, and providing low-cost spaces or residencies for artists will underscore the importance of the arts.

Artistic Crosswalks

Fun, vibrant crosswalk designs should be used to engage the local artist community network and to promote connectivity within the district. These crosswalks in addition to being decorative can promote safety, accessibility, and pedestrian visibility.

Wayfinding

Signage and other methods of wayfinding should be codesigned with the community to celebrate the various cultural histories of Juneau and to uplift the long term presence of the Aak'w.

What does wayfinding mean?

Wayfinding is a term for tools that help people find their way around, such as street signs or plaques with maps that show you where you are. But wayfinding can also be a much broader range of storytelling opportunities, from audio tours to designs in the sidewalk that tell the story of where the shoreline used to be.

A great example of wayfinding is the Juneau Voices Audio Walk that you might have seen and heard in downtown Juneau!

Creating successful wayfinding requires creative thinking. What ways can you think of that would help tell the story of the Aak'w Village District through wayfinding?

Mid-term (2-5 years)

Rain/Shade Structures, Canopies, and Street Trees

These tactics can be used as a way to activate public and open space even when weather conditions might not seem appropriate. Canopies can be used to create open yet weather-protected areas.

Additional Street Lighting

As the District transforms into a place where people will be spending time more frequently outside of the normal work hours, improved street lighting will be necessary to help people safely navigate the area.

Seating and Parklets

There is a strong need for spaces to relax, sit with friends, or read a book within the District. Providing benches and small 'parklets' throughout will invite people to sit and stay in the area, activating the space and increasing foot traffic to local businesses.

Vending and Market Spaces

Creating permanent, covered stalls for vending opportunities could help build economic development within the District, allowing for different arts-based, food, or small businesses to "plug in" at different times to the utilities provided at the stall.

Long term (5+ years)

Gateway Sign at Whittier Street

Currently, there is no space that feels like the entrance to the District. Given the development happening along the waterfront and the new JAHC building site, creating a gateway at the intersection of Whittier and Egan would give importance and formality to the Aak'w Village District, and provide an opportunity for local Native artists to create a formline showcase piece.

Multi-level Parking Structures

Over 15% of the land within the Aak'w Village District is dedicated to surface parking. By consolidating these parking areas in multi-level structures, more at-grade land could be utilized as open space for people to enjoy and use to support their community.

Waterfront Access

In tandem with the new projects planned for the waterfront at the end of Whittier Street, consideration should be given to creating access to the shoreline that connects into the network of green space recommended for the Aak'w Village District.

PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS

Short term (1-2 years)

Multi-cultural food events

Using the example led by the Filipino community as part of their fundraising efforts, hosting a series of multi-cultural food events within the district where the different cultural communities of Juneau come together to learn about their individual histories, cultures and share their best cuisine.

Change Place and Street Names to Tlingit Language Names

To continue the rebranding of the district into a cultural center, the city should start a process to get resident support in the renaming of places and street names to the Tlingit language. This process can be started immediately and outlined as part of the planning strategy within a comprehensive district plan but would require longer time commitment to see it implemented.

Collaboration between the Zach Gordon Youth Center and the JAHC

The youth that were engaged in this visioning process expressed a desire to have collaborative programming between the Zach Gordon Youth Center and the JAHC. The goal of this programming would be to incorporate youth voices into decisions being made at the JAHC, foster young artists and promote local art.

Mid-term (2-5 years)

Support for Legacy and Alaskan-owned Businesses

The city should produce an incentive program for legacy and Alaskan-owned businesses that are contributing to cultural programming. The goal would be to have business host open mics, display local art works within their buildings, or have local artist create murals on their building and get monetary support for facade improvements.

Long term (5+ years)

Social Services Hub

Creating a community gathering space for housed and unhoused residents to access services could help support members of the community in need. While many organizations, including Tlingit and Haida, provide these services throughout Juneau, the Aak'w Village District could house an "outpost" shared between multiple community service organizations to provide support on a rotating basis.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Short term (1-2 years)

Robust Community Engagement

This visioning process has uplifted the essential need of conducting robust community participation in the planning and design decisions happening in this district. We recommend that any future comprehensive planning include a robust and meaningful community feedback process with clear parameters of where residents can expect to see their feedback embedded.

Develop an Anti-Displacement Strategy

The City should develop a robust plan for how to create more, affordable housing within the District to support newcomers but maintain housing prices for those that currently live there. This would include creating Equity Metrics that could be used throughout the comprehensive planning process to understand how successful these measures are, and potentially the creation of an Anti-Displacement Advisory Group composed of local residents and business owners.

Inclusionary Housing

The City's comprehensive planning phase should outline specific, achievable and timebound inclusionary housing measures where the city can maximize market interest in high end housing developments to address lower and medium income housing needs, with a particular focus on workforce housing development.

Mid-term (2-5 years)

Zoning Code Update

After a comprehensive planning process for this district that includes the recommendations listed in this report, the development departments should produce a unified development code where the city can verify that all zoning is reflective of the general and specific plans.

Commercial Center Mixed Use Zoning

The City of Juneau has an opportunity to leverage existing infrastructure in the commercial center within the Aak'w village district to increase housing development opportunities across all housing need sectors. There is a particular opportunity to provide housing and work space for artists in this newly defined Arts and Culture district.

Long Term (5+ years)

Community Land Trust

The establishment of a Community Land Trust could be a mechanism for returning land back to indigenous entities within the District. The Community Land Trust would need to work with the City of Juneau to identify and fund development opportunities for housing, commercial spaces and other community assets within the Aak'w Village district.

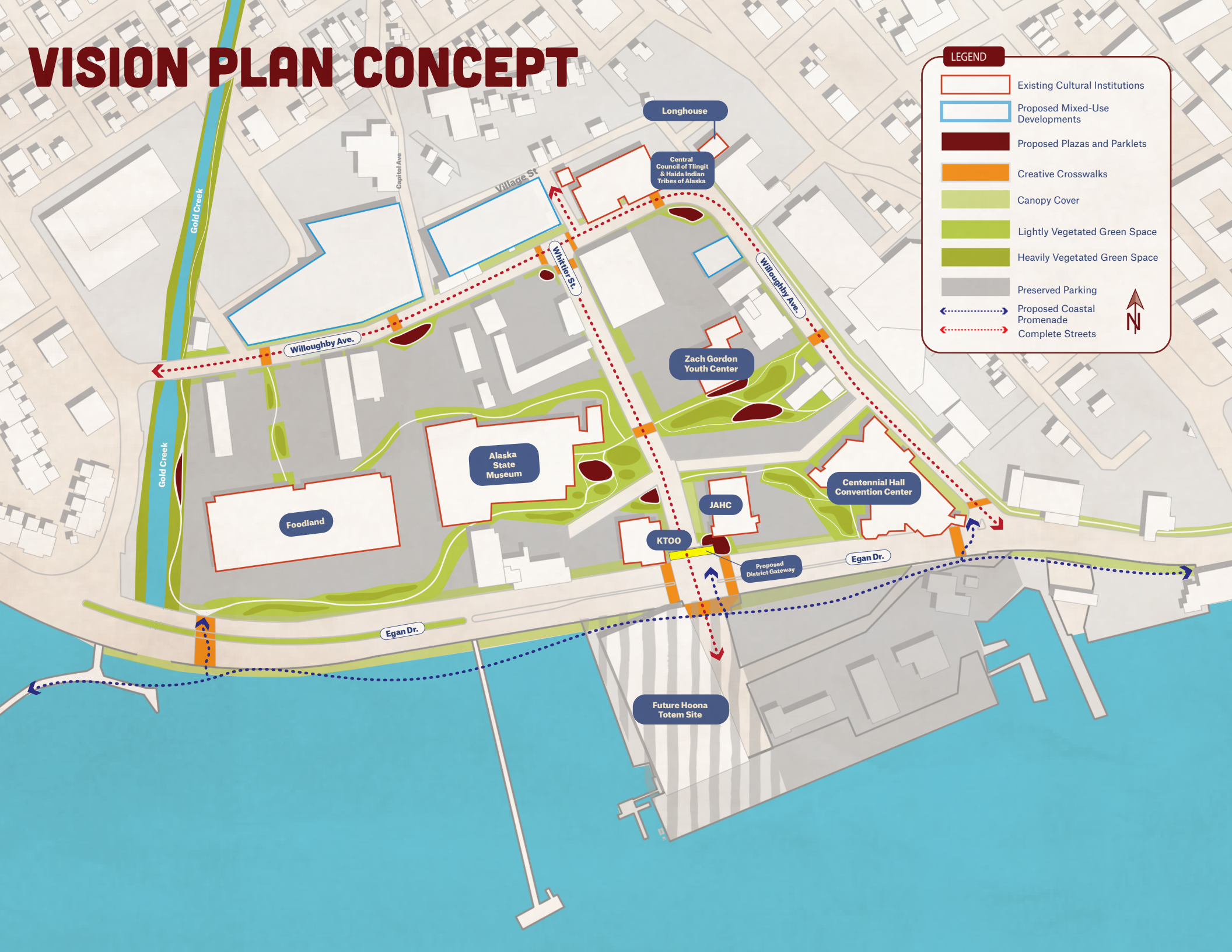
What is a community land trust?

A Community Land Trust—also known as a CLT—legally and financially separates the ownership of buildings and the ownership of the land that those buildings are on. While the buildings can be sold at market value, the land is managed by a nonprofit in perpetuity.

A CLT effectively de-commodifies land. CLTs have been used in many places in the lower 48 to return land to indigenous tribes, with the tribe holding decision-making power for the land trust.

Take a look at Dishgamu Humboldt, Sogorea Te' Land Trust, or Amah Mutsun Land Trust if you're interested in what this could mean for the Aak'w Village District!

VISION PLAN CONCEPT



LEGEND

- Existing Cultural Institutions
- Proposed Mixed-Use Developments
- Proposed Plazas and Parklets
- Creative Crosswalks
- Canopy Cover
- Lightly Vegetated Green Space
- Heavily Vegetated Green Space
- Preserved Parking
- Proposed Coastal Promenade
- Complete Streets



**DRAW YOUR OWN
PATH**



**IT'S TIME TO DESIGN
YOUR DISTRICT**

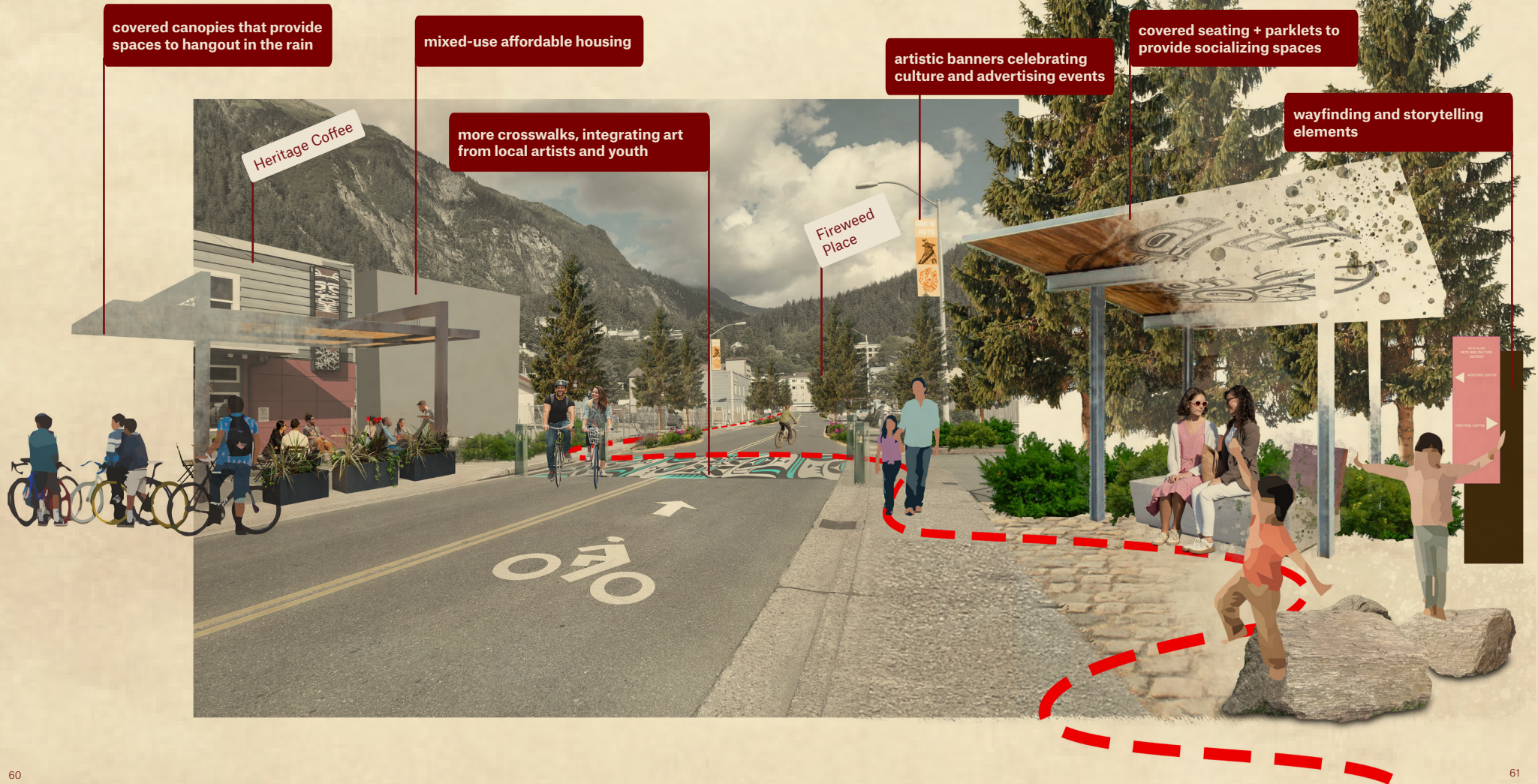
**"[I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW] WHO'S
LAND WE OCCUPY, AND THAT WE
CARE FOR AND RESPECT THE LAND
AND PEOPLE. THAT WE TAKE CARE
OF THIS PLACE FOR THE PEOPLE
WHO LIVE HERE, NOT JUST FOR
THOSE WHO VISIT."**

— community survey
participant

CONNECTIVITY, SAFETY, AND HOUSING ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE

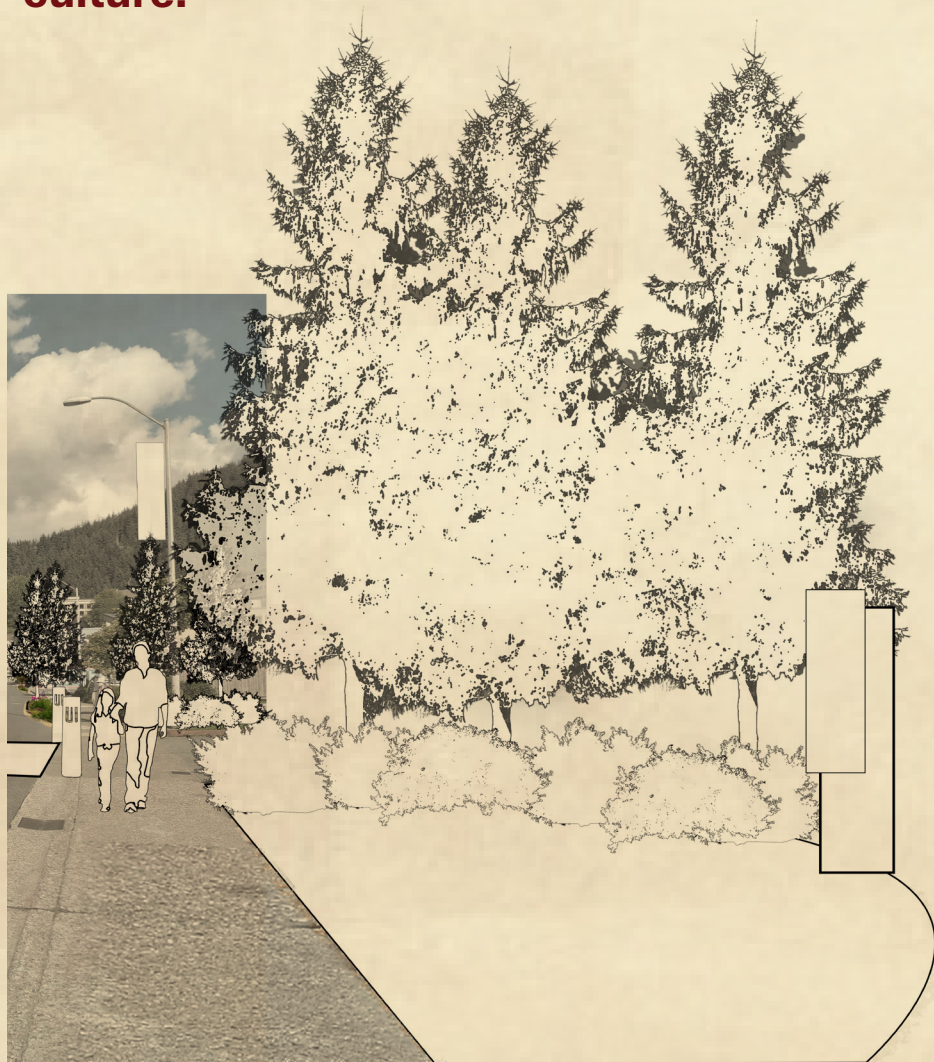
Streetscape enhancements can improve comfort and safety for pedestrians and showcase culture within the district.

WILLOUGHBY AVENUE



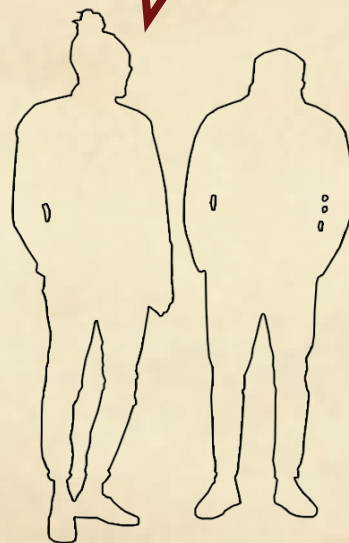
IT'S YOUR TURN TO DESIGN YOUR DISTRICT!

Draw yourself into the image below. Add any additional elements you think would make this area, safe, fun, vibrant, and expressive of your culture.

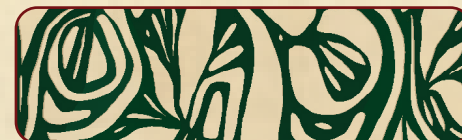


what would help make you feel safe along willoughby ave?

Four horizontal lines for writing answers to the question above.



creative crosswalks provide opportunities for integrate art into everyday infrastructure. Here are some examples:



design your own creative crosswalk:

A large empty rectangular box for drawing a custom creative crosswalk design.

OUTDOOR SPACES ARE KEY

New outdoor spaces can provide venues for gathering, events, performances, and leisure.

3RD STREET PARKING + ZGYC



There's so much parking that goes unused!

We need more spaces to gather outdoors!

I'd love an arts and performance space outside of the ZGYC!



food vending and parking spaces

outdoor performance spaces for multi-cultural events

safe walkways to connect between the SLAM, JAHC, and downtown

hangout areas for large and small groups

Centennial Hall

SLAM

Zach Gordon Youth Center

PLAN YOUR OWN COMMUNITY EVENT!

Answer the prompts and draw in the events you want to see fill public spaces in Juneau.

TITLE: _____

WHAT'S THE OCCASION: _____

WHAT FOOD IS SERVED: _____

WHAT ACTIVITIES OR PERFORMANCES ARE THERE: _____



NATIVE CULTURE AS THE BACKBONE FOR THE IDENTITY OF THE DISTRICT

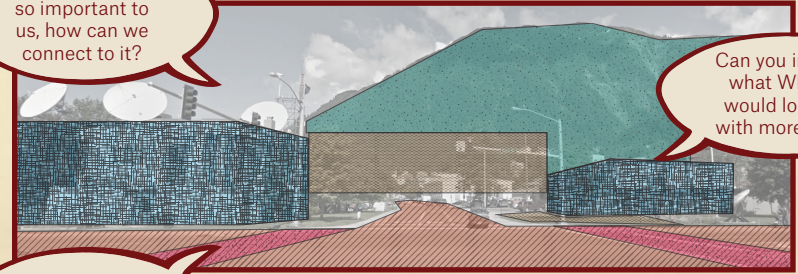
Showcasing the diverse cultural heritage and lived experience of the community can build a strong sense of place unique to Juneau.

WHITTIER STREET + EGAN DR.

The waterfront is so important to us, how can we connect to it?

Can you imagine what Whittier would look like with more trees?

Egan is really hard to cross and the light is too short!



bike lanes along Egan

safer and more frequent crossings on Egan

KTOO

celebratory signage that connect the district into the rest of the city

murals created by local native artists

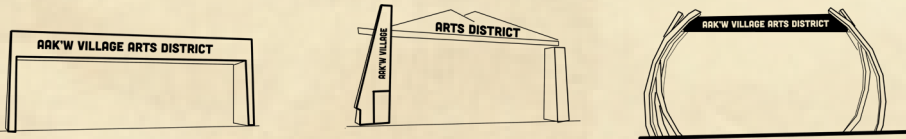
State Office Building

JAHC

SHOW US HOW YOU WANT YOUR CULTURE REPRESENTED!

What do you think a gateway sign to the Aak'w Village District should look like? Sketch outside the lines!

EXAMPLE DESIGNS



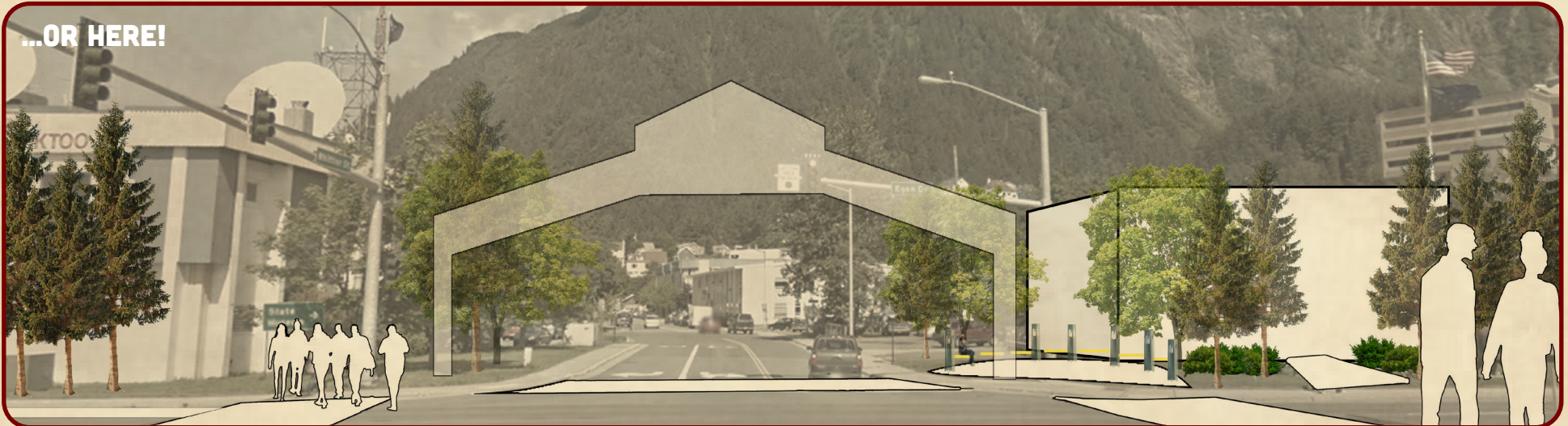
DRAW HERE!

how else can culture be celebrated and showcased in the district?



A speech bubble containing several horizontal lines for writing.

...OR HERE!



Are you interested in shaping the vision for the Aak'w Village District?

Now that you've read through this zine, you too can be an advocate in your community! Below is a roadmap to help you get started.

I want these local leaders involved...

With your coalition, set common goals. How will you develop a partnership with your local leaders and organizations? Who can help bring you vision into reality?



REFLECT



Think about what excited you the most in this zine. Why does it matter to you? How does it benefit your community?

I was most excited by...

Build power in your community by organizing a larger coalition and engage in meaningful conversations. Who are your neighbors that would be interested in shaping the vision for the Aak'w District? What are the questions we need to ask the larger community?

BUILD

ORGANIZE



I want to talk with these 5 people...



TRANSFORM

Get involved in civic engagement with your community to create systems change!

"WE'RE IMPERFECT, BUT WE'RE TRYING TO RIGHT HISTORIC WRONGS AND BUILD COMMUNITY WITH ALL OF JUNEAU."

— **Joseph Meyers**
City Planning Housing Specialist & community survey participant

Salamat

Gracias

Thank you

Háw'aa

Gunalchéesh

LET'S GATHER TOGETHER

SÁAHLAANGAAN GUD T'ALÁNG KÁAJGIDDANG

VAMOS A JUNTARNOS
SABAY TAYO

created by:



in partnership with:

City & Borough of Juneau
Central Council Tlingit &
Haida Tribes of Alaska
Zach Gordon Youth Center
Juneau Economic
Development Council
The Aak'w Kwáan Coalition

a special thank you to
everyone that attended our
meetings, spoke with us, and
took our survey

www.aakwvillagedistrict.com

WOOSH KAANÁX GAXTUDA.AAT