



The Indigenous Youth, Art, and Water Initiative

Nuu-chah-nulth Youth Warrior Family Society

Organization description:

Indigenous youth-led non-profit organization

Location:

Tofino, BC

Young Indigenous Ambassador (YIA):

Lakos, Jessie Everson

Project Proposal:

The Nuu-chah-nulth Youth Warrior Family Society will conduct training gatherings, intergenerational knowledge sharing activities, and work with Elders and master carvers to create a social art piece that educates and empowers emerging youth leaders to use their voices and artistic expressions as a way of communicating the integral importance of safe and respectful relationships with water. The purpose of this project is to strengthen the leadership and confidence of emerging youth leaders from Nuu-chah-nulth communities to continue creating culturally sound and concrete forms of environmental protection for future generations.

Art type:

Carving

Community Water Issues:

Supporting safe relationships with the ocean, water, and marine species in our communities. Various pollutants including marine vessel discharge, logging runoff, agricultural and sewage activities, biotoxins and the effects of climate change affect the quality of our coastal waters and the sea-life that has fed and nourished our families since time immemorial. Nuu-chah-nulth youth leaders have recently been working to reestablish clam gardens as a form of food security and cultural revitalization and have identified a lack of widespread testing as a barrier to seeing our families safely and sustainably fed by the ocean once again. In recognising the cultural teaching of hishuk'ish tsawalk (everything is connected), it is essential that we better understand the health and behaviour of our coastal waters to better support the health of our food systems, families, and the world around us.