



Ketchikan Area Arts & Humanities Council

Creating and Promoting Opportunities to Experience the Arts and Explore the Humanities

Call to Artists

Request for Qualifications - Kichxáan Héeni Canoe

For artwork representative of a canoe, to be suspended above the Schoenbar Trail and to include lighting elements. Preference will be given to Alaska Native artists.

Qualification submission deadline:

Thursday, August 15, 2024, 5:00pm AKST

Total budget for completed and installed artwork:

\$100,000

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Open to individual artists and artists working as a group living in Alaska and throughout the country regardless of race, gender, age, belief, or national origin. Qualified artists will demonstrate experience in completing high quality, compelling public art works in a professional and timely fashion, along with project management experience, technical expertise (including use of lighting elements in your work), and a statement of approach to the project. Preference will be given to Alaska Native artists.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council requests artist qualifications to create a suspended outdoor public art piece along the Schoenbar Trail in downtown Ketchikan, Alaska. The final public art piece should be representative of a canoe using any medium, suspended above the adjacent the Schoenbar Trail, and include lighting elements that will not only be a feature of the artwork but provide ambient light for the trail. The work must include the following considerations:

- Safety is of the utmost concern
- Wind resistance should be considered, as Ketchikan is subject to extreme winds
- Access to the site location is via a foot trail with tree cover. However, vehicles can access the location
- The nearby creek is a salmon creek subject to strict environmental considerations.
- Ultimately, the piece must be extremely durable and resistant to extreme weather and moisture (it rains over 150 inches in this rainforest annually)
- Lighting element must be easily accessible for repair and upkeep
- The Ketchikan Gateway Borough will devise the armature structure for the new artwork
- The City of Ketchikan will provide electrical service to the artwork
- The selected artist(s) will work closely with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and the City of Ketchikan

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough is located on the traditional lands of the Taant'a Kwáan and Sanyaa Kwáan Tlingit. Ketchikan is a diverse community home to people of many different nationalities, races, ethnicities, religions, and abilities. During the summer visitor season, the resident population doubles, becoming even more diverse.





Ketchikan Area Arts & Humanities Council

Creating and Promoting Opportunities to Experience the Arts and Explore the Humanities

The Schoenbar Trail follows one of Ketchikan, Alaska's most important geographic features – Kichxáan Héeni (Ketchikan Creek). This is the creek that brought the Tlingit people to Ketchikan to harvest salmon for thousands of years. This is the creek that also attracted the white settlers for the same reason, pushing out Alaska Natives from their ancestral lands. This is the creek that now draws hundreds of thousands of visitors annually to see shops, art, museums, and spawning salmon. Unfortunately, the trail is also the place where multiple rapes have occurred and where Alaska Native women have been warned their whole lives to avoid. It is the place where drug deals occur, where needles are left in the bushes, where the unhoused set up camps, and where some community members feel safe enough to graffiti the trail with anti-Semitic, racist, and homophobic slurs, obscene images, and sexist statements.

As our society continues to examine how we treat each other now and historically, we are becoming more aware of the many ways systemic racism has shaped our lived environment. In Ketchikan, this came to the forefront on the Schoenbar Trail that has been known colloquially as “The Rape Trail”. The trail is a beautiful oasis in downtown Ketchikan, where the sounds of vehicles, the glare of headlights, and the smells of asphalt are all hidden by trees, salmonberries, and the babble of Ketchikan Creek. Summer visitors follow the trail and explore the Creek as they head toward City Park, and the Totem Heritage Center. Locals enjoy the trail as they walk to work, or to downtown, or take their dogs on adventures. The trail feeds the back entrance of Schoenbar Middle School, and athletic coaches encourage students to use the trail for track and field. The trail also opens onto the skate park where skaters of all ages utilized the public space.

Recently the trail again became a focus of the community because of extensive vandalism, with many local entities wishing to counteract hate and to create a safe and welcoming environment for community members and visitors. The Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council's Diversity and Inclusion Committee began considering how art could start the community's healing process from the trauma associated with the trail both recently and historically. They initiated the conversation to install public art that would acknowledge the importance and history of the area and begin a healthy and positive path forward. The Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council (KAAHC) invited the Ketchikan Nonprofit Collaborative (KNC), a collective of local nonprofits working together for the community, to consider making the trail a project as well. They immediately took action. KNC instigated additional lighting with the Borough and will be concentrating on ADA access and parking for the Trail, and possibly ADA access down to the Creek behind the Skate Park. The KAAHC Diversity and Inclusion Committee identified the juncture of the three legs of the trail as the ideal location for an expressive public art piece to represent a canoe, suspended above the trail with a light feature. The new public art piece will be funded through a re-grant from the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition, a grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts, a grant from Cape Fox Corporation, a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation, and funds and resources from Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council. Additional resources will be provided by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and the City of Ketchikan.

The new **Kichxáan Héeni Canoe** will be incorporated into the City of Ketchikan's “Salmon Walk”, a project that has had many iterations over the years but is now finally coming to fruition. The “Salmon Walk” combines directional signage (in the form of salmon) created by Tlingit master





Ketchikan Area Arts & Humanities Council

Creating and Promoting Opportunities to Experience the Arts and Explore the Humanities

carver and artist Nathan Jackson and artist Ray Troll, with naturalist panels highlighting the flora and fauna ...and fish of the area. The Walk begins at historic Creek Street, proceeds over Married Man's Trail, along Park Avenue, over Harris Street bridge, onto Schoenbar Trail, and ends at the Totem Heritage Center.

As imagined, an art piece representative of a canoe suspended above the trail and the Creek could be seen from Park Avenue, drawing the eye, and visitors. The **Kichxáan Héeni Canoe** will represent, as it does in so many cultures, moving forward together, teamwork, transformation, and healing.

ARTIST BUDGET:

Total budget for completed and installed artwork is up to **\$100,000**. The budget includes artwork design, fabrication, delivery, and installation, as well as the artist fee, travel, and other direct costs.

ESTIMATED PROJECT TIMELINE:

Monday, April 15, 2024 Release of Request for Qualifications

Thursday, August 15, 2024, 5:00pm AKST, Deadline for artists to submit Qualifications

Wednesday, August 21, 2024, Semi-Finalists notified

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 (estimated), Information meeting for semi-finalists with Selection panel, Ketchikan Gateway Borough and City of Ketchikan Public Works Departments, and Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council

Tuesday, September 17, Semi-Finalists' conceptual sketch due

October 8, Finalist(s) notified

There will be a community conversation in October (estimated October 15) with the Finalist(s) to discuss the significance of the location and the importance of the artwork to the community, and for the community and the artists to interact prior to the final design due date.

Friday, November 15, 2024 Final design due (per discussion, 50% of award may be distributed at this time or a different agreed upon time, for artist to begin work.)

October 3, 2025 (estimated) Unveiling of the **Kichxáan Héeni Canoe**

The timeline for the artwork development, approval, fabrication, and installation is somewhat flexible depending on manufacturing and delivery schedule. The remaining 50% of award will be distributed at the completion of the work.

SELECTION PROCESS:

This public art piece will be selected through a public process administered by the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council that is based on the public art selection process developed by the Alaska State Council on the Arts. The selection process will have two rounds.

Round One: RFQ Submission Reviewed

The selection panel will evaluate all submissions based on six criteria and select 3 semi-finalists to move to Round Two. Round One will assess:

- Examples of prior public artworks
- Placemaking experience and philosophy of the value of Public Art to a community
- Experience in collaborative public art process
- Successful project management experience





Ketchikan Area Arts & Humanities Council

Creating and Promoting Opportunities to Experience the Arts and Explore the Humanities

- Technical experience
- Statement of approach for the project

Round Two: Semi-Finalists Selected, Proposals Submitted, and Semi-Finalists Interviewed.

The Selection Panel will identify up to three semi-finalists, who will each be paid an honorarium of \$750. An online informational meeting will convene on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 (estimated), for KAAHC and local municipalities to share additional information about the project site and for the artists to ask questions.

Each semi-finalist will develop a conceptual sketch of proposed artwork to be submitted by Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 5:00pm AKST. After which KAAHC will facilitate interviews either online or in person in Ketchikan, AK the week of September 23, 2024 (estimated). During the interview the Selection Panel will review the proposal, qualifications, and previous experience in detail, as well as the artists' philosophy toward public art and its contribution toward community, and each artist(s) will share their concept and approach to the project.

Final Artist(s) Selected

The Selection Panel will choose the ideal artist for the project and forward that recommendation to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly for final approval to move forward.

Upon approval of selected artist and concept, a scope of services and contract will be developed.

SUBMISSION MATERIALS:

Submission materials will not be returned.

To be considered a complete submission of qualifications, artists must include the following:

- 1) A current professional artist resume that includes education and a brief summary list of exhibitions/public art/graphic design awards. Include your name, address, telephone, email and website (if applicable).
- 2) An artist statement, not to exceed 500 words, to include description of work and artistic intention.
- 3) List three (3) professional references with whom you have worked with on a project. Include their phone numbers and email addresses, and a brief explanation of the project. If you have not participated in a public art project before, please list other applicable references.
- 4) Include up to 10 images:
 - a. Images must feature examples of artist's work
 - Label each image with your name, title of piece if possible, year, location, media, and budget of featured artwork. Describe the project concept in one to two sentences if it is a public art piece.





Ketchikan Area Arts & Humanities Council

Creating and Promoting Opportunities to Experience the Arts and Explore the Humanities

- 5) Statement of Approach including:
 - a. Brief, preliminary written concept of design for the project. Also include how you would accomplish this and the rationale for this choice. 250 words or less.

Submissions must be received by the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council no later than **Thursday, August 15, 2024, 5:00pm AKST.**

Incomplete or late submissions will not be reviewed. Additional materials submitted beyond those listed above will not be reviewed.

Completed hard copies or emails of qualifications must be received at the address below. Facsimile responses will not be accepted. Responses and their envelopes should be clearly marked with the name and address of the respondent and the project title Kichxáan Héeni Canoe.

All inquiries related to this Request are to be directed to Kathleen Light, Executive Director of the Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council in writing via the email or mailing address below. Any other information received from any other source is not official and should not be relied upon. All asked and answered questions pertaining to the RFQ will be made available to all artists participating in the Call via the KAAHC website portal.

Please submit qualifications via emailed, mailed, or hand delivered to:

Kathleen Light
Re: Kichxáan Héeni Canoe
Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council
330 Main Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
kathleenl@ketchikanarts.org

NOTIFICATION:

Accepted and not accepted artists submitting their qualifications will be notified by mail as quickly as possible once a decision has been reached on October 8, 2024. Please do not contact KAAHC, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough regarding the selection results. Information will not be released by phone.

SELECTION PANEL:

The Selection Panel will consist of a Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly member, a Borough public works staff member, a City public works staff member, a Tongass Tribal Elder, a representative from the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition, 2 members of the KAAHC Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and 2 Ketchikan community members.

The Selection Panel will review the artists' submitted qualifications against the mandatory criteria. Respondents not meeting all outlined mandatory criteria will not be considered for review.





Ketchikan Area Arts & Humanities Council

Creating and Promoting Opportunities to Experience the Arts and Explore the Humanities

REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION OF SUBMISSION

KAAHC may contact the artists at the direction of the Selection Panel to request clarification on points of submission at any point during the process.

REJECTION OF SUBMISSIONS

KAAHC, KGB, CoK, and/or the selection panel reserve the right to accept or reject in whole or in part any or all proposals submitted.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

KAAHC does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, sex, heritage, national origin, religion or disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

All submissions are considered public and subject to review upon request after the award has been made.

KAAHC nor its Diversity and Inclusion Committee, or the Ketchikan Gateway Borough will accept responsibility for costs incurred by the artist in responding to this Request for Qualifications.

Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council (KAAHC)

KAAHC was founded in 1953 and incorporated in 1970. In 1982 the City of Ketchikan passed a resolution recognizing KAAHC as the official agency responsible for the advancement of the arts in Ketchikan. KAAHC is a thriving, full-service local arts agency which continues to grow in all facets of its programming. KAAHC employs three professionals, offering technical assistance to regional artists, arts organizations, and community members as well as statewide assistance to other regional arts councils, while providing a variety of arts and humanities related programs and events for Southern Southeast Alaska.

APPENDICES: SUPPORTING MATERIALS

The following documents are included as appendices to the RFQ Call to Artists:

- Description and graphic of the city of Ketchikan's "Salmon Walk"
- Location images, and drawings
- Drawings of electrical and other services in the artwork installation location
- Examples of lighting elements in public art



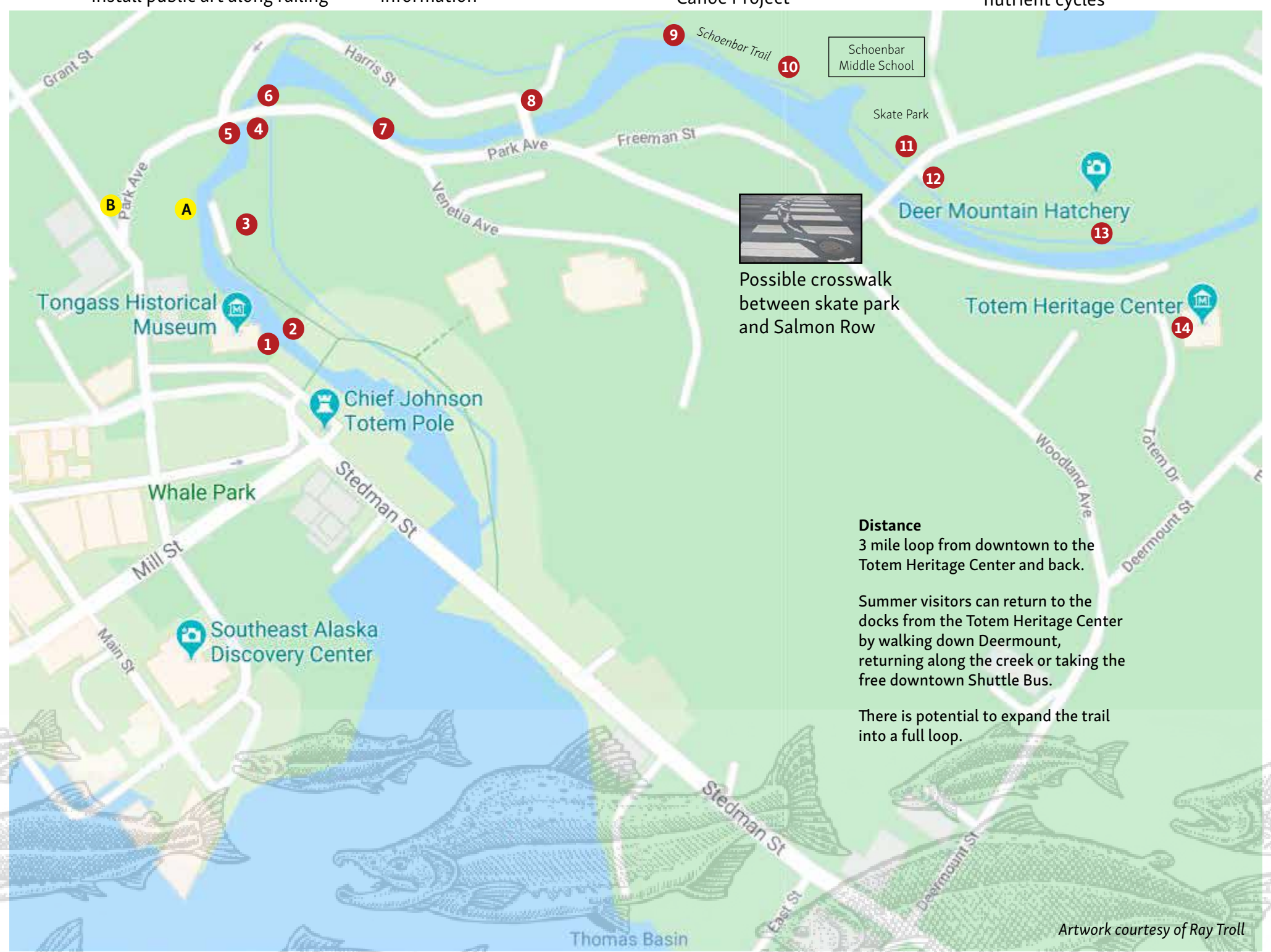


The Ketchikan Salmon Walk provides a showcase for the art, history and salmon of Ketchikan Creek. It provides an easy to follow trail for locals and visitors to enjoy, enhancing health and a meaningful connection to the creek. Directional signage, public art and interpretive panels enrich our experience and tell Ketchikan's many stories.

- 6** **Directional Signage**
New feature at future ADA-compliant crossing
- 5** **Fish Ladder & Viewing Deck**
- 4** **Panels: Salmon lifecycle and migration**
- B** **Signage at Intersection**
Add "Salmon Walk" decals to existing wayfinding signs
- A** **Creek Platform Adjacent to 632 Park Avenue**
- add lighting and signage to existing platform
- opportunity for pop-up market
- install public art
- 3** **Natural Amphitheater**
- upgrade lighting to Creek Street-style lights
- add seating
- replace chain link fencing with Creek Street-style wood railings
- install public art
- 2** **"Yeltatzie's Salmon"**
Panel: Terry Pyle's salmon sculpture and honoring Jones Yeltatzie's original sculpture
- START HERE 1** **Museum Creek Overlook**
Panel: Intro to the creek and Salmon Walk

- 7** **Directional Signage along Park Avenue**
- install public art along railing
- 8** **Harris Street Bridge**
Panel: Cultural or Historical information
- 9** **Schoenbar Trail @ fork in trail**
Public Art: Kichxáan Héeni Canoe Project
- 10** **Schoenbar Trail**
Panel: Salmon and tree nutrient cycles

- 11** **Directional Signage**
At skate park crosswalk to direct towards hatchery. Provide two paths around skate park: one ADA along sidewalk and one creekside to allow water access.
- 12** **Directional Signage at Park Avenue and Salmon Row**
Stencil salmon along Salmon Row to guide to Hatchery
- 13** **Deer Mountain Fish Hatchery**
Panel: fish rearing
- 14** **Totem Heritage Center**
Panel: Historic Fog Woman Totem Pole and Replica and information on how to return downtown



Possible crosswalk between skate park and Salmon Row

Distance
3 mile loop from downtown to the Totem Heritage Center and back.

Summer visitors can return to the docks from the Totem Heritage Center by walking down Deermount, returning along the creek or taking the free downtown Shuttle Bus.

There is potential to expand the trail into a full loop.



Examples of salmon art to incorporate into railings



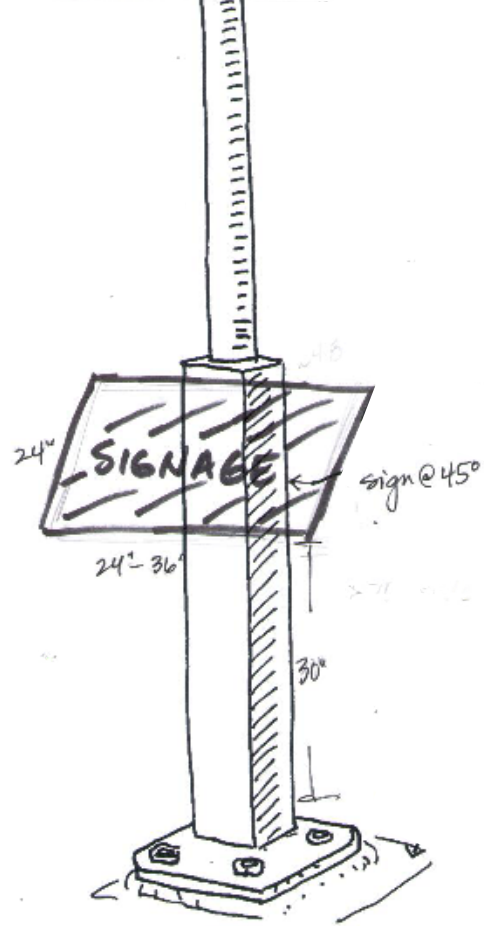
Artwork courtesy of Ray Troll



KETCHIKAN SALMON WALK

TRAIL MARKERS

Directional signposts will feature artwork from Nathan Jackson and Ray Troll. Signage can be attached where appropriate.



INTERPRETIVE PANELS

Signage will educate and engage the viewer with science, art, culture and history inspired by salmon. New signage materials prevent damage from vandalism or weather



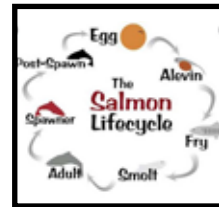
1 Intro to Creek & Salmon Walk



2 "Yeltatzie's Salmon"



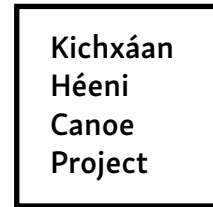
4 Fish Ladder



5 Viewing Deck across from Fish Ladder



8 Harris Street Bridge



9 Public art project from Arts Council & Wellness Coalition



10 Schoenbar Trail



13 Deer Mountain Fish Hatchery



14 Totem Heritage Center

PUBLIC ART

Art inspires and informs. Incorporating art into spaces along the creek celebrates salmon and turns a currently derelict area into a safe, welcoming space for everyone in the community.



Examples of public art

OPPORTUNITIES

The Salmon Walk offers several opportunities to be involved:

- Host an annual creek cleanup each Spring
- Adopt a section of the trail to keep it clean and free of graffiti
- Partner with Schoenbar classes for projects along Schoenbar Trail
- Incorporate walk directions onto existing wayfinding signage
- Install public art from local artists
- Many more!

PHASE I COSTS

14 Signposts created and installed by Public Works \$6,720 (materials only)

14 Stainless steel 28" fish with epoxy paint to top signposts \$5,900

Interpretive sign content developed by City Museum staff with partners

Art for interpretive signs donated by Ray Troll

9 Interpretive signs produced (CHPL panels, 10 yr warranty) \$10,800

36 One line vinyl decals to update 9 existing wayfinding signs \$495

PHASE II

Public Art

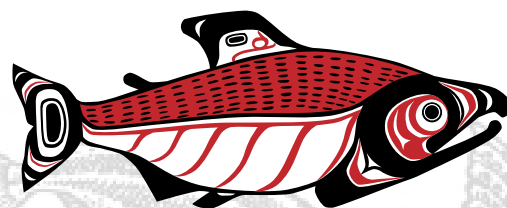
Lighting

Natural Amphitheater development

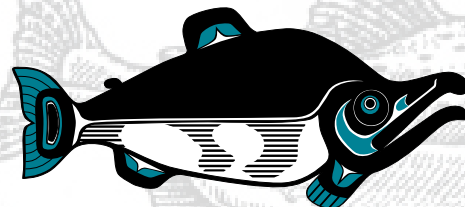
ADA Crosswalk at Park Ave near fish ladder

Renovation of viewing platform above fish ladder

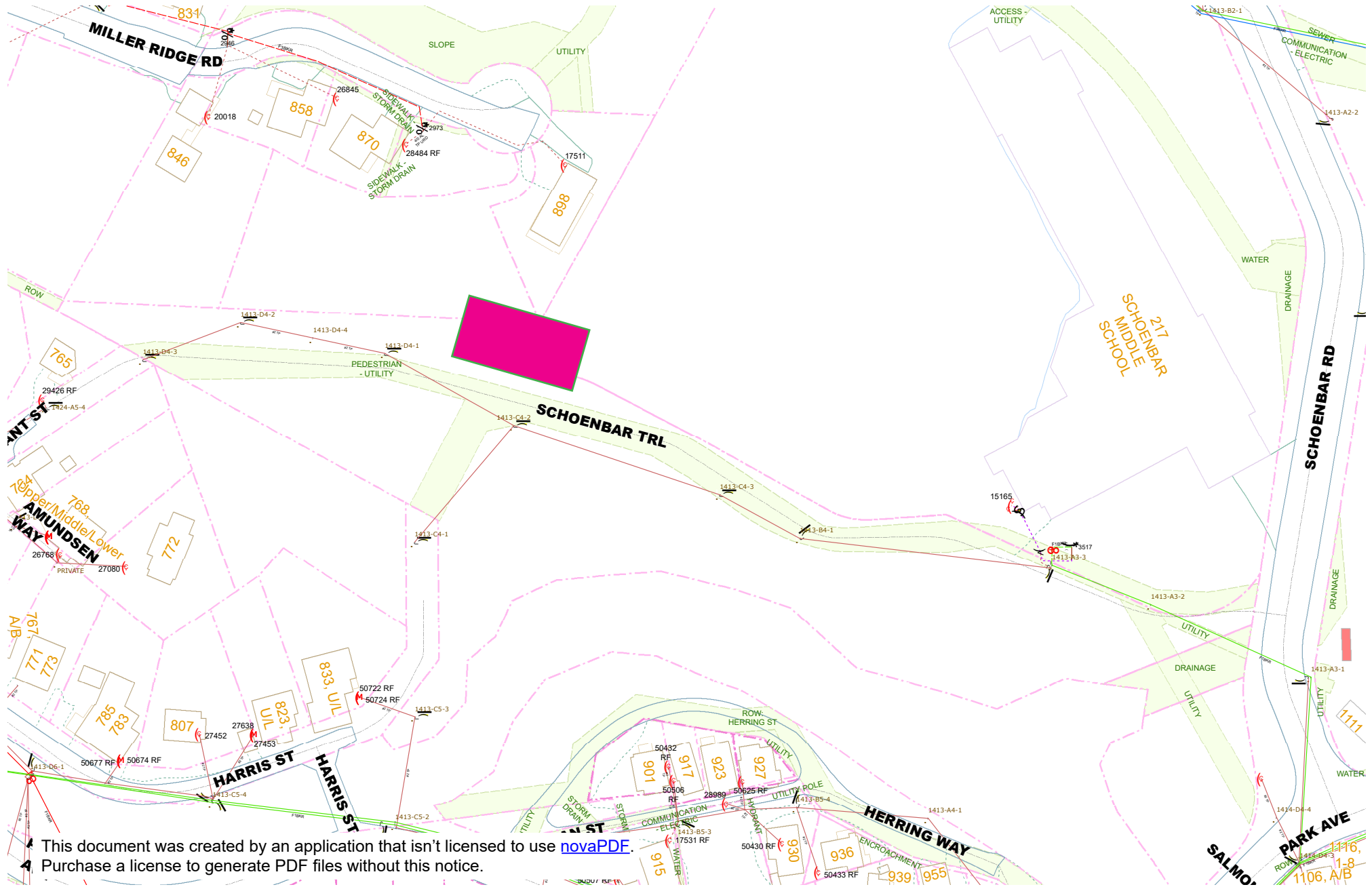
Additional interpretive elements



Signpost artwork by Nathan Jackson



Installation will be at the intersection of the 3 legs of the trail - on the uphill side. Electrical will be made available. The location is indicated in pink below.



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Installation location from west leg of trail - far away.
This part of the trail goes raises in elevation from the installation location to connect with Grant street.



Installation location from west leg of trail - close up.



Installation location from east leg of trail - far away.
This part of the ends near the Schoenbar Middle School
and the skate park, at Schoenbar road.



Installation locaiton from east leg of trail - close up.



Installation location from south. The piece will be located between the trail and the hillside.

Examples of public art with lighting elements included.

