



Team: Haines Borough, Alaska

Population: 2,534

About the community:

Haines Borough is a rural community with a high cost of living and a low per capita income (\$32,300) — which makes it difficult to attract and retain young residents. Tourism and commercial fishing are the main economic drivers. There are over 420 business licenses, over 100 independent artists and artisans and two long-standing Tlingit communities—Klukwan Village and Chilkat Indian Association.

While arts and cultural events and attractions—Native and non-native—have always been an important part of life in the Chilkat Valley, the arts are not viewed as integral to the fabric of the community. In 2018, Haines Borough and Alaska Arts Confluence received a National Endowment for the Arts Our Town award to engage James Corner Field Operations—designers of the Highline in NYC—in the creation of a master plan for the community’s 1.6 mile harbor.

Why the team wants to participate in the Creative Counties Placemaking Challenge workshop:

The Haines Borough team wants to prepare for their work with James Corner Field Operations by:

- Learning strategies to:
 - Improve community engagement in the planning process—especially of populations and sectors that feel disenfranchised
 - Establish a constructive dialog when working to resolve divisive issues
 - Successfully advocate for the alteration of local land use policies to better align them with future creative placemaking projects
- Creating an action plan to systematically and intentionally build the borough’s:
 - Leadership of local creative placemaking efforts
 - Relationships and partnerships with key stakeholder groups—including the local nonprofit and private sectors—and the community as a whole

Team Members:

- *Sylvia Heinz*, Co-owner/Chief Administrative Officer, Chilkat Valley Sawmill
- *Hon. Brenda Josephson*, Assembly Member, Haines Borough, Alaska
- *Hon. Sean Maily*, Assembly Member, Haines Borough, Alaska
- *Jeremy Stephens*, Co-owner, Principal Engineer and Manager, ProHNS
- *Carol Tuynman*, Creative Director and CEO, Alaska Arts Confluence