



ALASKA  
FELLOWS  
PROGRAM

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



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Executive Director



# Executive Summary

This past year was a big one for the Alaska Fellows Program (AFP). We graduated our largest class ever in May with 26 fellows and 24 host organizations. 65% of the fellows are remaining in Alaska post-fellowship continuing to contribute to Alaska's future.

In fall 2022 AFP piloted an immersive three-day opening retreat for all four program sites at the Howard Luke "Gaalee'ya Spirit Camp" near Fairbanks on the banks of the Tanana River. While at camp, fellows got to know one another, discussed program intentions and goals for their fellowship experience and learned about Alaska. We will return again in fall 2023 to launch the next term.

Bookending the year, we had a wonderful closing convening with all four cohorts in Juneau. Fellows renewed cross site connections, spoke with Tlingit author and retired professor, Ernestine Hayes, reflected on their experiences from the past year, hiked, made homemade pasta, created amazing art, arm wrestled, and played some of the most intense foosball games I have ever seen. Fellows even hosted a "Friends of AFP" art show in downtown Juneau to showcase their creative skills.

I can't wait to meet the next cohort!

*Tina Buxbaum*



# WE ARE AFP

The Alaska Fellows Program (AFP) is a fall-to-spring residential fellowship program that nurtures the next generation of Alaska-based leaders by pairing talented young people with strong communities and professional mentors.

Initially launched with a small pool of Yale graduates in 2014, the program now boasts alumni from 35 states and seven countries, and hosts fellows in Anchorage, Juneau, Sitka and Fairbanks. Forty-six percent of alumni continue to live and work in Alaska for a year or more after their fellowships.

AFP both helps Alaska retain homegrown talent by connecting born-and-raised Alaskans with social-impact opportunities in their home state and by attracting young, early-career professionals to the state.

Fellows serve with a dynamic non-profit or public-sector organization for the fellowship term and receive modest living stipends and housing. Fellows live communally, work closely with professional mentors, and make lasting contributions to their host community.



# By the numbers

4

Communities



24

Host Organizations

26

Fellows





# Financial Highlights



Income - \$572,830	
Fee-for-service	\$481,253
Grant revenue	\$44,625
In-kind donations	\$1,680
Sublet	\$19,541

Expenses - \$572,074 (major categories below)	
Staff salary (including taxes)	\$71,248
Contract/temp expenses	\$13,650
Travel	\$30,737
Housing (rent)	\$181,750
Utilities	\$20,008
Fellow stipend	\$188,710
Vehicles	\$33,876
Programming	\$4,185
Business expenses (including fiscal sponsorship)	\$16,185



# Fellow Spotlight

**Yuki Nagaoka**  
*Sitka fellow, 2023*



Yuki Nagaoka was born and raised in Fairbanks, AK (Lower Tanana Dene Lands). She graduated from Carleton College with a degree in Political Science/International Relations and a minor in Japanese, swam for the school, and worked for the Center for Community and Civic Engagement.

Some of her favorite things include anything outdoors, Spindrift, reading, ceramics, itching mosquito bites, birds, and cooking. She loves to travel and learn about different cultures and languages, but Alaska will always be her home and she is passionate about giving back to its beautiful lands and communities.

She joined AFP in the fall of 2022 as a fellow for Outer Coast in Sitka. Yuki thrived in the role and will be staying on with Outer Coast and transitioning to a long term position as their operations lead!



# Fellow Spotlight

**Ashley Guernsey**  
*Fairbanks fellow, 2023*



Ashley Guernsey, a lifelong resident of Moose Pass, Alaska, grew up ice skating, reading, and dog mushing. The oldest of four children, Guernsey finished the Junior Iditarod Race at age fourteen.

Ashley obtained her Bachelor Degree from Franklin and Marshall College with a Joint Major in Economics and Religious Studies. Her thesis, “The religio-politico-economic system in Alaska: The Russian colonial period 1799-1830s” gained her an Honors Diploma.

Ashley joined AFP as the innovation fellow at UAF Center for Innovation, Commercialization, and Entrepreneurship (Center ICE). During her tenure with Center ICE, Ashley gained a better understanding of the bright Alaska's innovators and entrepreneurs create

Ashley will staying on as a program manager with Center ICE in Fairbanks!



# Testimonials

## Austin Bernales, Juneau fellow, 2023



"Alaska has given me an opportunity to slow down, integrate, and learn about Indigenous cultures and community. I have found a lot of peace and fresh air that has changed my perspective on things relating to personal health, relationships, and the ebbs and flows of life."

## Kristi Nguyen, Anchorage fellow, 2023

"Living in Alaska has impacted me in lots of different ways that I can't do justice in only a few sentences. For starters, my sense of community is heightened both socially and in the work place. In the workplace, it has been a pleasure to collaborate with Alaskans all over the state with a common goal to support and enrich Alaska communities. On a different note, Alaska has totally spoiled me with the most beautiful views and landscapes that I've seen in my entire life. I'll definitely miss having the Chugach mountains in my backyard."





# Upcoming

AFP will grow in 2023/24. Increased host interest in Anchorage allowed us to expand from seven fellows to 11 and add an additional house to the program!

We plan to add a car to our fleet in Anchorage to support the additional fellows. These changes allow us to serve four more wonderful nonprofits in Anchorage.

In Sitka, the program has been renting a well-suited house for many years. The owners are interested in selling and AFP is exploring options to purchase the property. This would provide future security for AFP in an incredibly tight housing market. There are many details to work out, but the owner continues to be a great supporter of the program and is committed to working with us to make this a reality.


AFP continues to be fiscally sponsored by Outer Coast while making progress towards gaining our own 501(c)(3) status. We have solidified our board governance including crafting bylaws and adding new legal capacity onto the AFP board. We aim to be a stand-alone nonprofit by FY25.





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# THANK YOU

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