

**Tlingit & Haida
Youth Commission Bylaws**

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BYLAWS
of the
Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
Youth Commission

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this commission shall be the Youth Commission.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES

- Section 1. To function as a working body within Tlingit & Haida as a collective youth voice.
- Section 2. To provide opportunities for professional development, including meeting experience, practice with parliamentary procedure, resolution drafting and consideration experience, and trainings, including education regarding advocacy.
- Section 3. To incorporate our core Southeast Traditional Tribal Values into our existing governmental structure.
- Section 4. To provide the opportunity to work alongside other youth leaders, Delegates and other tribal leaders interested in finding innovative solutions to the challenges facing our communities today and celebrate our successes as indigenous people.
- Section 5. To empower the growth and leadership of the Youth Commission.
- Section 6. To learn and understand the governmental processes of Tlingit & Haida and to understand the interactions of Tribal leadership relations regarding policy development, advocacy for sovereignty, governance, and issues Alaska Native rights and interests.
- Section 7. To serve as a resource to tribal leaders, the Tribal Assembly, the Executive Council, and other stakeholders.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. The Youth Commission shall be open to those who are an enrolled tribal citizen or eligible to be an enrolled tribal citizen of Tlingit & Haida between the ages of 15-27.
- Section 2. Youth Commission members shall be appointed by the President and will serve a two-year term.
- Section 3. Members of the Youth Commission will represent each Tlingit & Haida Community Council with up to three representatives per Community Council, as determined by the President.

ARTICLE IV – SUMMIT

- Section 1. The Youth Commission shall meet annually at a Youth Commission Summit, scheduled to precede Tribal Assembly.
- Section 2. The Youth Commission is empowered to adopt resolutions during the Summit for consideration at Tribal Assembly.
- A. This section should not be read to prohibit the Youth Commission from adopting resolutions at other meetings, but only those resolutions adopted at the Summit shall move forward to Tribal Assembly.

ARTICLE IV – BOARD & OFFICERS

- Section 1. The Youth Commission shall be governed by a Board of the following elected Officers: President; 1st Vice President; 2nd Vice President; Secretary; two Commission Members At Large; current Emerging Leader (ex officio). Board members are required to attend the Youth Commission Summit, except that a Board member may be excused from part of the Summit by the President.
- Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities
- A. President. The President shall be the official spokesperson of the Youth Commission. The President shall preside over Youth Commission meetings, oversee the preparation of the agenda, and ensure the Youth Commission is documenting its activities for preparation for articles and information sharing. The President is encouraged to designate responsibilities to different members to provide members that experience. The President is authorized to call a special meeting. The President is charged with maintaining a positive, effective and unified Youth Commission, consistent with the Southeast Traditional Tribal Values.
- B. 1st Vice President. The 1st Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence or designation.
- C. 2nd Vice President. The 2nd Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the President's absence or designation.
- D. Secretary. The Secretary shall oversee the taking and preparation of the meeting minutes. The Secretary shall also provide oversight of all records, reports, and any other Youth Commission documents. The Secretary shall also maintain a record of the contact information for all Youth Commission members.

- E. Emerging Leader. The Emerging Leader shall be the liaison between the Youth Commission and governing body of the Tribe, as well with other youth groups. The Emerging Leader shall lend assistance in the management of the Board.

Section 3. Elections.

- A. Generally. The Board shall be elected annually, to a one year term, by the Youth Commission members at the Youth Commission Summit.
- B. Deadlines. Candidates for the Board on the Tlingit & Haida Youth Commission must apply no less than seven (7) days prior to the first day of the Youth Commission Summit.
- C. Speeches. Candidates must present a 3-5-minute speech during the Youth Summit prior to the election.
- D. Secret Ballot. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. The responsibility of tallying the results of the secret ballot shall belong to the Tlingit & Haida Youth Commission Board.
- E. Term Limits. Board members shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in one office.

ARTICLE V - VACANCIES, ACCOUNTABILITY & SUPPORT

Section 1. Vacancies

- A. Youth Commission members may be appointed by the President as needed.
 - i. In advance of the Youth Summit, the President can an appoint a replacement member if the President is advised by the Youth Commission that a member has missed more than six consecutive regular monthly meetings in the past year.
- B. In the event of a vacancy in an Officer position, that position shall be filled by the next highest vote getter. In the event there was no next highest vote getter, the position may be filled by any method proposed by the Youth Commission and approved by the Tlingit & Haida President.
- C. All efforts shall be made to fill any vacancy, member or officer, by the next monthly Youth Commission meeting.

Section 3. Accountability & Support

- A. The Board has the authority to convene a Circle Peacemaking in the event that a commission member: (1) misses two (2) consecutive meetings, or (2) the Board

becomes aware of conduct by a commissioner member that the Board believes presents an opportunity to hold each other accountable and hold each other up.

- B. Circle Peacemaking shall be conducted by a qualified facilitator. The Board has authority to report to the President after the Circle Peacemaking.
- C. The intent of this section is to provide an equitable and restorative experience for Tlingit & Haida Youth Commission members.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

- Section 1. An annual schedule of Youth Commission monthly meeting dates and times will be developed, in consultation with staff support, and adopted by the Youth Commission Board for prompt distribution to the members. The official in-person meetings of the Youth Commission shall be the Tribal Assembly and Youth Commission Summit. Tlingit & Haida Youth Commission Board members shall collaborate with each other and staff to develop an agenda for each respective annual meeting.
- Section 2. Meetings shall be conducted by Robert's Rules of Order. The Youth Commission will provide annual opportunities for training in Robert's Rules of Order to support members.
- Section 4. Regularly scheduled meetings of the Youth Commission shall be held monthly, by telephone/video conferencing.
- Section 5. A quorum for Youth Commission meetings shall consist of one third of Youth Commission members. A quorum once established shall be deemed present for the duration of the meeting. The Emerging Leader is included in the quorum calculation.
- Section 6. A grace period of 15 minutes to establish a quorum shall be observed for all Youth Commission meetings.
- Section 7. A majority vote is required to proceed into Executive Session. Executive Session shall consist of only Youth Commission Board, and staff and individuals providing testimonials or advice. Executive Sessions shall only be held on sensitive issues.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Youth Commission shall coordinate protocols and a process for official communication between the Youth Commission and the Tribe's governing body. Communication shall be grounded in the Southeast Traditional Tribal Values.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended at any time by a majority vote of the full Youth Commission, subject to approval by the Tribe's governing body.

Adopted: March 31, 2022