

## **Project Title: *Sharing A Piece of Kake***

### **Project Justification**

This project will focus on the following goal and objectives:

Goal 3: *Enhance the preservation and revitalization of Native American cultures and languages*

- Objective 3.1: *Support the development of efficient strategic partnerships within, across, and outside Native communities.*
- Objective 3.2: *Support the preservation of content of unique and specific value to Native communities.*
- Objective 3.3: *Support the sharing of content within and/or beyond Native communities.*

### Introduction

The Organized Village of Kake (OVK) is a federally recognized IRA tribal government established in 1947 that serves the community and tribal citizens of Kake, Alaska. Situated amid the beautiful and coastal Tongass National Forest, the largest national forest in the United States, Kéex' Kwaan (the village of Kake) is a remote-access community located on the northwest coast of Kupreanof Island, of the Alexander Archipelago in Southeast Alaska and is accessible only by boat or small plane. The population of Kake according to 2020 data is 563 people with 73% of the population being Alaska Native, primarily of Lingít (Tlingít) and Haida decent. Because of Kake's geographic isolation, community members rely on the natural environment, tribal knowledge and practices, and subsistence hunting and food gathering to sustain each other and Kake's way of life.

Through this IMLS 2022 Enhancement grant, the OVK seeks to share and preserve a glimpse into Kake's way of life, culture, and history through partnering with podcast producers of "A Piece of Kake". The goal of this partnership is to produce 30 podcast episodes featuring interviews with Kake residents, specifically Elders, and select historical records.

### Specific Needs to be Addressed

In the Lingít community of Kake, the prolonged social isolation resulting from the pandemic has had a significant impact on issues of depression, substance use/abuse, and domestic violence. Increases in the prevalence of these and other issues have been identified by local health care providers, local law enforcement, and Tribal domestic violence program staff. Self-reports and social media comments describe social bonds, workplace relationships, family connections, community and Tribal events, and youth-to-youth connections all being impacted by the pandemic. In addition, the painful memories of devastation caused by past epidemics that swept through SE Alaska's indigenous people have been triggered, resulting in enhanced fears of person-to-person contact, and contact with the world outside of the Village. Community celebrations, funerals, 40-day honoring parties, summer Culture Camp, youth sporting events, and annual celebrations like "Kake Days" have been absent from Kake for the past two years.

The past two years of the pandemic have shown the Tribe and community, how important online connectivity is, as people have increasingly relied on social media and the internet to maintain family and community connections. The OVK Charles “Topsy” Johnson Tribal Library & Archive already includes scores of digitized audio and video recordings and photographs that are in the process of being made available online. Although these materials are soon to be more readily accessible, the OVK seeks to further extend their outreach services by partnering with podcast producers of “A Piece of Kake”:

*Join co-hosts Sarah Campen and Mona Evan for stories of community, culture, and a whole 'lotta food from the village of Kake, Alaska: a traditionally Lingít community that Haida, Tsimshian and others now also call home.*

The podcast “A Piece of Kake” aired its first episode in January 2022, after several years of conceptual design, volunteer efforts, conducting interviews, and developing a process for efficient production. At the time of this proposal, there are six episodes published with over 500 downloads. Please see “A Piece of Kake” – *List of Episodes* in the attached supporting documents to read the episode descriptions.

The OVK Tribal Library seeks to use its partnership with “A Piece of Kake” to assist the community in combating some of the issues it faces by reconnecting youth and families with the rich Lingít history and the oral traditions of the people of Kéex’ Kwaan. Furthermore, the OVK wants to share “A Piece of Kake” with the world and help build up our Elders and youths' sense of pride in our community and culture.

#### Target Audience & Beneficiaries

The audience for the Tribal Library and for this 2022 IMLS Enhancement project includes all of Kake’s youth, Elders, families and other residents of the community as well as the larger Alaska Native community, and students and scholars of Lingít culture, language and history. As a podcast, “A Piece of Kake” has a much wider reach to audiences as it utilizes mainstream platforms that are available worldwide. The extended audience will also include the Native American communities across the United States, scholars, and any individual interested in hearing and learning about Kake history and Lingít language and culture.

The ultimate beneficiaries of this project are the residents of Kéex’ Kwaan, specifically the youth and future generations. In creating this podcast, Kake is given a voice in the digital age. The creation of these podcast episodes continues the oral history traditions of the Lingít people and preserves those practices today for future generations to look back upon. It also shows the Kake people’s willingness to adapt and take their cultural practices forward into mainstream technological avenues.

## Project Work Plan

### Specific Activities & Objectives

Produce 30 episodes in an 18-month span for the podcast “A Piece of Kake”.

#### **Objective 1** – *Produce and publish 30 podcast episodes of “A Piece of Kake”.*

At the time of this proposal, the podcast *A Piece of Kake* has already produced six episodes. The team has established a reliable timeline for producing episodes. The podcast producers and co-hosts work on episodes in batches of 5-6 episodes within a 3-month time period.

Every 3-month cycle will follow this established pattern:

1. Site travel to Kake by Podcast Producer
2. Conduct 3-6 interviews
3. Process recordings and produce episodes
4. Create transcriptions of interview recordings
5. Archive digital content created

The regular schedule for the podcast is to have an episode published every two weeks with minor disruption, for a total of 6 episodes every 3 months. To account for breaks, technical difficulties, or unforeseen issues, we have planned for an additional 3 weeks per quarter to complete and publish episodes. Accounting for this additional time, our goal is to publish 20 podcast episodes in the first year and 10 episodes in the remaining 6 months of the project period.

A more detailed timeline of activities is presented in the “Schedule of Completion”.

#### **Objective 2** – *Archive and make available all materials created during podcast production.*

Per podcast episode, not all recorded and collected data are used in the finished product. For every interview, that may take several hours, only clips of 4-10 minutes are used in the final episode. Similarly, of the hosts’ recorded discussion, only one fifth is used in the final product. The podcast producers will provide copies of full-length recordings and all data collected to the OVK. The Tribal Archivist will process the materials and make them available to patrons.

Additionally, the Tribal Archivist will transcribe the full-length interviews to be made available onsite at the Charles “Topsy” Johnson Tribal Library & Archive. Transcriptions of interviews will provide easier access to the materials and help showcase the extensive recordings collections held within the archive.

#### **Objective 3** – *Conduct further outreach to engage community and youth in the process.*

Team members will participate in outreach activities as opportunities arise and become available. Annual opportunities within Kake are the OVK Annual Community Meeting, the local school’s Culture Week, and OVK’s Annual Culture Camp. A public feedback survey will be conducted at one of the community events to gain feedback on the direction of the project. Additionally, partnerships with organizations outside of Kake will be fostered. With our broader connections

across Alaska, there may be opportunities to partner with local radio stations and other Alaska Native organizations.

### Project Management & Personnel

There will be four team members working on this project: the Project Manager, two Podcast Producers, and the Podcast Co-Host.

#### *Project Manager:*

The Tribal Archivist & Project Coordinator will be the Project Manager. The Tribal Archivist's duties will be to manage the project, including grant administrative duties, budgeting, equipment purchasing, processing digital materials created, and archiving materials to be made available in the Charles "Topsy" Johnson Tribal Library & Archive. The Tribal Archivist will remain the primary team member on staff with a half-time position of 20 hours per week.

#### *Podcast Producers:*

Two podcast producers will be contractually hired by OVK to provide equipment training, conduct interviews, and host and produce podcast episodes. The podcast producers will handle all of the technical aspects of editing and creating podcast audio files. Cumulatively, the podcast producers will spend approximately 25 hours recording and producing each episode.

#### *Podcast Co-Host:*

The Higher Education Coordinator, a member of OVK full-time staff, is one of the co-hosts/co-creators of "A Piece of Kake". The Higher Education Coordinator will assist with conducting interviews, creating content, and co-hosting podcast episodes. The Podcast Co-Host will spend approximately 5 hours collaborating and recording each episode.

#### *Additional Resources:*

Additional resources required for this project will be recording equipment, software programs, stipends for interviewees, meeting supplies for interview sessions and presentations, travel funds for site-visits to conduct interviews, and travel funds for presenting the project at a conference.

### Sharing Our Work & Lessons Learned

Our project, *Sharing A Piece of Kake*, is designed to be shared with anyone who wants to learn about Kake's way of life, history, and culture. The podcast will be available on all podcast streaming platforms, OVK's website, social media sites, and at the Tribal Library & Archive. Select full-length materials will also be made available on OVK's website ([www.kake-nsn.gov](http://www.kake-nsn.gov)). All materials will be available onsite to community members of Kake and visiting scholars.

The lessons learned throughout the process will be shared in a special podcast episode near the end of the grant period. In this special episode, the co-hosts will discuss the impact *A Piece of Kake* has had on themselves and the community. Additionally, we plan to submit a proposal to present our project at the 2023 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums. Presenting at the conference and networking with other tribal institutions will help with the future of our project, and possibly provide ideas for others.

## **Project Results**

### Tangible Products

The tangible products of this project will be an established podcast consisting of 30 episodes produced over the 18-month timeline. Additionally, we estimate there will be 90-120 original audio recordings in WAV format created during the production process that will be stored and made available in OVK's tribal archive.

### Results

The intended results for the *Sharing A Piece of Kake* project are to provide a digital medium which will bring a sense of community to the people of Kake. As previously stated in the Project Justification, the prolonged isolation of the pandemic has had a significant impact on Kake's residents. The intention behind this project is to remind people of their community, values, strength, and resiliency. Our project proposal would have a positive impact on the people of Kake, in particular the youth and Elders who have fewer opportunities to interact with their community or those outside of Kake.

Outside the community of Kake, the intended results are to bring knowledge and awareness of Kake's history and culture to the population at large. Understanding other people and values builds stronger communities. Our project aims to strengthen the connections between the Lingít, Alaska Native, and Native American communities, and the rest of the world.

### Sustaining the Project Benefits

The key to ensuring ongoing access to, and use of digital materials, is based on the number of people who are informed about the materials. Publishing our content on mainstream platforms will quickly and widely spread our efforts, and the benefits of sharing our voice. Beyond the conclusion of the grant, the OVK will continue looking for funding opportunities to keep production of "A Piece of Kake" ongoing. It is our hope that "A Piece of Kake" will continue to grow both in its reach and scope as it encounters new possibilities in the future.

An area we would like to expand into is bringing the youth into the project to participate in recording and podcast production. A project goal in the future would be to teach interested youth about recording equipment, how to conduct oral history reviews, and editing audio files to create podcast episodes.

Through this IMLS Enhancement grant, the OVK would be able to grow its community partnerships. Strengthening community partnerships would open the doors for many possibilities, such as expanding "A Piece of Kake" or partnering with a neighboring community on a similar project.

**Schedule of Completion - 2022 IMLS Enhancement Grant  
Organized Village of Kake**

Activity	2022				2023												2024	
	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
Purchase software & equipment	x																	
Equipment training for team	x	x																
Quarterly team meetings			x			x			x			x			x			x
Quarterly site-visits, archivist		x				x				x	x			x			x	
Interview travel, 1st trip	x	x																
Produce episodes 1-5	x	x	x															
Interview Travel, 2nd trip					x	x												
Produce Episodes 6-10				x	x	x												
Submit proposal for ATALM					x	x												
Present at OVK Annual Meeting						x												
Conduct project feedback survey						x	x											
Interview Travel, 3rd trip							x	x										
Produce Episodes 11-15							x	x	x									
Present at school's Culture Week									x									
Interview Travel, 4th trip										x	x							
Present at OVK Culture Camp											x							
Produce Episodes 15-20										x	x	x						
Produce Episodes 21-25													x	x	x			
Present at ATALM Conference														x				
Interview travel, 5th trip															x	x	x	
Produce episodes 26-30																x	x	x
Produce special episode																	x	x
Create digital processing plan	x	x																
Archive digital materials			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Transcribe interview recordings			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Create extensive finding aid							x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Post project materials on OVK site													x	x	x	x	x	x
Submit IMLS reports												x						x

## **Digital Products Plan: *Sharing A Piece of Kake***

### **Part I: Type**

*Question: What digital products will you create?*

Born-digital products created by a team of podcast producers, podcast co-hosts, and a tribal archivist.

The final product(s) will be 30 complete podcast episodes of “A Piece of Kake”. During the process of creating episodes, original audio recordings will be generated. Per episode, three separate audio recordings will be created: podcast hosts’ introduction, the interview, and hosts’ conclusion.

Technical specifications for producing 30 podcast episodes:

- Equipment: Rose SC6-L Mobile Interview Kit; Zoom H6 Recorder; Rode Integrated Podcast Production Studio Soundboard
- Software: Buzzsprout; Otterai; Ringr; Blue.Sessions; Adobe Audition
- Format: WAV files and MP3 files
- Quantity: 90 original audio files; 30 edited/constructed audio files (episodes)
- Estimated Length: 120 hours of audio content that will be created

Additional born-digital products that will or may be created during the grant period:

- Interview transcriptions – Word documents, PDF files
- Finding aid and project records – Word documents, PDF files
- Photographs of trips/events/interviews – JPEG files, PNG files
- Audiovisual recordings of trips/events/interviews – MP4 files

### **Part II: Availability**

*Question: How will you make your digital products openly available (as appropriate)?*

Our final digital products will be available on any podcast streaming platform, such as Spotify. These digital recordings will be widely available and accessible worldwide. Collaboration with team members will determine that the content shared in the final products is appropriate to be shared on this magnitude. Team members will receive guidance from OVK Executive Director and the OVK Tribal Council as needed.

The original recordings generated in the production process will be held at the OVK Tribal Archive, and available to the residents of Kake and visiting scholars. Select recordings and materials generated will also be made available on the OVK website ([www.kake-nsn.gov](http://www.kake-nsn.gov)).

Access and use to materials will be encouraged and promoted within the community of Kake by utilizing various forms of outreach practices.

### **Part III: Access**

*Question: What rights will you assert over your digital products, and what limitations, if any, will you place on their use? Will your products implicate privacy concerns or cultural sensitivities, and if so, how will you address them?*

The OVK will have rights and use over all materials produced for “A Piece of Kake” podcast while under contract with OVK. This includes full-length audio recordings in both original and edited formats, podcast episodes both unedited and final versions, and any other raw digital content that is created during the process of podcast production. The OVK’s use rights over the materials will be for educational purposes, and not commercial profit. The OVK asserts title and rights of ownership over this content and allows public use for educational purposes.

All interviewees will sign Interview Consent Agreements and Media Release Forms prior to being interviewed. Prior to episode production, the producers will discuss with the interviewee if there are any parts of the interview they do not want featured in the episode. Interviewees will also be given the opportunity to approve the final episode recording before it is made public. Permission to use any audiovisual recordings or photographs will be received in writing prior to being displayed or posted on the internet.

If there are additional privacy concerns or cultural sensitivities, the original material will remain within the OVK Archive with access by request and not posted online.

### **Part IV: Sustainability**

*Question: How will you address the sustainability of your digital products?*

Preservation and storage of all born-digital materials will be handled by the Tribal Archivist as new content is generated. Processing the materials will involve creating metadata records, transcriptions of recordings, creating an extensive finding aid, duplicating records, labeling physical collection materials, and entering materials into OVK’s database (currently under development). Preservation and storage methods will follow archival standards and best practices to ensure the sustainability of the products.

All audiovisual content created will be duplicated and backed up in various places:

- Multiple, protected external hard drives stored in different locations;
- OVK’s on-site server;
- and an online hosted server.

To increase ease of access, audio recordings will be copied to CD for a physical collection at the Archive. In addition, hard copies of Word or PDF files created will be stored with the physical collection.