

# Is there Someone in Your Community Who Deserves to be Honored?

**A**mong Athabascan people, cultural activities of all sorts have for centuries served to bond members of groups together. Supporting these activities are ancient cultural values which, in their simplest form, expect people to be resourceful, to share, to respect the individual, and to practice emotional restraint.



Those cultural values, as well as traditional endeavors such as beading, fiddling, dancing, basketry, hunting, fishing, mushing, and snowshoe making, are in danger of disappearing as communities modernize and inhabitants disperse.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts has initiated a project to identify Athabascan Living Cultural Treasures with the goal of reversing this loss and inspiring the young to become responsible for their culture's intangible heritage.

The Alaska State Council on the Arts awarded a grant to the Fairbanks-based firm, Information Insights, Inc., to identify and document Athabascan Living Cultural Treasures. Dixie Alexander and Aldona Jonaitis are leading this activity, supported by the Athabascan Living Cultural Treasures Committee: Dixie Alexander, Tanya Beatus, Anna Frank, Angela Linn, June Rogers and Glen Simpson.

The Committee is now soliciting nominations for Athabascan Living Cultural Treasures.

To disseminate this appeal as broadly as possible—and receive the largest number of nominations—we are sending this letter to as many groups and associations as possible.

Kindly share this information with appropriate individuals and urge them to submit nominations or nominate someone yourself. Criteria are listed on the back of this flyer, and a nomination form is attached. **The deadline for submission is February 5, 2010**, so please postmark your nomination by then, or submit it by fax or email.

Once nominations have been received, the Athabascan Living Cultural Treasures Committee will select at least 20 individuals for this honor. These individuals will be interviewed, photographed and videotaped. These materials will become part of a database that will form the primary source of information on Athabascan Living Cultural Treasures.

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## THE ATHABASCAN LIVING CULTURAL TREASURES PROJECT

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## Criteria for Nominations

The criteria for receiving this honor are:

- 1. BIA documentation for proof of status as Alaskan Athabascan**
- 2. Evidence that the individual:**
  - a. adheres to the ancient Athabascan cultural values of resourcefulness, sharing, respecting the individual and practicing emotional restraint
  - b. is willing to educate others
  - c. is willing to serve as a role model
  - d. wants to inspire others to engage in traditions
- 3. Information on distinction in one or more of the following activities:**
  - a. crafts such as beadworking, skin sewing, basket making
  - b. performance arts such as dancing, singing, fiddling
  - c. subsistence activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping
  - d. maintaining language
  - e. making traditional technologies such as fish traps, snowshoes, tools
  - f. engaging in traditional activities such as dog mushing
  - g. storytelling
  - h. adapting traditions to contemporary life
  - i. serving as a traditional leader

## Deadline for Submission

The deadline for submission is **February 5, 2010**

## How to Nominate

Use the Nomination Form on the following page. If you have any questions, please contact Aldona Jonaitis ([aldona@jonaitis.net](mailto:aldona@jonaitis.net), 907-474-0445)

RETURN NOMINATION FORMS TO:  
Athabascan Living Cultural Treasures Project  
c/o Information Insights, Inc.  
212 Front St., Suite 100, Fairbanks, AK 99701

–OR– Fax to 907-450-2470

–OR– Email to [aldona@jonaitis.net](mailto:aldona@jonaitis.net)

**Additional copies of the nomination form can be downloaded at [www.iialaska.com/alct/](http://www.iialaska.com/alct/)**