Goldbelt Heritage

One Sealaska Plaza, Suite 201
Juneau, Alaska 99801
(907) 790-1460
GHF@goldbelt.com

Request for Proposal:
Due: November 10, 2026

Author and Cultural Educator: Yaakw Educational Book

Goldbelt Heritage Foundation
Location: Juneau, Alaska / Remote collaboration as needed
Estimated Timeline: To be determined in consultation with GHF and Chatwin Publishing Co. in conjunction with the author.

Goldbelt Heritage Foundation (GHF) is seeking a qualified educator to develop an educational book focused on the Goldbelt Heritage Foundation Yaakw (dugout canoe) and the cultural knowledge, teachings, practices, and traditions connected to canoe building and use.

The ideal candidate will be a qualified classroom teacher and with deep cultural knowledge and over ten years of classroom teaching experience. The selected author should be able to communicate cultural knowledge accurately and respectfully while making the material accessible and meaningful to students across a range of ages.

GHF is particularly interested in an individual who understands how to translate cultural knowledge into effective educational materials and who can write for multiple audiences, from younger elementary students through middle and high school learners and beyond.

The book will support learning not only about the physical construction of a dugout canoe, but also the cultural context, values, teachings, relationships, and knowledge systems connected to the canoe.

The selected author will work closely with GHF staff, carvers, artists, Chatwin Publishing and other project partners as appropriate to develop the content. The pictures and layout structure will be provided in consultation with the author's vision.

Scope of Work
The contractor will:
- Work with GHF and Chatwin Publishing to establish the overall purpose, audience, structure, and educational goals for the book.
- Research and document the cultural knowledge, teachings, and practices associated with the Dugout Canoe.

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- Draw upon personal cultural knowledge, teaching experience, community knowledge, and appropriate research to develop accurate and meaningful content.
- Write original content for the book, including age-appropriate explanations.
- Develop content that can be understood and used by multiple age groups, with consideration for elementary, middle school, high school, and educator audiences.
- Address knowledge and teachings connected to selecting and preparing a tree; working with wood and traditional tools; carving and shaping the canoe; steaming the canoe; final finishing of the canoe; and tribal journey.
- Incorporate culturally appropriate Lingít terminology and language when appropriate and work with GHF to ensure language is presented accurately and respectfully.
- Revise content based on feedback from GHF, cultural advisors, educators, and project partners.
- Work collaboratively with GHF staff and other project contributors throughout the development process.
- Prepare a final manuscript aligned to photographs suitable for professional editing, design, layout, publication, and educational use.
- The book should be approximately 2,500 words in total, using concise explanations and meaningful captions to complement the images. Text should be purposeful and engaging, helping readers understand the significance of each picture without overwhelming the visual content.
- Provide organized electronic files and supporting materials to GHF upon completion.
- Complete other related writing, research, and educational development tasks necessary to produce a high-quality final publication.

Educational Approach

GHF is seeking an author who understands that this project is more than a book about how to build a canoe. The final publication should be a visual journey that helps students understand the canoe as part of a larger cultural system and should reflect the ways knowledge is traditionally shared through observation, participation, practice, relationships, and experience. The author should be able to determine what information is appropriate for different ages and help GHF develop content that is both educationally effective and culturally grounded.

Qualifications
Applicants should demonstrate:

- Over ten years of classroom teaching experience as a qualified classroom teacher.
- No less than five years of experience teaching students reading techniques and instructional strategies, including thinking routines and artful teaching practices.

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- Strong knowledge of the cultural traditions, teachings, and practices surrounding place-based education.
- Ability to discuss and interview Carvers, Apprentices, Knowledge Bearers, and explain the cultural significance of the canoe through these interviews.
- Strong writing and communication skills.
- Demonstrated ability to write educational content for students of different ages and reading levels.
- Ability to translate complex cultural knowledge into clear, engaging, age-appropriate educational material without removing its cultural meaning or context.
- Ability to work respectfully with cultural knowledge holders, educators, artists, and community members.
- Ability to receive feedback and revise written material throughout the development process.
- Not be debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, or otherwise excluded from participation in federal contracting or nonprocurement programs, as reflected in the federal System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Desired Qualifications
Preference will be given to agencies that demonstrate:

- Experience teaching within the culture and community.
- Experience teaching Indigenous students or working in Indigenous communities.
- Experience developing culturally based curriculum or educational publications.
- Experience writing for multiple age groups.
- Experience working directly with cultural knowledge holders, Elders, and artists.
- Enrolled tribal citizen CCTHITA or a Southeast Alaska tribe.

Proposal Submission
Please submit:

- Letter of interest
- Résumé, CV, or biography
- Relevant youth teaching experience
- Proposed hourly or contract rate
- Confirmation of availability beginning on or around October 1, 2026

Project Ownership and Use
All final content, layouts, templates, and writing created specifically for GHF under this agreement will be provided to and remain available for GHF's educational and organizational

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use. The contractor will provide editable/source files. GHF reserves the right to replicate, reproduce, alter, and publish in any way it deems appropriate.

Additional Terms
GHF reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals
- Request clarification or additional information
- Modify the scope of work prior to contract award
- Award without interview if deemed appropriate
- Issue a background check upon acceptance of proposal and prior to contract signature.

Proposal Deadline: November 10, 2026
Submit to: ghf@goldbelt.com Attention: Luke Fortier
Submit all questions by email to ghf@goldbelt.com, attention: Luke Fortier.
Questions must be received by November 6, 2026, at 5:00 PM.