

Biographical Information

I was born in Arizona, and lived there for eight years before moving to Australia. I visited Sitka in 2011 to see my sister and moved here in 2014, knowing that Sitka is my 'happy place'. My first job in Sitka was selling ornaments and matryoshka to tourists. Since that time I have baked for the Back Door Cafe, managed Harry's Custom Services, and held positions at SEARHC, University of Alaska Southeast in Sitka, and at the Institute of Social and Economic Research (UA Anchorage). I now work for the Baranof Island Housing Authority. I like to volunteer, and have served on several boards in Australia, and in Sitka. In my first year as a Sitka resident, I served on the City and Borough of Sitka's Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and later served as a board member for the Sitka Community Land Trust.

Advocacy Statement

As a representative for my community, I will broaden the discussion of what benefits Sitka and Sitkans. I will listen, and encourage the Assembly to recognize the knowledge, expertise and experience of those who have elected us. I will support a more confident approach to the need for change, community engagement, and home-grown economic development. I offer my experience and skills as a research professional and communicator to help our community achieve its common goals. I believe in Sitkans, and I believe in the diversity, compassion, inquisitiveness, and energy that makes Sitka such a can-do community! My previous experience as advisor to a state legislator, and my work as a research consultant (Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology, Sydney), has given me many of the skills needed to understand development and sustainability at national, regional and local levels. It has also given me respect for the wisdom and creativity of communities, and an appreciation for good data! I am currently President of Transition Sitka which is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit that encourages community self-reliance as a response to climate change and volatile fossil fuel prices. In the past three years, we have provided opportunities for the community to learn more about energy efficient technology (Electrification Expo events held in 2023 and 2024) and partnered with the Sitka Local Food Network to complete the second edition of the Sitka Community Food Assessment. The same partnership is also working on Sitka's first large scale community garden.

