

Preston,

Thank you for calling and sharing your idea of donating an 8 foot bronze totem pole (valued at 65K) for placement in Sitka in a public place. You requested we enter in to a partnership with the City and select an appropriate venue for it to go (indicating outside would be fine) and that we cover shipping it from Washington to Sitka. I've talked with a few staff and Council and people were very excited about this moving forward. I am connecting you with Tristan Guevin, he is our Cultural Resources, Education and Employment Director for STA. It would be his department staff that coordinate the dedication we discussed occurring potentially next Spring. Tristan in case you needed to talk with Preston - his number is 206-755-2547.

Tristan, Preston explained his roots are Kaagwaantaan from the Box House - his great grandna was from Sitka.

I'll plan to mention at the next City/STA staff meeting (we meet every other month and the next time we meet is on 12/11) the idea of having it at Harrigan Centennial Hall. I am sure they will be more than willing to move this forward as STA was asked previously to provide Native artwork for Harrigan.

My contact information is below, my cell is 907-738-3722. We look forward to working with you over the next couple of months to plan for the dedication of the pole in Sitka in Spring 2020.

Lisa Gassman  
General Manager

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*Assembly - We are working with STA to  
find a site at Harrigan hall to display  
this terrific bronze totem.*

*Hugh  
12/13/19*



## Family Story Totem Pole, 1998

They went out into the woods those uncles. They were out gathering food. That's when they came across a bear out there in the woods. They shot that bear, but what they didn't know was that it was a mother bear that came in between the uncles and the cubs. That is what happened.

They shot that bear and then they saw the cubs. They took those cubs back to the village Douglas. That is what they called it at that time. That is where my great grandmother lived. She was called Susie Johnson. She lived there at that time. She was a young girl then. She was young.

She liked that bear cub that they uncles brought there. She wanted that bear cub as her pet. Her parents wanted her to be happy so they let her keep that bear cub at home. She kept it at home and raised it like one might have a dog. My great grandmother, Susie, loved that bear! What a thing to have a grizzly bear for a pet! She would get food for that bear and feed it, and take care of it. She made a bed for that bear and it lived there with the family.

There was a woman who was Russian. There were a lot of Russians there. She made taffy and would sell it in the streets. When she sold it in the streets, the bear would smell the taffy. That bear loved the taffy that it would get from my great grandmother.

Every time that Russian woman would go through the street with that taffy, the bear would smell it. After a while she wanted to get that bear some more taffy, so she went to get some berries from the fields at the base of the mountains. She took those berries back to the village. She had those berries that she sold for money to buy taffy. That's how she got taffy for that bear.

After a while that bear got big. Too big to keep around the house. The bear was getting too dangerous and big to keep. So her uncles took it back to the woods. They left that bear in the woods so it wouldn't hurt anyone in the village. She cried when they took that bear away. She cried, but after a while she knew why the uncles took that bear away. Because it was getting too big. Even after it was gone, she cried sometimes. My great grandmother loved that bear.

Preston Singletary  
December 2001