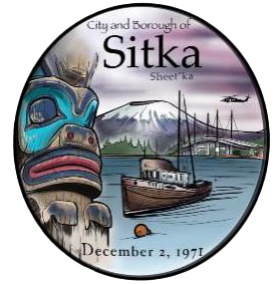


## APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

Board/Commission/Committee: Tourism Task Force



### Seat Applying For (select only ONE):

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sitka Tribe of Alaska Representative                | <input type="checkbox"/> Business in General         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ports and Harbors Commission Representative         | <input type="checkbox"/> Tours and Attractions       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Commission Representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Sitka Sound Cruise Terminal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown Business Corridor                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Community At-Large          |

Name: Barbara Bingham Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Length of Residence in Sitka: 40 years Registered to vote in Sitka?  Yes  No

Employer: Retired

### Organizations you belong to or participate in:

Transition Sitka  
Citizens' Climate Lobby

### Explain your main reason for applying:

It's critical that we look seriously at the impacts of tourism on our community, and the potential negative consequences of uncontrolled growth. I believe we can find a healthy balance that allows us to benefit economically from "right-sizing" both the quantity of tourist numbers and the quality of visitor experience Sitka is known for.

### What experience or credentials will you bring to the board, commission, or committee membership?

Extensive experience in Sitka's tourism industry, including interactions with cruise ship passengers. Former business owner providing personalized fishing and ecotours to visitors and residents, current member of Island Artists Gallery Coop. Commitment to helping protect and improve the quality of life we Sitkans treasure.

### Please disclose any potential conflicts of interest that may arise from your appointment. These may include but are not limited to:

- A substantial financial interest of \$1000 annually that could be influenced by your appointment.
- An immediate family member employed within the scope of this appointment.

To be considered, your application must be complete **AND** include a letter of interest, or a resume.

Date: March 30, 2023 Signature: Barbara L Bingham

Digitally signed by Barbara L Bingham  
Date: 2023.03.30 08:50:05 -08'00'

Return your completed application and letter of interest or resume to the Municipal Clerk's Office by noon on the Wednesday prior to an advertised Assembly meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: All information submitted is public and will be published online. Appointments are typically made during Assembly meeting open sessions. However, Assembly members may vote to discuss applicant(s) in closed executive session. In this case, do you wish to be present when your application is discussed?  Yes  No

**RETURN TO: Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk/Records Specialist**  
**Municipal Clerk's Office, 100 Lincoln Street, Floor 3 ~ Fax: 907-747-7403 ~ clerk@cityofsitka.org**

March 29, 2023

## Bingham Letter of Interest for application to the Tourism Task Force:

My name is Barbara Lynn Bingham and I'm applying for the sustainability seat on the Tourism Task Force, which the Assembly will be creating in April. I've been a Sitka resident since the early 1980's, and have no plans and no inclination to live anywhere else. I'm now retired from varied career with a common thread of "customer service", much of it for visitors.

I worked my way through college as a waitress and bartender. After working for several years as a teacher's aide and then as a junior high teacher, I chose another path entirely. Starting as a deckhand in 1982, gillnetting and longlining, the desire to have my own boat and business led me, during the summer of 1984, to take a job on an ecotour boat running tours to St. Lazaria Island and around Sitka Sound. At that time our cruise ship season mostly consisted of three Holland America ships a week, and less frequent visits by the "Universe Explorer", specializing in educational cruises. Qualifying for a master's license in 1985, I worked as a hired skipper for 3 seasons before getting my own boat and joining the charter fishing line-up in 1988, running half-day fishing trips for cruise ship passengers. Acquiring a larger vessel in 1996 allowed me to expand into multi-day ecotours and other charter work around Southeast Alaska, until 2003 when I closed the business and sold the boat. I worked for Alaska Airlines from 2004 until 2014, as a customer service agent for most of that time. From the end of 2008 until October 2021, I was also resident manager at Fisherman's Quay, a converted cannery leasing space for Sitka's largest marine supply store, now LFS, 90 storage units and starting in 2012, three short term lodging units. I'm a founding and current member of the Island Artists Gallery Cooperative, open year-round on Lincoln St, and celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> year as of March 2023. All of these occupations brought and continue to bring me into contact with both residents and visitors, and I have always found interactions with others to be enjoyable and satisfying, and maybe especially while guiding visitors, including cruise ship passengers, around the precious and incomparable beauty of Sitka Sound and Southeastern Alaska.

I'm applying for the *sustainability* seat on the Tourism Task Force because I believe that by objectively identifying and examining the impacts, both beneficial and detrimental, of tourism on Sitka, we can reach consensus on solutions that will allow us to retain our character and uniqueness, as well as continue to grow our economy. I recognize that this won't be an easy task, but I think it's critical for our community that we consider all competing interests and potential outcomes, as we strive to find a balance that will protect our economy, our health and well-being and our beautiful, friendly home town, while allowing us to continue to welcome visitors to our shores. I think that my professional experience and my appreciation of daily life in this special place make me well qualified to work through the issues the task force will address.

As required, I'm disclosing that I gain financially from the cruise ship and visitor industry. My net income from my sales at Island Artists Gallery is less than \$10,000 a year, which includes sales to residents and their visiting family and friends. This benefit will not influence my work on the task force in any way, because I believe the necessity of planning for a long-term future for Sitka far outweighs any (minimal) gain I personally accrue. I don't have any other conflicts of interest.

Barbara Bingham

