

Call To Artists

Request for Proposal (RFP) 2026 Native Youth Olympics, Official Merchandise Artwork

Phase 1 Submission Deadline: Friday December 5, 2025 at 5:00 PM Alaska Time

Submit Proposals to: media@citci.org

1. Introduction

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. (CITC) invites proposals from Alaska Native artists to provide original artwork for the upcoming 2026 Native Youth Olympic (NYO) events. The artwork will be placed on sweatshirts or other merchandise provided to NYO event staff and sold to the event attendees. Thousands of sweatshirts are sold at NYO events, providing high visibility for your design and connecting your work with our community. To learn more about the NYO games, please visit www.nyogames.com.

- a. **About the opportunity.** CITC is seeking an artist whose work reflects cultural authenticity, creative excellence, and an understanding of Alaska Native heritage. The selected artist will play a vital role in shaping and reflecting the spirit of the NYO games while celebrating Alaska's rich diversity, incorporating themes such as:
 - Sportsmanship
 - Community and connection
 - Cultural heritage
 - Appreciation for subsistence way of life
 - Collaboration and peer coaching
 - Personal achievement and growth
 - Inclusivity and accessibility
- b. **Compensation and benefits.** CITC will provide the selected artist:
 - \$500 stipend
 - Featured recognition at the NYO games
 - Complimentary vendor booth at the NYO games Opportunities Expo to showcase and sell your work

2. Design Standards

- a. Must be appropriate for all audiences
- b. Original artwork only (no AI-generated content)
- c. Cannot include copyrighted or trademarked material
- d. Cannot include identifiable individuals without their written consent

3. Technical Specifications

- a. Dimensions: must translate well to max 9 inches wide x 13 inches tall for imprint on merchandise
- b. Format: digital or vector format required
- c. Products: design will appear on black, white, and gray apparel
- d. Logo treatment: must be outlined twice to ensure visibility on both light and dark products
- e. Color: unlimited color options available (printer uses specialized four-color process)

4. Timeline

- a. **Phase One: Expression of Interest. Due by December 5, 2025.** To be considered, please submit:
 - i. Your name and artistic background
 - ii. Two recent samples of your work
- b. **Phase Two: Final Artwork Submission.**
 - i. Upon successful completion of Phase One, selected artist will be notified by December 12, 2025.
 - ii. Final artwork must be submitted by January 9, 2026

5. Eligibility Criteria

This opportunity is open exclusively to Alaska Native artists. Applicants must provide samples of work that reflect artistic skill and cultural relevance. Artists working individually or as part of a team are welcome to apply; however, each team member must submit individual work samples.

6. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- a. Artistic quality and originality

- b. Cultural relevance and sensitivity
- c. Alignment with NYO values

CITC will select an artist in its sole discretion and judgment. CITC may request interviews with one or more interested artists if in its opinion, it believes such interviews will assist in the selection process.

7. Contact Information

For questions or additional information regarding this RFP please contact: CITC Media department at media@citci.org.

8. Other

- a. CITC is not liable for any costs incurred by artists prior to selection notification. Any proposal preparation and other costs in responding to this RFP is the sole responsibility of the interested artists. CITC will pay selected artist after final artwork delivery.
- b. CITC reserves the right to waive any informalities, and to select an artist as deemed in its own best interest. This includes the right to reject any or all proposals and the right to proceed utilizing a different process.
- c. In the event it becomes necessary to revise any part of this RFP, addenda will be provided. CITC reserves the right to postpone the date and time for receipt of proposals at any time prior to the time announced.