# 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan

## Vision

**Progress for the next 10,000 years...**

## Mission

True to identity, heritage, and values, Alaska Natives are informed and engaged in leading the decisions that shape the future.

## Values

**Integrity, Respect, Native Knowledge, Responsibility**

## Truths & Principles

- Alaska Natives know best what is best for Alaska Natives
- Alaska always has been - and always will be - a Native place
- What is good for Alaska Natives is good for all Alaskans
- Indigenous knowledge and science is a whole knowledge system in and of itself, equal to all others
- We work to embody the strength and knowledge of our peoples, values, and cultures
- We love who we are, and we believe in our inherent right to exist as distinct societies of Alaska Native peoples in perpetuity

## Measures of Success

- Were we a critical part of that conversation?
- Were Native people at the decision-making table?
- Were Native issues raised at that table?
- Were we an active leader in driving that conversation?
- Did we take initiative to raise the issues?
- Did we prepare people with information that they can understand to make informed decisions?
- Were our people able to participate in and access the conversation?

## Strategic Priorities Guidance

- We are responsible for carrying more than 10,000 years of ancestral knowledge into the future. With rigor, humor, resilience, healing, vigilance, and love, we seek to practice this in all we do in the world around us.
- As an organization, we amplify the self-determination of our peoples and work to unify the collective strength of our community.
- We prepare Native leaders so they can advance our collective vision of healthy, happy, thriving Native communities.
- By stewarding strong relationships across the state and sharing our knowledge, Alaska will become universally recognized and valued as a Native place.
- Through First Alaskans, we are honored to work alongside our community to perpetuate and care for our peoples, homelands, and ways of life.
### 2017-2021

**FIRST ALASKANS INSTITUTE STRATEGIC PLAN**

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<tr>
<th>ADVANCING SELF-DETERMINATION</th>
<th>ADVANCING OUR WAYS OF LIFE</th>
<th>KNOWING, LIVING, AND LOVING WHO WE ARE</th>
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**Catalyze Alaska Natives and allies to advance self-determination at all levels, through dialogues, relevant & timely information, and connection to resources.**

- **Our work** is integrated across all regions and governance structures and we catalyze expansive partnerships to advance unity across the state.

  - **Encourage leaders at all levels to tap into our collective worldview, relate with one another, and uphold our responsibility to support our peoples and future generations.**

  - **Take great care in growing and nurturing strong, inter-dependent relationships with our lands, communities, other Alaskans, and each other.**

  - **As good relatives, internally and externally, we actively grow our connectivity to all Alaskans.**

**Advance and protect Alaska Native ways of life, support thriving peoples, communities, and governance.**

- **Grow thriving knowledge bearers and practitioners who steward opportunities to learn and share their knowledge with others.**

- **Integrate our connectedness to who we are as Native peoples and our lands throughout our work.**

- **Actively participate in, advocate for, and celebrate the work our community and peoples are engaged in.**

**Grounded in Native values, we define, live and love who we are so that our cultures and peoples are vibrant, thriving, and valued by all.**

- **Share our true history, and support ways for leaders to be grounded and strong through the foundation of their cultural and community knowledge.**

- **Know and contribute to who we are as peoples, we are connected to our rural communities, and share our love for who we are as an operational principle.**

**BEING GOOD RELATIVES**

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**SHAPING THE KNOWLEDGE THAT INFORMS ALASKANS**

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- **Alaska Natives are** prominently represented through diverse, effective storytelling and policy-making that influences decision-making on all levels across Alaska.

- **Catalyze life-long leadership so our people are the decision-makers, guided by our knowledge and culture bearers, experts, doers, and our Elders and youth.**

- **Strengthen our capacity as advocates and create and utilize opportunities to shape how others understand our peoples and value Alaska as a Native place.**

- **Share what our community is doing to advance our peoples and connect leaders to advocacy opportunities.**

Our commitment is to our Ancestral imperative; our love for who we are spreads to others.
First Alaskans Institute

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