

Gwaii Trust welcomes new staff members

In late 2020, we welcomed Deena Arens and Meghan Cross to the Gwaii Trust team. Deena is filling the new role of Finance and Administration Assistant, and Meghan is our new Grants and Technology Coordinator. A very warm welcome to both!



Deena Arens, Finance and Administration Assistant:

My name is Deena Arens, I come from the Maaman Gitanee Clan. I am married to Leonard Arens from the Ts'aahl Clan. We have four children, three daughters and a son. My mother is Caroline Collison, my Naanii was Sheila Collison (nee Russ), and my Great Naanii was Flora Russ (nee Adams).

So ya, I have a lot of cousins. I have worked with some amazing women in my life, May Russ and Lisa Edwards are a few of them, they were very influential for me. I believe I have great integrity because of these women.

I love my community; I believe we have a special connection to everyone. I am proud of where I come from. I am happy to have been hired at Gwaii Trust, I believe in the work, I feel very proud to work at such an organization. I get to look at a beautiful plaque everyday to see all the names of those that stood the line at Athlii Gwaii. I think I am very lucky to work with Christine Carty too and excited to be mentored by her.



Meghan Cross, Grants and Technology Coordinator:

I'm excited to start my new role with Gwaii Trust and work with the staff, board and islanders on initiatives that help make Haida Gwaii an even better place to live! Since moving to the islands in 2016, I have held various positions - with the CHN's Marine Planning Program, the Islands

Wellness Society, and as a Local Instructor for the Haida Gwaii Institute. I am present in community through my roles as a yoga teacher and volunteer firefighter. I also love to watch basketball! In my spare time you can find me outside - walking on the beach, hiking in the forest or catching waves on my surfboard.

In other news, grant updates for 2021, including application deadlines and new application guides, are now posted on the website at gwaiitrust.com

Gwaii Trust staff and directors wish everyone on Haida Gwaii a happy and safe holiday. Our office will be closed from December 18 until January 3. We'll be re-opening on the morning of Monday, January 4. Best wishes for 2021!